



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



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Reflections

Past Reflections

'Friends are God's way of taking care of us'

So says one of my many placemats, and its a very wise observation. Over the summer months I have enjoyed the company of friends staying at the Vicarage, and although at first I think I am looking after them, by feeding and housing them, they end up looking after me with love and concern for my welfare, treating me to meals out and an added reason to get out and about enjoying the wonderful weather and countryside that God has provided for us in Hertfordshire.

I do hope you are all blessed with such good friends too.

One of the old faithful hymns is entitled 'What a friend we have in Jesus', and this is good news for all of us.

For friends are people you can be 'yourself' with, who know you sometimes as much as you think you know yourself, (sometimes even more!) and even if you haven't seen or heard from a dear friend for ages, when you do meet up, its as though you just carry on from where you left off the last time you were together.

Jesus once called his disciples his 'friends', and for us today Jesus Christ is someone we can be ourselves with. For as the Son of God he knows us as much as we know ourselves, (sometimes even more!) and even if he hasn't heard from us in a long time, when we meet up we can just carry on from where we left off the last time we were together, honest. That's what prayer is all about, being in the presence of our friend Jesus and having a conversation with God.

September is a time of new beginnings when children start new schools and hope to make new friends, when those who have left school or college settle into new jobs and hope to make new friends too. I am sure we can all remember our first day at 'big school' and /or our first day at work, how nervous we were and unsure of what to expect. Thankfully most of us have happy memories of these events in our lifetimes and they have produced friendships that last.

At church we need to remember that people's first occasion at church may make them nervous as they are not sure what to expect, whether at a wedding, a Christening, Funeral or a regular Sunday service. There is an old saying 'you don't have to go to church to be a Christian', but I'd like to suggest we turn that around and make a new beginning this September, and try saying 'you don't have to be a Christian to go to church'. For as we know friendships have to start with that first meeting and over time they change and develop, but if we hadn't stepped into their presence that first time what a lot of love we would have missed out on.

May we all be blessed by His friendship not just this summer but always.

Reverend Ann