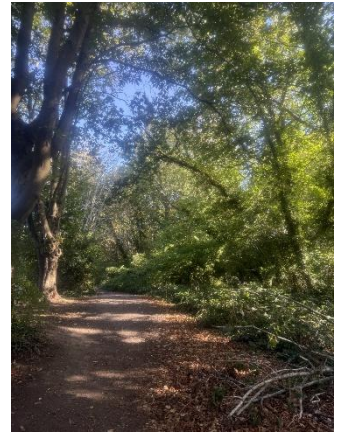


# A letter from your curate, October 2026

Dear friends,

When I wrote to you in August I wrote about joy. As I write this month, I find the theme of joy is still resonating with me. We find ourselves moving from summer into autumn. The days are becoming shorter, the mornings a little cooler, and there is that unmistakable change in the air. The trees are beginning to change colour, and soon the familiar carpet of golden and brown leaves will appear beneath our feet.



There is something rather beautiful about the changing seasons. Each one has its own character and its own gifts. Autumn reminds us that change is a natural part of life. It can be tempting to cling to what is familiar, but God is present in every season – in the bright days of summer and in the quieter days of autumn.



As I was walking through the woods at Wickham the other day, I picked up a conker and put it in my pocket and throughout this week, every time I have felt that conker, I have been thinking what it can teach us about faith.

A conker is, in a sense, a sign of new life to come. It contains within it the potential for something much bigger – a new tree, new branches, new leaves and, eventually, more conkers. But that potential will only become reality if the conker is planted in the right conditions and given what it needs to grow.

Our faith journey can be rather like that. God has planted something within each of us. Perhaps it begins as a tiny seed of faith, a question, a prayer, a moment when we sense God's presence, or simply a desire to know more. But faith needs nurturing. It needs the right conditions in which to grow: prayer, worship, Scripture, fellowship, encouragement and the love of God's people. Just like a plant, we don't always see what is happening beneath the surface. There can be seasons when our faith seems to flourish and other times when we wonder whether anything is happening at all. Yet God continues to work, even when growth is hidden from our eyes.

This reminds me of Paul's words in **Philippians**. It is striking that Paul writes so much about **joy**, even though he was writing from prison. His joy wasn't dependent upon everything going well around him. His joy came from knowing Christ and trusting that God was still at work.

Paul writes:

“I thank my God every time I remember you.”

— Philippians 1:3

And later he reminds the Philippians that:

“He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion.”

— Philippians 1:6

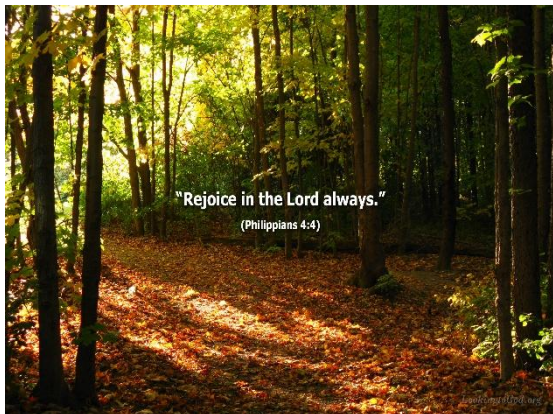


What a wonderful promise for us as we journey through life. **God has begun a good work in us, and he isn't finished yet.**

Perhaps the conker is a useful reminder of that promise. We may look at ourselves and see only something small and ordinary. We may wonder whether our faith is growing quickly enough, or whether we are making any difference. But God sees the potential within us. With his love, care and nurturing, he can bring about growth that we cannot yet see.

As the seasons change, perhaps we can allow autumn to remind us that change isn't something to fear. There is beauty in letting go, in making room for something new, and in trusting God with the seasons of our lives.

So, when you next see a conker lying beneath a tree, perhaps pause for a moment. Remember the joy of Philippians. Remember that God is still at work. And remember that, just like that little conker, **there may be far more new life within us than we can see.**



May we enter this new season with grateful hearts, finding joy in the simple things around us and trusting the God who continues to nurture us, grow us and walk with us.

**“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!”**

— Philippians 4:4

With every blessing,

*Revd Polly*

If anything I have written has challenged you, or if there is anything that you would like to talk through please don't hesitate to contact me, [revdpolly@gmail.com](mailto:revdpolly@gmail.com), or one of the others from the ministry team.