



St Andrew's Church, Reading Street

September 2026

Pastoral letter

Dear Friends in Christ,

I am writing to remind you about a very special weekend coming up in the life of St Andrew's. **Saturday, 26 September, will be our Gift Day**, when our church will be open from **10.00 am to 3.00 pm** to receive gifts and donations as an expression of our thanksgiving to God for His goodness and faithfulness to us.

I warmly encourage everyone to **pray for our Gift Day and to support it as you are able**. Every gift, whether large or small, is precious to God and can make a real difference to the ministry and witness of St Andrew's, helping to sustain the work of the church for generations to come.

Then, on **Sunday, 27 September**, we will gather for our **Harvest Thanksgiving Service**. Once again, we will have the opportunity to pause and give thanks to God for His abundant provision and for all His blessings to us.

What a wonderful opportunity this will be—a **special weekend of thanksgiving**, as we remember the goodness of God and respond with grateful hearts.

May we come together in prayer, generosity and joyful worship, giving thanks to the Lord who has blessed us so richly.

With love,

Philip

SEPTEMBER

*September.
I remember
all those hot, heady days
when heat
was relentless;
the sun beat
down
and the ground
was too hot
for feet.*

*May dawned,
bringing optimism
with the new growth
that emerged from
empty earth
and bare trees
softening what one sees
with fresh green
where brown had been
all winter, into early spring.*

*May and June brought
our summer palette:
lavender blues,
rose reds,
purple pelargoniums.
A seasonal festival
of floral delight,
colours bright,
heavy scents hanging
in air, unmoving.*

*All through July,
clear blue sky.
We wait, in anticipation
for welcome precipitation.
Lawns turn brown,
flowers wither,
farmers wonder whether
their crops will ever grow.
But still no
rain.
Not a drop
to stop
the drought.*

*In late August
we got some brief
relief.
Heavy rain
to fill water-butts again
and gasping grass
begins to take on
a familiar hue –
the colour of the spring grass
when it was new.*

*September has come
and the sun
will move to warm others,
sisters, brothers
in other lands
and
brings a halt
to that freedom, optimism
that summer sun and fun.
The green canopy changes,
Rearranges
to a golden carpet.*

*Back into uniforms,
classrooms and the lab
where one conforms
and life seems drab
with the school year
looming out ahead
when the beach
is preferred instead.*

*Days get shorter,
nights are long
summer ecstasy
now is gone.*

Sue Flory

Toddler Holiday club

Our Toddlers Holiday club at St Andrew's Church was a vibrant, fun-filled morning designed especially for our youngest community members and children up to age eight. Held on Wednesday, 19th August from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm at Reading Street in Broadstairs, the event brought families together for a bright and welcoming start to the day. The session was a resounding success, bringing together around 20 enthusiastic children who filled the space with energy and laughter. The morning was packed with engaging, hands-on activities that kept the youngsters smiling from start to finish, including interactive themed crafts, lively music and singing sessions, and delicious food for everyone to enjoy. It was a wonderful opportunity for the children to express their creativity, socialise with friends, and explore the church community in a warm, playful, and safe environment. This memorable morning was made possible by our wonderful team of dedicated helpers and our new, sparkling Youth Leader, Mayowa, who brought an extra dose of joy and magic to the event in her signature sequins.

Following the success of our holiday club, we are delighted to announce that our lovely, weekly Wednesday morning Toddler Group in the Community Hall has now officially restarted after the summer break. We meet every week from 9:30 am to 11:00 am and look forward to welcoming plenty of new faces alongside our returning families for more play, friendship, and fun! Entry is £2 per child (which includes refreshments for both toddlers and parents) and £1 per child for childminders – though it is completely free to anyone who cannot afford it, as we want everyone in our parish to feel welcome.

Warm wishes,

From Jenny and Jane.

