**NOVEMBER 2026**

All around us we see the beauty of Autumn. Trees are shedding colourful leaves and will gradually become bare outlines in winter, before nature's cycle resumes with the evidence of new growth in Spring (although this year, some trees have already moved into Spring mode).

Nature's cycle of life is a good reminder of our Human Cycle of Life.

***Ecclesiastes 3:1-2,11***

*For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven:*
*A time to be born and a time to die,*
*A time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted*
*He has made everything suitable for its time: moreover, he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.*

From the first to our final breath our human lives move forward in a Holy rhythm planned by God. Rushing about always 'doing' is very human action, whereas the importance of 'being' and trusting God for every moment ahead of us is what we are called to do – sometimes very difficult as we know!

As Christians, Scripture reminds us that we are held in God's hands throughout. Each and every one of us is important and here to play our part in God's Plan for us and for His Creation. Our lives do not end when our earthly lives do, for we are moving into eternity as arranged by God. How amazing is that!

This season offers us the opportunity to take the time to come before God in stillness, seeking a balance between 'doing' and 'being'; to appreciate the Cycle of our Human lives; to clear our minds and to let go of residual worries and instead to use this time to spiritually prepare for the coming Advent of Jesus Christ.

Gracious Lord, we give thanks for the beauty of your Creation; for the cycle of life in both nature and human lives too. Help us to pause and spend time 'being' with You, rather than prioritising 'Doing'.

We pray your comfort and peace on those who are living with the sadness and pain of suffering and loss at this time and as believers, we thank You for Your promise that though our earthly lives end, in You we live on into eternity. Strengthen us all to live that truth in the knowledge you are alongside in all times. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

Revd Tish Bird

***John 11:25-26***

*Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life.*
*Those who believe in me, even though they die will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.*
*Do you believe this?*