**The Vicarage**

Dear friends,

We enter the latter months of the year, a time of waning light and remembrance.
As our bodies, minds and spirits adjust to the changing seasons, and there is much around us to prompt more challenging thoughts and feelings we need to draw close to God and one another.

Connection and encouragement can be harder to find in the colder darker months. We need to be intentional in seeking it out, and disciplined in our efforts.

Life is gift that comes to us one day at a time, and each day is an invitation and an opportunity to connect with one another and with God himself. How might you do that today?

Pick up the phone? Talk. Listen.
Pick up your Bible? Pray. Listen.
Pick up your hobby? Create. Wonder.
Meet your friend? Love. Be loved.
Go to church? Be known. Belong. Give thanks.
Get fresh air? Breathe. Notice.
Seek joy? Laugh. Smile. Celebrate.
Help someone else? Love. Be loved.

Being human in a broken world can be hard going. In this season of waning light and remembrance, it can feel harder. But Jesus came so that we can have life in abundance, and that offer was never just for the easy days. Jesus in his life death and resurrection offers us hope for every season and in every circumstance. Whether things are good and easy, whether things sad and hard. Jesus is the God who turned water into wine at the wedding – the God of celebration.

Jesus is the God who was crucified – the God of suffering and sacrifice. There is nothing we can go through that God does not know about, there is nothing we can go through that he cannot redeem and deliver us through.

Life is gift that comes to us one day at a time.

May Jesus give strength for today, and hope for tomorrow.

Blessings,

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