



October 2020

Dear Friends,

The seasons are changing, the leaves are turning and beginning to fall! If I'm honest, as much as I love the changing seasons and the colours of autumnal leaves, the leaf clutter and debris is the bane of my life. It's one of the disadvantages of having a garden with several trees.

Last year we gave in and bought a leaf blower. So this morning I ventured out and started the little beauty up – within seconds I had a large bundle of leaves gathered up, but the power of the engine was blowing leaves all over the place, some flying into the air, others scurrying along the floor, some joining together and rolling as one, some were just stuck going nowhere. But most were going in the same direction with one goal, one destination and there was me with the power in my hand directing operations!

In many ways this is a vision of the church and our own Christian journey. Sometimes it might appear that we seem to drift aimlessly along, possibly feeling without a specific purpose or direction or we may get stuck in a rut. Yet there are other times when we are moving quickly with real focus/purpose and along the way we get caught up with others who are like minded and travelling in the same direction. However, the important thing to remember is that someone is guiding and directing the blower!

You see, just as God is in control of the changing seasons, he also helps to direct the things that are happening in our lives. We need to learn to trust him in all things, both big and small, this is where faith comes in. It's knowing that God has his hands on us and he's guiding and supporting us along the way. At times we may feel distant from him, alternately we may feel so attuned that his presence is tangible. However, the leaves were all heading in the same direction. God's plan for us as individuals and for us as a church fellowship is to join together, follow his way, grow in his likeness. How?

The thing that causes the leaves to move is the wind, in this case caused by the motor. The Hebrew word for the Holy Spirit is 'Ruach' which translated means 'WIND' or 'the breath of God'. As Christians when we welcome God into our lives, he quite literally 'breathes' life into us, he places his Holy Spirit in our hearts which enables us to experience the love of God and equips us to grow in our faith. It's also his indwelling Spirit living in us that points to the family likeness in other Christians and deepens our fellowship. I don't know about you, but there are times when I meet a complete stranger that I can sense the 'family likeness', in their words and actions you can tell they are Christians! This is how God is able to ensure that we are heading in the same direction, with one purpose, why – because we're united by our faith and directed by the Holy Spirit.

This Autumn as we watch the leaves falling, let's remember that in good and difficult times alike God's 'Ruach' will continue to lead us and guide us as we put our faith and trust in him.

*Rev'd Nicki*