

## Thought for October 2024

by Revd. Claire Claxton



The other day as I was walking in the lanes near my house I saw lots of shiny conkers on the ground. I was delighted that they hadn't already been gathered up by children and, as I am still a child at heart, I spent the next few minutes picking them up and went home with pockets bulging! There is something beautiful about those small shiny brown seeds. I remember my brothers soaking conkers in vinegar and then baking them in the oven to make them tough enough to win in games of conkers at school. These days health and safety rules have put a stop to conker fights in school (admittedly there were injuries sustained from those contests!) but the World Conker Championships are still held in Northampton every October. Thousands of spectators gather to watch the tournament, with players coming from across the globe!

As I look at my hoard of conkers, now in a bowl but, sadly, losing their shine, they don't seem very useful or beautiful anymore. And yet it might surprise you to know that: a) conkers can help fix sprains and bruises. Apparently the horse chestnut is so named because its seeds were once used to treat ailments in horses. b) conkers can be a moth-repellent. Place fresh conkers in among your clothes and as they dry out they emit a chemical which repels pests. c) conkers contain soap-like chemicals that are sometimes added to shampoos and shower gels.

Their worth goes beyond what is immediately obvious and that is such a valuable reminder for us in a world which judges people so much on power, fame, wealth and ability. Jesus was exactly the opposite. He lifted up the weak, poor and vulnerable. He said, "Whoever humbles himself as a child, he will be great in the kingdom of heaven," (Matt. 18:4) and "Faith is like a mustard seed, the smallest of seeds which becomes the largest of plants" (Matt. 13: 31-32) I pray that you can recognise the value and worth of every part of God's creation and that includes yourself. 'Even the hairs of your head are all numbered.' (Luke 12:7).

God bless you.

*CMClaxton*

# Ste Marguerite

## de la Foret



# October 2024

## Contacts

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## Church flowers in October

### Oct 6th Harvest

Margaret Boden Heaume and all  
decorators

Oct 13th Margaret Boden  
Heaume

Oct 20th Nancy. Smith

Oct 27th Nancy Smith

Sept 29th. Katie Blampied

### Greeting

Oct 6th. Sara

Oct 13th. Brenda

Oct 20th. Fiona

Oct 27th Debbie

By now most of our hedges have been cut and we can safely see around corners in the road.

When occasionally a road is no longer used and allowed to go back to nature it is amazing how quickly plants creep in from the sides and soon push up through the tarmac. It is good to remind ourselves we are the visitors here and the world will recover from our changes and nature will in time always win.

The cornfields are particularly high as an elephants eye at the moment and will soon be gathered in for winter fodder.

I have some sympathy for the American survivorists who hoard food to prepare for disaster, most of us like to keep something in the cupboard for a rainy day.





## The Church Windows

One of the peculiarities of Forest Church is that no two window openings are the same. The stone work shows that some of them have been rebuilt and changed in shape over the years, but there is no record of when or why this was done. The present stained glass dates from the restoration of the church in 1891 or later. If you walk around the south side of the church you can just see where there was once an arrow window alongside the lighting conductor so maybe it was once a refuge. At the church entrance there is a very interesting leaflet about the church history which visitors often take and which Peter keeps replenished. Feel free to take one.

A word from one of our Salisbury bishops:

1<sup>st</sup> October is the International Day of Older Persons. A day to celebrate the gifts of all those who continue to show us the love of God through their generosity, positivity, and humility. If you include yourself here, thank you!

+Karen

Would you like to occasionally lead the prayers in church? While we have a good number of readers for the lessons some find taking the prayers more daunting. It isn't really, you are only helping all of us in church to put ourselves in God's presence and voice our concerns. There is plenty of help available if you would like to try, just speak to Revd. Claire about it.

We are still collecting unwanted pictures and frames for a special art sale so if you are having a sort out maybe you will find an old master in the loft or the shed?

Every little helps!





## Dates and Church News

Wednesday 2nd October

Knit and Natter in church 2-4pm

Wednesday 9th October 10.30-12.00

Coffee morning in church. All welcome.

Thursday 3rd & 17th & 31st October

Solace meetings

10.30-12noon. At St Martins Community Centre.

A friendly support group after bereavement.

**Sunday 6th October**

**Harvest Sunday and  
Sunday Lunch**

**A way for all of us to  
feel involved in the  
valuable work done  
from Trinity Church in  
food and essentials  
distributed to people  
who are struggling to  
manage.**

We bring gifts of food  
suitable for the food

bank for the needy which can be brought to the altar in  
the service or placed anywhere around the church.

Always a colourful display and a mark of our  
thankfulness for our daily bread.

This will be followed by a Harvest Bring and Share  
lunch, please stay and enjoy the food and the company.

Don't worry about what to bring, just a small plate of  
something, savoury or sweet, there is always more than  
enough for a light lunch.



## Welcome to Forest Parish Church

**October 2024**

**Sunday October 6th 11am. Family service**

Reader: Debbie Dorey

TBC

Prayers: Nicola Holland Birch

**Sunday October 13th 11am Parish Communion**

Reader: Keith Wallace

Amos 5 v6-7,10-15

Hebrews 4 12-end

Prayers: Keith Bienvenu

**Sunday October 20th 11am Parish Communion**

Reader: Tim Peet

Isaiah 53 v 4-end

Hebrews 5 v1-10

Prayers: Vivian Rees

**Sunday October 27th 11am Parish Communion**

Reader: Richard Heaume

Jeremiah 31 v7-9

Hebrews 7 v23 - end

Prayers: Peter Gallienne