

Thought for October

Rev. Adrian Datta

Dear Friends

We are entering the season of autumn. The days are getting shorter, there is a nip in the air and this year there is a bumper crop of apples across the island! As we approach our Harvest celebrations we are reminded to give thanks for God's provision in our lives.

Traditionally, we should also give careful thought to what seed we should set aside to plant for next year's crop. This is a delicate work of faith - what we keep now and what we choose to invest for the future. Not an easy decision.

This reminds us of "the now and not yet" message of the kingdom. We pray asking for more of God's presence or "thy kingdom come" but we also know that this does not happen instantly or automatically. In other words, we have to give attention to both the present and the future. We will have all heard the saying "it is from tiny acorns that mighty oaks do grow" but also that "Rome was not built in a day". We are called to trust in a faithful God who can be fully trusted.

One of the callings upon the church is to be salt and light in their community. There are many ways we can do this but one way is to simply bless others. I have a bit of a mad idea but need others to help. I would love to set up "The Guernsey Baked Potato Society Pop-up Cafe" on Saturdays from 5:30 to 6:30pm in the Church to which we can invite our neighbours along to. We would give a free baked potato with Guernsey butter and a filling. Please do contact me if you would be interested in being involved. If there is enough interest we may be able to hatch a plan.

May you know God's blessing, provision and presence this Harvest season,

With love and prayers, Adrian



Ste Marguerite de la Foret
October 2025

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*Church flowers in
October*

**Oct 5th. Harvest
Viv Rees and all
decorators**

Oct 12th.
Brenda Tostevin

Oct 19th
Brenda Tostevin

Oct 26th
Katie Blampied

Greeting

Oct 5th. Nancy Smith

Oct 12th Fiona Roland

Oct 19th Debbie Dorey

Oct 26th Brenda Tostevin



Church events:

Tuesday Oct 7th 2-4pm in church

Knit and Natter

Why not join a friendly group who come together to make things and enjoy a cup of tea and company.

Wednesday October 8th 10.30-12.00

Coffee morning

A monthly morning meeting for company with friends.

Sunday 5th October 11.30am

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 with a choice of **home made soups**. 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.

There will be a collection for the food bank.



Stained glass windows

Have you sat in church and wondered about which saint is commemorated in the window near you?

Most of them denote the way they died, often a brutal and harsh death, martyred for their faith. Over the last fifteen years all the windows have been taken down one by one and renovated, the last to be restored the beautiful altar one of St Marguerite depicting her as a shepherdess and overcoming the devil in the form of a dragon. She was also martyred for refusing to deny her faith.

All the stained-glass dates from the restoration of 1891 or later. Prior to this, paintings show small paned windows with clear glass and white painted frames.

According to excerpts from the Guernsey Press & Star of 1891 the stained glass was undertaken by Mr G T Baguley, an artist in stained glass, from Newcastle on Tyne.

Beginning at the high window above the altar and moving clockwise around the church:

- 1 Ste Marguerite of Antioch as shepherdess on one side and being tempted by the devil in the form of a dragon on the other.
- 2 Symbols of our Lord, first, Alpha and Omega, the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, and also IHS being the initial letters of the Latin words for Jesus Saviour of Men
- 3 A saw representing Simon the brother of Jude. Simon is said to have been sawn in two.
- 4 Our Lords passion – a Roman soldier's sword, the thirty pieces of silver, the lash and the pillar to which a victim was tied for scourging.
- 5 Halbard symbol for Jude by which he is said to have been put to death in Persia

6 Emblems of Jesus' suffering – the crown of thorns, the cross, the spear, and the sponge of vinegar on a reed

7 Symbols of brothers St Peter and St. Andrew, the keys of heaven and hell for St. Peter and the diagonal cross for St. Andrew

8 Symbols of St. Barnabas and St. Paul

9 The purse and the spear in the next window are the official marks of authority of St. Matthew the tax collector whilst the other half contains the axe of St. Matthias

10 The spear and carpenters square of St. Thomas the patron saint of architects; alongside these are the wallet, staff and shell of St. James the Great.

11 The knife which represents St. Bartholomew's martyrdom

12 A club representing the martyrdom of St. James the Less

13 A cross for St. Phillip and a cup with a winged serpent for St. John the Evangelist.

By 2025 all of the stained-glass windows have been removed, repaired and replaced by the local stained glass craftsman Mr Peter Vivian on a rolling programme over about 15 years. The wooden window sills were installed by Rev J R A Shaw in the 1960's.

Welcome to Forest October 2025

Saturday October 4th 5pm
Book of Common Prayer Communion

Sunday October 5th 11.30am
Reader: Debbie Dorey. Habakkuk1 v1-4, 2 v1-4
2 Timothy 1 v1-14
Prayers: Nicola Hoyland Birch

Saturday October 11th 5pm
Book of Common Prayer Communion

Sunday October 12th 11.30am. Harvest
Reader: Wendy Doyle 2 Kings 5 v1-3,7-15c
2 Timothy 2 v8-15
Prayers: Nancy Smith

Saturday October 18th 5pm
Book of Common Prayer Communion

Sunday October 19th 11.30am
Reader: Vivian Rees Genesis 32 v22-31
2 Timothy 3 v14
Prayers: Keith Bienvenu

Saturday October 25th 5pm
Book of Common Prayer Communion

Sunday October 26th 11.30am
Reader: Nancy Smith Ecclesiasticus 35 v12-17
2 Timothy 4 v6-8, 16-18
Prayers: Vivian Rees