

Hello Everyone,

January is the time that we think of as new beginnings, new year resolutions and a fresh new start – unless you are or have been a teacher, a parent or a pupil and then the new year becomes September. It is when the new academic year begins, 4-year-olds start school, primary children move to secondary, secondary pupils move on to different places of work or education. Teachers return after the 6-week break, new teachers start new jobs and new timetables begin. I remember it well!

I still remember the new term starting as a child, the new uniform, satchel (it was a long time ago!), new pencil case. To me it was exciting and I loved it! Then later in my life I became a teacher in a secondary school. September was the new start month, new pupils in my classrooms, new timetable, new possibilities I loved it!

I arrived as your priest at the end of January making me the priest in charge of both the Derwent Ings Benefice and the Escrick Group which began an exciting new adventure in my ministry. The first thing we needed to do was to find someone to be the assistant minister to minister to the 8 churches alongside me. This we accomplished by April with the arrival of Rev Maxine. But with the vicarage not ready and she couldn't move in and then I went into hospital in May for knee surgery which was followed by 8 weeks recovery. Essentially we had to pause and anything new had to wait for a couple of months but now it is September.....and we are ready for the new term, the beginning of a new chapter.

We are ready for the beginning of a new way of being church. First of all, we have committed to working together across the 8 churches as a partnership. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September at 6.30 at Wheldrake church the Bishop of Selby will be commissioning our new name - The Rivers Partnership.

In September we have a new pattern of services starting. This has been designed and agreed by the PCCs for the 8 churches and using the latest research about how village churches thrive. We have our first United 3 service for Escrick, Stillingfleet

and Naburn starting. Please do join us as we begin this new pattern of services together on the 4<sup>th</sup> of September at Stillingfleet Church at 10.30am. We have an exciting new start and I love it!

Of course, in different places and different cultures new year, new terms, new starts are all at very different times of the year and for different reasons. When I was thinking about this my mind went to today, because as a Christian I believe that with every sunrise a new day starts, a new day full of possibilities and opportunities. The amazing wonder of God is that with God we get to start every day afresh, with God it doesn't matter what happened yesterday because it is what happens today that is important. This promise of a new start for everyone every day isn't just for Christians it is for everyone. Every day well lived gives us happy memories of yesterday and a wonderful tomorrow. Have a wonderful day!

With love and blessings

Rev Jackie x