

Our front article this month is written by Reverend Jack Hemsworth  
Priest in Charge at our Mission Partnership church, St. Andrew's.

Father Jack reflects,

We will all have noticed how the daylight hours are giving way to the darkness as we enter the month of October. At the end of the month, when we reset our clocks and watches, it becomes dark much earlier and makes us feel a bit glum. I think it must go back to my childhood when I loved being outdoors in the summertime and early autumn; I sensed a loss of my freedom time. Living as I did on a busy main road, my mother banned my sisters and me from "playing out". Once autumn and winter set in, I couldn't wait for spring and summer to come around again. Of course there was Christmas to look forward to but when you're a child, even that joyful occasion seems to come and go in no time at all. Do you remember, once you have tried your new toys (and possibly broken some), read your annuals and any other new books, its back to yearning for the long days of summer. Impatience sets in and you find yourself wishing days away, come on spring, and come on summer.

I'm not really sure when it dawned on me, what age I was, that without those dark days of autumn and winter, there would not be the delight experienced when summer came again. It would be very nice for all of us if every day was bright, sunny and long, but that is not real life. Without those dark days we would not appreciate the good and light ones. The important thing for us to remember is that God is with us both in the dark, and in the light.

For us at St. Andrew's our dark days were about this time four years ago, when on 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2011 we worshipped for the last time in our church. Now in 2015, we are "in the light" once more, worshipping and working and serving in our new shared church. Our Mission Partnership showing some cause for optimism.

Our Lord's disciples, above all others, experienced the darkness of His arrest, cruel treatment and His death before the joy of His resurrection. The days of light for them came in His resurrection and appearances to them before His ascension. To those disciples it must have felt like they were once more in the days of darkness until once again they experienced joy at Pentecost.

It is not entirely coincidence that St. Andrew's will be celebrating one hundred years of worship on the same site on the weekend of 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> October. This point in the life our church marks the four years since the last service in our old church.

Through all our "Dark days" and there will be others, there will be light and that light is the Light of the World, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Yours in His name,

Jack