



Father Paul writes – 27th of SEPTEMBER 2025

Vineyards are an important environmental image and one that we are most familiar with, as they were for the people Jesus addresses: the chief priests and the elders in a parable in today's Gospel reading. The parable was to defend Jesus' invitation of sinners and outcasts to the Kingdom of God, in the face of the sneers of the religious establishment. The parable outraged the religious people. The first son represents sinners. Like him, they originally chose to go their own way but then repented and took God's way and so entered the kingdom. The second son represented the chief priests and elders. Like him, they promised to work for God but failed to do so and so excluded themselves from the kingdom of God. Repentance is a necessity to gain entry to the kingdom. This theme of sin and repentance is also highlighted in the OT reading from Ezekiel. Next weekend is the celebration of the patron saint of ecology and animals, St Francis of Assisi. To celebrate St Francis of Assisi, there will be a special focus next Sunday at 10 am of the public expression of the bond we have with all animals and especially our pets and to have them blessed. I encourage all to come along with their creatures, great and small. Just ensure that all animals are suitably restrained; that is dogs on leads and cats and small animals in suitable carry bags or containers. For any reason you cannot bring your pet to the service, bring a photo of them instead. The Rev'd Deb Jeanes will be our guest preacher. The last session of "Sharing Your Faith" is on Tuesday night at 7 pm and is being repeated on Wednesday morning at 10.30 am following the 10 am Eucharist. The course over four weeks has been an opportunity to explore sharing our faith with confidence when the opportunity arises. We look forward to the last session this week with the course co-ordinator, the Rev'd Helen Philips. The new set of giving envelopes for the next 12 months start next Sunday. They are available for collection today, please advise of your numbered envelope, so you can continue with the same numbered envelopes for the coming year. If you would like a set of envelopes to help with your giving to the church, please let me know.

Your friend and Priest Paul