**Philippians 4:12b – 13**

**‘I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation… I can do everything through him who gives me strength.’**

Paul wrote this letter while in prison awaiting death. He had little in the way of physical comforts. He could not travel and tell the World about Christ; he was in a bleak and miserable situation and yet writes ‘I am content. I can do everything through him who gives me strength.’ There was a lot Paul could NOT do but he focussed on what he could do: pray, talk to his visitors and write letters, letters which we still read today and which would probably not have been written were Paul not in prison.  When life is hard we can mump and moan about how life is unfair and feel peeved at ‘our’ situation compared to ‘theirs’ but God says ‘be content.’ Whatever the circumstances God is with us and can use us – if we are willing to follow and trust in Him.

Added 5 October 2018

**Psalm 19:14**

**'May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you.'**

Words spoken by many a preacher before boring rigid / inspiring / encouraging / challenging his or her congregation with a sermon or address that will be listened to / ignored / acted upon. Sermons (and ministers) are funny things words said can be used by God to touch the person needing to hear that thing that day. Of course, God can and does use each one of us to heal and help and comfort and challenge through the words we say. God can and speak through us- isn't that wonderful!

Words can cause so much damage but can so so much good. May all our mouths and the words we say be acceptable to God,

Added 12 October 2018

**Ecclesiastes 3:1**

**‘There is a season for everything. and a season for every activity under the sun.’**

The ‘philosopher’ who wrote Ecclesiastes wrote these words over 2500 years ago in a climate very different from ours yet they remain relevant.  We are privileged here to see the beauty that Autumn brings as leaves change colour.  Soon, branches will be bare and the land will led bare through winter until Spring when new leaves and new life breaks forth.  It is natures’ rhythm and it would not work if there was no seasons – no time for rest or growth or flowering or shedding flowers or leaves.  We can all be very impatient wanting things to happen NOW. We are to be patient and learn to wait knowing that a new season is not far away.

Added 17 October 2018

**2 Samuel 7:22**

**“How great you are, Sovereign Lord! There is no one like you, and there is no God but you, as we have heard with our own ears".**

On many occasions, throughout the Bible, we are told how the people of God strayed from Him by the worshipping of idols.  These could be anything from rudimentary wooden household ‘idols’ to huge statues in big towns, whatever form the idol took it was a deliberate turning away from God.

This, of course, happened a long time ago and we – of course – are too sensible to idolise anything but God ……aren’t we?  Yet anything that comes between us and God is an idol. That can be money, career, the TV, even family.  Nothing wrong with any of these – until they utterly dominate our lives.

It is important that we remember to put God first and live out our faith remembering His command to love Him and one another and ourselves.  God is the Creator of all that is good and of all that matters, and should be the bedrock of our life.

Added 24 October 2018

**Hebrews 12: 1**

**As for us, we have this large crowd of witnesses around us.  So then, let us rid ourselves of everything that gets in the way, and of the sin which holds on to us so tightly, and let us run with determination the race that lies before us.**

From late September on, the shops are full of sweets and outfits and everything Hallowe’enish you can think of.  Far removed from my childhood days of guising and dookin for apples!  The name Hallowe’en means the day before All Saints Day which is celebrated on November 1st.  A day to remember not only the Saints of old but the saints who have enriched and enabled and encouraged us on our walk through life with God.  The people whose love for God shone and shines through their very being.  The 1st of November is a day to celebrate and remember that not only is God with us always but we have a crowd of witnesses, of saints, who encourage us and help us along the way.  ​

Added 31 October 2018