

Rudgwick

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From the Vicar

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Dear Friends

Every year I am surprised by how early it gets dark in August. Because it is the school summer holidays I think the days should be longest in August, and yet, that accolade belongs to June when it doesn't get dark until nearly 10pm. Now, at the start of October, we have just passed the autumn equinox – half way between the longest and shortest days of the year, when the summer is well and truly over, autumn has set in and we are only too well aware that the long dark nights of winter are on their way!

Light and darkness are big themes in the Bible. The Apostle John introduces his gospel saying, '*The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*' These amazing words reveal a truth we intuitively know from flicking a light switch in our homes, but probably rarely think about: light always triumphs over darkness, because darkness is not the opposite of light but the absence of it. As John goes on it becomes clear that, in writing about light, he is also referring to Jesus, the light of the world.

We'll be celebrating this at the Church on 31 October with our *Light Party* – a positive alternative to the darkness of Halloween – for children of primary school age and their younger siblings (accompanied by their parents).

The party is free, all we ask is that you let us know that you are coming (so we can cater for you) and wear your brightest, most colourful clothes – nothing dark or scary please. You will find further details on in the magazine, including a QR code to take you to the sign-up page. It should be great fun, so I hope to see lots of you then.

Every blessing

Martin King