

Weather Report: Sun & Rain!

One of the real advantages of cycling to work each day is a closer relationship with the outdoor environment. Small changes to the seasons are recognised earlier when cycling, and the fluctuations in the daily weather are most keenly felt.

The traditional pattern of baking in the summer heat and wobbling through biting winds in mid-winter have become less recognisable of late. It is now possible to cycle to work in drenching rain and then experience the balmy, warm rays of sunshine and cycle on super-dried pavements by late afternoon.

This changeability within the weather system has been explained by many scientists. There is a range of theories and many distinguished and renowned environmental leaders on hand to challenge, educate and instruct us on both the causes and the solutions to our unfolding, natural phenomena. It is a narrative we are all caught up in, and regardless of our theory of choice, it is our commitment to greener living that will creep further and further into every aspect our lives in the coming year.

The changeability in the weather can, in some ways, be seen as a reflection of our lives this past year, both as a church community and as individuals. There have been some beautiful summer days, both literally and spiritually, for many of us. Moments where prayers have been answered, risks taken and rewards reaped. Friendships have been renewed and families have celebrated good news. These were the days of our summer, regardless of the calendar month they occurred in.

For all of us, there has also been some rain. Water is an essential element to our lives; without it we would not survive. Sometimes, it sustains us, and other times, it overwhelms us and becomes a raging torrent, powerful and relentless in its energy, difficult to control and destructive in its power.

Yet even in these times of “rain”, there have been moments of deep wonder, fleeting exuberance and the creation of irreplaceable memories. We have acknowledged again the fragility of life, and wept together for its loss. We have been in awe of the bravery of our friends and neighbours, acquiring a deeper respect for each other’s tenacity in the face of life’s daily struggles.

As a church community and as individuals, this past year we have prayed, worked and lingered together, offered each other friendship and support and loved each other as Jesus asked us to. As November arrives and the nights have drawn in, this continued commitment to each other should ensure we are all encircled in the warmth of friendship and God’s love.

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