

## RECTOR'S PINT

I was at the hospital a few weeks ago for my monthly check on the Achilles tendon. All was going well, but the standout moment came between my appointments with the Trauma team and the Physiotherapist, whilst I was taking in a moment of sun outside the hospital's main entrance. There was a man in a wheelchair nearby. He must have been about my age, and he was a double amputee, each leg having been removed just below the knee. It looked as if this had been a recent operation. He was on the phone, and I could not help overhearing what he was saying. He was obviously asked how he was, and this was his reply: "How am I? Given the circumstances I would say nine out of ten." My goodness, the man had just had two legs amputated and he gave things a nine out of ten! I was humbled and impressed. I really wanted to know his story, but of course British reserve and a desire not to offend held me back. I wondered if this had been a lifesaving operation, and so for him, it had given a sense of perspective?

The discipline of thanksgiving, counting our blessings, is such an important one. We know from psychologists that those who do this are happier people. In Paul's letter to the Thessalonians in the New Testament, we are encouraged to 'give thanks in every circumstance' as a spiritual discipline, 'for this is God's will for you in Jesus Christ'. In fact, thanksgiving fills the Bible. As someone who can tend to be a glass half-empty person, this is an important lesson for me. We can't welcome every hardship, but might we find something in each difficulty for which we can give thanks? I am indebted to that man for reminding me of a very important quality to hold onto as a part of life.

There are several things to look out for in October. Firstly, following a review conducted by Tim Suter, which involved participants from all three parishes, we will be trialling a new pattern of Sunday services. My overview and the new pattern can be seen below, please note the changes in service times to 9.00am and 10.30am. Secondly, the final **Harvest festival service** in the Benefice will be held at St. Peter's Great Haseley. Thirdly, on Sunday October 17, at 4.00 pm we will be hosting a special **Service of Thanksgiving and Commemoration for the departed** at St James' Little Milton. We last held this service two years ago and many said that it was helpful to them as they remembered loved ones. Please do come if you can. The service will be followed by tea and cake!

**A Service of Thanksgiving and commemoration for the departed  
Sunday 17 October 4.00 pm**

**St James' Little Milton**

**Refreshments will be served after the service.**

*Simon*