



Dear all,

What is your favourite drink? For me it would probably have to be a glass of chilled Sauvignon Blanc...from New Zealand, of course, though a nice glass of Red wine from most countries (including Australia!) is also welcome!

The final 'I am' saying in John's Gospel that we are reflecting on this Sunday is from John 15 when Jesus said 'I am the vine'. How many of you are good at garden pruning?

When it comes to our spiritual lives as Christians, our lives are in God's hands - Jesus is the Vine, and the Father is the Master Gardener. Using the picture of the vine, we learn that we as 'the branches' are designed to bear fruit – lots of it, but in order for this to happen, we need to be pruned appropriately in order to fulfil the potential Jesus has for each of us.

Yes it's true that no pruning is easy at the time – sometimes pruning can be very painful, but careful pruning results in incredible growth. Under God's care, we can truly flourish and grow, followed in turn by more pruning, leading to more growth...!

So ask yourself today - have you trusted your life to the Master Gardener and pruner? Are you a branch of the Jesus vine? Is your life showing 'Jesus' fruit?

Church News:

- **Sunday 30 August**

You are welcome to join us in our church building for our service - we have excellent social distancing procedures in place that ensure everyone remains safe - from Hand Sanitiser, to a one-way system, to the chair layout to very clear signage, to the Track and Trace system... - do come and join us. This Sunday includes Communion, so for those joining the livestream, please do get ready for this. To book tickets, [please click this link](#).

This week we're trying **Zoffee and Zea** at the later time of **7pm** to enable all who either attend the church or join us on the livestream to attend. It would be great to see you all. To join this time of fellowship, please contact me.

- **Weekly Challenge**

This week's challenge is to think about a picture that represents church to you. Please send your photos to me jenny@barrett.cc by **Saturday 29 August 12noon**, which will then be included in Sunday's Service.

- **Church's Annual Meeting (APCM)**

This is now rescheduled for **Sunday 4 October at 11.15am** after the 10am service. People can attend either in person or via Zoom online - further details will be available closer to the time. To view last year's report and the meeting agenda etc, please [click on this link](#). Paper copies are still available in the Church.

The Electoral Roll is once again open for revisions - if you checked your details earlier this year, you're fine. If you want to check or confirm your details, please email pccsec@eatonsocon.org

- **Recipe Book**

Don't forget to share your favourite lockdown recipes by sending them to brianelliott1948@gmail.com

Under Aslan's Paw,

Tim
Vicar, St Mary's Eaton Socon