



## From Our Vicar

Rev. Wayne Walters

### Discerning the Times and Making Life-Giving Choices

Joshua 24: 1-5, 14-27

One of the most frightening, yet liberating gifts God gives us, is the gift of choice. We exercise it constantly, though we are saved from the stress of a multiplicity of mundane choices by habit and routine.

Habits themselves are the result of choices which become automatic by repetition.

There are also moments of life changing choice. The choice to become a follower of Jesus is such a choice. For many of us it was made all the easier by choices our parents made - to have us baptised, to raise us in the context of a church community where faith could be nurtured, to continue themselves in a life of prayerful Christian service and integrity. This is of course not everyone's story.

Scattered through our lives, if we are alert to them, come moments of decision - some obvious and some less so. Biblically they are described as *chairois* moments. This is one of two Greek words for 'time'. The other is *chronos*, from which we get chronology. While *chronos* refers to measurable linear time, *chairois* speaks of the opportune time, ie. 'Now is the time of salvation!' *Chairois* moments can be triggered by a life transition or unexpected happening - either delightful or traumatic. They can come through observation of creation, through reading or a spoken word and especially through scripture that arrests our attention and prompts deeper reflection.

Such moments are to be received, I believe, as potentially God speaking to us. They offer us a peek into further self-awareness, or awareness of an overlooked attribute of God and life. These moments invite us to reflect and to choose to step out of an unhelpful mindset, attitude or behaviour or to take a particular step of obedience, compassion or faith, and so open ourselves to the fullness of life God offers and made us for. This may well come at a cost, but that is the life Jesus modelled for us and which brings the truest rewards.

At this point in our church life, and in whatever you personally are facing - might this be an opportune time for reflection and re-dedication to our Lord of all that we are, for all that he has purposed, for us and through us?

God bless you,  
*Wayne*