

## Strong Winds Blow

Welcome to our reflection for Church without Walls

Here are some ideas of how to use these reflections:

Pray that God will lead your thoughts.

Sit comfortably, take a few deep breaths and relax.

Let your mind wander as you read the reflection. Write down your thoughts in a notebook. If you are busy, try and pick out something to take with you in odd moments during the day.

You may wish to memorise the Bible verse. Write it out and stick it up somewhere.

### Bible Verse

*Whatever the LORD pleases he does,  
in heaven and on earth,  
in the seas and all deeps.*

*He it is who makes the clouds rise at the end of the earth,  
who makes lightnings for the rain  
and brings forth the wind from his storehouses.*

(Psalm 135:6-7)



### Reflection

In recent weeks the change from summer into autumn has been underway. The equinox, with day and night of equal length, is something of a tipping point, as we slip over into the darker half of the year. Powerful winds tend to accompany the change and the phrase, 'equinoctial gales' is heard on the weather forecast. In the woods, ripening acorns are dislodged by the wind and rain down on the unsuspecting walker.

There is power in the wind sufficient to bring down branches and uproot whole trees.

Do you have strong roots to sustain you in difficult days? How can you strengthen them?

The leaves still cling on, dancing and rustling in a last celebration, and creaking branches sound a warning.

What are the signs of autumn that you notice most?

How do you feel about the change from one season to the next?

What are your particular concerns this year?

Are there ways in which you can celebrate the beauty of autumn?

How will you prepare for the darker and colder days ahead?

On the coast, the gales raise the waves and lash the shore, eroding and re-shaping. Walking along the beach you feel pushed and buffeted by the wind.

Are there ways in which you feel pushed and buffeted?

How might you feel able to stand more strongly?

It is difficult to find a picture of the wind! The tree pictured above has been shaped by the onshore winds of the Dorset coast. It has adapted to the climate in which it lives. Untouched by the gales it would have grown differently, but the reality is a lovely elegant shape.

How are you being shaped by your circumstances? How can you adapt to the forceful pandemic winds which are blowing through? Can you too create a life which has a pleasing shape?

Our verses from the Psalms speak of God's storehouses. How fortunate we are indeed in the richness of God's blessings pouring out of his storehouses as the seasons turn.

*Lindsay Farley*