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A Season In Which To Prosper

In northern Europe the four seasons are important. Each one brings its own joys, and despite the sunny weather of recent weeks, it is clear that summer has finished and autumn has begun.

Meteorologists say that autumn begins on 1st September and lasts for three months. Astronomically it begins with the autumnal equinox, on around 22nd September. Whichever date you prefer, it is becoming noticeably darker in the mornings and evenings, and it can be quite cold by night. Some leaves are beginning to fall, and there is a different smell in the country air. A new term has begun at school, and the football and rugby seasons are well under way.

In his poem 'To Autumn', Keats described it as the 'Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness', and it has been long been associated with the harvest and a time of thanksgiving. There are harvest festivals, and in the United States and Canada a holiday of celebration.

Sometimes autumn is seen as a melancholy time, when the abundance of summer is over and nature appears to be on the wane. We have seasons in our lives too, and these may or may not coincide with the meteorological seasons.

In Psalm 1 the writer speaks of a man who delights in God, and he is like a tree that is planted by streams of water, fruits are yielded in season, leaves do not wither, and, whatever the man does, it prospers.

May your autumn be a prosperous one, and may you find comfort in the God who watches over you.