

A few words from the vicarage ...



Summer is upon us – even if the weather doesn't always agree with the season! Naturally, our thoughts turn to holidays and recreation – a time for re-charging batteries which are beginning to run down – even the 'long-life' varieties! This is an important time in that respect.

Holidays, even if we don't go away anywhere, are vital to us – everyone needs a break from the normal routine and, for those who stay at home, as the saying goes, *a change is as good as a rest*. So it is essential that we try to do something different in order that we break the usual pattern – the last place we want to find ourselves is in a rut!

We all need to ensure that we are 'fit for purpose' – and our purpose is to serve God. If we are tired and worn out, how can we be fit for anything? How can we serve God as He deserves and as we might wish to do?

So, whether we use the summer season or some other time of the year to effect a change in our daily routine, it is necessary that we do so – for God's sake if not our own.

As you may have gathered, by the time you are reading these words from the vicarage, I will have taken my own counsel and my period of change – or 'holiday' if you prefer – will be over. The clue ought to have been rather obvious as you will have seen someone quite different leading services in my absence. I am hugely grateful to Canon Hirst for providing cover for me during this period and I am sure he will have done so in his usual calm and reflective style.

What happens during holidays, of course, is that life goes on very much as usual in our absence and we are often surprised to learn upon our return that '*nothing happened*' and '*nothing has changed*'. We all seem to expect that there have been major events which have passed us by of which we have been blissfully ignorant whilst we have been '*off enjoying ourselves*'.

The same is true for all of us I'm sure – for, in truth, none of us is indispensable no matter how much we may wish to think otherwise! It is equally true, however, that we are each highly valued for the contribution we are able to make in serving God with and through each other.

We enrich that contribution by taking this time out to allow us to reflect, reassess and re-examine what it is that God is asking us to do.

When last did you earnestly ask God if you were fulfilling his purpose – according to His will?

Whilst holidays are times for fun and enjoyment, certainly, they are also times for these more serious matters – when we may be still, when we may be reflective, when we may commune with God at a different pace and a different level.

Are you responding to God's call in the way you ought – indeed, are you responding to God's call at all?

Do you say, *'Thy will be done, not my will'*?

You will know the answer to these questions – as will God – do your answers match with God's?

Fr D.