

Your Rector's Letter

Dear friends

At the end of May some people told me that their summer holiday was already over. I thought that was early. I usually associate a summer holiday with the recurring sport events at Wimbledon and the Tour de France, which respectively start mid-June and early July. This year on top of these major sport events, we have the World Cup. And when you are reading this, the tournament might already be well advanced and I hope that England (and Belgium 😊) are still in the running to become world champion.

Whether you are a football lover, or passionate about cycling, or simply enjoy watching a good game of tennis, I hope that these events not only give you a feeling of leisure but inspire you to go out and about for a walk, maybe a bit of sport or whatever helps you to relax.

I still hope to manage a retreat this year and there is a chance that it may happen this month of July. I am longing for silence. The first retreat day always gives me this awkward feeling that I am wasting my time. But then, after 24 hours, it takes hold of me and the dialogue begins with the only One who hears you talking in your mind and prayers. And there is this delightful freedom of being allowed to say in prayer what you want to say, not what you must say. This is real vacation.

Some people like to travel far, others have a holiday nearer home, or even just at home in a corner of the garden, with a chair, and a book or newspaper. Isn't that heaven, when the sun shines? And when it rains, get those jigsaw or crossword puzzles out. Make sure that you also have a good balance between rest and exercise. Do not forget to bring into this mix of relaxation and activity, some reflection and prayer. Free your mind, so you can explore the spiritual depth in you, and are able to touch the source of your existence. Some call it the soul, others conscience, and others the breath or spirit of life, or just God. It has everything to do with the reason and purpose of your life. Make that inward journey and travel from the beginning to the end, from where you come from and where you aim for. And when you get close to life's source and goal, touch the Light and Life of God. Then let the radiance and glow warm your heart. Heaven can touch the earth. And we have arms that can stretch towards heaven.

And yes, vacation and relaxation is not laziness. On the contrary, it is being active in your mind, in your prayers and dialogue with God. And when you want to do something else, just meet with others. Tidings will help you; just turn the page and plan your week with the church's calendar in front of you. I may see you at the Last Night of the Proms, the Toddlers Teddy Bear Picnic or the Parish Barbecue and Lammas Thanksgiving and of course, I may see you on Sundays in the morning for the service or in the afternoon as church-sitter.

Pray for your own family, your church family, for a successful appeal and a smooth running of the church, for the helpers and stretched volunteers, all who deserve and need a refreshing break. Enjoy a good rest. *Erwin*