

## Rector's Letter - Rev'd Jeremy Trew - July 2022

Dear Friends,

In my less-wise moments, I would like to think that I am indispensable, but thankfully I am aware that I am not. Of course, if I did think that I would have plenty of company. Many of us like to think that our work/home/group of friends/etc (delete as applicable) would grind to a shuddering halt and collapse into chaos the moment we were absent. Thankfully this is usually not the case, and when it is it is often a result of bad management.



In my role as a Rector I am responsible to ensure there's someone there to take the services on any Sunday I am away. Thankfully I have others who coordinate this, and there are many skilled people to call upon for assistance. This has not always been the case, and some years it has been very difficult to find the support needed. Clergy are often not very good at taking time off, and I know of colleagues who would have stayed around if a problem cropped up. However, we might cloak our reasons in humility, it is actually pride that prevents people from letting go. We think we are too important to absent ourselves and so we treat ourselves as unimportant.

We all need holidays. Holidays are about much more than recreation. They serve an important role in our re-creation. This role was at the heart of the foundation of the first National Parks; the realisation that people need spaces which allow them to be re-created, remade. These spaces help repair the "wear and tear" of daily living; recognising that just as our bodies are continually replacing worn and damaged cells, so we need to repair our tired minds, emotions and souls. Christians see this in a God who was not only at the heart of creation as a one-off event, but who goes on creating and re-creating; "Behold, I make all things new," as the Good Book says. Maybe that's because God did not view us as some clockwork machine to be set loose and allowed to run about until our spring ran out, but as a more fragile vessel to be nurtured and re-formed as we live and grow.

So, if like me you find it difficult to take time off, throw away that "Protestant Work Ethic" (it's neither Protestant nor Christian anyway) and enjoy a bit of re-creation with your recreation. Happy holidays!

Best wishes

Jeremy

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