

# LETTER FROM THE VICARAGE

## Holidays or Holy days?

Holidays as we know them are, historically speaking, quite a recent innovation. Indeed the very idea of having paid time off work to go away somewhere else or to do something else for a few weeks in the year seemed a little ridiculous to our ancestors. The only time off that many people used to have in days gone by was when there was a Holy Day or a religious celebration like Christmas or Easter which still survive in the popular imagination as times of rest from work so as to celebrate the feast. Arguably these great festivals have survived through their often excessive cultural associations (parties and presents especially), other lesser holy days have lost their popular significance and with it the time off - for instance Ascension Day and as last month, the feast of the Transfiguration. No holiday on these holy days. Interestingly, many of us who like to holiday in Spain or Italy will have noticed how many holy-days are still observed as holidays without losing their religious significance.

But we don't take our holidays on holy days any more anyway. For many, the summer months are the times to disappear for a break when schools are out and the sun is shining. Others enjoy Autumn and Winter breaks. Should we perhaps stop calling them 'holidays' and refer instead to a 'vacations', literally an 'emptying' as in academic institutions, creating a space, a void, to be filled with nothing in particular? For in reality what is holy about them now?

Even though we no longer take time off to celebrate all the red letter days in the church year, saints days and all, we generally still make it a communal habit to take a decent chunk of rest at least once a year, and this, I believe, is a 'holy' activity. Rest is good for you, the more the better, a genuinely holy opportunity to be yourself rather than to have to do what others expect of you - after all, God himself rested on the seventh day (Genesis 2:3).

But rest should not be restricted to the Sabbath day. It is the chance to discover what God made you to be, free from the pressures and distractions of life. Rest is time to think and time to meet with God in your break from routine. It's a valuable and precious commodity. Holidays are potentially far more important than we probably think. Holiday time can very easily become holy time. Enjoy it and make the most of it.

Reverend John Girtchen

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### **Autumn Services at All Saints Church (unless specified)**

Friday 7th October	7.30pm	Harvest Festival Evensong followed by buffet supper
Sunday 9th October	9.30am	Family Harvest Communion
Sunday 30th October	11.00am	United Holy Communion for All Saints followed by buffet lunch
Wednesday 2nd November	7.30pm	Goxhill Methodist Church: Annual Bereavement Memorial Service
Sunday 13th November	10.45am	United Service of Remembrance at Goxhill Memorial Hall
Sunday 13th November	2.00pm	Act of Remembrance at Airfield Memorial, Horsegatefield Road

See Parish Magazine and notices in Church Room windows for details of other services and events.

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### **Elvis comes to Barrow on Humber!**

A CHURCH minister who doubles as an Elvis impersonator is coming to Barrow on Humber's Holy Trinity Church to strut his stuff! Steve Caprice is known as the "Rockin Reverend" and will be appearing at in a special one off Elvis Gospel Tribute Show on Friday 23rd September at 7.30pm.

Steve has been a fan of Elvis since he was introduced to his music when he was seven and says his act inspired him to become a performer. The singing minister says a spell in the American Bible Belt had a profound effect on him, which was to change his life considerably in the following years.

Steve works for the UK Outreach Ministries and found part of his calling was to use his abilities as an entertainer to spread the word. Steve was the UK Elvis gospel award winner in a competition in 2007.

His award was presented by Charles Stone, Elvis's tour manager in the 1970s, who was particularly pleased to meet Steve, telling him that he was one of the best Elvis impersonators he'd ever seen!

Tickets for Steve's show cost only £5-00 each and for Elvis fans as well as those who want to hear the Gospel message given in a unique way this will be an occasion not to miss.

Ring **Annette Cherry** on **01469 531613** or **Sue Girtchen** on **01469 530357** for tickets.