

Dear friends,

The holiday season is upon us once again and as I write at the beginning of July, we are having another very sunny and very warm spell. It certainly feels like summer!

Holidays are important. They are an opportunity for rest or doing something completely different from your usual routine.

Churches Together in Altcar, Formby and Hightown are having a “Holiday at Home” again this August and St Stephen’s is hosting an event here. It too is an opportunity to do something different if you are unable to get away for a break.

In this season of summer, with all that it brings, I am reminded of how God’s creation speaks to us in every season. The long days and golden evenings invite us to slow down, breathe deeply, and notice the blessings that surround us. From the vicarage garden I can hear the laughter of children on summer holidays, enjoying time playing outside... the hum of bees in the garden, the rustle of the leaves in the breeze, the silence of the tumble drier!

This month, many of us will be travelling, hosting friends at home, or simply enjoying a quieter pace. Yet, even in these moments of rest, God is at work — restoring our strength, refreshing our spirits, renewing our hope, and drawing us closer to Him.

Let’s take a moment or two to pray for those who cannot take a break, for farmers working in the fields around our village, for those in hospital, those who are housebound, and for anyone feeling lonely during these summer weeks, longing for the usual routines to return.

As we look ahead to the autumn season, may we carry with us the light and warmth of these summer days, sharing kindness and encouragement, which is the love of Christ, wherever we go. And may we remember that, whether we are at home or on holiday, near or far, we remain united in Christ’s love.

***God Bless
Keith***

