

NORTON NEWS

June
2018

Holidaying in Christ

So...We're off to sunny Spain, y viva Espana! Although, I have to admit, that last bit played havoc on my word spell. Yes, it's time to discard the cassock, whip off the dog collar, which always looks a bit strange when sunbathing, and fly out from Stansted to sunny, sunny Spain.



We all love a holiday and look forward to them, and I'm no exception. And do you know what I like to do when I get there? Absolutely nothing. I just enjoy the rare opportunity to stop and get away from the busyness of life. No adventure holidays for me, O no way Jose, just slap on the sun cream, read the latest Jack Reacher novel (I'm up to book 7 in the series if anybody's interested) and the only exercise for two weeks? Reaching out for the occasional glass of Sangria. Heaven, or 'Paradiso', as the Spanish would say.

We all need the occasional break away from our daily routine, put up our feet and enjoy the luxury to stop and rest awhile, so we come home refreshed and revitalised. No wonder holidays provide us with some of our happiest memories. As the poet William Henry said 'What is this life, if full of care, we have no time to stand and stare?'

Rest also forms an important part of our Christian journey. Augustine in the fifth century, well before the invention of package holidays, once said, 'You have made us for yourself Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you.'



We cannot find true rest and peace until we discover the rest given to us in Jesus Christ. A rest that lies deep at the centre of our being, a rest that no holiday can give us. His rest is not a temporary break from the reality of life which fades as quickly as our suntan, but an eternal rest.

As Christ himself says, 'Come to me, all you who are weary, and I can give you rest.' (Matthew 11.28). Jesus invites us to come to him for rest. Whatever the burdens we have in life, however much the demands and challenges this world sometimes threatens to engulf us in, deep down we find rest in being anchored in Christ who underpins the foundation of our lives.

In Him we will be constantly refreshed and renewed in our relationship with God, freed from the guilt of sin, delivered from fear, and promised the continued guidance of the Holy Spirit.

That Spanish word for heaven I mentioned earlier, Paradiso, refers to the promised land. That is what we can look forward to in hope and wonder through following Christ. A place of final rest and perfect peace. A holiday that is well worth the trip and one where you won't need your flip flops and sun hat to enjoy.

Continued overleaf

Vicar: Rev'd Trevor Sharp
Tel: 01462 685059 email: revtrev08@gmail.com

Churchwardens: c/o Parish Office.
Parish Office: 01462 678133 office open 9.30 a.m.-12.30 p.m. Monday to Friday.
E-mail address: office.stgeorges@btinternet.com
Web Address: <http://www.parishofnorton.org.uk>



The Parish of Norton, Letchworth Garden City

THE PARISH OF NORTON

So why not join me in that trip. A lifetime in the journeying, but, like any good holiday, one that is worth looking forward to in eager anticipation.

For now I'm off to find those flip flops, and by the time you read this I'll be sunning it up in sunny, sunny Spain. So El Viva Espana!



Rev Trev



Learning through fun and activity is at the heart of our Tuesday Cherubs group. Parents, carers and children are all encouraged to join in with this playing and praying informal style service. There are crafts and singing and we always start with a colouring session, which the adults find very therapeutic!



Every session is based on a well known Bible passage, which is often imaginatively acted out with the children joining in. At the end of each session there is always plenty of time for a chat and getting to know each other over a cup of tea, coffee or squash.

Why not come along and join us. We meet every Tuesday in term time 1.30pm in the Lady Chapel, St George's Church.

ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH & SCHOOL

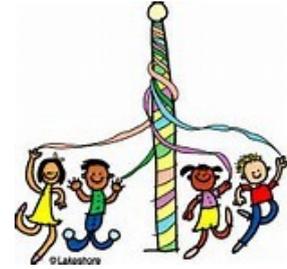
St Nicholas' School

It's time our attentions turn to Midsummer Revels, St Nicholas School's annual summer celebration on Saturday 23rd June.

Despite being a school-led festival, Revels is a significant event for the Parish of Norton for a number of reasons, least of which is that the proceeds from the event are shared equally between school and church. Beyond the financial aspect, one of the things that makes us unique as a Parish and which we refer to proudly, is the close bond we have with the school, its staff and its pupils.

Linking the planning meetings means we have a number of stalls to run, jobs to allocate and rotas to populate. To help this event really go well please see Sarah Cook or Michael Forrester to volunteer, particularly with manning the barbecue and/or organising games. Revels provides something for all ages so please don't be put off by the fact your children may have long-since left school; it really would be lovely to see a large number of the congregation come together to support the event. What better way to spend a sunny (God willing) Saturday afternoon than watching the school children perform their dances and chatting with friends and fellow parishioners, whilst also indulging in some decent food and drink!

Look forward to seeing you there!



ST GEORGE'S CHURCH

Thank you's



Thank you to all those who helped with the Beetle drive. It was my first time. I didn't have a clue what a beetle drive was, but now I do. What a great time we all had! My wrists are still aching from throwing the dice at speed. You can really be any age to join in, it doesn't matter. Great fun, and wonderful to see whole families whole heartedly enjoying the event.

Our choir for Pentecost Sunday Evensong. The perfect way to round off our Pentecost celebrations. A wonderful sound which uplifted our worship. Thank you Tim, Keith and all the choir for all the preparation and hours of practising and also the choir of St Mary's Redbourn and, not forgetting, Tim Vickers for preaching.

All those who organised the Pyjama Party on May 19th. A great success and, strangely, no one slept a wink throughout the afternoon!

Fiona and all the early years at St Nicholas school. During the week of the royal wedding, we held our own 'wedding' in St Nicholas church. All the children dressed up in wedding clothes, including the teachers. We enacted the complete wedding service, with children playing all the roles, and even had time to pose for photos outside afterwards! Strangely the groom declined the offer to kiss the bride!

If you feel there is anyone in the church who deserves a 'thank you' please get in touch with the editor (i.e. the vicar, but editor sounds much more cool).

From the Registers

Baptism

6th May - Fraser Johnson
13th May - Oliver Hales
20th May - Olivia Whitworth

Funerals

10th May - Joyce Whitman

REGULAR SERVICE DETAILS

Every Sunday	8 a.m. 9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion at St Nicholas' Church Parish Communion at St George's Church Sunday School meet in St George's Hall Crèche is held in the Lady Chapel
3rd Sunday of the month	11.15 a.m.	Informal Praise & Worship in St George's Church
Wednesdays	10 a.m.	Holy Communion in St George's Church
Thursdays	7.30 p.m.	Eucharist at St Nicholas Church
Morning Prayer	9 a.m.	Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays St George's Church
Evening Prayer	5 p.m.	Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays & Fridays, St George's Church

REGULAR EVENTS

Mondays	7.30 p.m. 7.45 p.m. 8 p.m.	House Group at 29A Eastern Way Bellringing Practice in St Nicholas' Church Badminton in St George's Hall
Tuesdays	10 a.m. 1.30 p.m. 1.30 p.m. 8 p.m.	Bible Study Tuesday Club in the Clulow Room Tuesday Cherubs meet in the Lady Chapel (term time) Music Group in St George's Church
Wednesdays	10 a.m. 8 p.m. 8 p.m.	Norton Coffee Shop Ladies Choir in St George's Church House Group at 17 Heathermere
Thursdays	1.15 p.m.	Norton Nippers Parent and Toddler Group (term time)
Fridays	12 noon 1.30 p.m. 6.15 p.m. 7 p.m. 8 p.m.	Friday Lunch in the Clulow Room House Group meet in the Clulow Room Choristers Street Dragons (fortnightly) Choir Practice in St George's Church
Sundays	6.30 p.m.	In-Betweeners Norton Parish Centre

YOUTH EVENTS

<i>Street Dragons</i>	<i>Fridays 7 p.m.</i>	<i>Norton Parish Centre</i>
<i>Norton In-Betweeners</i>	<i>Sundays 6.30 p.m.</i>	<i>Norton Parish Centre</i>
<i>Choristers</i>	<i>Fridays 6.15 p.m.</i>	<i>St George's Church</i>