

It is June! “Sumer Is Icumen In,” the minstrels of the mid-13th century sang. And indeed, as I write this in early May, we hope and pray that summer is indeed arriving (because today is cloudy and cold). By now, in June, we are expecting sunshine, blue skies, warm evenings and long, light days.

In a few weeks, the school term will come to an end, and the long summer vacation will be upon us as many of us will be thinking about holidays, either in the UK or abroad. Perhaps we will find places new, or return to familiar places. We might visit families and friends—or walk off into tranquillity, peace and solitude. We have some weddings in our benefice churches in the next few weeks, and I am sure many prayers are being said for fine weather on those days.

At the beginning of June (the 4th), we celebrate Pentecost (Whit Sunday). This is a joyous service for Christians as it signifies for us when, after Jesus ascended into heaven, the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples as flames of fire confirming them and encouraging them for the task of spreading the Good News of Jesus. The effect on the disciples was amazing, and soon thousands were being added to the number of Jesus followers every day. Some call Pentecost the birthday of the church, so naturally we tend to celebrate, and joy abounds. Some churches have cakes and balloons. Our Pentecost services are still being arranged so watch this space! I hope that you will be able to join us at one of the churches in the Benefice. Sunningwell and Kennington services will be at 9:30 a.m. on 4th June, and Radley at 11 a.m. along with Messy Church.

Another good piece of news is that at the interviews in May for a new Rector we were able to appoint a new Incumbent. Again, this is Good News and we in the churches are delighted. We are hoping to have news very soon. Watch this space in the July edition! I do hope that your plans for a break from routine are well in hand and that you are able to get a rest from the hurly-burly of life. Rest and recreation in some format is good and necessary for us all—even Jesus took time out and so should we. Enjoy the summer.

Looking forward to seeing you at any of our services, or during Thy Kingdom Come events throughout the Benefice. Look out for posters and flyers.

Blessings and prayers,

Rev Glynis Beckett