

† LFC In Touch

Hello to you all

Summer 2021

Here we all are thinking about summer and possibly time away. As well as meeting up with friends and family. So for this edition we have taken the theme of high days and holidays.

High Days and Holidays

No one seems to know where this phrase originated, but the High Days are generally taken to be significant religious festivals, and Holidays began as meaning holy days which covered the rest. Two of our major holiday periods in the UK: Christmas and Easter, still retain that link with the celebration, firstly of the birth of Jesus, and then his death upon the Cross and Resurrection. The Spring Bank Holiday at the end of May was until recently movable and associated with Whitsun or Pentecost. That is the day that Christians celebrate as the birthday of the church, remembering when the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples shortly after Jesus had returned to heaven.

In his pastoral letter John also touches on this and the term has a more colloquial meaning now, and most of the High Days in 2021 have already taken place, with the Queen's official birthday and Fathers' Day having just been celebrated. We do have a summer Bank Holiday at the end of August, with only Halloween and All Souls Day, at the end of October, beginning of November before going through to Christmas. Oh, and if you are a sporting person, you might be looking forward to the 2020 Olympic games!

In this edition you can read a short article entitled 'Mid-Summer Day', in which there is also reference to another date, 21st June, the Summer



Solstice, a date which my diary oddly describes as the first day of Summer. I know we complain about our summers being short, but surely they are a bit longer than is implied if there are only 2 or 3 days from the start of summer to the middle of it!

That leaves us with holidays, and I expect that most of us are longing for a proper one.

Hopefully, you have been able to get out of the house and enjoy the recent sunshine, and if you have been able to take advantage of the partially relaxed rules and get away, perhaps during school half term, that is good. But most of us are keen to get away from the houses where we have been largely shut in for so long.



So, whether it's buckets and spades at the ready for a trip to the seaside, walking boots to be broken in ready for countryside walks, cultural visits in the city, or a long awaited catch up with family and friends, we trust that you have a wonderful holiday to look forward to. Perhaps the last seventeen months will have taught us to put a greater value on our time, and how we spend it, and we can treat our holidays as high days too.

In whatever way we spend our summer, let us aim to be refreshed and renewed in body, mind, and spirit. May it be a time of blessing to us all.

BACK TO CHURCH

When thinking of high days and holidays it was definitely a high day when some of us were able to come back to the Church building to meet for Sunday services again. With this in mind we asked people to share with us how they felt

'Scripture simply says 'forsake not the assembling of yourselves together'

Jean S.G.

'You don't realise what you've got until you miss it'

Jean S.

'It means a lot as I live alone when you're isolated it such a difference.'

Myrtle

'Great to be with people in person for fellowship'

John



'To be back amongst family'

Carol

'It's good to be in physical contact with others'

Judy

'It's great to be back in God's house praising & worshipping with others.'

Chris



'Back to a bit of normality & being with each other'

Ruth



'It's lovely to see people in person rather than online & it's technically easier for me!'

Phil

'Nice to have the freedom to come together'

Cloda

'We can all worship on our Own but being with others is inspiring'

Wendy

We pray for that time when we can all meet in the Church building again, with no restrictions and we can share fellowship and enjoy using the building for God's work.

Alan and Maelynn Ellard

Alan and Maelynn met in Bible school in Glasgow 1962-1964 then, after they left, Maelynn sailed for Thailand in 1965 with the OMF (Overseas missionary fellowship). Alan needed to gain church experience so came to LFC for one year as pastoral Assistant, specializing in outreach on the Trelawney housing estate and preaching every Sunday at the church hall, now the LFC church. Alan sailed for Thailand in 1966 and, after a year's Thai language study, he and Maelynn were married in South Thailand in 1967.



Initially they were engaged in village evangelism and church planting but, after 13 years the OMF asked them to take on two roles in the bustling city of Bangkok— Alan running their Publishers literature ministry and Maelynn at the OMF language centre, helping look after new missionary Mum's children whilst their parents went to language school. Five years later they left the OMF to assist a dynamic Thai Christian who had a vision to plant churches throughout Thailand.

In 1991 they responded to a new challenge. On World AIDS Day (1st December) they read the frontpage news in the English Bangkok Post that “500,000 were already HIV infected” and this number could rise to two million by the year 2000. They were deeply



Family group at House of Grace

challenged. They felt God was saying to them “What is My Church going to do about this?”. A month earlier they had heard of the British Christian charity “AIDS Care Education and Training” and within a month were in England for three months to gain experience in helping people with HIV/AIDS. On return to Thailand Alan, using his experience

from the OMF Publishers collaborated with a very gifted Thai writer, published a quarterly magazine “Love Your Neighbour” with the aim to inform, challenge and motivate the Thai church to reach out with the love of Christ to people infected or affected by HIV/AIDS. This magazine was sent out to 4,000 Protestant and Catholic churches throughout the country.

One Thai pastor, Kitisak Limtanakulchai, whom some may remember visited LFC several years ago, was one of those who received this magazine. He and his wife, Jariya had opened their home to two AIDS orphans and that turned out to be the start in 1997 of “The House of Grace”, a home for AIDS orphans and widows, that you (LFC) remember and support every Christmas Day. For the past twenty years Maelynn and Alan have worked closely beside Pastor Kitisak and Jariya but now feel it is time to move back to England and live near family in Croydon.



Carol singing at House of Grace

A lot has happened during the past 55 years.

As 1 Samuel 7:12 reads - ***“Thus far has the Lord helped us.”***

SUMMER WORD SCRAMBLE

HEBCA NIPCCI

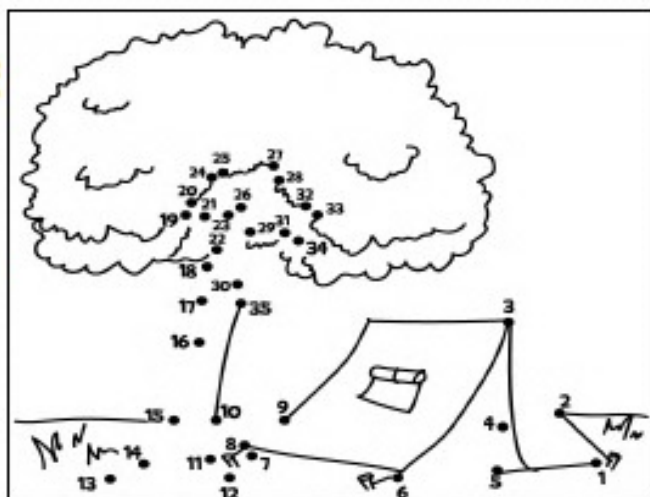
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What did the ocean say to the sailboat?



Why don't oysters share their pearls?



r	t	e	n	t	t	a	q	m	s	ú	r
a	l	s	m	o	r	e	s	z	l	o	k
s	p	w	o	l	a	k	e	r	e	t	v
x	q	i	u	c	i	m	n	z	e	s	f
b	d	m	e	a	l	b	y	i	p	l	i
w	r	m	w	b	q	u	e	b	i	s	r
o	h	i	k	i	n	g	t	s	n	o	e
o	k	n	ú	n	x	s	e	i	g	o	p
d	e	g	m	o	k	l	e	r	b	ú	i
s	g	o	b	c	a	n	o	e	a	k	t
n	u	k	r	e	b	y	o	r	g	n	z
g	w	o	n	f	w	e	d	k	l	o	d

CAMPING

WOODS CABIN

SMORES TENT

CANOE TRAIL

FIREPIT BUGS

HIKING LAKE

SLEEPING BAG

SWIMMING

Can you spot the 8 differences between these two pictures?



A field of red poppies under a blue sky. The text is overlaid on the image in a blue, cursive font.

Then the righteous will
shine forth as
the sun in the kingdom
of their Father

Matthew 13:43

Message from Pastor John

Happy Holidays

I get excited by the anticipation of time away from deadlines and 'must attend' meetings, after more than a year of lockdown and restrictions, going on holiday will be a real blessing, more special than usual. There aren't too many people who don't look forward to holidays. It is always nice to know that there is a break in the near future. However, there are some people who truly focus on up-and-coming holidays with all their heart.

These people count down to their next vacation and are committed to marking each day off on their calendar. Thanks to the over sharing nature of social media, there are even some who keep their friends updated daily with how many days until they head off on holidays.

In Psalm 9: 1-20 it shows me that David acknowledged the importance of praising God for all he has done and for what he has brought him through. He knew the faithfulness of God and that he is worthy of praise. It has made me realise that during the anticipation of holidays we can get caught up with the plans and preparation and lose the focus on praising and giving thanks to God. Don't get me wrong, holidays are great, important and often a well-needed time to refocus and recharge. However, our God gives us purpose, loves us unconditionally, and fills a void that no grand holiday will even come close to fulfilling. The psalm is a challenge for me to be aware of how much my heart can yearn for things that fade away; therefore, I should focus my heart on that which is eternal.

What has your heart been focused upon lately?

According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, the word holiday is derived from the 'Old English hāligdæg, from hālig holy + dæg day.' Literally speaking a 'holiday' is a 'holy day'. Historically this always referred to specific holy days in the Christian liturgical calendar, Christmas being one of the highest holy days of the year. Over time the original meaning was lessened as holy days became associated with vacations and time off work. Typically, Christians would not work on these days, so rest and relaxation were a natural part of every holy day.

The next time you wish someone a "Happy Holiday," remember the Christian origins of the word and try to sanctify such days, offering up to God your rest and relaxation. Let us pray: Jesus, Your heart was always set on God. May we, too, learn to always bring our hearts desires in line with God and his purpose for us here on earth. Amen.

Reference: I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds. (Psalm 9:1 NIV)

God bless Pastor John

LFC In Touch 'Notices'

Sunday Services have returned to the Church building at 10.30. Pre booking is currently required. They are also being live streamed via facebook and Youtube. The service is also available throughout the week at www.langleyfree.org.uk

Weekly Activities via Zoom:

- Wednesday afternoon OASIS fellowship time
- Thursday evening group, 'Remembering When' compiled by the Evangelical Alliance
- CHATCAF coffee time alternate Saturday morning

You can find out about our activities on the website or the Langleyfreechurch Facebook page. If you want to know more about any of these activities contact us at intouch@langleyfree.org.uk

Midsummer's Day

Here in the U.K. and in more normal times, we tend to think of holidays being taken during the summer months when hopefully it is warmer. At this time too, the daylight hours are longer with the maximum length on either June 20th or 21st. This is when the Earth's poles are at their maximum tilt towards the sun.

Midsummer's Day on the other hand, is traditionally celebrated on June 23rd or 24th.

Although it is still celebrated by many today, it was of far more importance to our ancestors.

It was considered a day set aside to appreciate all the gifts that nature gives us. The first celebration days preceded Christianity and existed under different names with different traditions around the world.

Many stone circles and other ancient monuments were aligned so that on Midsummer's Day the rays from the rising sun reached into the exact middle of the stones and shone directly on the central altar.

Still today, Druids gather at these sights, Stonehenge being the most famous in the U.K.

Druids look to the natural world and its powers, and revere trees as sacred. They worship many Gods and Goddesses and their shamanistic leaders interact with a spirit world. The aim is to direct the spiritual energies into the physical world for healing or other purposes.

Although we do not worship anything pagan, we do worship the one true God. We recognise that he created the gifts that his nature gives us and we recognise the gift of the Holy Spirit living within us.



We hope you have enjoyed the three editions of In Touch and would very Much like your views on them and any suggestions for future issues.

Please take a minute to email them to intouch@langleyfree.org.uk or pop a note to In Touch in the church letter box Thank you,