BISHOP’S LETTER 23

13 November 2024

Dear Friends,

I love the episode in the gospels when, after a long day, Jesus finds a quiet place to escape on his own. The disciples discover him and like rather fussy business managers badger him saying: *“Lord, everyone is looking for you”.* He replies; *“Let’s go somewhere else”!* (Mark 1.35-38)

Even our Lord Jesus Christ, needed breaks to recover from the busyness of ministry to refresh himself, to sleep and to pray. It was a vital part of his rhythm of life.

God set a model for this when, after six full days creating the universe, the seventh day was deliberately set aside for rest. (Genesis 2.2)

Keeping a healthy pattern of work and rest (and play) is vital for all of us. This means being careful to protect Days Off and Holidays from the encroachment of work and helping each other to balance work and recreation.

I am really grateful that the Church has granted me three months sabbatical leave from January to March next year. For half this time, I will serve as a Chaplain with the Missions to Seafarers and for the remainder will focus on catching up with my theological reading. Thank you to all those who have made this possible.

My PA colleague in the Bishops’ Office, Suzanne Carter, will continue to administer PtO applications and the diary. I shall return to work on April 1st and look forward to Sunday visits and Mission Weekends later in the year.

With my prayers and best wishes,

Yours,

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The Rt Revd John Holbrook

Bishop of Brixworth