

Praise the Lord from the earth, You great sea creatures and all the depths (Psalm 148:7)

A the summer holidays begin it's quite likely that many of us will be planning a trip involving an encounter with the sea. For some that might be a stroll along a Norfolk beach and enjoying fish and chips on the Quay; or it might mean admiring the waves breaking over the rocky coast of Cornwall or bracing walks along the cliffs somewhere. Others might be planning sunning themselves on a Mediterranean beach or even diving into the depths of a remote coral reef; whatever your plan or budget, for those of us on this island nation, the delights and sometimes dangers of the sea are never far away.

And, of course, if you can't travel far, you could always visit the Cathedral and enjoy our Monsters of the Sea Exhibition! And that's not just a shameless plug. The Cathedral's summer exhibition is not just a novel way of helping to raise funds to meet the day to day costs of running and maintaining our great church (around £6,000 a day) - it's a way of inviting people into our sacred space who might not otherwise dream of crossing the threshold. Church buildings, however welcoming we hope they are, can seem strange and forbidding places to many people in our culture, so finding new ways to invite people in, isn't just to

meet a financial necessity – it is a missional imperative! And on the theme of mission, for those coming to marvel at the wonders of the sea, we will also be offering



space to ponder how the seas feature in Scripture and how, in terms of the fifth mark of mission (to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth) we can play our part in praying for and working towards the care and conservation of our blue planet that is so dependent on the health of its seas and oceans and the ecosystems it sustains.

May God grant you space for rest this summer and may God's blessing be over all the earth and sea and sky!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Dalliston". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line underlining the name.

The Very Reverend Chris Dalliston
Dean of Peterborough