

The Link Letter

As our summer holiday season comes to an end, have you thought of where holidays come from?... exhaustion may be your reply! but the origin of the word is from two old English words *hālig* meaning "holy" and *dæg* meaning "day". The word holiday doesn't appear in the bible as the holy days were known as feasts when no work was done and the people remembered God and thanked Him for what He had done, generally with food and celebration. Sundays is one of these holidays or should be, to remember that on the seventh day of creation God rested. This was the first day for Adam and Eve - a day of rest, not work! Does work come out of rest or rest come out of work? Some people work hard for 50 weeks in the year so they can rest for 2 weeks on a holiday. But in some professions, people take a sabbatical every 7 years to rest, reflect and re-energise themselves.

Our Easter holiday spanning 4 days celebrates the feasts of Passover, Unleavened Bread and First Fruits in the bible which last for 9 days in Israel. The month of September contains another 3 biblical feasts: the Feast of Trumpets or Rosh Hashanah heralds the start of the seventh month known as the sabbatical month in Israel when along with the Sabbath's, almost more days are spent on holiday than in work. The Day of Atonement is the one holiday where fasting takes place and where we get the word scapegoat from. The Feast of Tabernacles lasts for 8 days to remember God's provision and deliverance during the 40 years in the wilderness. In contrast, we have an August Bank holiday... do you feel short changed?

God wants us to rest, if we ignore this essential part of life we may become irritable and restless workaholics, emotionally numb with escapist behaviour like compulsive eating, drinking, overspending, watching TV etc. and hoarding our energy because we're afraid people will drain the last of our resources. Jesus said *"Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest"Mt 11:28.*

To explore more of life's issues and questions like What is God like? Why is there suffering? What happens when I die? How can I be happy? come to the Life Explored course in September and October at the Link on Wednesdays, between 8:00-9:30pm. The Life Explored course is a short series using video and informal discussion that considers the big questions in life and looks for possible answers starting 14th Sept.

God bless you all,
Dave and Jenny Dickerson.

The Link Activities:

Sunday Services at the Link, 10 am every week:

Joint Family Service: Sunday 4th with Chew Magna BC

Worship Workshop: 8pm, 1st Thursday in the month to learn new songs and new skills for worship. Next is 1st September.

Connection: "Going deeper with God" ... 3rd Thursday in the month. Next is 15th September, 8pm, for prayer, praise, worship and waiting on God.

Coffee morning: and chatter, with Scrabble and Upwords... Tuesday 10:30am-12 noon. Other board games are also available, or just come and read your newspaper in the company of others!

Art and Craft Group: Tuesday 2pm-4:30pm.

Chill Out Zone (1) Youth Group: ... Monday 5:30pm-7pm for 9/10 year olds (year 5) to 13/14 year olds (year 9).

Chill Out Zone (2) Youth Group: ... Monday 7:30pm-9pm for 13/14 year olds (year 9) to 18/19 year olds.

Bishop Sutton Film Club: Saturday 10th September, Family Matinee 2:00pm open for 2:30pm start; Evening Film 6:30pm open for 7:00pm. For film titles and bookings email: Bishopsuttonfilmclub@hotmail.com or tel:07843 276593 /01275 332746.

Life Explored Course: Wednesday 14th, 21st, 28th September & 12th, 19th & 26th October; 8pm-9:30pm with refreshments.

Men's Breakfast: Saturday 17th September 8:30am-10am in the Red Lion to hear Lee Barnes of St Stephen's Community "God on the Streets: hitchhiking through a world of danger, drugs and desperation to discover a life-adventure". Tickets £7 from Dave booking thelink.bsbc@btinternet.com /01275 332746.