

The summer holidays have arrived! I'd like to thank all pre-school, school and further education staff for their hard work and dedication over the last academic year, particularly those in our own Villages. Well done to our youngsters who took their SATs this summer, regardless of results (though I've heard they went really well this year!). The important thing to remember is that everyone tried their hardest and did their best. My thoughts and prayers are with our Secondary School and College or University leavers who await results later in the summer. Again, remember you all worked hard and did your best on the day, so enjoy your summer break!

At our final Messy Church Session in early July our theme was 'Do not worry', based on a passage from Matthew's Gospel (Chapter 6, verses 25-34), where Jesus was teaching his listeners not to worry about everyday things but to trust God. This is key teaching for us all to keep in mind, as we all tend to get hung up in things like what to wear or eat, which destination to choose for a day out or a short break, when these things are really just trivial! As Jesus said, the flowers of the field are more beautifully clothed than a King like Solomon! Goatcher's Field has now been mowed, but a couple of weeks ago even Tilly was lost to sight in the long grass, and I loved to admire the variety of different grass flowers on either side of the path as I followed her through; beautiful nature!

Just like that grass, each of us is created and loved by God, unique, with our own particular gifts. Returning to our young people awaiting important exam results, some of you will be delighted, some may be disappointed, but God has a plan for each of you and even if you need to change your plans for the immediate future, all will be well! At the Findon School Leavers Service, Mrs Sharrock had a brilliant message for the Year 6 pupils as they move on into Secondary Schools; to continue to grow and develop as 'human beings' not 'human doings' – it is not so much what you do as what you become that matters in life, and being the best person you can be in every situation through life is something we should all strive for, whatever our age. Yes, exam results are important, but not everything!

Hopefully, the weather will be more settled in August after an unseasonably cold and unsettled June and early July, so we can all enjoy some warmth even if we aren't flying off for a holiday this year! I wish you all a restful and relaxing summer wherever you spend it and look forward to seeing those who like me aren't away in August around the villages or in one of the churches.

Every blessing,

*Helena*