

A few words from the Vicar

I like May. Two Bank holidays can't be bad!

I would much prefer, though, a return to the Whitsun holiday of years gone by, rather than the 'Spring Bank Holiday' that replaced it in 1978.

Whitsuntide was a time of great celebration in Medieval England. The importance of Pentecost in the Church calendar was marked by a week-long holiday. Then, as this country became industrialised, the holiday shrank to become Whit Monday, with its Whit fairs and race meetings.

Except in Church (4th June this year), Whitsun isn't celebrated much these days. Nonetheless, I'm glad some Whit traditions survive. In some parts of the country there is Morris Dancing on the village green and, in Lancashire some parishes, like ours, continue the tradition of Whit Walks. These days, however, May Queens and Rose Queens are no more than a fond memory.

Perhaps it is a trait of us older folk to look back at the past through rose-tinted glasses. I know I am guilty of doing it sometimes. Fortunately, my interest in history acts as an antidote to 'rose-tinteditis'; I know that folk have always looked back at the past through wistful eyes, preferring the old ways to the new, even when better off.

Despite what we might think sometimes, some things really do change for the better. Indeed, who can deny that most of us are better off than our ancestors.

Personally, I am optimistic for the future. I am a 'glass half full' rather than a 'glass half empty' person. Yes, I worry about some changes and, because I take Jesus' teaching about loving our neighbours seriously, I am concerned about those who are left behind; those who experience loss through change, the disadvantaged and those who struggle to make ends meet.

Nonetheless, we appear to have a great future ahead of us in this country.

Maybe I am optimistic because, through Jesus Christ, I know my eternal future is assured and, with my sins forgiven, I am free to live this life to the full. In writing this, I am not wearing rose-tinted glasses. Rather, I write these words in the knowledge that God loves me, I have accepted what Jesus has achieved for me through his death and resurrection, and I trust that God will deliver upon the promises he has made in the Bible.

So, what has the Merry month of May in store for us locally.

Firstly, we have our Spring Fayre on Saturday 13th May in the church Hall. This is an opportunity to enjoy ourselves and contribute financially to the mission and upkeep of the Church. So, please, come along and support this important event in the Church calendar.

Secondly, we begin a new venture, 'Ainsworth Community Coffee and Conversation'. Led by Revd Elaine and a group of volunteers, this is aimed at older folk and will meet in the Church hall 1030am – 12.00pm on the second Tuesday of each month. To help get things going, we have been awarded grant funding by the Groundwork Trust through the Ambition for Ageing Fund they administer. However, we are required to become self-funding, so there will be a small charge.

Come along for a brew and a chat! I am in the right age range, so I will be there too!

Every Blessing

Dave