

Rudgwick

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Dear Friends

Every so often the debate about whether we should have such a long summer holiday crops up in the news during August. The arguments for being that children need a rest and families need time to go away (there is not the capacity for everyone with school age children to go away in the same week or two of the summer). The arguments against mainly centre around the loss of learning experienced by pupils with such a long interruption to their education – although quite a few EU countries have a 3-month summer break!

Whichever side of the debate you take, it strikes me that what is often forgotten is that learning and education are about more than just sitting in a classroom, and the summer holidays allow space for children to learn other things and in different ways. It enables them to visit museums and sites, learning about history and geography. If they go on holiday, it allows them the opportunity to see somewhere different, perhaps experience a different language and culture. If nothing else, it helps them to learn to cope with boredom, which is no bad thing as most jobs have some tedious parts to them!

At the end of the Gospels, when Jesus returns to His Father after his resurrection, He tells the disciples, not to go and make converts, but to make other *disciples*, “teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”

Whether or not you think a 6-week summer holiday is a good idea and whether or not you are ‘off school’, this August, what could you learn from Jesus?

Every blessing

Martin King