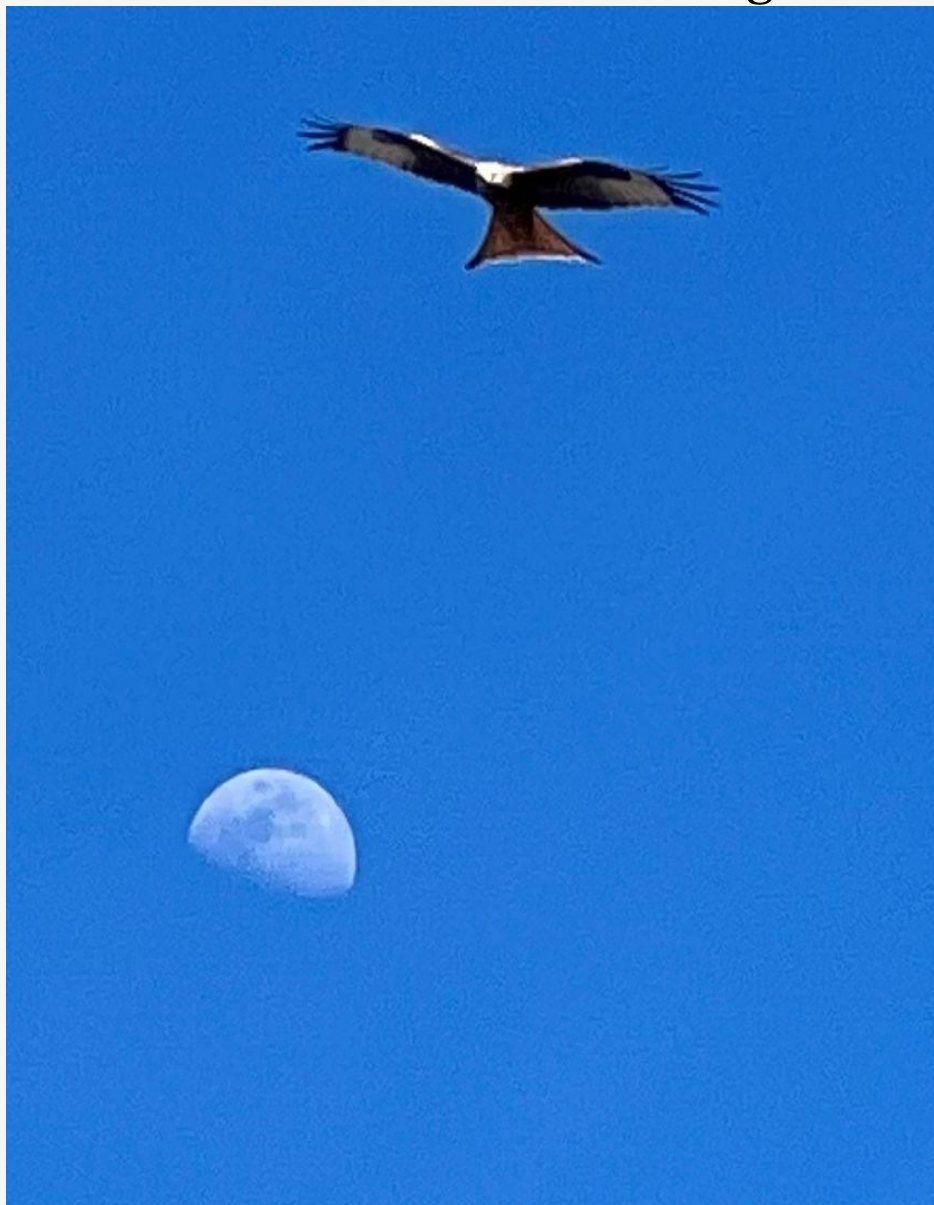


# Rudgwick

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# From the Vicar

Tel: 822769

Email: [office@rudgwickchurch.org.uk](mailto:office@rudgwickchurch.org.uk)



Dear Friends

Do you (or when you were working did you) look forward to the weekend? Perhaps you are retired, but still do! Studies show we work better and are more effective if we have some time off each week – that is why we have weekends. God understands we need rest: in fact, he created us that way and gave us a Sabbath day for that rest.

Of course, there are then times of greater rest: holidays. Whether we go away or not, just having some time off work or school, the break from the routine of life is beneficial. In the Bible the festivals were ‘holy-days’ – it is where the word holiday comes from. There were also longer times. Every seventh year the land was to lie fallow – no sowing of fields or pruning of vineyards, giving rest to the land and to the people. Then every 7 times 7 years, there was a year of Jubilee, when debts were also cancelled.

Being a Vicar is a vocation rather than a job and the church recognises that every so often vicars need more than a day or a week off. Following these Biblical principles, the church has a policy of granting sabbaticals, now called Extended Ministerial Development Leave (EDML). Bishop Martin has kindly granted me EMDL this summer, so I will be taking time out from the usual business of parish life.

I shall be looking at the Synod of Whitby (664AD), when the Celtic and Roman churches agreed the date of Easter. I will be visiting some of the sites associated with those Churches as well, and taking some time out for reading and spiritual renewal. The Church doesn't stop – things carry on without me. Our Youth Pastor and the Churchwardens will be writing this page, and I look forward to seeing you when I return.

Every blessing

Martin King