

## Rector's Letter - Rev'd Jeremy Trew - August-September 2024

Dear All

don't know what your experiences were, but at my school careers advice was rather useless. The best bit of advice I ever received was at a family gettogether for my father's side of the family. Everyone there was either a teacher or a chartered accountant(remember – no-one chooses their family). Their advice was; "Jeremy, whatever you do in life don't become a teacher or an accountant." It seemed like good advice and I took it.



August must be a blessed relief for teachers. At long last they've come to the end of a long academic year, and they have earned every minute of the break they're enjoying. Though, it is a relative break, as time off from children does not mean time off from preparation, paperwork and the like. Also, for many, it is not the profession they joined: children now face examinations almost from starting school to satisfy the neurosis of a control society; that very same society also demands that schools take up many of the basic educational tasks that were once the responsibility of society itself and especially the parents.

The culture of the Bible, and particularly the Old Testament, viewed children as one of God's greatest blessings, an unmerited gift whose existence blessed the whole of society in turn. With such a belief hovering in the background it is not surprising that the nurture and care of those children was seen as a shared responsibility, and not just the task of parents, or preferably qualified professionals. This is part of the reason that I value Church and other faith schools. Their existence demonstrates that the nurture of children is more than merely a devolved responsibility, but is fundamental to the human task, just as faith is fundamental to human meaning.

Maybe we can learn from this: to look at the tasks that others do and recognise that our welfare is in part dependent on their labour, and theirs on ours; and, to accept that this gives us a mutual responsibility one for the other. Maybe then we will not be so ready to offload our responsibilities on other people, but will be more willing to face the needs of our society collaboratively.

Best wishes

Jeremy

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