

This Land is Your Land

See, I have given you this land. *Deuteronomy 1:8a*

People are getting more and more concerned about the climate impact of travelling abroad, particularly by plane or on cruises, so is it time to think about going on holiday in the UK instead? To whet your appetite, we asked All Saints' church members to write about some of their favourite UK holiday places ...

St Ives, Cornwall

St Ives, Cornwall is a place that helps you slow down and breathe. From the fresh sea air to the warm, friendly atmosphere, there's something very special about it. The town has five beautiful beaches, two of which proudly hold Blue Flag status, with soft white sand and clear blue water that can rival the Mediterranean on sunny days. Wandering along the cobbled streets, browsing the Fore Street gift shops, and enjoying local bakeries, butchers, ice-cream and fudge parlours and unique shops is a real joy. You're spoilt for choice with bars, cafés and restaurants, from traditional British dishes to cuisines from around the world, many offering panoramic views. Whether it's a beach walk, a gentle boat trip, watching surfers, visiting the many art galleries or simply relaxing, St Ives is a place our family returns to year after year, drawn back time and again (since the '60s) by



how quickly it helps you unwind and makes us question the need to ever go abroad.

Nicky Morecroft

North Norfolk

I look forward to our annual week's holiday on the North Norfolk coast where we can enjoy the big skies, walk in the countryside and along the beautiful beaches, and sample some of the excellent pubs and restaurants. Felbrigg Hall and Blickling Estate are two National Trust properties that are well worth a visit, and my favourite place is the Old Vicarage Gardens at West Runton which are wonderful. For those who like steam railways the North Norfolk Railway from



Sheringham to Holt is a must! If you enjoy wildlife, Cley Marshes Nature Reserve has an excellent centre, or you can take a trip out to see the seals at Blakeney. The Norfolk Broads are within easy reach too – Norfolk has so many attractions that you are spoilt for choice. Or you might just want to sit on the seafront at Cromer enjoying fish and chips!

Chris McFarland

Frinton, Essex

Our beach hut in Frinton has been a joy to us over the last thirteen years. When my mum died she left me some money and I decided to spend it on something that the whole family would enjoy, so I bought our own beach hut. Prior to this we used to rent a hut, as a family, for a week each summer and were dependent on that week having good weather, but now with our own hut we can pick our days and go when the weather is good.

Our extended family with children and grandchildren has enjoyed long days on the beach paddling, swimming and a particular favourite, crabbing at low tide. When the tide is out there's space for the obligatory games of rounders, cricket and boules, and if it's windy, then the kites come out. May's kiosk on the prom always gets a visit for ice creams, and at the end of the day it's fish and chips or a barbecue on the beach.

As we have got older we have found that travelling by train is easier, doesn't take any longer than the car journey and is actually quicker when the traffic is bad. These days we have stopped having holidays abroad and get a lot of pleasure from our trips to the beach with the added bonus of it being better for the environment.

Anne and Roy Walton



National Trust Places

We are members of the Chelmsford & District National Trust Supporter Group (<https://e-voice.org.uk/chelmsfordnt>), which we heartily recommend to everyone who wants to see and learn more about significant places in the UK. The Group organises monthly talks in the autumn and winter, monthly outings in the warmer months and an annual holiday in September.

The places we have visited include Sutton Hoo, Norman castles, medieval manor houses, historic industrial sites, Victorian workhouses, twentieth-century cathedrals and Paul McCartney's childhood home. We have seen some very beautiful areas of the country.

And the carbon footprint is minimal. Talks are at Trinity Methodist Church. For outings and holidays we are picked up outside the Chelmsford Theatre by coach, which stays with the group the entire time.

Keith and Pat Otter

The Isle of Wight

For many years, our family has enjoyed summer holidays on the Isle of Wight. The

island offers endless variety: from watching wildlife through binoculars at the Newtown Nature Reserve bird hide, climbing St Catherine's Lighthouse for amazing coastal views to spotting red squirrels at Robin Hill. We love watching the yachts during Cowes Week while bobbing on a pleasure boat, but the highlight of every visit is our sunset walks while collecting shells on the beach. These trips have created a lifetime of cherished memories that our family will value forever. Choosing a UK holiday is a wonderful, eco-friendly way to appreciate these treasures right on our doorstep.

Duncan Conway

This month's eco suggestions

- Enjoy **green spaces and wildlife** and take care of them in practical ways
- **Pray regularly** for the vital **tree planting programme** in our link diocese of Marsabit in Kenya [for more info see this link – https://treeappeal.com/planting_days/Marsabit_Samburu/Marsabit.html]

To find out more or to share your ideas on Eco Church please go to the website www.allsaintsspringfield.org.uk/church-life/eco-church or speak to one of the Eco Church Group – Roger McFarland, Nicky Morecroft, Chris McFarland, Ian Poston, Dave Gauld, Beth Cornish, Ann Salmon, Shirley Duggan.

Earth Hour – Saturday 28th March

Switch off and Give an Hour for Earth!

- Let's join hundreds of people from around the world and *Switch off our Lights at 8.30pm* for an hour as a symbol of our support for the planet;
- And let's *Give an Hour for Earth* on that day by doing something positive for our planet. You can reconnect with nature, learn more about the environment, help restore our planet, or inspire others to take action. As long as we each use one hour to make a meaningful impact, we can create the Biggest Hour for Earth together!



For ideas on how to take part, and lots more information about Earth Hour, go to www.earthhour.org
