



Summer holidays are coming!

I wonder if you are looking forward to long summer days spent with your children? All that time to fill so they don't get bored; where shall we go or what shall we do and how much will it cost? Or maybe there is the worry of childcare, guilt that you won't be with them or worry you can't provide what other kids are getting? Maybe you are going somewhere new and exciting, or somewhere familiar, meeting up with friends and family you don't see often. Maybe you are staying at home. When my children were younger I loved that there were no lunch boxes to prepare, school uniforms to have ready and the day didn't feel like it ended around 3 pm. We always camped so it was hard work getting everything packed into the car for 5 of us and harder to set up camp with sometimes uncooperative tired small ones, but it was worth it in the end. It was so relaxing and once asleep we all slept really well under canvas. But the getting there was often hard...the "are we nearly there yet?", travel sickness and the squabbling in the hot car was exhausting and frustrating and occasionally reduced me to tears. We always had 'old bangers' so we frequently broke down, didn't have a mobile (!) so I would always be anxious the night before setting out.

The Israelites fleeing from Egypt didn't have much warning about their journey, didn't know where they were heading or how long it would take. I wonder if they would have left at all if they had known they would wander for years and most wouldn't arrive anyway. As their journey began, God showed his presence with them in the form of a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire at night. This was their Sat Nav - as they followed cloud or the fire, they followed God. But not long into their journey they started fretting and grumbling about lack of water and food and God provided them with what they needed. They had been living in Egypt under oppression and had forgotten how to live as people who were a 'light to the nations' and so God gave them guidelines, rules, a way to live together which we know as the 10 commandments. He also instructed them in how to build a pack-up-able temple which they could move around as they journeyed. This was called the Tabernacle and the list of instructions for it are extremely detailed. You will find them in Exodus, the 2nd book of the Bible. Here, God taught them how to worship him.

So their journey wasn't just travelling but about growing into God. Our journeys as disciples, followers of Jesus are just like that. We do not know what our life journey will look like, it may be glorious but life can throw us hard painful things. Maybe it already has. Are you growing in God in the good times as well as the bad? Are you trusting him for your basic needs, believing in his presence and interest in your life even though you cannot see him as obviously as the Israelites could? Are you living to his standards? Jesus summed these up as "Love God, Love each other, Love yourself" and are you saying thank you to him and telling him he is worth following? Enjoy the journey...have a good summer holiday too! *Liz*



Thank you for the filled “jars of Change” collected during Lent. The church sent £554.24 to Wateraid and has received a thank you.