

# CLERGY LETTER

Dear Friends

As we move into the month of August and the time when most families are able to enjoy their annual holidays, I am reminded of an incident that happened to us before the children left home a few years ago. One evening, while on holiday on the North Yorkshire coast, we were all sitting outside enjoying a well earned drink and mulling over the events of the last 24 hours. The sun had set and dusk was giving way to the beginnings of darkness. Suddenly I noticed a shooting star plummeting towards the horizon. "Look" I cried, too late, no one else had noticed. But as we sat and continued our conversation, we all began to scan the skies ever more intently for more evidence of these heavenly phenomena.

In all, I suppose we must have sat there for nearly an hour, searching for evidence of God's very own and very special firework display. I have to say that we all agreed that it really was spectacular. But eventually we got bored with the activity and realised that it was growing rather cold. It was only then, as we prepared to move indoors that we all became aware of the immense beauty of the now pitch black and cloudless sky, ablaze with countless stars and constellations – it was breathtaking.

But this got me thinking. How often do we concentrate so much of our efforts into



looking for signs of God's activity through the fleeting and spectacular that we fail to notice the obvious that is right under our nose? Yes, I do believe that evidence of God's work may be seen in the occasional and the miraculous. But I also believe that it may be seen all around us, all the time. Just look at the beauty of nature, think

about the regularity and constancy of the seasons, or the love, care and compassion that people spontaneously show towards each other. I believe that these are just a few of the ways we can become aware of God's activity right here today. But wouldn't it be a shame if we failed to notice them because we were too busy looking for something else?

With all good wishes for a good & relaxing August

A handwritten signature in dark ink. The word 'Hana' is written in a cursive style. Above the signature is a simple, curved line that arches over the text.

P.S. For those of you who are interested in spotting Meteors – we will be passing through the Persids meteor shower between the 17th July & 24th August, peaking on 12th & 13th August when up to 150 perseids per hour will be passing by. Unfortunately however, this coincides with a fullish moon which means that only the brightest Persids will be visible. I'll still be watching out for them though.