

As the bard asks, "Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?"
If you do, you'll either have to be quick or have a good memory.

The marvellous thing about the human condition is that we don't need the sun to be shining literally in order to enjoy a day full of brightness and joy. Indeed, when that nearby star does put its hat on, we see it as a bonus. More than often it's a determination to enjoy the moment or not to let an opportunity pass by.

People, by and large, were determined to have a good time during the jubilee celebrations; by and large they did: some of us had rain, some had sun - it didn't seem to matter. The children, I'm sure, in old age will fondly look back and say, "I was there."

I, with a bunch of other people in The Nelson, witnessed the England football team play Sweden last month. The gathering of people brought forth a good natured sense of being part of something greater than an isolated life. England won 3-2, therefore there was plenty of sunshine that evening.

Most mornings in St Mary's there is a gathering - 1, 2, even 3 together for daily prayers. Yes, 1 can be a gathering, for in these circumstances I know that there are millions throughout the world joining together for the ceaseless cycle of praise that gives thanks to God for the love and life he has breathed into us. Sometimes there is a real glow about morning prayer, other times, to be honest, it's a labour of duty - but one by which I have far more light in my mind at the end of it.

Whatever happens with the vagaries of this summer's weather, we all have the opportunity for a brighter existence. Guess who said this: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." - ?

So, get a life! Remember, as far as God is concerned about the summer (whose "lease hath all too short a date"): "Thou art more lovely and more temperate." Potentially.