

What I Did on My Holidays

Big Ted

As part of my important role as "Roving Ambassador" for St Mary's Church, Plumtree, I went on two holidays this summer; I was really a very lucky bear.

On my first holiday, in July, I went with Kiki and her family to **Devon**. It was warm and sunny and there were lovely views. We went to the beach one day and I got a little bit sandy but fortunately it all brushed out of my splendid fur.

This photo on the right is me in the car with my new friend - the sunglasses didn't really fit over my admirable ears.



Then another day we went to a very strange place. It was called Combe Martin Wildlife and Dinosaur Park and there were lots of funny animals living there.

I sat on a DINOSAUR and I had my photo taken so I could show everyone back home. Kiki sat on the dinosaur with me to make sure I didn't fall off. We were both very brave. Kiki was extra brave and is even laughing in the photo (I was a little bit scared by all the pointy bits round the dinosaur's ears; they looked as though they could injure a bear).

I had an excellent time in Devon and met all sorts of new people (and animals).

Then in August I went away to **Stroke Bruin** in Northamptonshire for a week with Uncle Les and Auntie Fiona. It's nice that they've named the place after being kind to bears and giving them cuddles. [It's actually called *STOKE BRUERNE*, Big Ted, as well you know].

When I got there I had my photo taken sitting on the top lock. I'm not sure what a lock is for, it's something complicated to do with helping boats go up and down hills. But it was nice place to sit in the sun.



As "Roving Ambassador" for St Mary's Plumtree, one of my duties is to visit other St Mary's churches when I'm on my holidays, to see what they are like compared to our St Mary's (and to meet other bears). By the end of July 2016 I had visited 31 (St Mary's churches, not bears)!

On the first whole day of our holiday, I visited **three** St Mary's churches - at Stroke Bruin [snigger], Roade (just up the **road** from Stroke Bruin - get it?) and Grafton Regis.



The next day I only visited **one** St Mary's church in a place called Gayton. It had an interesting churchyard with tall grassy patches and lots of wild flowers and butterflies. But in the afternoon it was ever so exciting because I went on a canal boat! I was very well-behaved and didn't fall out or get into trouble. We went from Stoke Bruerne to the beginning of the Blisworth tunnel and back again. The man on the boat turned

out the lights in the tunnel which scared all the grown-ups. But as I'm such a brave bear I wasn't bothered at all.

On Monday we visited **nine** St Mary's Churches. I was glad to get back to the cottage for a well-earned snooze.

Tuesday was a much quieter day, which was just as well 'cos I was still quite tired. We visited **three** St Mary's Churches. In one of them I met a "Winnie the Pooh" bear. He's probably a distant cousin of the one at home in the Children's Corner.



On Wednesday we visited **five** more St Mary's. The one at Grendon was my **50th St Mary's**; isn't that fantastic? This is a photo of me at Grendon.

Then on Thursday I visited my final St Mary's (for the time being) in Dodford. It was very interesting as there were two very nice men taking the organ apart. They said they were going to clean it and make it better [*restore it, Big Ted*]. I only hope they remember which bits go where 'cos there were lots of them in different boxes

all around the church!

What an exciting summer, now it's time for a serious snooze back in the Children's Corner!

Love, Big Ted

*PS I've now visited **53** St Mary's churches. You can see photos of me at them (and a map of them) on my special webpage (www.bigtedplumtree.uk) and at the back of my book (it's called *Big Ted's Book*) which lives with me in the Children's Corner.*