

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2024:** Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

*For use by the Central Norfolk Circuit at 10.30 am or some other suitable time.*



**StF 20 MP 50 'Be still for the presence of the Lord'** by David J Evans (b 1957)

### Opening Prayer

Think of the past week and say both 'thank you' and 'sorry' to our loving God.

**Old Testament reading set for today:** 1 Samuel 17 v 1a, 4 – 11, 19 – 23

### To think about

This is a familiar Bible story to most of us from childhood. Do we feel differently about the story now that we are adults? Do we see it in a different light? What does the story say to you in your current situation?

**StF 486 H&P 688 'Who would true valour see'** by John Bunyan (1628 – 1688)

### Message from a Circuit Friend

I imagine we all know the story of David and Goliath. Where the small boy overcame the might of the mighty warrior. But how did this come about? We need to look at the last sentence in verse 23 of the reading – "And David heard him". David knew about the claims Goliath was making and then, after much thought and planning, offered to fight and defeat Goliath. David had heard and understood and had then responded. He used his skill and experience for the greater good. Of course, David was successful and then became the greatest King of Israel. Perhaps we all have opportunities to respond to a need. For myself the need in recent times to which I responded was that of offering to take services. I wrote this as part of my testimony at Convocation (annual meeting for Deacons):

*In the covenant service we are told that Christ has many services to be done, some are easy and others difficult. I have always tried to follow that and not shy away from something that is not my natural inclination. I am not a local preacher but in recent years I have felt that I am called to take services in the circuit, as an act of proclamation, which I now do most weeks. I have been given the strength to do this by the Holy Spirit and am humbled that I was led to do this new type of service as I come towards the end of my full-time active ministry. I am upheld by this Bible verse. 1 Peter 4:11 "If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ".*

I am so pleased that I responded in this way and feel that I have grown and have been truly blessed through doing so. There may well be needs that all of us can identify. If we respond to those needs, who knows what blessings we will receive.

**Jen Woodfin (Minister and Deacon in the Central Norfolk Circuit)**

**StF 637 H&P 719 'Soldiers of Christ arise'** by Charles Wesley (1707 – 1788)

**Gospel Reading set for today:** Mark 4 v 35 – 41 *and then lead into prayer, see below...*

### Prayers of Intercession

Think of those who are in the midst of a storm (of any kind), and pray for them...

We pray for our world... for the church... for our communities... for our families & friends...

Please pray for Rev Jonny as he begins his pre-Ordination Retreat on Monday.

**Offer to God your offertory for the week, and say the Lord's Prayer...**

**StF 645 H&P 689 'Will your anchor hold in the storms of life'** by Priscilla Owens (1829 – 1907)

**May the blessing of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us, and all those we love, this day and always, Amen.**

**Circuit News:** Next week is our '**Big Sunday**'. As the ordinations take place at the Methodist Conference on this day, we will be taking the theme of 'A call to ministry'. However, this will be the ministry of the whole people of God and not just ministers...