

Sunday 1st September 2024: Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

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



StF 460 H&P 354 'Come let us anew our journey pursue' by Charles Wesley

Opening Prayer

At the start of this new Connexional year, lift your praises to God for the blessings of the last 12 months. Be honest over your shortcomings but then hear the words of Jesus to your heart - be at peace, your sins are forgiven.

Read: James 1:17-27

To think about

Are you a doer or a hearer? Hopefully a bit of both! Like a lot of Biblical exhortations, it's not always one or the other. How do we need to hear God's word more? What should we do about it?

StF 501 H&P 474 'Help us O Lord, to learn the truths your word imparts' by W.Watkins Reid

Gospel Reading set for today: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Message from a Circuit Friend

When we were children, we didn't worry about getting messy when we went out to play. We were fortunate to be of the generation that we could leave the house and wander about in fields and streams, playing our imaginary games, with our gang! I've heard that it's important to be exposed to a certain amount of dirt as a child, to develop a good immune system. We didn't worry about washing hands or any of the blackberries picked from the hedgerows. Post Pandemic, it's a different world. I wonder how many of us are as diligent in washing our hands now as then? Of course the whole point of the story from Mark is not about hand-washing, is it?

There is a warning here in these readings too. Warnings about hypocrisy, of being so concerned with religious duties that we forget to care for those in need and about words and deeds that do not match. We live in a world that is desperate to know the Good News of Jesus yet suspicious of the Church and organised religion. For too long we have not allowed the power of the love of God full reign in our lives. Our faith is not something for Sundays only, to put on with our 'Sunday best' and then hang up until the next week! The only way people will see the truth is through our changed lives. In an angry world where there is so much latent hatred, we must heed the advice of v17 of James chapter 1. In a dark world where there is so much despair, we are called to reflect the light of the world!

Rev Anne Richardson (Minister for the Swaffham section from today!)

StF 706 'Longing for Light, we wait in darkness' by Bernadette Farrell

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts, Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light, Shine in your Church gathered today.

Prayers of Intercession

We pray for our world... for our Methodist Circuit and our own church... for the communities we serve... for our families & friends...

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

StF 545 H&P 378 'Be thou my vision' Irish, 8th century

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: Our new District Chair, Rev Helen Hollands, will be preaching at the Welcome Service for our new Superintendent, Rev Derek Grimshaw, on 1st September at Trinity Methodist Church, Dereham at 6 pm. The service will also be on zoom.