

Sunday 29th September 2024: Twenty sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
For use by the Central Norfolk Circuit at 10.30 am or some other suitable time.

Theme for today is “being in the right place at the right time

Our call to worship: We come to worship the Lord who surrounds us, does good to us, invites us to trust and reminds us to follow scripture to lead the life destined for us.

Hymn: StF 416 There’s a wideness in God’s mercy

Prayers of adoration and confession

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

Hymn: StF 372 Come down O love divine

Readings: James 5: 13-20

Mark 9: 38-50

To think about

What does it mean to be a disciple of Christ in Norfolk in the 21st century?

Message from a Circuit Friend

All the readings in today’s lectionary have a similar theme of ‘Being in the right place at the right time.’

In James we are told to pray for healing, yet we also preach that God knows our needs before we speak them. I’ve always struggled with some passages about prayer especially praying for the sick. Then a wonderful wise Christian explained to a Bible study group, his view of healing, that sometimes healing was by death and he didn’t see death as a failure of prayer, he saw it as a new journey without pain to eternity. Isn’t this what James was saying “and the Lord will raise them up?” I thank that Christian for his wise words.

Prayer is vital, it is a two-way conversation with God, we bring our petitions but we also need to listen, as God may be telling us to go and visit someone, or telephone or write a note. We seem to have this idea sometimes that we are needed to do the big showy things when it’s the little nitty gritty things that can get overlooked. Being in the right place at the right time. When we first came out of the main pandemic and could walk and meet people outside, I wandered towards the river near me. It was a bank holiday with few people around. I was feeling a bit down. As I reached a narrow path an older gentleman was coming towards me with an equally older dog. When he saw me he tried to hurry but I called out to take his time.

When he reached me a little out of breath, he thanked me and said there were very few people around as there normally were. I explained it was a bank holiday and we talked about the weather and life in general. We spent a few minutes talking, I said I was just out for a walk. Then he decided to move on and he thanked me for talking to him and went off with a smile on his face. I suspect I was the only person he would see that day and he had missed seeing the other dog walkers. But I also went off feeling better myself and appreciated that conversation. Being in the right place at the right time, and that might be at home or out walking, praying for the needs of others, or helping someone.

From Mrs Aileen Fox, senior Circuit Steward and one of our Local Preachers

Hymn: StF 628 Faithful one, so unchanging

Prayers of Intercession

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

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

Hymn: StF 620 Thou God of truth and love

Closing blessing - We say together the Grace.