

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2024:** Twenty seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (Homelessness Sunday)  
*For use by the Central Norfolk Circuit at 10.30 am or some other suitable time.*

**Theme for today is “Testing times”**

**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 455 All my hope on God is founded**

**Prayers of adoration and confession**

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

**Hymn: StF 645 Will your anchor hold**

**Readings: Job 1: 1, 2: 1-10**

**Mark 10: 2-16**

**To think about**

How strong is your faith to help you through some of the toughest trials in life?

**Message from a Circuit Friend**

When we read of Job’s testing by Satan we think and say to ourselves, “Poor Job, how can he survive this ordeal?” He was tested to the limit with his donkeys, sheep and camels all killed, his servants and then his family killed with their home being blown down, and then as if this was not enough, he was given sores all over his body and he takes himself off to the ash pit to scrape off the sores on his body! Do we go on and say, “O God, you have let him be tested too much, how can he survive, how can he praise and bless the Lord?” Surely these are our words and feelings of hopelessness for him.

Also, we bring to mind Jesus’s own testing both in the desert and on the cross when He faced the devil and all his might. Christ survived his ordeals by facing the devil and speaking directly to him. Christ addresses him with the words of God and by God’s power given to Him and He makes the devil back away. There are also reminiscences of Jacob wrestling with God or His angel to find out what strength Jacob had. Jesus, Jacob and Job all needed the strength and power of God to succeed and for them to be faithful.

What about ourselves? Have we had testing times beyond our limit? Did we remain strong in faith and spirit and can we look back at those moments with some degree of blessing that we remained firm in faith. I have had 50 years of testing for that is where I met my resurrection cross to dwell with God and Christ in a realm of testing one’s faith. I have had cursing and abuse beyond measure until I broke down twice but God came to my rescue when Satan appeared and together with Jesus we won through. This is the time we need the prayers of other people, and this should be our ministry to God - as we say in the Lord’s Prayer. May this always be our strength and stay. AMEN

Della Collingwood from Wells Methodist Church

**Hymn: StF 132 O God, our help in ages past,**

**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 636 O love that wilt not let me go**

**Closing blessing - We say together the Grace.**