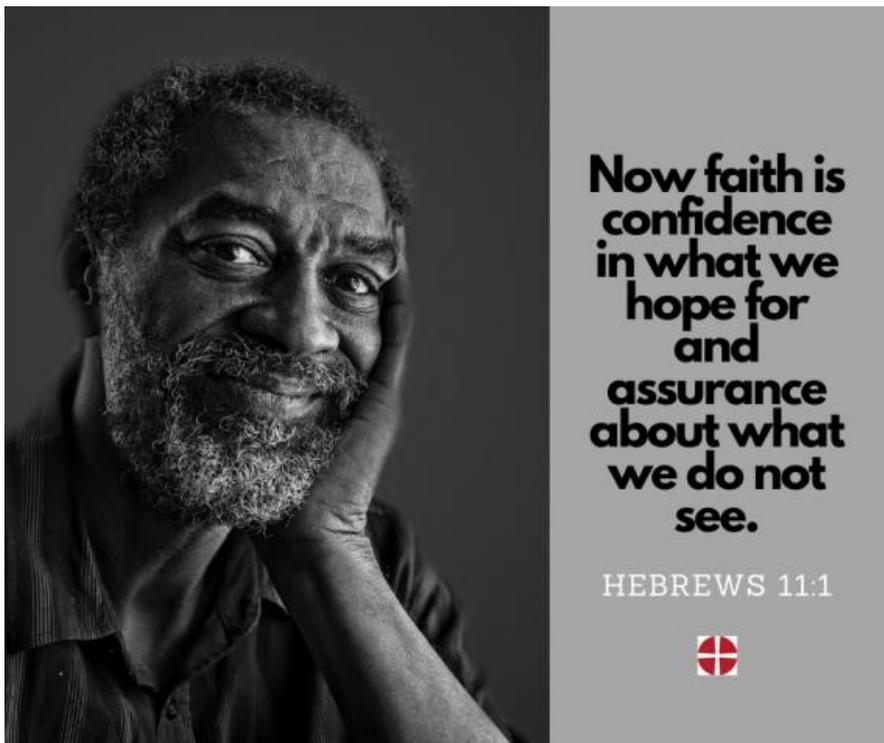


## Facebook Posts – August 2021

2<sup>nd</sup> August



3<sup>rd</sup> August – Deacon Jen Woodfin

This picture of a Dahlia flower shows a little of its beauty – I don't think a picture can quite do justice to the many variations of colour. The detail of each petal is amazing with colours ranging from light pink to darker pink through to mauve and even to light yellow. Each individual petal also has small stripes of a contrasting colour. So, it is truly special flower.

The whole plant is special too as it was one of the presents given to Jacqui by the church when we left Wymondham in 2019. It was lovely to have something that would grow each year that we could take with us where-ever we are. And, of course, any gift has a special relevance. But what made it extra special was that its name is 'Dahlia Labyrinth'. As, I am sure many of you know, Jacqui is particularly interested in Labyrinths so to have a Dahlia with that particular name gave it an extra significance.

In just one flower we can appreciate the beauty and detail of how it looks. We can remember the thoughtfulness of receiving a gift that was so appropriate for the receiver. We can link it with an activity that we have found has been spiritually uplifting. I am sure that there are things that are special, in many ways, to you too. As we think of them let us take time to appreciate them and let us thank God for them.



6<sup>th</sup> August



7<sup>th</sup> August – Rev Rosemary Wakelin

I feel sad that people have felt they have to withdraw their membership over the recent Conference vote to permit same sex marriage. The debate has been given much time and thought and prayer over a couple of years, nothing being rushed or coercive, and leaving space for differences. Unusually for my generation I had a gentle introduction to homosexual and lesbian relationships as a student studying Classical Greek theatre, and having my best friend gently revealing that she loved me, but recognised it was hopeless because I was endlessly mooning on about “Geoffrey “ She has lived with her partner for 65 years and we are still best friends. (I didn’t marry Geoffrey). I am aware of what it says in the Bible. I also know that the Old Testament is 3000 years old - another culture etc. I would not have liked to have been a woman then! A man not lying with a man, so the scholars say, referred to male Temple prostitutes (it was ok to pay a woman). What do we make of David and Jonathan? That was love. David treated his women pretty badly - - another culture. I believe in marriage and kept my vows, but should I deny others the joy of an intimate relationship? Life can be a lonely business. People don’t choose to be homosexual, it’s how they are made, and I have no right to tell God that He/She got it wrong. Yes, there are rules, as Jesus knew. Judaism, which began as relationship had become an endless list of rules and exclusions - ticking boxes. So Jesus ignored many of them and offered instead a relationship built on Love. That’s why they killed him. He threatened their authority. But being a Christian isn’t about sticking to a list of rules but about a living relationship with the Lord of Life, so it won’t be static, but responding with Jesus lovingly to life and people etc. Sex gets people hot under collar, though what people do is not my business. It’s wonderful when we get it right and disgusting and dangerous when we get it wrong. Same sex couples can get it wrong, but try reading the newspaper and see what heterosexual couples get up to! I shall try and keep my eyes on Jesus and follow where I believe he leads - risky but wonderful.

10<sup>th</sup> August – Rev Jacqui Horton



We have all known that the climate crisis was coming. Years of warnings, films from David Attenborough, the protests of Greta Thunberg, the extreme activism of Extinction Rebellion. But, yesterday, for ordinary people, the realisation dawned that the warnings are now reality. The combination of extreme weather events in almost every country combined with the latest UN report means that, finally, the world is taking its head out of the sand. The test of our commitment to the planet and to humankind will now be what the world does about it.

## 12<sup>th</sup> August – Rev Anne Richardson

Before, very stupidly, when I was rushing, I managed to back the car into the manse wall. Unsurprisingly, the car came off worse!

Before, I was so annoyed with myself for not taking care, for the money I'd have to spend to get it fixed, and for putting too many things on one day to make me rush!!!

We all do stupid things from time to time.

After the car has spent 2 and a half days in the garage, you'd never know the dent had been there!

It's back as good as new!

After, I realised I can learn from this mistake, so I won't do it again.

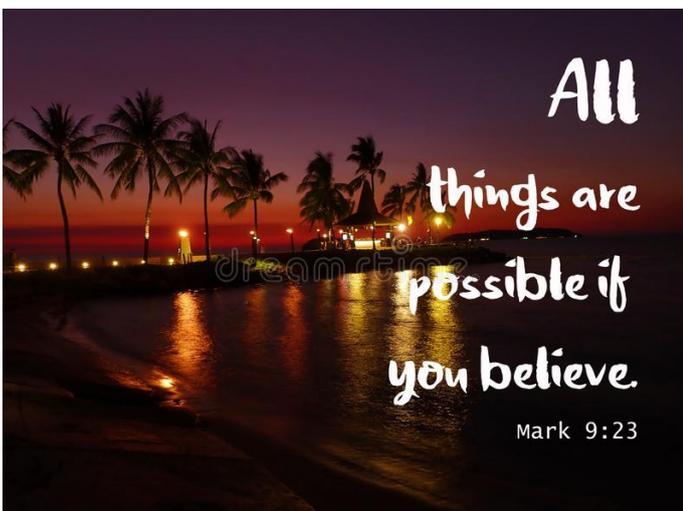
We may say things we don't mean or do something we regret. But before we hold onto these things, let's remember that God's grace is bigger than any of our mistakes and his love is far greater than we ever can understand. After is always better than before. Don't carry the load of the sins and regrets from before on your shoulders, when you can experience the forgiveness and grace of God in your life today and for ever after.



## 14<sup>th</sup> August



## 18<sup>th</sup> August



## 20<sup>th</sup> August 2021 – Rev Cliff Shanganya



Acts 17:28 NLT

For in him we live and move and exist. As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'

God is revealed in his creation and is close to every one of us. Through his Holy Spirit, he lives within all who believe in Jesus Christ. But he is not trapped in his creation—he is transcendent. God is the Creator, not the creation. This means that God is sovereign and in control, while at the same time he is close and personal. We do not shape God to meet our needs; we serve him as the holy God who loves us. If you find yourself trying to make God fit your expectations, ask him to reveal himself to you as he really is and to help you find your purpose in him. Have a blessed day.

## 24<sup>th</sup> August - Deacon Jen Woodfin

Do you like flowers or vegetables? I took two photos recently that apparently had no connection but, for me, each spoke to the other in a surprising way. The first photo I took was in Eastbourne during last week when we visited my sisters. The gardens on the seafront are always magnificent with a different colour scheme each year. This year, as you can see, is one of many bright primary colours that stand out even in the gloom of a slightly overcast day.

When we returned home, I picked the vegetables from the garden that had ripened while we were away. There was not a huge amount but colourful all the same. In fact, they were a similar colour to some of the flowers in the gardens in Eastbourne. The similarities of the colours made me compare the pictures. 'Which picture do I prefer?' 'Which is better?' 'Which has more value – flowers or vegetables?' Then, in smaller detail – 'which is the most beautiful flower, the best vegetable?'

Of course, there are no definite answers to any of those thoughts because, in creation everything is amazing. We are given food for our bodies and beauty for our souls. We may not all like everything and, indeed, prefer different things to each other. But there is always something that can touch our hearts in a particular way, or food that can enliven our taste buds. Thank God for the variety, the colours and the value of everything that we are given.



## 26<sup>th</sup> August



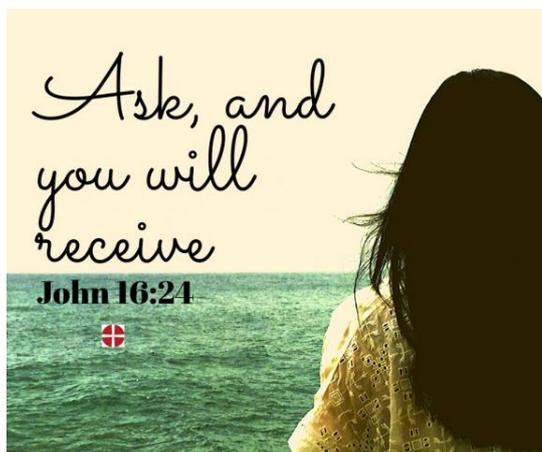
## 27<sup>th</sup> August - Rev Anne Richardson

As we approach the August Bank Holiday Weekend, it's worth remembering that the word 'holiday' is a contraction of Holy Day – a day that was set aside to remember a saint or celebrate a festival. Would you agree that it's good to mark a day as 'holy' and set it aside for prayer and worship, to refresh ourselves spiritually? How do you do that? What can you suggest to others?

Whether it's on Monday or another time, try to make some time that is holy during this weekend. Perhaps look at this photo of a flowing stream and reflect on Psalm 1, which declares that the one who makes time to meditate on the law of the Lord, "is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither— whatever they do prospers."



## 30<sup>th</sup> August



## 31<sup>st</sup> August – Rev Jacqui Horton

**Sunday August 29<sup>th</sup> 2021:** Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time  
For use by the Central Norfolk Circuit at 10.30 am or other suitable time.

**Hymn:** SF 477 SOF 1013 MP 936

*Teach me to dance to the beat of your heart,  
teach me to move in the power of your Spirit,  
Teach me to walk in the light of your presence  
teach me to dance to the beat of your heart.*



*Teach me to love with your heart of compassion,  
teach me to trust in the word of your promise,  
Teach me to hope in the day of your coming,  
teach me to dance to the beat of your heart.*



You wrote the rhythm of life, created heaven and earth; in you is joy without measure.  
So, like a child in your sight, I dance to see your delight, for I was made for your pleasure, pleasure.  
Let all my movements express a heart that loves to say 'yes', a will that leaps to obey you.  
Let all my energy blaze to see the joy in your face, let me whole being praise you, praise you.

Graham Kendrick © 1980 and Steve Bannister © 1980, No. 1365427

### **Prayer**

Give thanks, say sorry, receive God's love and forgiveness.

**Epistle reading set for today:** James 1 v 17 – 27

### **To think about**

Read the epistle again and note what it says about a. speaking (don't miss the tongue reference) b. mirrors and c. religion.

**Lectionary Gospel reading:** Mark 7 v 1 – 8, 14 – 15, 21 – 23

### **Message from a Circuit friend**

In the past eighteen months we have heard a lot about washing our hands. It has become one of the key factors to prevent the spread of the virus. Hand sanitising stations appeared everywhere, in shops, churches and in the streets. The Pharisees would have been proud of us! And do you remember in the early days of the pandemic when we were advised to wash everything that came into the home; the shopping, bags and clothes? The Pharisees washed things from the market, as well as themselves, along with cups, pots and kettles before they would eat. No wonder they were horrified when Jesus' disciples did not wash their hands before eating! This may have been good hygiene practice but it was carried to the extreme because it was 'the tradition', and woe betide anyone who did not observe it.

Jesus however, was not to be dictated to by human tradition. It is far more important to pay attention to what comes out of the body, not just to what may go in. God is more concerned with what is in a person's heart, than any outward ritual. A person is not clean when evil intentions are within them, which lead to deceit, pride, folly and much more besides. Romans 8.1 says, "For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live". The Holy Spirit teaches us to live, not according to the flesh, but to the will of God. If the Spirit of God is in our hearts, we will live in peace, humility, quietness and calm, generosity and wisdom, with justice and love for others more than ourselves. While we should

It is always a problem, on a holiday Sunday, to know what to do about Church. To go or not to go? If so, where? And which denomination? My preference is often to go to a local Anglican Church and to a simple liturgical book service, hopefully with communion. It is so lovely to be able to sit in a congregation, to be able to concentrate on my own worship of God, to have no responsibility for the service. But, there are the conflicting demands of a short break, time is limited – would God mind if I skipped church for once? However, this last Bank Holiday weekend, the problem was solved. We were in our static caravan and I had taken the Circuit Worship at Home sheet with me. We re-created the experience for the first lockdown (when there were no zoom services) and used the Worship Sheet for a very participative service. We sang the hymns, prayed the prayers, and thought about the readings. We read out loud the excellent circuit reflection and heard God speaking through Elsie's bringing of the gospel reading to life and her application of it. And, we knew that we were in the company of other people who would also be using the material at home. My resultant thought? The inclusivity in worship (and lack of reliance on church buildings), that came out of the lockdowns, continues and must be an important part of our ongoing ministry and mission.