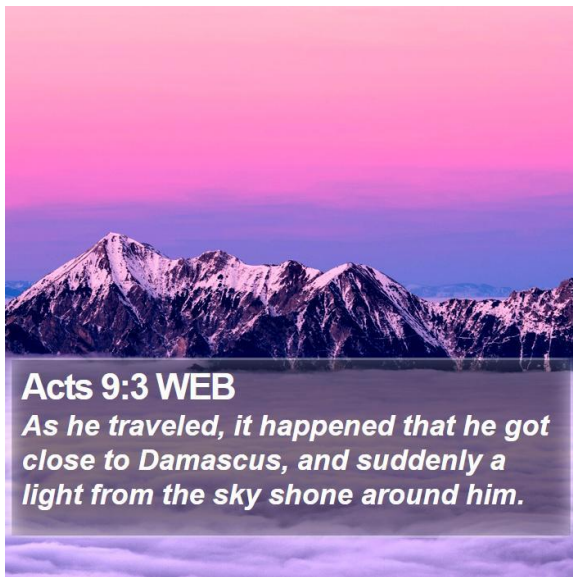


Facebook Posts – May 2022

2nd May



3rd May – Deacon Jen Woodfin

Last week I went to Fleet in Hampshire to attend a funeral of a friend. I had lived and worked there as a probationer minister from 2005 - 2010. I remember the anxiety with which I went, not being sure of what I would be doing or how I would get on with everyone. During the five years I was there, I developed a style of ministry that suited both me and those to whom I had been called to serve. I also made some good friends along the way who supported me in my journey towards ordination. Though I had kept in touch with a few people I had not been back there until this funeral. I was

really touched and surprised with the warm welcome I received and the ease with which conversations naturally developed. I commented to one lady that although it has been a long time it also seemed as though it was only yesterday that I had been there!

How could that be? It seems to me that many of us had shared some very significant moments in various ways over the years. That may have been supporting people through bereavement, or illness, or working together to develop holiday clubs, or just sharing regularly in worship. As I met up again with everyone, of course there were a few more grey hairs around, me particularly, on the one hand people were different but they were also the same! The same smile, the same voice, the same faith. That is what shone through. We may have many challenges in life, which may make its mark on us, but if we hold onto our faith, we have an assurance that God will always be with us however life pans out. We will always be connected to those with whom we have shared that journey of faith. I thank God for that.



4th May - Peter's Song by Rev Rosemary Wakelin

The sky was bright, the sun shone warm,
And friends were near at hand.
"Who do you really think I am?"
Christ asked his chosen band.
Th scene was set for victory
And firm the path they trod,
So Peter gladly owned his friend,
The Christ, the Son of God.

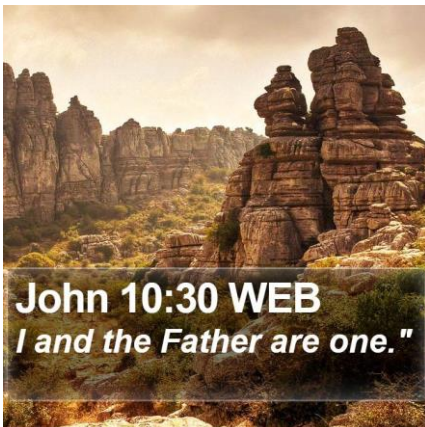
The sky was dark, the sun had set,
No friendly face in sight,
When Jesus, armed with love alone,
Took on the powers of night.
The scene was set for total loss,
And all his friends had fled,
When Peter three times failed his Lord - "I know him not" he said.

The Son had risen, Lord of Life,
When on the shining shore,
For each denial, Peter owned
He loved his Lord the more.
So Jesus turned his grief to joy,
Despair to hope instead:
The son forgiven, trust restored,
"Now tend my sheep" he said



Picture courtesy of FreeBibleImages/www.LumoProject.com

6th May



9th May



10th May




11th May – Sam Parfitt



Last Saturday I spent a very pleasant afternoon at the Methodist Historical Society in Acle, with a talk entitled 'Treasure or Tat' (what to do with all that stuff in the Vestry!) On display were these two items - the cup on the left being a loving cup and the mug on the right is a contemporary commemorative piece. I found the cup on the right very challenging aesthetically, and the one on the left was my immediate favourite. However, in telling something of the story of Methodism in its local context, the cup on the right holds far more value than the cup on the right as it has retained its story. This has created two things within me, firstly, a sense of lament that the story of the loving cup has been lost to history and secondly, a reminder that 'all that glitters is not gold' - sometimes it is the least aesthetic parts of our lives that help to tell our stories and enable us to understand who we are.




12TH May



Does God Still Heal Today?



Tested positive on 02/05/22



Tested Negative on 09/5/22

Reflection – May 2022

As someone who is the evidence and have personally received and witnessed supernatural healings, I'm always amazed when someone raises the question of whether God still heals people today. If you need a healing today or know someone close to you who does, I have very good news for you ... Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8).

That means the same healing power that touched lives centuries ago is available to YOU and your loved ones today! Whether you need a healing in your body or from the scars of emotional wounds, God wants you to know that it is HIS WILL to heal you. He's in the miracle-working business today, just as He was in the days when the Bible was written.

In Matthew 6:10, Jesus taught us to pray, "Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." What are things like in Heaven? There is no pain, sin, loneliness, or sickness there, so we can know for sure that God's perfect will is to set His people free from such things.

Friends, through His death on the Cross, Jesus purchased both your forgiveness and your healing (Isaiah 53:4-6, 1 Peter 2:24). And both must be received through *faith*!

Will we sometimes face a battle for our health? Of course. At such times, we must understand who we are in Christ and learn to exercise the authority we've been given by our Father. We need to know that the same Holy Spirit who was operating in the life of Jesus is operating in *us* (Romans 8:11).

Hindrances from being healed

So why do we sometimes suffer with sickness and pain even after we are prayed for? I don't claim to understand each and every situation, but I have few observations as to why we sometimes struggle with sickness and pain even after we are prayed for.

- 1. Healing sometimes is delayed because of God's timing or our need to persevere in faith.**

We shouldn't get discouraged if we don't see instant miracle every time we pray for healing.

Even as we wait, we must be confident God's Word is true when it speaks of His desire to heal us.

- 2. Unresolved sin or disobedience can block God's healing power.**

We must make sure our lives are fully submitted to God in order to successfully resist Satan (James 4:7).

- 3. The unwillingness to embrace the truth**

Jesus said we can know the truth, and the truth will set us free (John 8:32). But the opposite is also true: God's people often are "destroyed for lack of knowledge" (Hosea 4:6).

The truth is that God wants to heal us. But we must learn to use our spiritual authority over the devil's work.

Keep standing in faith, knowing that "by His stripes we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5). AMEN

16th May



17th May – Rev Jacqui Horton

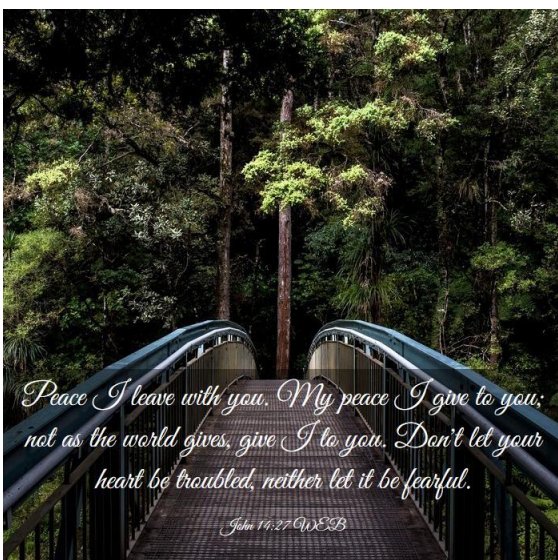
My job is a strange one – one day I am involved in talking to a man rebuilding a ramp outside a church that was not built to the correct gradient, the next I am showing the current President of Conference around pioneering projects in our Circuit. One day I am chairing intense discussions at a Church Council, the next I am trying to mollify a neighbour to a Methodist Ministers' Housing property who thinks that their driveway is about to be encroached upon. One day I am visiting someone suffering from advanced cancer, the next I am designing posters for a big Church Anniversary celebration in July. One day I am planning weddings with two couples who are getting married this Summer, the next I am arranging a funeral in one of the village chapels. All these things – and much much more – have happened in the last ten days or so. So, there is never a dull moment! I guess this is one of the reasons I enjoy my job, there is so much variety. But, perhaps the most important thing I do is to pray in company with other people (which makes me actually do it!) The Circuit prayer times on zoom that continue at 8.45. am on Monday and Thursday mornings are really important to me as well as the times that I find to go into the occasional Cathedral Communion service and the even more occasional times that I can slip into a Methodist service being taken by someone else. Along with my daily giving of everything into God's hands, these prayer times sustain me and remind me to depend on God's strength rather than my own.



20th May



23rd May



24th May – Deacon Jen Woodfin

Over this last weekend I shared in the leadership of a retreat on behalf of the Connexion. There were different sections of the retreat and, to link them, we used the theme of Holy Ground. We looked at 3 Bible passages, namely, Moses' encounter with the burning bush, the meeting two disciples had with the risen Jesus on the road to Emmaus, and the experience of the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. In order to enhance the experience, I created a visual display which represented the three different stories. I had thought that it was fairly obvious which part of the display represented which Bible passage. However, during conversation it became apparent that this was not the case and the varied views were expressed and discussed.



The result of these different perspectives was that, as the participants added more and more symbols and art work to the display, they were not necessarily put in what, I thought, was the correct place. This challenged my understanding of that particular 'holy ground'. It felt as though that section of the display had been spoiled and had lost some of its sacredness.

Sometimes we can have places or objects that take on a special significance for us and which we hold very dear. Others may not see or understand their value. They may inadvertently belittle their relevance or importance. However, we ourselves can do the same. We must always be careful to respect and honour those things that others care about and value. And, if we take time to engage with what is important to other people, we may find our own understanding enlarged and our journey of life and faith deepened and enriched.

25th May – Rev Rosemary Wakelin

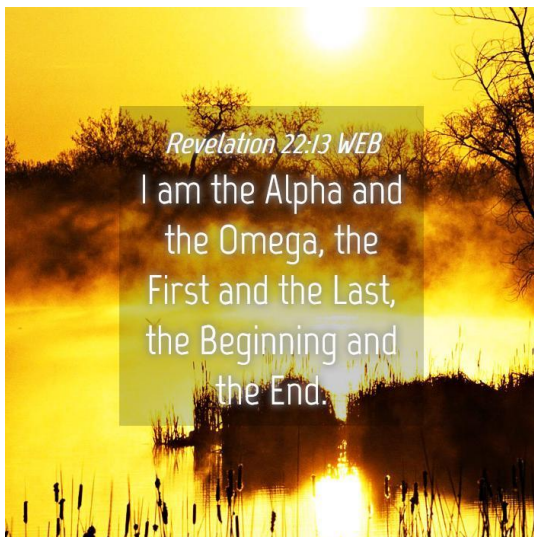
I'm so glad I'm such a nice person. I live in a nice bungalow in a nice neighbourhood have nice family and friends go to a nice church (every Sunday) put money in the charity box have never knowingly stolen anything or lied (perhaps the odd exaggeration). I try and look respectable, am kind, like the right music, read the right books, don't swear (perhaps the odd 'flipping heck'). Gosh! I'm such a nice person! And then this annoying voice in my head says "So what? You've had it with jam on. What about my sisters and brothers who never had a chance, who grew up with violence and abuse and saw dishonesty as normal? What about the ones who never knew what love meant, who only knew poverty and rejection? What about the victims of abuse who grew up to be abusers and are now ashamed and hate themselves and become the objects of hatred and revulsion? What about the ones whose background has only ever been about getting money honestly or dishonestly and never known any other standards. You see "I'm with you but I am also with them and can reach them with my love when people like you are willing to be channels". Think about it.

OK - I'm listening.

27th May



30th May



31st May – Rev Jacqui Horton

Of course, messages we have received in childhood from those we grew up with are often carried with us into adulthood, and it is difficult to shake off values and attitudes of one's parents or other important adults. In many ways, I am very similar to my father and continue to espouse his attitude to life and people, to being a minister, to politics, to gardening! However, there is one matter on which I have diverged from my dad over the years. He was quite anti-royal alongside his left-wing politics, and his Labour party allegiance led him take a stand against inherited wealth and power.

For a long time, this is the attitude I took too but, in my later adulthood, I have come to appreciate the stability and ability to unify that the monarchy gives our country. I have also, in recent years, come to greatly admire the Queen - for her amazing contribution to the country and to the world, and for her unflinching commitment to duty and service, but also for her shining Christian faith and the way she is not afraid to witness to that faith in private and in public. This weekend - through our Circuit 'Big Sunday' service and through my own prayers I will be thanking God for this Christian disciple who has followed God's leading, and taken Jesus as her example, for seventy years - and more.



