



Sullington & Thakeham with Warminghurst
Same family, Two parishes, Working together.

GOD IS WITH US!



Dear Church Family,

This Sunday we concluded our series looking at John's first epistle. I hope that you found the series both encouraging and challenging.

On Sunday we looked at chapter five of John's letter, and reflected on how it contained encouragement for us even in light of the tragic events at the Big Church Festival.

Our first reading was Psalm 115, which records this question within it: 'Why do the nations say, "where is there God?"'. This seemed like a particularly pertinent Psalm and question for us to consider, coming just a few days after the death of a Christian pastor who leaves behind a young family, which is the type of event which can leave even us Christians asking where God is in the midst of suffering.

John reminds us in chapter 5 that God is with us in the midst of suffering, and even more importantly that Jesus suffered with us. This is important as it demonstrates God's love for us. He could have avoided all suffering, but he didn't. Instead, he willingly chose suffering out of his love for all people.

If you're reading chapter 5 and wondering where John says this, then take a look at verse 6. There, John writes 'the water and the blood testify,' a slightly strange phrase that refers us back to Christ's ministry. The water refers to the baptismal waters, where Jesus instructed us to repent of our wrongdoing, and live lives which honour God by turning away from sin. The reference to blood is John's shorthand for speaking about the crucifixion. He is reminding his audience that Jesus testified of God's love to us through his death on the cross.

Therefore, when suffering occurs and we're tempted to ask where God is, we need to remember that Christ willingly chose suffering to redeem us. Yes events can be, and often are, tragic, but that doesn't change the nature and character of God. God's character is love, and from him flows all love. The hope we have as Christians isn't located in this present age, but in the world to come; a hope that is founded on God himself suffering. When we remember that, it becomes much easier to see God's love, even in tragic circumstances.

Let us then be encouraged as we are reminded of the nature and character of our God, and in response let us live lives which show our love for God by obedience to his commands, and by demonstrating his love to the community around us.

This Monday at 3pm St Mary's Sullington is holding a meeting to plan upcoming events in the life of the church. We would love anyone who has ideas, or who would like to get involved, to join us in church as we plan ahead.

Revd Joel Willmer

SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday 6th September 2026

We look forward to
welcoming you!

SULLINGTON CHURCH

8:30am

BCP

3pm

Evensong

THAKEHAM CHURCH

10:30am

Joint Church For All

**Lectionary Bible Reading**

“Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day.

Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all

gods. For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the Lord made the heavens.

Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and glory are in his sanctuary.

Psalms 96:1-6

**NOTICES:****Warminghurst Church open!**

Warminghurst Church remains open every day despite road closures at the top of Ashington from Warminghurst. Please note it can be reached by car (and foot) via Park Lane or on foot from Thakeham.