



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

GOD IS MERCIFUL!



Dear Church Family,

On Sunday we enjoyed two rather different church services. In the morning David and Nigel treated us to a David and Goliath battle scene. In the evening at Sullington the set Old Testament reading was Exodus 12:1-20. Exodus 12 recounts the Passover, and as someone said to me on Sunday 'it's a bit of a grim read.'

Exodus 12 instructs the Israelites on what they must do to avoid God's judgement that is about to fall on those in Egypt. This judgement is the culmination of the ten plagues which had afflicted Egypt ever since Pharaoh refused to let the Israelites leave the land.

We must remember that this tenth and final plague exists in a context. God didn't move straight to the killing of the firstborn, instead he sent a series of plagues. Pharaoh denied the power of God and tried to demonstrate that his magicians, and therefore his gods, were able of these same things.

The final plague must be viewed within this context, and within the context of the evil which the Egyptian empire operated under.

I'm sure many of you are familiar with the origin story of Moses. Moses, despite being a Hebrew, was raised in the Egyptian court as a prince of Egypt. This strange turn of events occurred because when Moses was an infant Pharaoh issued a decree that all the infant sons of the Israelites were to be killed. As a result of this Moses was placed in a basket in the reeds of the Nile and was discovered by Pharaoh's daughter, and raised as her own. The final plague then needs to be seen as the Egyptians' own judgement being enacted on them, and this only after God gave them nine opportunities to recognise him and his people.

We must also remember that death is what we all deserve. If we think back to Genesis we read that if Adam and Eve ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil that they were promised death.

God in his mercy withholds death from all of us, but death is what we deserve. The death of the firstborns (like any death) needs to be viewed as God no longer holding back what we all deserve, we only live because of the grace of God.

The passover, as grim as we may find it, is picked up in the New Testament as one of the prominent images of Christ. The Israelites were told to sacrifice a perfect lamb and spread its blood on their doorframes. The passover lamb as a picture of Christ is clear. Christ is the ultimate perfect sacrifice whose death will save all who respond in faith and obedience.



Revd Joel Willmer

SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday 13th September 2026

We look forward to
welcoming you!**SULLINGTON CHURCH**

10:30am

Holy Communion

THAKEHAM CHURCH

10:30am

Morning Prayer

**Lectionary Bible Reading**

The Lord is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation.
He is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him.
The Lord is a warrior; the Lord is his name.

Exodus 15:2-3

**NOTICES & EVENTS:**

Family Support Work

**HARVEST FESTIVAL
FOODBANK COLLECTION**

We would be grateful if you could collect tinned and packaged food items to help support families across Sussex.

- Tinned Vegetables
- Tinned Meat / Fish
- Tinned Fruit
- Soup
- Chopped Tomatoes
- Pasta sauce
- Pasta
- Dried rice
- Jams & Spreads
- Coffee & Tea
- Table Sauces
- Snack bars

No fresh, chilled or out-of-date items.
Thank You!

Please contact Spencer on 01273 832 963 or email Spencer@familysupportwork.org.uk to arrange a collection.

YOU ARE INVITED TO

**HARVEST
LUNCH**

11TH OCTOBER

@ SULLINGTON PARISH HALL
12:30PM / RSVP TO OFFICE TO
SECURE YOUR SPOT!

FESTIVE FOOD &
FELLOWSHIP