

Sullington & Thakeham with Warminghurst

Same family, Two parishes, Working together.

SUNDAY SERVICE

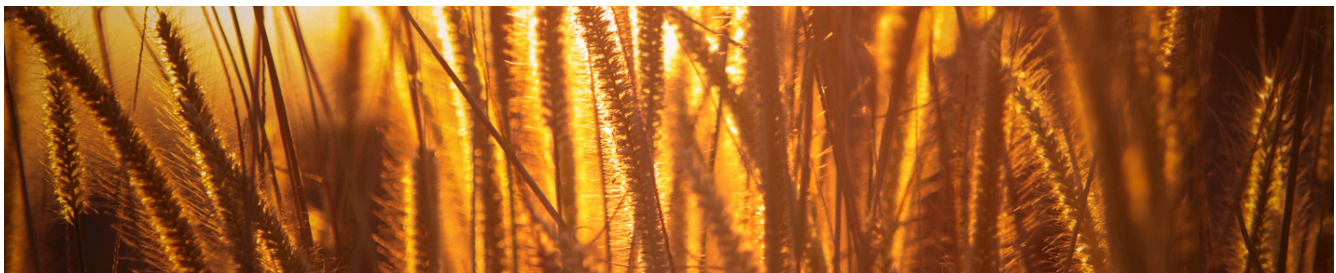
Sunday 25th October
We look forward to
welcoming you!

SULLINGTON CHURCH

3.00pm
A Service of Remembrance
and Thanksgiving

THAKEHAM CHURCH

10.30am
Holy Communion



THE ABUNDANT HARVEST

A REFLECTION ON LAST SUNDAY'S SERMON

Dear Church Family,

On Sunday we continued our harvest celebrations with a harvest service at Sullington.

The Gospel reading was Luke 12:16-30. This passage opens with a parable which at first seems to have little to say to a harvest service, but if we look a little closer at it, and the subsequent verses, it becomes clear that the passage issues a challenge to us as Christians whilst also helping us to consider what our faith has to offer our modern world.

Verses 16-21 recount a parable of a rich man. In this particular story the man in question gathers an abundant harvest. In fact he harvests so much that he can build a barn to store his wealth, and can retire. I know for many this might sound like he's 'living the dream' to put it in modern parlance.

God, however, has some strong words to say to this rich man. He is described as a fool for pronouncing that he planned 'to eat, drink and be merry.' He's described as a fool because he has forgotten what that phrase from Ecclesiastes 8 is reminding us of. Ecclesiastes as a book is written by a wise man (Solomon?) to his son, who is encouraging his son not to live by the cracked wisdom of the world which prioritises experience and pleasure over God's wisdom, as this leads to a life lived which forgets that this life is transitory and that death will come. This rich man then is a fool, not because he has wealth, but because his wealth causes him to have a false sense of security. He is no longer reliant on God, because he has all he could desire, but when death comes his wealth cannot benefit him.

Following this story, Jesus moves on in verses 22-30 to encourage us not to worry about our life. He instead encourages his disciples to view the world around them, and to recognise God's care and provision for them in all that they see. Jesus speaks of the high value God has on their lives, and how if God 'clothes' wild flowers and grasses in such splendour, then we can be assured that God will do even more for us. These words of wisdom are words which our society is in desperate need of. In fact, there is more than a little 'mindfulness' in these words. Mindfulness is a concept which encourages people to pay attention to the circumstance they are in, at the very moment, rather than worrying about what's been or what is to come, and is often coupled with an encouragement to recognise any blessings or good things that can be identified. Incredibly, Jesus encouraged his disciples to do this 2000 years ago. As Christians, identifying God's blessings in our lives, no matter how difficult the circumstances we are in, can be a hugely rewarding and edifying experience. This is a practice Taryn and I find hugely helpful, as it helps us to remain dependent on God, and teaches us so much about his nature and character. I'd like to encourage all of you for the next week to identify at least one thing you are thankful to God for, daily. It's amazing how quickly they multiply when you start looking for them.

Talking of things to be thankful for, I want to spend a moment to say thank you to all those involved in the Bridge Day at Thakeham, and in our benefice Harvest Lunch. Both were incredible, and took a lot of hard work by so many - thank you.

As a family, we also want to say a huge thank you to all of you. Taryn and I regularly thank God for calling us to serve His Kingdom here with you in Sullington, Thakeham and Warminghurst, and we felt incredibly blessed by your very generous gifts for Boaz and us.



REV. JOEL WILLMER
Priest in charge of St Mary's
Thakeham, Sullington &
Warminghurst

Notices:

Link To Hope-Shoe Box Appeal: Please find below a link to the Link To Hope Website

Shoebox Appeal Resources 2026 - Link To Hope

.Chris Whitehead is the contact for the shoebox appeal; should you have any questions, please do get in touch with him.

Tuesday Church Grounds Working Party: If you have some free time every other Tuesday morning, Barry Laker would love you to join him in doing some essential jobs around the church. We are hugely grateful to Barry for all he does in keeping the church and grounds looking beautiful. Please do speak to Barry for more details.

Derek and Lis Osborne new address: We are thrilled to hear that Derek and Lis have found a lovely bungalow in Norfolk and they would like you all to know their new address is:- 5 Watton Green, Watton, Thetford, Norfolk IP25 6RB

Dates for your diary:



GET IN TOUCH

Revd Joel Wilmer: joel.stwparish@gmail.com

Caroline Bunch Parish Administrator: stwparish@gmail.com
(Office hours Tuesday and Thursday 8.30 am-4.00 pm)

