Sullington & Thakeham with Warminghurst

Same family, Two parishes, Working together.

SUNDAY SERVICE

Sunday 8th November

We look forward to welcoming you!

SULLINGTON CHURCH

10.30 am

Service of Remembrance

THAKEHAM CHURCH

10.30am

Service of Remembrance



Dear Church Family,
One of the appointed readings for today is Psalm 42:1-6.

[1]As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God.
[2]My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?
[3]My tears have been my food day and night, while people say to me all day long, "Where is your God?"
[4]These things I remember as I pour out my soul: how I used to go to the house of God under the protection of the Mighty One with shouts of joy and praise among the festive throng.
[5]Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.
[6]My soul is downcast within me; therefore I will remember you from the land of the Jordan, the heights of Hermon—from Mount Mizar.



REV. JOEL WILLMER

Priest in charge of St Mary's Thakeham, Sullington & Warminghurst

This Psalm is one which I personally find very encouraging. The author is baring their heart before God; "my tears have been my food, day and night." This song to God, doesn't pretend that everything is great, it is honest about the struggles and difficulties being faced, and helps us to recognise that being a Christian doesn't necessarily mean that everything will be wonderful. Do we feel we can be this honest with God, or do we think God only wants to hear from us if everything is going smoothly?

There is also a challenge in this Psalm though, how do we react when things are hard? Do we run away from God thinking we've been abandoned, or do we turn to Him? The author of this Psalm declares truths about God to himself, and so nurtures and protects his faith in the difficulties. When things are hard do we remind ourselves that God took flesh and suffered amongst us, out of His love for us?

There is also a lesson for us on this Psalm, even if things are currently going well. The Psalmist is sustained in his faith by continuing the practices and habits he followed whilst times were good. If we want to survive the tough times we need to spend time in prayer, worship, and reading the Bible. To borrow a military phrase, 'train hard fight easy.'

There have been a couple of tragic events over the last two weeks affecting our communities. Many of you know Liz, our treasurer at Thakeham. Last week Liz's step-daughter, Kerri, died from cancer, leaving behind a husband and a 2-year-old daughter.
There was also a house fire which destroyed the home of one of the families who attend the pre-school that meets in Sullington Parish Hall. The PCC's from both churches have agreed to give a donation to the family as they have lost everything.

Both of these tragic events pose challenges to the families affected, and so I am including the fundraising pages for both families. There is of course no compulsion to give, but I wondered whether some in our churches would like to respond. Please hold all involved in your prayers.
Gofundme - Help the Pope family through devastating cancer battle
Gofundme - Please Help a Family of 8 Rebuild Their Lives ❤️

NOTICES:

Tuesday Church Grounds Working Party:
The next odd jobs/ maintenance working party dates are **Tuesday 10th November** and **Tuesday 24th November**, meeting at **9.00 am**. There are no meetings in December. Please speak to Barry if you need any further information.

Autumn Deanery meetings:
A series of these meetings are taking place across the Diocese. They will provide:
• An update on the support available to parishes from the Church House team.
• News about changes in PCC and charity governance.
• Information on the 2027 diocesan budget and what this means for parish ministry costs next year.
There will be an opportunity to ask questions of the diocesan team, as well as time for fellowship with people from other churches.

St Mary's Church Thakeham Autumn Fayre:
Saturday 7th November @ Thakeham Village Hall
Please could you send any donations of sweets and chocolates for the Chocolate Tombola, and bottles of any kind for the Bottle Tombola, e.g. bottles of fizz, spirits, soft drinks, condiments, toiletries, etc. Please bring your donations to church or telephone Allison 01903 740499 or Wynn 01903 743025, who will arrange collection.



In addition, we have hired an indoor soft play area for the children for £80, including VAT. We are happy to cover the cost ourselves, but contributions would be very welcome. If you would like to contribute, please send your donation to
Liz Slaughter – stmarysthakehamtreasurer@gmail.com
PCC bank account number: 03911845
Sort code: 20-88-13
Reference: Soft play
Thank you for your generous, loving support that we know we can rely on.

St Mary's Church Sullington Christmas Fayre:
Saturday 21st November @ Sullington Village Hall
Please bring any donations for the Fayre to Sullington Church.



Compassion Church sponsored child, Levi:
Our sponsored child is 'Levi', a 15-year-old boy living in Uganda. Compassion International is a charity that works through local churches to provide practical care, emotional support, and Christ-centered guidance, empowering children to reach their God-given goal. Our church's generosity provides Levi with the support he needs to thrive. Chris corresponds on our behalf with Levi from time to time, and his latest letters are on the church rooms' notice board. A Christmas card and message have just been sent to Levi, together with a Christmas gift.

Easyfundraising Online Shopping:
If you become our supporter on Easyfundraising, you'll help raise funds for St Mary's Church Thakeham simply by shopping online.
St Mary's Church Thakeham gets a free entry each time a new supporter signs up! It only takes a moment, and it's completely free, so please get involved if you haven't already - this would really boost our fundraising:
https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/stmarysthakeham/sb9prx/s2s/E7OVWoLo/PMC04/email/

SHOE BOX APPEAL:







A big thank you to all who donated a shoe box; they have been safely delivered to the warehouse, where they will embark on the next stage of their journey.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

















GET IN TOUCH

Revd Joel Wilmer:
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Caroline Bunch Parish Administrator:
stwparish@gmail.com

Office hours:
Tuesday and Thursday 8.30 am-4.00 pm