



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

GOD IS LOVE!



Dear Church Family,

I hope you've all been enjoying our series looking at the epistle of 1 John, even if David W, was rather dubious about it!

Our reading on Sunday was 1 John 4:7-21. If you weren't in church on Sunday, I'd encourage you to give the passage a read, it will only take a couple of minutes, and they are such encouraging verses and life changing.

John in these verses is talking about God's nature, and how God's nature is to love. In fact John argues that love comes from God. I don't know how you feel about that statement, but it is the claim John makes, and John argues that we know that God is love because he sent his Son to die for us. It's important that in our familiarity with that idea, that we don't skip over all that this claim means.

John doesn't claim that Jesus is love, but rather that God is love. This means that all of the Bible, including the Old Testament is a witness to God's love. Jesus doesn't suddenly appear on the scene and change God's nature, God has always been loving.

Remembering that God is love actually helps us to understand what is happening in the Old Testament. The Old Testament shows us how people fail, but God remains loving - working out his plan of salvation over centuries because of his unfailing love.

John also takes the time in this passage to give definition to that most Christian of ideas - Grace. We probably all know the word grace, and know it's important, but if we're honest how many of us can define it! Yet grace is all that is good and unique about the Christian faith, grace is what gives us hope for the future.

When I was in Africa and using the Krio Bible there were many frustrations with the translation, given the somewhat limited vocabulary that exists in Krio. For example 'God so loves the world' is translated as 'God so likes the world,' there being no difference between the word 'like' and 'love' in Krio.

The word for grace however gets translated as an entire sentence, and it's incredibly helpful. Grace in Krio becomes 'that free gift of God which we don't deserve,' and that gift is us experiencing God's love through the death of his Son. From this John argues we are then able to love God, and love others.

Grace means that we don't need to do anything, in fact can't do anything, to earn God's love. God loves us because he is loving, and we are invited to share in that love through faith in the Son. There is nothing we can do, John says, to receive God's love; it is instead freely given to us, and we are invited to respond. Being in relationship with God isn't something we can earn!!!

Rev'd Joel Willmer

SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday 30th August 2026

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

Service at Thakeham Church

THAKEHAM CHURCH

10:30am

Holy Communion

**Lectionary Bible Reading**

“Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done. Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts. Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice. Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always. Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced, you his servants, the descendants of Abraham, his chosen ones, the children of Jacob.”
Psalm 105:1-6

**EVENTS:**