



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

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRIEST

Dear Church Family,

Friday seems like a long time ago now, although I suspect that's probably a consequence of spending the last few days at the diocese clergy conference! I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the incredible welcome we've received, and for the hard work which so many of you had put in to the service and reception at Sullington.



Many of the visitors who came spoke of how the service seemed like a real celebration, and commented on how welcome they were made to feel by you all. I hope that is a real encouragement. As we seek to grow our churches, the welcome people receive plays such an important role.

At Thakeham on Sunday David spoke brilliantly to us about Jesus as the Good Shepherd. He reminded us that the message of the Gospel is not one of us having to search for God, but rather God coming to seek and save the lost. It's wonderful news isn't it that God himself provides the way by which we can be in relationship with him through his Son Jesus Christ.

At Evensong in Sullington we were privileged to hear about the work of the High Sheriff of West Sussex, Dr Tim Fooks. Tim told us about his role in championing charitable work across the county, and spoke more personally about how charity plays an important part of his spiritual life and discipleship. He reminded us, and I know I was challenged by, how the Bible, especially the New Testament, speaks of service as being a key demonstrator of Christian faith. In fact, Tim argued that we can't separate the two, and reminded us that entire books in the New Testament tell of how Christians were serving the church and their communities. As Tim said "there's a reason it's called Acts, because it speaks of what they were doing." It was an encouraging and challenging talk which reminded us that we all have a role to play in God's Kingdom.

Finally I'd like to either remind, or inform you, of what Bishop Martin spoke about at the Licensing. He reminded us that as wonderful as our churches might be, our society in general and our immediate communities are in urgent need of Jesus. He also challenged us as churches and individuals to remember that God has entrusted us with presenting the hope which is only found in Jesus. If we want to see change, and growth, each of us needs to be presenting Christ to those around us, and we do this best through a combination of words and action.

Warmest blessings,

Rev'd Joel Willmer

LICENSING SERVICE FOR REVD JOEL WILLMER



5th September 2025

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THIS WEEK'S CHURCH SERVICES:

Sunday 14th September

10:30am SULLINGTON:

Holy Communion

10:30am THAKEHAM:

Morning Prayer

We look forward to welcoming you!

“You who fear the Lord, praise him! All you descendants of Jacob, honor him! Revere him, all you descendants of Israel! For he has not despised or scorned the suffering of the afflicted one; he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help. From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly; before those who fear you I will fulfill my vows. The poor will eat and be satisfied; those who seek the Lord will praise him— may your hearts live forever! All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him, for dominion belongs to the Lord and he rules over the nations.”



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UPCOMING EVENTS:

**COME ALONG TO
OUR MACMILLAN
COFFEE MORNING**

Place: Thakeham Church Rooms
Date: Friday 26th September
Time: 10.30 – Noon

**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

Lets do whatever it takes to support people living
with cancer.

Join us for our Macmillan Coffee Morning! All are welcome; please invite your friends & family. Funds will go to those living with cancer.

You are invited to a Pop-up Preloved Clothing sale on 27th & 28th September! Come and update your wardrobe with a cup of tea & cake. Feel free to invite a friend.



VINTAGE PRE-LOVED CLOTHES SALE

27th & 28th September, 10-4

The Old Workshop cafe
Sullington Manor Farm
Sullington Lane
RH20 4AE

In aid of St Mary's
Sullington

We look forward to seeing you!