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

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRIEST

Dear Church Family,

At the Wednesday morning Celtic Communion we have been working our way through the book of Acts, today we read Acts chapter 10, which is such an exciting chapter. Now I'm sure you all know exactly what happens in Acts 10 without me having to remind you...but just in case you need a reminder, here's my precis of the chapter.

The chapter begins by introducing us to Cornelius, a god-fearing centurion in a legion known as the Italian Regiment. One day Cornelius is confronted by an angel who tells Cornelius that his prayers and almsgiving have been noticed by God, and that Cornelius should send men to a tanner called Simon who lived in Joppa and ask for the Apostle Peter to come to him. So Cornelius sends two servants and a soldier to summon Peter.

Meanwhile the next day in Joppa, Peter has gone on to the roof to pray, and experiences a vision. The vision is of a sheet descending from heaven. On the sheet are all sorts of animals, and Peter (who is hungry) is told to "kill and eat." Peter refuses as he doesn't want to break the Jewish purity laws. The voice from heaven then commands him "not to call anything impure that God has made clean." This happens three times and then the sheet ascends back to heaven. As Peter reflects on the vision he hears the Spirit tell him that he should go with three men who are looking for him. The men then arrive and ask for Peter, and so he travels back with them to Joppa.

When Peter reaches Caesarea the next day he meets Cornelius and enters his home. This might not seem like much to us, but for an observant Jew this meant breaking the purity laws, and so was a major step. When Peter asks why Cornelius has sent for him, Cornelius replies that he has sent for him as "we are all here in the presence of God to listen to everything the Lord has commanded you to tell us." Peter then explains about Jesus' death and resurrection.

This passage is so exciting as for the first time someone has deliberately gone to the Gentiles, to tell them the good news about Jesus. Jesus is here confirmed as the Saviour of all people, not just the Jews. Cornelius is the second Gentile recorded in Acts as coming to faith. This account speaks of the power of the Gospel to reach all people. A Roman army officer was probably considered one of the least likely people to turn to monotheism, especially one stationed in a town named after the emperor, and serving in a regiment known as the Italian Regiment. Peter for the first time realises that Jesus has come to replace the sacrificial system that has previously bound the Jewish people, and the passage finishes with Cornelius and the other gentiles who believe with him as receiving the Holy Spirit and being baptised. The fact that they receive the Spirit shows that there is equality in the Gospel, being a Jew doesn't make Peter a better Christian than these new gentile converts. Let's make sure we rejoice that we as gentiles can be included in God's family, and let's ensure we don't think anyone is too 'bad' to share the Gospel with.

Before Easter I mentioned we'd be running a course called Discipleship Explored, here is the link to the [first video](#) in case anyone is interested.

Saturday 25th April is our Deanery Study Day Led by Peter Sills, on St Matthew's Gospel - Saturday 25th - 10am - 3pm, at St Mary's West Chiltington. Bring your own lunch, Tea and Coffee provided, all welcome.



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THIS WEEK'S CHURCH SERVICES:



SUNDAY 19th APRIL:

8:30am THAKEHAM:
Celtic Holy Communion

10:30am SULLINGTON:
Joint Holy Communion

We look forward to welcoming you!



“I love the Lord, for he heard my voice; he heard my cry for mercy. Because he turned his ear to me, I will call on him as long as I live.”



NOTICES:

APCM IN THAKEHAM AND SULLINGTON



You are invited to the APCM at Thakeham on Sunday 10th May straight after Church For all 10:30am service.

Sullington on 23rd April at 6:30pm at the Sullington Parish Hall

Thank you

EVENTS:

St Mary's Church Plant Sale

SATURDAY 16TH MAY
THAKEHAM VILLAGE HALL
11-1PM

*A selection of plants, delicious cakes
and bacon butties available! Invite a
friend, hope you can make it!*

You are invited to join us for the St Mary's plant sale on 16th May. There will be a wide variety of plants, cakes and bacon butties available.

Save the date for the worship cafe with old and new songs and free cream tea included. On Saturday 13th June from 2-4pm at Thakeham Village Hall. Hope you can come along!



Join us at our
Worship Café
With new and old songs
Free Cream Tea Included
Thakeham Village Hall
Saturday, 13th June | 2-4pm

Email: music.stmarysthakeham@gmail.com to book your place