

Sunday 18th August 2024: Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

For use by the Central Norfolk Circuit at 10.30 am or some other suitable time.



H&P 361 'Summer suns are glowing' by William Walsham How (1823 – 1897)

Opening Prayer

Think of the past week and say both 'thank you' and 'sorry' to our loving God.

Psalm set for today: Psalm 111

Epistle Reading set for today: Ephesians 5 v 15 – 20

To think about

In what ways are the psalm and the epistle connected?

StF 15 'The splendour of the King' (How great is our God) by Chris Tomlin (b 1972) & others

Old Testament Reading set for today: 1 Kings 2 v 10 – 12, 3 v 3 – 14

Message from a Circuit Friend

Solomon's name is closely associated with the word Wisdom, even thousands of years after his time. In 1 Kings Chapters 3 and 4 we read that, as a very new, vulnerable and young king, Solomon had a dream in which he was asked by God what he wanted. I wonder what most people would ask for in a similar situation? Perhaps riches, and a long healthy life, would top the list?

Interestingly, Solomon asked, not for such obvious things, but for the ability to rule well and to seek justice. So God gave him those skills, as we read in Chapter 4 verse 29, 'God gave Solomon wisdom and great insight and a breadth of understanding as measureless as the sand on the seashore'. He also made him rich and healthy as a reward for his concern to rule well.

The definition of wisdom can be the quality of being wise; judgement; the ability to make right use of knowledge; prudence, and many other things. From what we read, Solomon had all these attributes.

Many years later, the lessons learnt from Solomon are repeated in Ephesians, Chapter 5, verses 15-20. In Paul's list of things that should be important to the people of Ephesus he says 'be careful then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity be filled with the spirit. Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ'. I'm not sure that instructions on how to live are very popular today, if they have ever been. But these words, based on the experience of Solomon, show all of us a way to be wise, to consider how we can serve in the church, and to live in such a way that we encourage the coming of the Kingdom of God on earth, and for eternity.

John Hull (Local Preacher and member of Beetley Methodist Church)

StF 57 H&P 137 'Let all the world in every corner sing' by George Herbert

Prayers of Intercession

We pray for our world... for the church... for our communities... for our families & friends...

Offer to God your offertory for the week, and say the Lord's Prayer...

StF 73 H&P 792 'Fill thou my life, O Lord my God' by Horatius Bonar (1808 – 1889)

May the blessing of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us, and all those we love, this day and always, Amen.

District News: The new Chair of the East Anglia District, Rev Helen Hollands, is being welcomed at a special service at Chapelfield Road Methodist Church in Norwich on 25th August at 3.30 pm. All are welcome to attend. The Welcome Service for our new Superintendent, Rev Derek Grimshaw, is on 1st September at Trinity Methodist Church, Dereham at 6 pm.