

Sunday 20th October 2024: Twenty ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time.

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

Theme for today is “Not to be served, but to serve”

Our call to worship: We come to worship the Lord who surrounds us, does good to us, invites us to trust and reminds us to follow scripture to lead the life destined for us.

Hymn: StF 94 To God be the Glory, great things he has done

Prayers of adoration and confession

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

Hymn: StF 362 Meekness and Majesty

Readings: Hebrews 5: 1-10 and Mark 10: 35-45

To think about

There is a trend in modern day culture where people crave power and fame. People are judged by how many followers they have on social media and there is an ever-increasing group of people who are known as “influencers” they are not necessarily experts, but like to share their opinions and become famous for it.

Message from a Circuit Friend

Today’s reading from the Gospel of Mark (Ch.10. v35-45) reminded me of a poem by Roger McGough called ‘I wanna be the leader’. It’s a plea from a person who wants to be a leader, but once that is granted, he doesn’t know what to do. Perhaps it’s a bit like the ‘Peter Principle’, whereby a person continues to be promoted until he is beyond the limit of his capabilities.

Effective leadership is vitally important; without it mistakes are made, things drift, and often decline takes over. However, wanting to be a leader can cause conflict, as seen in our reading from Mark. Disciples James and John obviously felt that they were important enough to ask Jesus if they could be seated on either side of Him ‘in your glory’. As you can imagine, they received a generally negative response from Jesus, and aroused the annoyance of the other disciples. This is not something for me to grant, says Jesus.

Verses 42-45 provide the crux of the matter. Jesus compares his beliefs with the leaders of the Gentiles and the way they lord it over their people. He wants the opposite. ‘Whoever wants to be great among you must be your servant. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve’. What an example, and perhaps one that many leaders should copy.

Leaders are vital if progress is to be made, and our church nationally and locally has many great examples of that. Good leadership in a church can make a real difference. But there is an important point to make here. Leaders are there to lead, but not to be served. They are there to offer their services to the people they represent, just as Jesus did.

From John Hull, one of our Local Preachers

Hymn: StF 272 From heaven you came, helpless babe.

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...

Hymn: StF 546 Behold the servant of the Lord

Closing blessing - We say together the Grace.