

## Facebook Posts June 2023



Nearly fifty people celebrated the ministry of preaching, worship leading and leading fellowship services at Toftwood this afternoon. We gave out connexional long-service preaching certificates and reported on those who have already received them recently - including David Yarham who received a 50 year one. We also gave circuit signed certificates for 30 years and 58 years!

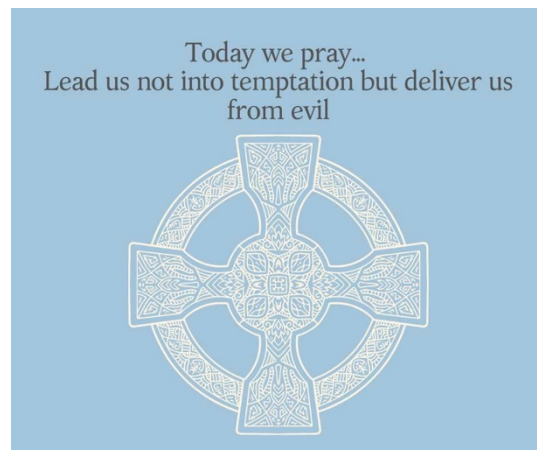
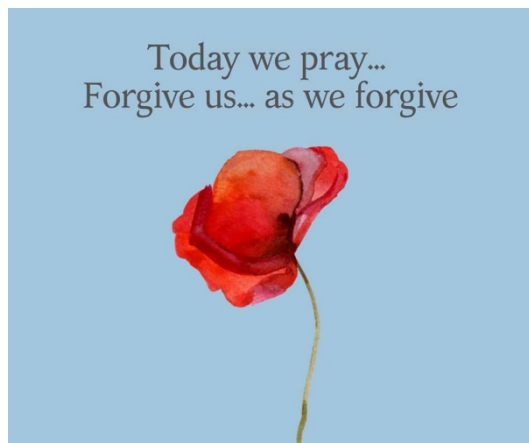
Finally, we awarded circuit certificates to 4 of the 6 people who have completed the recent training course in leading our Fellowship Services. Thank you to Toftwood for the excellent hospitality, to those who participated, and to everyone who came (including those who joined in on zoom).



**A thought from Rev Rosemary Wakelin:**

**Transfiguration**

Lord, in this peaceful, holy place  
Reveal the glory of your face.  
Take from our eyes all that would mar  
The truth of who you really are.  
In tune with all your Father's mind  
In his great plan for humankind  
You knew that Love must pay the price  
And you must make the sacrifice.  
And from the shining cloud you heard  
Your Father's voice which spoke the word  
Confirming you as his dear Son  
Through whom His work must now be done.  
The truth of who you really are  
On Calvary your love laid bare,  
And in that violent, shameful place  
We see the glory of God's face



**Rev Anne writes:** reading Rosemary's post about the Transfiguration reminded me that last Sunday was Trinity Sunday - and the interaction of God, Father, Son and Spirit. It's not always an easy one for the preachers! But this year, I just wanted to encourage the church to celebrate the mystery that is the Trinity. We looked at the famous 'Trinity' Icon, painted by Andrei Rublev, a monk at the monastery of Zagorsk, near Moscow in the late 14th Century. Although it's based on the Genesis 18 story of the visitors to Abram and Sarai, and has the title "The hospitality of Abraham", it offers an insight into the mutuality, interdependency and inseparability of the God we worship. The table is open, inviting us to participate in the Trinitarian life of God. Food for thought this fine Friday morning!!



### **A Thought for the Day from Deacon Jen:**

I seem to have acquired a little friend! For the last couple of weeks or so there has been a young blackbird that follows me around, very closely, whenever I am in the garden. Initially I noticed that when I did some weeding, he would come in quite close to find the worms that had been dug up. Although I thought this was unusual for a blackbird, I didn't give it much attention. However, as the days progressed, he seemed to becoming closer and closer. This was even when I was hanging up the washing on the patio and he followed me into the small greenhouse. Now he comes within a minute of my being outside, usually with a worm in his beak, and just stands close to me.



Has anyone else had this experience? Will it just naturally stop as he gets older and wiser? Is there anything I can do to help the situation? There are a few other blackbirds about but, of course, they all keep their distance!

As we engage in creation there is always something to learn and sometimes that takes us by surprise and delight.

Ps. We have nicknamed him Bertie!

### **A thought from Sam Parfitt:**



It probably comes as no surprise, as someone who works in a place of pilgrimage, that I do a reasonable bit of reading about the subject! I find it interesting to read and reflect on different perspectives of Pilgrimage from a variety of faith traditions and to learn about their histories. However, it is the Christian tradition that I centre today's reflection on, more specifically a phrase from Gregory the Great (who was Pope from 590 to 604 AD) - who was responsible for sending Augustine out to mission on this island.

Gregory was often keen to keep local traditions, so

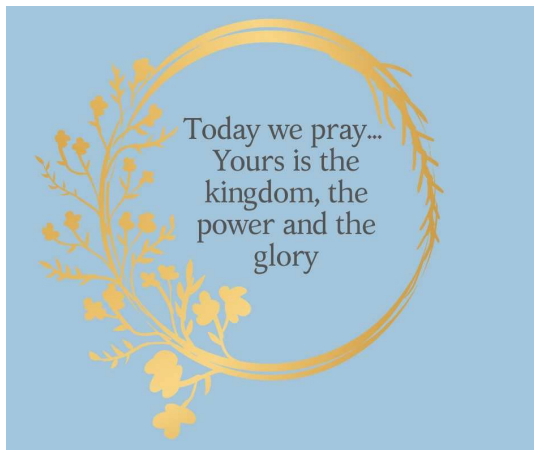
for example, pagan places of worship were emptied, but the buildings were kept and idols replaced by relics and saints.

I'm sure this action would have caused some differences of opinion at the time and 1500 years on, we still often converse about what to do with our church buildings. They are conversations that can be joyful and painful at the same time - many of our lives transitions have been rooted in them. Gregory had this to say and the more I reflect on it, the more I see wisdom in his words "things should not be loved for the sake of places but places for the sake of good things"

It caused me difficulty at first as I really like working at Walsingham Methodist church and it caused me to question whether I love it solely for the sake of the place - but on reflection, although I find the building peaceful and beautiful, I love it more for the sake of the good things; the friends I have made, the heritage of our tradition that it has taught me, the opportunities for sharing the love of the Good News, the laughter, the song and the endless cups of tea that form the foundation of many times of listening.

There are many more good things which are too numerous to mention here - I wonder what those good things are for you? Perhaps we might take a moment today to reflect on them and give thanks.





It is an exciting day tomorrow as the new East Anglia Methodist Heritage Centre is officially opened in Wighton Methodist Church (2 miles from Walsingham) by Rev Julian Pursehouse.

Our Circuit hosts the building and has facilitated the provision of the Centre so we are proud and pleased to be participating on Saturday.



Around 50 people attended the opening of the new East Anglia Methodist Centre in the village of Wighton (in our Circuit) today. There was a joyful and celebratory atmosphere and a wide variety of people (from the village, from the circuit, from the District, from Norwich, from Cambridge, from other places) were able to enjoy the exhibits as well as a celebration cake!

More photos of the day on the next page...









### A belated Thought for the Day from Deacon Jen:

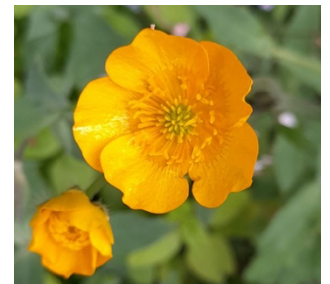


I gave myself a challenge 3 weeks ago. I requested that people send in pictures of flowers for use in prayer in the circuit in August. I then decided to do that for myself with the added commitment to take a photo of every day as a record of the progression of flowers throughout the summer. It has been fascinating to see how the combinations of colours change. I would recommend it as a way of really engaging with creation in a particular way. The pictures are not all from our garden, I just notice things as I go around and happily 'click away'.

I am very grateful to the people have sent in photos for the prayer theme in August. **But we need more.** Each day through that month we will be



displaying on the website a collection of photos showing single flowers, or perhaps small clusters, to look at the amazing detail that each one has. It would be great to have lots of people sending in photos and then we can show a good selection each day. If anyone would also like to keep a record of a photo each day it would be really interesting to compare with my collection. Let's all really engage with all that creation has to offer us at this time of year.



### A thought from Rev Rosemary Wakelin:

Looking back on my LONG life! I realise that I have experienced numerous Encounters with God that I didn't recognise until later. I was on a journey to Cornwall to see my oldest friend from College days. I arrived at Liverpool Street Station and went to get a taxi to Paddington. A taxi pulled up with a very surly looking driver and I got in. The London streets were heaving, we didn't know it was the day of the Westminster Bridge attack. The driver steered expertly through the traffic and I said "You are a brilliant driver!" This started a conversation. I have no memory of how it happened but our conversation got on to love, life, what it's for, God and so on. When we got to Paddington he jumped out and helped me out with my luggage. The clock had said £30 so I handed him £35 which he had deserved. But he said very firmly "Oh no." I thought he was going to ask for more, it had been a nightmare drive. He handed back £15 saying he wouldn't take a penny more because he had so enjoyed our conversation! Looking back I think there was Someone else in the cab with us.





## Thought of the day from Rev Anne:



Jesus said - consider the lilies of the field. Perhaps if he had been walking here, he may have said consider the dandelions. They neither reap nor sow - yet not even King Charles in all his coronation finery can compare!! (My paraphrase!!!)

It's never too late to get a fresh perspective. What seems like a weed to some is valued by others - including the bees.

But most important - if these are valued by our Heavenly God, than how much more are we?!

Today, go outside, look at a 'weed' and thank God that the love that created all these, also created us, in all our infinite variety.



## Our thought for the day is from Rev Jacqui:



My uncle died last week, after a difficult 2 or 3 years in a nursing home, it was peaceful at the end. I went to see him in the funeral home yesterday – although I have seen quite a few dead people over the years, I have not been in the presence of someone who has died since my mother's death 6 years ago. As on previous occasions, I was struck with wonderment that someone, whom one had known and loved and talked with only recently, could be so completely 'not there'. His body was recognisable as the person I had known all my life, but the absence of life simply shouted itself at me. My uncle was a committed follower of Jesus Christ, he was a Methodist minister (and missionary to

Rhodesia/Zimbabwe for decades), he had served God faithfully and well. I believe, with all my heart, that he is at peace now in heaven, I thank God for him and I am encouraged to go on living life to the full, as best I can, serving God for however long I myself have left to live.