

**Sunday 28th April 2024:** Fifth Sunday of Easter

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



**StF 568 H&P 250 'Alleluia! Sing to Jesus'** by William Chatterton Dix (1837 – 1898)

### **Opening Prayer**

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

**Psalm set for today:** Psalm 22 v 25 – 31

**StF 317 H&P 69 'At the name of Jesus'** by Caroline Maria Noel (1817 – 1877)

**Gospel reading set for today:** John 15 v 1 – 8

### **To think about**

Similar to last week, what does the imagery of the vine add to our knowledge about God and about God's activity in Jesus?

**StF 252 H&P 137 'Jesus the Lord said: 'I am the Bread''** Anonymous in Urdu transl. C20th  
(Choose 3 or more verses to sing but definitely verse 2)

**Epistle reading set for today:** 1 John 4 v 7 – 21

### **Message from a Circuit Friend**

This Love. According to the Beatles it's all you need, the Troggs are certain that love is all around us and Elvis Presley just couldn't help falling in love. We have a need and a drive to find, feel, gain and sing about it - finding love is a multimillion pound global business, with the rise of online dating apps and relationship coaches having exploded in the last decade. In today's reading, John has jumped on the love bandwagon, some 2000 years before the invention of online dating! Of course, love isn't reserved for two romantic partners, there's the love of friendship, children, grandparents, neighbours and sometimes even strangers. In this passage about God's love for us, we are reminded that love itself is a gift from God. Lots of people will come and go to and from our lives, an analogy that I particularly like is that there are leaf people, branch people and root people. Some people come into our lives and they are like leaves, only there for a season - they will take what they need and as soon as it gets cold or the wind blows, they will be gone. No need to be angry at them, it's just who they are. Then there are the branch people, who will stick around for most seasons, but a storm or two and you could lose them as they can't handle too much weight. Again, it's just who they are. Then there are the root people, they're hard to find because they're not trying to be seen. They will hold you up and help you to lead a strong and healthy life, they will support you and nourish you. Who are the leaf, branch and root people in your life today? We are encouraged by God to love them all, the challenge, perhaps, is that some of them feel easier to love than others! But let us be encouraged by John's words that God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. We don't need to worry where love is, it's already there ahead of us, it always has been and there it will remain.

**Sam Parfitt (Local Preacher and member of New Holkham Methodist Church)**

### **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 615 'Let love be real'** by Michael Forster (b 1946)

**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 District Synod took place yesterday in Huntingdon. This was Rev Julian Pursehouse's last Synod as District Chair. Please pray for Julian as he concludes his last 3 months before moving to Yorkshire. Please also pray for Rev Helen Hollands as she prepares to come to our District as the new District Chair.