**Everyone who believes in him may have eternal life** (John 3.15)

Our cat Sooki – how much does she choose what to do, or is it all instinct?

Humans choose all the time – choice of food/drink, TV programme, shopping. Mostly it matters little. Some choices are very important – choosing relationships, careers, housing.

When the choices are important we often agonise over them, fearing making the wrong choice.

Our reading involves choices and might give us some clues about how we should make our own.

[1] refers to Numbers 21.4-9: Israel moaned about lack of food and water, betraying a lack of trust in God. Poisonous snakes came, people repented and Moses set up bronze snake; those bitten who chose to look were healed. Who would not want to be healed?

[2] Judgement (vv18-21): here it is a result of our choice – lack of trust (believes in Christ = trust Christ), and/or a desire to live in darkness rather than light. In effect we judge ourselves.

Why would we *not* want to trust Jesus? Why would we want to *hide in the darkness*?

Sometimes bad choices are result of pride (independence, or not wanting to backtrack), or innate evil, or the easy option, or fear of what ‘good’ choices might bring.
Sometimes our choices, or those we see others make, seem at one level to be poor, but are actually good.

NB Jesus on the way to Jerusalem - taking the tough option for the sake of others.

Be aware of the reasons we make bad choices, and when making one, share options with God. That goes for all big choices including the one the Parish will be involved in, in choosing my successor.

TEXT: Good news! God makes a choice – *for us*. God does not judge us or want us judge ourselves.

This might mean that in any choice we make God can bring life, even if it turns out to be not the best.