Sermon:

Four pictures on the screen show sunrises and/or sunsets. How can you tell the difference?

It depends upon the direction you are looking – east or west.

Making sense of our reading (Matthew 22.41-45) is all about which direction you are looking.

David was king & first in a line of monarchs (which included the Messiah); so David was the Lord of them all as he looked forwards.

At the same time as David glanced backwards he could see God (his Lord) appointing him. In the psalm (110.1) it is as if David could see his *descendant* (the Messiah) as somehow in God & thus his ancestor too!

How he viewed the Messiah all depended upon which direction he was looking.

At our AGM in a few minutes we too will look back and see what has been going on in the last year of this church. But what about next year?

As in detecting sunrises and sunsets, there is little difference between looking back and looking forward as a church. That might sound daft, but at the same time as we look back and celebrate what God has done last year, we anticipate what God will do next year.

*This, this is the God we adore, our faithful, unchangeable friend,
whose love is as great as his power and neither knows measure nor end.*

*‘Tis Jesus, the first and the last, whose Spirit shall guide us safe home*;
*we’ll praise him for all that is past, and trust him for all that’s to come.* (Joseph Hart)

In both last year and next year God will be with us! It is the same gospel we proclaim!