

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. John 15:9-17

The lectionary readings in this Easter-tide place Love at the heart of life and faith. Here are two meditations on Love, one ancient, one contemporary.

Song of Solomon 2:9b-13

...gazing in at the windows,
looking through the lattice.
My beloved speaks and says
to me:
'Arise, my love, my fair one,
and come away;
for now the winter is past,
the rain is over and gone.
The flowers appear on the
earth;
the time of singing has come,
and the voice of the turtle-
dove
is heard in our land.
The fig tree puts forth its figs,
and the vines are in blossom;
they give forth fragrance.
Arise, my love, my fair one,

Stretched, by David Long-Higgins

O Love,
Stretch me just enough
To ready me for You
And the calling You offer
Already supported by You
On Your great trellis of love.

By your stretching grace
Help me live expectantly
Trusting You will reveal
The holding and releasing
Necessary to answer
Your call often overlooked
As daily or ordinary.

Grant me grace
O Love, to notice others
Often unseen in nearness
Their lives also stretched
By You for whatever
Purpose You reveal.

Let Your loving delight
Rise in our discovery
Of already being
Supported and held
And joined by You
For a work too large
For any one alone.

Yes, Love,
Stretch me into the we
Of Your deepest desire
Trusting Your support
Is always more than enough.



REEPHAM & WENSUM VALLEY
TEAM CHURCHES

Pew Notes

9th May: Ascension Day Service, 2pm at St Peter & St Pauls, Salle followed by afternoon tea

10th May: Eco Church Litter pick: see next page for more details

9th—19th May: Thy Kingdom Come: A global wave of prayer. Prayer stations are set up all day, every day in St Mary's, Reepham during this time. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy prayer.

25th May: 10:30am—3pm: Attlebridge, Antique Valuation Day

Pam Smiths Christian Aid fundraising: See next page for details

Services for next week: Sunday 12th May,

9:00am Holy Communion (BCP), St Mary's Bylaugh

9:00am Holy Communion, St Andrew's, Thurning

10:30am Holy Communion, St Mary's, Gt Witchingham

10:30am Holy Communion, St Mary's, Reepham

10:30am Words and Praise, St Margarets', Lyng

The Rev'd. Helen Rengert, 01603 879275 revdhelenrwv@gmail.com

The Rev'd. Keith Rengert, 01603 879275 revdkeith@gmail.com (Sunday only)

The Rev'd. Richard Turk, 07721 035009 revdrichardrwv@gmail.com

Email parishofficerwv@gmail.com to submit articles or join the mailing list.

FACEBOOK: Reepham & Wensum Valley Events

WEBSITE: www.reepham-and-wensum-valley-team-churches.org.uk

Pew Notes are available to download from the RWV website and the E-newsletter

If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact your Parish Safeguarding Officer. Details in the church porch or on the RWV website.

Acts 10:44-48

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

Please join **Reepham's Eco Church team** for a one-off community litter pick at **10am on Friday 10th May**.

Meet outside **St Michael's** and please bring your own gloves, a black bin bag - also a grab stick (or more than 1 !) if you have one. Also please wear fluorescent clothing if you have any.



Psalm 98 *Cantate Domino*

1 Sing to the LORD a new song, * for he has done marvelous things.

2 With his right hand and his holy arm * has he won for himself the victory.

3 The LORD has made known his victory; * his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.

4 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, * and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

5 Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; * lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

6 Sing to the LORD with the harp, * with the harp and the voice of song.

7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn * shout with joy before the King, the LORD.

8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, * the lands and those who dwell therein.

9 Let the rivers clap their hands, * and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, when he comes to judge the earth.

10 In righteousness shall he judge the world * and the peoples with equity.

1 John 5:1-6

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

Pam Smith will be fundraising for Christian Aid by aiming to cover 70km during the month of May. If you would like to sponsor her, you can do so using her JustGiving page. www.justgiving.com/fundraising/pamela1712127236787



John 15:9-17

Jesus said to his disciples, "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."