

Words of Light and Hope 27 th October 2024 Helena Crockford LLM

This Sunday is Bible Sunday, 'a day set aside in the church calendar to celebrate the continuing impact the Bible has on individuals and communities through which God speaks so powerfully into our lives. The Bible makes clear that trouble comes to each one of us. But it is equally clear that God makes a difference in the midst of our troubles, and that His presence and power transform our lives in troubled times. So if we find ourselves in trouble today, God, as ever, has a word for us from his living word, the Bible, that will transform our lives. (Scottish Bible Society). It was only following the Reformation in the 16 th century that Bibles were translated into the vernacular language of that land.

Malcolm Guite's poem 'The Lectern' celebrates this: Some rise on eagles' wings, this one is plain, Plain English workmanship in solid oak. Age gracefully, it says, go with the grain. You walk towards an always open book, Open as every life to every light, Open to shade and shadow, day and night, The changeless witness of your changing pain. Be still, the lectern says, stand here and read. Here are your mysteries, your love and fear, And, running through them all, the slender thread Of God's strange grace, red as these ribbons, red As you own blood when reading reads you here And pierces joint and marrow...So you stand, The lectern still beneath your trembling hand.

The Scottish Bible Society shares this testimony from Martina in Argentina. 'Martina had the anguish of seeing her home ravaged by floods. Yet, amidst the chaos, she found great solace and comfort in the pages of the newly translated New Testament in her native West Toba language. Martina's heart lifted as she turned each page, feeling a sense of peace and hope wash over her. Her Bible became her constant companion, guiding her through life's darkest valleys and highest peaks. Through its teachings, Martina found the strength to forgive, to love and to persevere. 'Before, I had the Bible in Spanish, but I didn't understand it. The New Testament gives me peace and joy when I read it. I feel it is a companion to me. I am a new Martina because of the New Testament in my language'

Bishop Tony Footitt, in his book 'A calendar of Wild Flowers' writes about the autumn flower Orpine or Sedum (p.93), to represent the saints' day on 28 th October of St Simon who represents zeal, and St Jude who represents patience. 'The Bible is often a source of conflict, usually between a literal zealous interpretation and a more liberal, patient understanding. Simon & Jude – zeal and patience – we need them both but especially patience as we seek to help establish Jesus' everlasting kingdom and peace in our conflict-ridden world.'



Pew Notes

27th October 3pm: In Memory Service, St Mary's, Reepham
3rd November 4pm: Evensong with Kett's Consort, Weston Longville
6th November 6pm: In Memory Service, St Margaret's, Lyng
9th November 10am : Coffee Morning, St Margarets, Swannington
16th November 9:30am : Autumn Fair, St Michaels, Reepham

Services for next week: Sunday 3rd November

9:00am Holy Communion (BCP), St Peter & St Paul's, Salle
10am Café Church (Service at 10:30), St Michaels, Reepham
10:30am Holy Communion , St Mary's, Gt Witchingham
10:30am OASIS Harvest, St Mary's, Sparham
4pm Evensong (with Kett's Concert), All Saints, Weston Longville

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.

Isaiah 55

“Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and you will delight in the richest of fare. Give ear and come to me; listen, that you may live I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David. See, I have made him a witness to the peoples, a ruler and commander of the peoples. Surely you will summon nations you know not, and nations you do not know will come running to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has endowed you with splendor.” Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your way and my thoughts than your thoughts. As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

2 Timothy 3:14 – 4:5;

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

The Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

John 5 36-end:

I have testimony weightier than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to finish the very works that I am doing testify that the Father has sent me. And the Father who sent me has himself testified concerning me. You have never heard his voice nor seen his form, nor does his word dwell in you, for you do not believe the one he sent. You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life. “I do not accept glory from human beings, but I know you. I know that you do not have the love of God in your hearts. I have come in my Father’s name, and you do not accept me; but if someone else comes in his own name, you will accept him. How can you believe since you accept glory from one another but do not seek the glory that comes from the only God? “But do not think I will accuse you before the Father. Your accuser is Moses, on whom your hopes are set. If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me. But since you do not believe what he wrote, how are you going to believe what I say?”

Psalms 19: 7 – end

⁷The law of the LORD is perfect refreshing the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple.
⁸The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes.
⁹The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. The decrees of the LORD are firm, and all of them are righteous.
¹⁰They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb.
¹¹By them your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward.
¹²But who can discern their own errors? Forgive my hidden faults.
¹³Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. Then I will be blameless, innocent of great transgression.
¹⁴May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.

