

Words of Light and Hope and Light from Tony Hawes.

Safeguarding Sunday.

In Matthews's Gospel Jesus tells his followers, "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden." (Matthew 5.14). Christians are called to be a transformative presence in society bringing light and hope to others. That includes being a beacon of good practice in the care and protection of children and vulnerable adults. As Jesus says uncompromisingly, "If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea." (Matthew 18.6). Bishop Robert Atwell.

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (John 13.34).

So often when we think of safeguarding it can seem like a barrier to mission, a list of 'shalt nots' much like we see the Commandments in the Old Testament. When at its heart safeguarding is all about loving each other well and raising standards in the way that we love and care for one another. Rather than a burden, putting the safety and wellbeing of those in our community front and centre is one important way we can demonstrate the love Christ speaks of. *Thirtyone:eight-Safeguarding Sunday 2024.*

Jesus, light of the world, who came as a healer, full of love and compassion, may we be full of compassion, and speak up for those who have no voice. May our churches be places of safety, where we stand up for the vulnerable. Places of justice, kindness and humility. Light of the world, drive out the darkness. May we bring light and life to others. Amen.



REEPHAM & WENSUM VALLEY
TEAM CHURCHES

Pew Notes

1st December 4pm: Advent Sunday with All Saints Festival Choir, All Saints, Bawdswell.

8th December 10:30am: Christmas Carol Service, Gt Witchingham Village Hall

12th December 7pm: Sparham Christmas Concert, St Mary's, Sparham

15th December 4pm: Carol Service, St Peter & St Pauls, Salle

15th December 7pm: Carol Service, St Mary's, Reepham

Services for next week: Sunday 24th November

9am Mattins, St Andrew's, Thurning

9am Mattins (BCP), St Mary's, Bylaugh

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

10:30am Holy Communion, St Margaret's, Swannington

10:30am Holy Communion (BCP), St Mary's, Sparham

10:30am Word and Praise, St Mary's, Elsing

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.

Daniel 12:1-3

The Lord spoke to Daniel in a vision and said, "At that time Michael, the great prince, the protector of your people, shall arise. There shall be a time of anguish, such as has never occurred since nations first came into existence. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book. Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever."

1 Samuel 2:1-10

Hannah prayed and said
 "My heart exults in the LORD; my strength is exalted in my God.
 My mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice in my victory.
 "There is no Holy One like the LORD, no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God.
 Talk no more so very proudly, let not arrogance come from your mouth; for the LORD is a God of knowledge, and by his actions are weighed.

The bows of the mighty are broken, but the feeble gird on strength.
 Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, but those who were hungry are fat with spoil.
 The barren has borne seven, but she who has many children is forlorn.
 The LORD kills and brings to life; he brings down to Sheol and raises up.
 The LORD makes poor and makes rich; he brings low, he also exalts.
 He raises up the poor from the dust; he lifts the needy from the ash heap, to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honor.
 For the pillars of the earth are the LORD's, and on them he has set the world.
 "He will guard the feet of his faithful ones, but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness; for not by might does one prevail.
 The LORD! His adversaries shall be shattered; the Most High will thunder in heaven.
 The LORD will judge the ends of the earth; he will give strength to his king, and exalt the power of his anointed."

Hebrews 10:11-14 (15-18) 19-25

Every priest stands day after day at his service, offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, "he sat down at the right hand of God," and since then has been waiting "until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet." For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. [And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us, for after saying, "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds," he also adds, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more." Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.] Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful.

And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Mark 13:1-8

As Jesus came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!" Then Jesus asked him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down." When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, "Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?" Then Jesus began to say to them, "Beware that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and they will lead many astray. When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birthpangs."