

## Words of Light and Hope By Fran Neale AWA

We're in the season of Hallowe'en, All Saints' Day, All Souls' Day and our In Memory services, which leads to thoughts about death. With Halloween it's rather caricatured with jangling skeletons and white-sheeted ghouls! But, as has often been said, death is one of the certainties of life. Here are what I hope may be some positive thoughts on the subject.

**To start on a light note, this notice was seen in a country church bulletin. "Due to the high cost of maintaining the church, it would be appreciated if parishioners would cut the grass around their own graves."**

Kahil Gibran says " For life and death are one, even as the river and the sea are one In the depth of your hopes and desires lies your silent knowledge of the beyond; And like seeds dreaming beneath the snow your heart dreams of spring..... And when the earth shall claim your limbs, then you shall truly dance."

**This short poem was found in Cologne during the Second World War, where Jews were hiding from the Nazis, "I believe in the sun even when it is not shining. I believe in love even when I feel it not. I believe in God even when he seems to be silent."**

Jesus said, "In very truth I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains that and nothing more; but if it dies it bears a rich harvest." John 12 v 24. One can take that literally and metaphorically.

**Helen Keller (who was born blind and deaf) wrote :- "I believe that God is in me as the sun is in the colour and fragrance of a flower - the light in my darkness, the Voice in my Silence."**

And finally, from a hymn, "Hallelujah my Father, in his death is my birth. Hallelujah my Father, in his life is my life."



REEPHAM & WENSUM VALLEY  
TEAM CHURCHES

## Pew Notes

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  
9th November 10:30am: Coffee Morning, Sparham old school room  
16th November 9:30am : Autumn Fair, St Michaels, Reepham  
16th November 10am: Autumn Fair, Lyng Village Hall

### Services for next week: Sunday 10th November

9:00am Holy Communion (BCP), St Marys, Bylaugh  
9am Communion, St Andrew's, Thurning  
10:30am Remembrance Service, St Mary's, Reepham  
10:30am Remembrance Service, All Saints, Weston Longville  
10:30am Remembrance Service, St Mary's, Sparham  
12 noon: Short act of Remembrance, Swannington Memorial  
12 noon: Short act of Remembrance, Attlebridge Memorial  
12 noon: Short act of Remembrance, American War Memorial,  
Weston Longville  
3pm: Memorial Service, St Mary's, Gt Witchingham

The Rev'd. Helen Rengert, 01603 879275 [revdhelenrww@gmail.com](mailto:revdhelenrww@gmail.com)

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**FACEBOOK:** Reepham & Wensum Valley Events

**WEBSITE:** [www.reepham-and-wensum-valley-team-churches.org.uk](http://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.**

**Deuteronomy 6:1-9**

Moses said: Now this is the commandment--the statutes and the ordinances--that the LORD your God charged me to teach you to observe in the land that you are about to cross into and occupy, so that you and your children and your children's children, may fear the LORD your God all the days of your life, and keep all his decrees and his commandments that I am commanding you, so that your days may be long. Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe them diligently, so that it may go well with you, and so that you may multiply greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, as the LORD, the God of your ancestors, has promised you. Hear, O Israel: The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

**Psalm 119:1-8 *Beati immaculate***

1 Happy are they whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the LORD!  
2 Happy are they who observe his decrees and seek him with all their hearts!  
3 Who never do any wrong, but always walk in his ways.  
4 You laid down your commandments, that we should fully keep them.  
5 Oh, that my ways were made so direct that I might keep your statutes!  
6 Then I should not be put to shame, when I regard all your commandments.  
7 I will thank you with an unfeigned heart, when I have learned your righteous judgments.  
8 I will keep your statutes; do not utterly forsake me.

**Hebrews 9:11-14**

When Christ came as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation), he entered once for all into the Holy Place, not with the blood of goats and calves, but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls, with the sprinkling of the ashes of a heifer, sanctifies those who have been defiled so that their flesh is purified, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to worship the living God!

**Mark 12:28-34**

One of the scribes came near and heard the Sadducees disputing with one another, and seeing that Jesus answered them well, he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." Then the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that 'he is one, and besides him there is no other'; and 'to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,' and 'to love one's neighbor as oneself,' —this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that no one dared to ask him any question.

**The Collect:**

God of glory, touch our lips with the fire of your Spirit, that we with all creation may rejoice to sing your praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord