

Words of Light and hope

By Fran Neale

This isn't deep theology but I hope it may cheer you, when there is plenty of national and global news that is far from cheerful.

Today, instead of encountering **three wise men** I met **three kind strangers**.

The first was a lady. I got to the bus-stop in Bawdeswell in plenty of time to catch the bus into Norwich. A good 10 minutes after it was due, this kind lady stopped her car and told me that The Street in Bawdeswell was closed today and that the bus would have gone via the main road instead! Not good news, as I had missed the bus, but so kind of her to stop and tell me so I didn't miss the next one as well.

After I had successfully bought the Christmas cards I had gone into Norwich for, I thought I just had time to buy a cup of coffee before I caught the bus home. But, as I waited in a queue, I realised I was in danger of missing the bus. I asked the man in front of me if he would forgive a cheeky request and let me go before him. He very kindly agreed.....and, clutching my coffee, I *just* caught my bus.

The third person was on the bus. I wanted to make sure I pressed the button to request my stop. I looked around but failed to see any button. The elderly man on the next seat evidently saw I was concerned and showed me where it was, (on the side of my seat, where I couldn't see it!)

As the angels didn't quite sing, "**Glory to God in the high st.**"



REEPHAM & WENSUM VALLEY
TEAM CHURCHES

Pew Notes

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
16th December 6:30pm: Carol Service, St Andrew's, Wood Dalling
18th December 7:30pm: Christmas Concert, All Saint's, Weston
18th December 6:30pm: Thurning Carols, St Andrew's, Thurning
21st December 4pm: Dress up Nativity, St Mary's, Elsing

Services for next week: Sunday 15th December

10am Café Church (Service at 10:30), St Michaels, Reepham
10:30am Informal service St Andrew's, Attlebridge
10:30am Holy Communion, St Margaret's, Lyng
4pm Carol Service, St Peter & St Paul's, Salle
7pm Carol Service, St Mary's, Reepham

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.

Malachi 3:1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight-- indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

***Benedictus Dominus Deus***

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old, that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies, Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life. You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way, To give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins. In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us, To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Philippians 1:3-11

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

