

Words of Light and Hope from Tony Hawes.

From Cross Purposes by Eddie Askew.

“When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread”

John 21.9.

There's something very earthy and real about Jesus in the Gospels. Whenever I look at old master paintings of the Christian story I'm struck by one thing. It's nothing to do with the composition or drawing or colour, but the fact that Jesus is almost always portrayed in spotless white robes. Whether he's depicted teaching by the lakeside, performing a miracle, or chasing traders from the temple, he's always radiantly clean.

This worries me a bit because I don't believe it could have been true. Jesus walked dusty Galilean tracks and squelched through Jerusalem mud in the rainy season. He sat on rocks to teach and in working fishing boats. There were times when he slept out on the hillside. Here on the beach he must have made the fire and gutted the fish. The hands that welcomed the tired disciples were not neatly manicured but work-worn, with dirt under the finger nails. He had the smell of fish on them, and the tang of wood smoke on his tunic.

Jesus was part of the real world, and he calls us to be the same. Involved. Sometimes I suspect I'm inclined to stand aside and keep my hands and clothes clean, unblemished by the world. I believe Jesus would rather see the honourable stains of service, my clothes dirtied in an honest attempt to get involved.

Another thought that crosses my mind is equally challenging. It's the realisation that Jesus comes into my world not neatly starched and ironed, but travel-stained, smelling of smoke and fish, or their modern equivalents, in guises I may not instantly recognise. I must take care I never let him pass by unrecognised.

I see your hands, Lord, by the fire.

Hands of a craftsman calloused by carpentry, gentled by compassion.

Healing hands that touched, turned life around.

Hands of the word made flesh, making flesh new, and spirit too.

New worlds of hope created by your presence.....



REEPHAM & WENSUM VALLEY
TEAM CHURCHES

Pew Notes

Spring Lectures in Swannington Church Each Thursday in May, talks and lectures will be given in Swannington church on subjects as diverse as The Roman Project (5th May), Life in the Music Hall (9th May), The Angel Roof in Late Medieval Churches (19th May), and The Topsy Turvey World of Gilbert and Sullivan (26th May). Lectures start at 7.30pm; tickets are £5 per lecture including refreshments. See website for details.

If you are able to spare an hour to help distribute **Christian Aid donation envelopes** in Reepham in the run up to Christian Aid Week (May 15th– 21st May) or help receive donations at the Bircham Centre on Wednesday 18th May, 9am-1pm, please contact Jolyon on 871181. All help gratefully received!

Wild Messy Church — this month we will be preparing for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee! Join us for family friendly fun in **Lyng Village Hall** on **Thursday 5th May** at 3.30pm and **Sunday 8th May** at **Gt Witchingham Village Hall** from 4pm.

Services for Next week - Sunday 8th May (Fourth Sunday of Easter)

9am	Bylaugh	Holy Communion (BCP)
9am	Thurning	Holy Communion
10.30am	Lyng	Word and Praise
10.00am	Reepham	Holy Communion
10.30am	Gt Witchingham	Holy Communion
4pm	Gt Witchingham Village Hall	Wild Messy Church

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

The Rev'd. Keith Rengert, 01603 879275 revdkeith@gmail.com

The Rev'd. Judith Sweetman, 07484862962 (Friday to Sunday)

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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