

Words of Light and Hope from Jane McLarty

This morning I saw a red kite wheeling over the farm track where Poppy the Jack Russell and I take our morning walk. The forked tail that twists and turns like a rudder to help the bird manoeuvre in the wind makes it one of the easiest birds of prey to identify.

This bird, in Shakespeare's day a common scavenger in cities, was persecuted almost to extinction by the 1900s, reduced to just a few breeding pairs in Wales. It's one of conservation's success stories; they are gradually spreading from Wales over the country - I was excited when I first started seeing them in the heart of Cambridge when I lived there, and even more delighted to see they have reached Norfolk.

This bird's recovery makes me think of the poem by Gerard Manley Hopkins, 'God's Grandeur', that begins 'The world is charged with the grandeur of God.' He mourns the way in which humanity has trodden and spoilt the earth, 'all is seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil'. By doing so we've also somehow dulled our own contact with nature and therefore our sense of God's beauty and splendour - 'nor can foot feel, being shod.' And yet, there is hope, because nature constantly refreshes itself: 'There lives the dearest freshness deep down things.' Or rather, nature is refreshed because of the loving work of the Holy Spirit that 'over the bent World broods with warm breast'.

So in this world where at present all the news we hear seems bad – destruction in Ukraine, climate change, poverty here in the UK – there is always hope, because God has not given up on us. God is always working to redeem and rescue. God broods lovingly over us like a mother bird; hovers attentively over us, we might imagine, like the red kite.

Dates for your diary:

- Saturday 4th to Sunday 5th June—**Exhibition of Royal Memorabilia**—in St Margaret's, Lyng daily from 10.30am to 4pm.
- Sunday 5th June—**Jubilee Decades Parade**—starting at Stimpsons Piece, Reepham at 10am and finishing in Reepham Market Place with an open air civic service at 11am
- Saturday 11th June from 10am to noon—**Reepham Churchyard Wildlife Day**, with a wildlife scavenger hunt, Eco pot making and seed sowing as well as tea, coffee and cake, all in our beautiful wildlife conservation areas.
- Sunday 12th June—**Whole Benefice Service with Bishop Jane**, 10.30am at St Peter and St Paul's Salle.



REEPHAM & WENSUM VALLEY
TEAM CHURCHES

Pew Notes

Spring Lectures in Swannington Church This week's talk is on Thursday 19th May and is on the topic of "The Angel Roof in Late Medieval Churches" The lecture begins at 7.30pm; tickets are £5.

Pam Smith from Swannington is aiming to walk 30,000 steps in May in support of Christian Aid to help turn Hunger into Hope. So far, Pam is making good progress and is half way to her target! If you would like to support Pam, you can donate online at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/pamela-smith29>

Join us at St Margaret's, Lyng at 10.30am on 26th June for a whole benefice service as we celebrate Rev'd Richard's ordination and he presides over his first Holy Communion service. Following the service there will be a shared lunch.

Coffee Morning at St Margaret's, Lyng on Tuesday 17th May from 10.30am to 12noon. Cakes, bring and buy, raffle. Coffee and biscuits. Everyone is welcome, all proceeds to St Margaret's Church, Lyng.

Services for Next Week - Sunday 22nd May (Sixth Sunday of Easter)

9am	Bylaugh	Matins
9am	Thurning	Matins
10.30am	Reepham	Holy Communion
10.30am	Sparham	Informal Communion
10.30am	Elsing	Word and Praise
10.30am	Alderford	Holy Communion

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*)

judith.sweetman@btinternet.com

The Rev'd. Richard Turk, 07721 035009 revdrichardrww@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