

Words of Light and Hope from Jane McLarty

Back in 2019 I was in Cambridge cycling home from work at midday. I stopped at a crossroads to wait for the traffic lights to change and became conscious of the sun's rays beating down, like an assault! That was the day that the last temperature record was set in the UK when we topped 38 degrees. Suddenly the words of the Psalm came home to me:

'The Lord watches over you—
the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
the sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night.' (Ps 121:5-6)

Of course, such temperatures are nothing new to those in other parts of the world, and perhaps it takes the coming of such heat to us to bring home the reality of climate change. But alongside this call to action we can also reflect on those passages in the Bible which talk of God as our refuge in hard times: 'a shelter from the storm and a shade from the heat.' (Isa 23:4) Jesus talks of the Kingdom of God being like a great tree (growing from a tiny seed) that offers all kinds of birds shelter in its shade (Mark 4:30-32).

Our cool church offers shelter and shade in these hot days (and there will surely be more to come) – and we might pray that all who come in for respite from the heat may in the cool stillness know that they are not alone; may in these moments apart sense the long centuries of prayer soaked into this place – and may perhaps, like RS Thomas, see 'love in a dark crown of thorns blazing' (In a Country Church).

Service for Next Week - Sunday 31st July (Seventh Sunday after Trinity)

10.30am Wood Dalling Whole Benefice Service

Join us for a whole benefice service celebrating how we thrive and grow in rural communities. We will be giving thanks in this mid-harvest time and socialising after the service, so please bring a picnic if you would like to!



Pew Notes

Forthcoming Services and Events:

- Sunday 31st July, 10.30am — Whole Benefice Mid-Harvest Service at St Andrew's, Wood Dalling followed by bring your own picnic
- Thursday 11th August, 7pm — WoW Social at St Michael's, Reepham
- Sunday 4th September, 4pm onwards — Family Sports Afternoon with Afternoon Tea at Hall for All, Weston Longville.
- Saturday 10th September, 10am-5pm — Norfolk Churches Trust Bike Ride

Lyng Church Summer Barbeque

Sunday 21st August, 12.30pm for 1pm, The Rectory, Rectory Road Lyng.

There will be a BBQ to raise funds for St Margaret's church. Tickets are £10 per adult and £5 per child which includes a selection of meats, salads and dessert as well as tea and coffee. Please bring your own cold drinks and glasses (plates and cutlery will be provided). Tickets available from Carol Brigham (01603 872275), Elaine Jones (01362 638180), Judith Seaman (01603 871591) or Edwin Speakman (01603 872522)

Thank you for your continued support of our local Food Banks as they help those in crisis. Items on their wish list include: cereal, long-life milk, Mugshots/ Cuppa Soup, tinned fruit, custard, squash & fruit juice, long-life sponge puddings, instant mash, small jars of coffee, biscuits, chocolate, nappies (size 6-8), laundry powder/ liquid, washing up liquid. At this time they have plenty of pasta, tea bags & baked beans.

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

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

judith.sweetman@btinternet.com

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.

