

Words of Light & Hope for 7th July 2024 By Jane McLarty LLM

By the time you read this we will have voted and the result of the election will be known. As we look to this fresh start, for whoever wins, we might think of Solomon's words to God on becoming king of Israel: 'Give your servant an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil.' (1 Kings 3:9)

One important part we can play in the life of our country is to pray. To encourage us, here are some words from writers on prayer:

Sister Wendy Beckett

What happens when people ask us to pray for them? Perhaps I can only tell you what happens within me. I have heard the request and it has changed me. I am now a person that knows that X wants a baby, that Y is sick, that Z is locked in an unhappy marriage. I say, 'Yes, I will pray for you,' and I mean it. But what I mean is that this person, this me, who now has this knowledge, gives herself to God and in the giving, I give all these problems.

Jonathan Sacks (formerly Chief Rabbi)

A people, a person, who can pray is one who, even in the darkest night of the soul, can never ultimately lose hope...Are prayers answered? From personal experience I know that they are – but rarely when we expect, or in the way we expect. Sometimes the answer is no. But prayer itself helps us understand why the answer had to be no.

George Herbert: Prayer (1)

Prayer the church's banquet, angel's age,
God's breath in man returning to his birth,
The soul in paraphrase, heart in pilgrimage,
The Christian plummet sounding heav'n and earth
Engine against th' Almighty, sinner's tow'r,
Reversed thunder, Christ-side-piercing spear,
The six-days world transposing in an hour,
A kind of tune, which all things hear and fear;
Softness, and peace, and joy, and love, and bliss,
Exalted manna, gladness of the best,
Heaven in ordinary, man well drest,
The milky way, the bird of Paradise,
Church-bells beyond the stars heard, the soul's blood,
The land of spices; something understood.



REEPHAM & WENSUM VALLEY
TEAM CHURCHES

Pew Notes

18th August: 10:30am: Attlebridge Summer Special Service,
With Open the Book

Services for next week: Sunday 14th July

9am Holy Communion (BCP), St Mary's, Bylaugh

9am Holy Communion, St Andrew's, Thurning

10:30am Holy Communion, St Mary's, Gt Witchingham

10:30am Holy Communion, St Mary's, Reepham

10:30am Words and Praise, St Margaret's, Lyng

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.

2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10

All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron, and said, "Look, we are your bone and flesh. For some time, while Saul was king over us, it was you who led out Israel and brought it in. The LORD said to you: It is you who shall be shepherd of my people Israel, you who shall be ruler over Israel." So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron; and King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the LORD, and they anointed David king over Israel. David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years. At Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months; and at Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah thirty-three years. David occupied the stronghold, and named it the city of David. David built the city all around from the Millo inwards. And David became greater and greater, for the LORD, the God of hosts, was with him.



Psalms 48 *Magnus Dominus*

1 Great is the LORD, and highly to be praised; in the city of our God is his holy hill.

2 Beautiful and lofty, the joy of all the earth, is the hill of Zion, the very center of the world and the city of the great King.

3 God is in her citadels; he is known to be her sure refuge.

4 Behold, the kings of the earth assembled and marched forward together.

5 They looked and were astounded; they retreated and fled in terror.

6 Trembling seized them there; they writhed like a woman in childbirth, like ships of the sea when the east wind shatters them.

7 As we have heard, so have we seen, in the city of the LORD of hosts, in the city of our God; God has established her for ever.

8 We have waited in silence on your loving-kindness, O God, in the midst of your temple.

9 Your praise, like your Name, O God, reaches to the world's end; your right hand is full of justice.

10 Let Mount Zion be glad and the cities of Judah rejoice, because of your judgments.

11 Make the circuit of Zion; walk round about her; count the number of her towers.

12 Consider well her bulwarks; examine her strongholds; that you may tell those who come after.

13 This God is our God for ever and ever; he shall be our guide for evermore.

2 Corinthians 12:2-10

I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows— was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.



Mark 6:1-13

Jesus came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joseph and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. Then Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house." And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief. Then he went about among the villages teaching. He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them." So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.