

Words of Light and Hope 16 th March 2025 Fran Neale

Many people attended Jolyon (Booth)'s funeral on Thursday, a special man, fondly remembered by many.

Here is a quotation by George Fox which Jolyon introduced me to.

"Walk cheerfully through the world, answering to that of God in every man."

From "Why Pray?" by Robert Llewelyn: "Somehow, somewhere, in answer to every prayer or praise uttered, or psalm recited or prayerful silence observed, with such sincerity as may be given us, good overcomes evil, light dispels darkness, truth supplants error and, if only in the minutest measure, the world is changed. So, too, for every stranger welcomed or loving deed performed."

Recently I suddenly started thinking of the chorus of a hymn I first encountered in my early twenties. It seems to sum up the Good News about Jesus pretty neatly.

"Living, He loved me;
Dying, He saved me;
Buried He carried my sins far away;
Rising, he justified freely for ever:
One day He's coming -
Oh, glorious day!"

One line from the well known hymn "Lead us Heavenly Father, lead us," is "love with every passion blending" It strikes me that is a helpful though challenging idea. Whatever we may feel, we need to draw on God's love to mix with it; to counter the feeling if it is negative, or to augment it if it is positive.

Finally, one of my favourite quotations from Mother Julian of Norwich :-

"From him we come,
In him we are enfolded,
To him we return."



REEPHAM & WENSUM VALLEY
TEAM CHURCHES

Pew Notes

25th March: 12noon—1:30pm Lent Lunch, St Michael's, Reepham

29th March 10am - 12 noon: Coffee Morning, St Margaret's, Swannington

4th April: 7pm Quiz and Chips, St Margaret's, Swannington

6th April: 3pm Gala Concert & Tea, St Mary's, Reepham

For more information on any events please see our website or Facebook page or contact Joy to be on our weekly newsletter.

Services for next week: Sunday 30th March 2025

9am Holy Communion Mothering Sunday,
St Andrew's, wood Dalling

10:30am Whole Benefice service for Mothering Sunday,
St Michael's, Reepham

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

To contact the administrator Joy, please either email or call 07770672329.

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.

Isaiah 55:1-9

“Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and you will delight in the richest of fare. Give ear and come to me; listen, that you may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David. See, I have made him a witness to the peoples, a ruler and commander of the peoples. Surely you will summon nations you know not, and nations you do not know will come running to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has endowed you with splendor.” Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.” We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

Psalms 63:1-8

1 O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.
 2 Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, that I might behold your power and your glory.
 3 For your loving-kindness is better than life itself; my lips shall give you praise.
 4 So will I bless you as long as I live and lift up my hands in your Name.
 5 My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,
 6 When I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the night watches.
 7 For you have been my helper, and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.
 8 My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast.

Luke 13:1-9

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them--do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.” Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

The Collect

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*