

Words of Light and Hope 16 th March 2025 Helena Crockford LLM

Praised be you, my Lord, through Sister Water, who is very useful and humble and precious and chaste. (Pope Francis, with St. Francis)

This week has World Water Day on 22 nd March. This United Nations day, focuses this year on Glacier Preservation, highlighting the urgent need to address the devastating impact of climate change on the world’s glaciers.

The Glacier, by Phil Soar

It stretched my imagination

A glacier that stretched for 90 miles inland

Wandering close to its edge

I waited to see if it would calve

Rumblings, like an earthquake

Vibrations at the surface

While underneath, solidity

As cracks appear I move swiftly

Watching from a distance

And wondering

When will it die?

Hella Tangu, a young Christian climate scientist writes for the World Council of Churches: ‘Glaciers act as God- given storage, melting slowly to sustain life, but rising temperatures are accelerating their loss, leading to devastating consequences like sea -level rise and coastal flooding...This loss is a warning, reminding us that our neglect of God’s creation has consequences...that caring for creation is not optional; it is part of our God-given purpose.’

Lord, we thank You for the sacred gift of water,

from the rushing rivers to the quiet glaciers

that store life for generations to come.

Forgive us for neglecting our responsibility

as stewards of Your creation.

As we witness the changes in our world,

open our hearts to act with wisdom, urgency, and faith.

Help us to protect the waters You have given us,

so that all may drink freely and abundantly,

today and always.

Amen.

Mothering Sunday
30th March
10:30am Reepham
Informal Service



Holy Communion at Wood
Dalling 9am with Mothering
Sunday Activities



REEPHAM & WENSUM VALLEY
TEAM CHURCHES

Pew Notes

22nd March 8:30pm-9:30pm Earth Hour.

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 23rd March 2025

9am Matins, St Andrew’s, Thurning

10:30am Holy Communion, St Michael’s, Reepham

10:30am Holy Communion, St Margaret’s, Swannington

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.

Genesis 15:1-12,17-18

The word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness. Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

Luke 13:31-35

Some Pharisees came and said to Jesus, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

The Collect

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

Psalm 27 *Dominus illuminatio*

1 The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?
 2 When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh, it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who stumbled and fell.
 3 Though an army should encamp against me, yet my heart shall not be afraid;
 4 And though war should rise up against me, yet will I put my trust in him.
 5 One thing have I asked of the LORD; one thing I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life;
 6 To behold the fair beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.
 7 For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe in his shelter; he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling and set me high upon a rock.
 8 Even now he lifts up my head above my enemies round about me.
 9 Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation with sounds of great gladness; I will sing and make music to the LORD.
 10 Harken to my voice, O LORD, when I call; have mercy on me and answer me.
 11 You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face." Your face, LORD, will I seek.
 12 Hide not your face from me, nor turn away your servant in displeasure.
 13 You have been my helper; cast me not away; do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.
 14 Though my father and my mother forsake me, the LORD will sustain me.
 15 Show me your way, O LORD; lead me on a level path, because of my enemies.
 16 Deliver me not into the hand of my adversaries, for false witnesses have risen up against me, and also those who speak malice.
 17 What if I had not believed that I should see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living!
 18 O tarry and await the LORD's pleasure; be strong, and he shall comfort your heart; wait patiently for the LORD.