

Words of Light and Hope from Tony Foottit.

Hawthorn.

On May Day people used to celebrate the Green Man, the joyful spirit of nature. He represents springtime and risen life after the dying of winter. Besides giving his name to some pubs, the Green Man is often carved in churches and cathedrals. This is an example of the 'baptism' of pagan spirits and festivals. Hawthorn is used for hedges. The Green Man is often wreathed in hawthorn. Gardens and fields need walls, fences and hedges. Good hedges make good neighbours. They are also, together with headlands and verges, important refuges and corridors for wildlife, including threatened hedgehogs. Unlike a barren wall or fence a hedge is alive. That is why hawthorn is called quick when it is planted as a hedge. You can eat the green leaf-shoots in spring. Children used to call them bread and cheese. The hawthorn blossoms in May which is why it is often called May. The berries are called haws. There's an old saying, Many haws, many shoes, many cold toes: a lot of berries are a sign of a hard winter to come. There is a beautiful legend that Joseph of Aramatheia came to Glastonbury and stuck his hawthorn staff into the ground. It grew and flowered at Christmas. The hawthorn at Glastonbury still flowers at Christmas as well as in May. Without boundaries and patterns in their lives people do not blossom and flourish. The market has become not just a god but God. Market economy is the new religion. Supermarkets are its cathedrals and churches, shopping its sacraments, and advertising its sermons. Everyone has become subservient to the economy. It was President Truman who, when asked many different questions used to say, It's economy stupid, as if economics ruled everything. But economics literally mean household management. Mankind is responsible for his affairs and needs to manage them instead of letting them manage him.

May Day is also the feast of St. Philip and St. James.

From A Calendar of Wild Flowers.



REEPHAM & WENSUM VALLEY
TEAM CHURCHES

Pew Notes

11th to 17th May: Christian aid week , Christian Aid envelopes available for people to pick up at the Methodist Church and St Mary's Church in Reepham, Motts Pharmacy, Reepham Post Office and The Bircham Centre

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 3rd May 2025

9am Matins, St Andrew's, Thurning

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

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



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.

Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)

Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." [The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank. Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."

Psalms 30

1 I will exalt you, O LORD, because you have lifted me up and have not let my enemies triumph over me.. 2 O LORD my God, I cried out to you, and you restored me to health. 3 You brought me up, O LORD, from the dead; you restored my life as I was going down to the grave. 4 Sing to the LORD, you servants of his; give thanks for the remembrance of his holiness.. 5 For his wrath endures but the twinkling of an eye, his favor for a lifetime. 6 Weeping may spend the night, but joy comes in the morning. 7 While I felt secure, I said, "I shall never be disturbed. You, LORD, with your favor, made me as strong as the mountains." 8 Then you hid your face, and I was filled with fear. 9 I cried to you, O LORD; I pleaded with the Lord, saying, 10 "What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the Pit? will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness? 11 Hear, O LORD, and have mercy upon me; O LORD, be my helper." 12 You have turned my wailing into dancing; you have put off my sack-cloth and clothed me with joy. 13 Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing; O LORD my God, I will give you thanks for ever.

John 21:1-19

Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off. When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead. When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

Revelation 5:11-14

I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, singing with full voice, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing, "To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the elders fell down and worshiped.

The Collect O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*