

Words of Light and Hope 26 th October 2025 Helena Crockford LLM

This Sunday is Bible Sunday, 'a day set aside in the church calendar to celebrate the continuing impact the Bible has on individuals and communities through which God speaks so powerfully into our lives. The Bible makes clear that trouble comes to each one of us. But it is equally clear that God makes a difference in the midst of our troubles, and that His presence and power transform our lives in troubled times. So if we find ourselves in trouble today, God, as ever, has a word for us from his living word, the Bible, that will transform our lives.' (Scottish Bible Society).

It was only following the Reformation in the 16 th century that Bibles were translated into the vernacular language of that land.

Malcolm Guite's poem 'The Lectern' celebrates this:

Some rise on eagles' wings, this one is plain, Plain English workmanship in solid oak. Age gracefully, it says, go with the grain. You walk towards an always open book, Open as every life to every light, Open to shade and shadow, day and night, The changeless witness of your changing pain. Be still, the lectern says, stand here and read. Here are your mysteries, your love and fear, And, running through them all, the slender thread Of God's strange grace, red as these ribbons, red As you own blood when reading reads you here And pierces joint and marrow...So you stand, The lectern still beneath your trembling hand.

The Scottish Bible Society suggests that 'when you plant a seed...nothing seems to happen. You must wait, and it can take a long time. It won't be apparent quickly; we need to wait but it will grow if it is in the right conditions. It's the same with God's word. The results are rarely instant. Whether we are looking for global changes, or spiritual changes in our nation, or longing to know God in our own lives, the work of God through his word is a hidden one: when it is received there is no initial indication of the life transforming work that is going to come. And that transformation is rarely instant. It takes time for that seed to grow; for the hidden work of God in human hearts to bud and flourish; but bud and flourish it will. Patient waiting is rewarded with a harvest.'

Bishop Tony Footitt, in his book 'A calendar of Wild Flowers' writes about the autumn flower Orpine or Sedum (p.93), to represent the saints' day on 28 th October of St Simon who represents zeal, and St Jude who represents patience. The Bible is often a source of conflict, usually between a literal, zealous interpretation and a more liberal, patient understanding. Simon & Jude – zeal and patience – we need them both but especially patience as we seek to help establish Jesus' everlasting kingdom and peace in our conflict-ridden world.'



REEPHAM & WENSUM VALLEY
TEAM CHURCHES

Pew Notes

8th November: 10am—12 noon, Coffee Morning, St Margaret's, Swannington.

14th November: 6pm, Peace & Quiet, St Margaret's, Swannington.

16th November: 3pm, Sentiments of Christmas, Swannington

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 2nd November 2025

9am Holy Communion BCP, St Peter & St Paul's, Salle

10:am Café Church (Service at 10:30am), St Michael's, Reepham

10:30am Holy Communion, All Saints, Weston Longville

3pm In Memory Service, St Mary'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:

<https://www.reepham-and-wensum-valley-team-churches.org.uk/>

Collect

O God, forasmuch as without you we are not able to please you; mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Jeremiah 14:7-10,19-22

Although our iniquities testify against us, act, O LORD, for your name's sake; our apostasies indeed are many, and we have sinned against you. O hope of Israel, its savior in time of trouble, why should you be like a stranger in the land, like a traveler turning aside for the night? Why should you be like someone confused, like a mighty warrior who cannot give help? Yet you, O LORD, are in the midst of us, and we are called by your name; do not forsake us! Thus says the LORD concerning this people: Truly they have loved to wander, they have not restrained their feet; therefore the LORD does not accept them, now he will remember their iniquity and punish their sins. Have you completely rejected Judah? Does your heart loathe Zion? Why have you struck us down so that there is no healing for us? We look for peace, but find no good; for a time of healing, but there is terror instead. We acknowledge our wickedness, O LORD, the iniquity of our ancestors, for we have sinned against you. Do not spurn us, for your name's sake; do not dishonor your glorious throne; remember and do not break your covenant with us. Can any idols of the nations bring rain? Or can the heavens give showers? Is it not you, O LORD our God? We set our hope on you, for it is you who do all this.

2 Timothy 4:6-8,16-18

I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing. At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Luke 18:9-14

Jesus told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

Post Communion

Holy and blessed God, you have fed us with the body and blood of your Son and filled us with your Holy Spirit: may we honour you, not only with our lips but in lives dedicated to the service of Jesus Christ our Lord.