

Words of Light and Hope by Muriel Rogers

'They were all filled with the holy spirit and began to speak in foreign languages as the spirit gave them the gift of speech.'

'We hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.' Acts 2

I had arrived at Talua Theological College with my co-presenter, Andrew who was from Australia. I had been asked to help him present a workshop on writing skills at the college on Espirito Santo Island in Vanuatu. We were warmly welcomed, a flower garland hung around our necks and then we were absorbed into a dancing, singing snake of people heading for the church for a very special service.

Students usually enter the theological college as adults so the whole family moves there and lives in a small village. Everyone speaks a different language depending on which village or island they have come from so they all speak Bislama, a form of pidgin English, in order to overcome the language difficulties. All the college work, studying and essay writing, is done in English, their THIRD language!! Three of the lecturers attending our workshop were from New Caledonia and so spoke Kanaky. The lingua franca of New Caledonia is French so we had a French interpreter help us.

But what about this very special service? For the previous two weeks a team had been helping eight of the students translate one of the gospels, for the first time, into their own language. Two of the languages were oral languages, they had never been written down, and so before they could begin to translate they had to create alphabets. At this very special service, each of the students was going to read from their gospel translation.

As I listened to these readings and saw the expressions on the readers' faces I felt for the first time that I could truly understand the joy experienced by the crowd hearing the wonders of God in their own language.



REEPHAM & WENSUM VALLEY
TEAM CHURCHES

Pew Notes



BENIFICE SUNDAY SERVICE

GREAT WITCHINGHAM VILLAGE HALL

SUNDAY 31ST MAY

AT

10.30 a.m.

COME AND JOIN US

REFRESHMENTS SERVED AFTER SERVICE

For more information on any events please see our website or Facebook page or contact Joy to be on our weekly newsletter. If you have any events you would like advertised please contact Joy by email parishofficerwv@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

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

God, who as at this time taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Acts 2:1-21

2 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. **2** Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. **3** They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. **4** All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues^[a] as the Spirit enabled them. **5** Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. **6** When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. **7** Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans?" **8** Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? **9** Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,^[b] **10** Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome **11** (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" **12** Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"

13 Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine." **14** Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. **15** These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! **16** No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: **17** "'In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. **18** Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. **19** I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke.

20 The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. **21** And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

1 Corinthians 12:3-13

3 Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit. **4** There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. **5** There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. **6** There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. **7** Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. **8** To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, **9** to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, **10** to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues,^[a] and to still another the interpretation of tongues.^[b] **11** All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines. **12** Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. **13** For we were all baptized by^[c] one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

John 20:19-23

19 On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" **20** After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. **21** Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." **22** And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. **23** If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

Post Communion

Faithful God, who fulfilled the promises of Easter by sending us your Holy Spirit and opening to every race and nation the way of life eternal: open our lips by your Spirit, that every tongue may tell of your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.