

Words of Light and Hope from Muriel Rogers

Sicily

I hear the quiet put! put! of the old tractor. It must be time for breakfast. Life has settled into a gentle, regular pattern in the vineyard. I am part of a small group studying nature in Sicily. We are living in a beautiful old house (partly a museum to vineyards) on a working vineyard. The day starts early with a nature walk around the vines or helping to check the moth trap to see what has visited us overnight. The farmer arrives at 8am, dressed invariably in dungarees and starts up the old tractor, always eight o'clock on the dot. After breakfast we board the minibuses and spend the day exploring before returning to the courtyard at 4pm for canapes and numerous bottles of wine to taste while we talk about the day.

Today is Thursday and we don't know it yet but by the end of the day everything will look different. We are told that when we meet in the courtyard at 4pm we need to be dressed tidily as we have been invited out to dinner, where and by whom we don't know. 4pm arrives and we all board the minibuses and set off - where? We discover we are driving through Syracuse, through the pedestrian centre of the ancient city. Two policemen flag us down and indicate we should turn left and drive through some large gates. They tell us the Baron is waiting for us, as indeed he is, minus the dungarees on this occasion, wearing a crisp smart suit instead. We have just driven through the gates of the Baron's palace!

By the end of the evening we have had a guided tour of the palace, been to see a rare Caravaggio painting, learnt that the vineyard farmer is not just a Baron living in a palace, he is also the head of the knights of Malta (originally known as the Knights Hospitalier) and one of the world's experts on the artist Caravaggio.

Be careful about making assumptions about people you know little about, especially older people. Who knows the details of their life experience and talents!



REEPHAM & WENSUM VALLEY
TEAM CHURCHES

Pew Notes

Services for next week:

Monday 27th July:

12noon Porch Prayers, St Mary's, Reepham

Sunday 2nd August:

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

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

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

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

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: Revd Nigel: revd.nigelkinsella@gmail.com

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

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

Almighty Lord and everlasting God, we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern both our hearts and bodies in the ways of your laws and the works of your commandments; that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

1 Kings 3:5-12

⁵ At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, 'Ask what I should give you.' ⁶ And Solomon said, 'You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart towards you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today.' ⁷ And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹ Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people? ¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ God said to him, 'Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you

Romans 8:26-39

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes^[a] with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷ And God,^[b] who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit^[c] intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.^[d] ²⁸ We know that all things work together for good^[e] for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family.^[f] ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. ³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.^[w] ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.' ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Matthew 13:31-33

³¹ He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.' ³³ He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with^[a] three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.'⁴⁴ 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵ 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. ⁴⁷ 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁵¹ 'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' ⁵² And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

Post Communion

Strengthen for service, Lord, the hands that have taken holy things; may the ears which have heard your word be deaf to clamour and dispute; may the tongues which have sung your praise be free from deceit; may the eyes which have seen the tokens of your love shine with the light of hope; and may the bodies which have been fed with your body be refreshed with the fullness of your life; glory to you for ever.