

Words of Light and Hope from Muriel Rogers

Having created our nests within the confines of the coach, we were ready to face a journey into the interior. The powerful diesel burst into life and then we were off. Soon it was time to say goodbye to the tarmac road, it would be getting rougher and rougher from now on.

This was the start of the Northern Volcanic Zone in Iceland. As we travelled deeper into the zone we left behind all green and entered a harsh, unforgiving land where all life has to struggle to exist. The coach slowly clambered its way up a steep slope. As we crested the brow we saw laid out before us what can only be described as a moonscape, black lava as far as the eye could see; the only sign of the road was a rough dusty track across the never ending black.

The landscape appeared to be totally barren but a closer view, as we stretched our legs, showed this to be totally untrue. Dotted around were small patches of vivid purple and bright pink (wild thyme, thrift and moss campion), some plants only big enough to hold a solitary flower.

Water in Iceland is a force to be reckoned with. Our journey took us across many streams and rivers, each of these had to be forded. With these rivers came life. Many of the rivers and streams were clothed in a brilliant lime green (fountain apple moss) and in one special place, this was accompanied by a carpet of deep pink (the aptly named arctic river beauty).

This summer what we have experienced here in Reepham, has shown us firsthand the importance of water, burnt brown grass coming to life again. A very small amount of rain has turned the grass green again. We have truly witnessed the phrase, 'the water of life'. As a church family, what 'water of life' can we offer? Maybe a listening ear, a quiet word, a helping hand, a cup of tea.



REEPHAM & WENSUM VALLEY
BENEFICE

Pew Notes

Services for next week:

Sunday 25th October:

9:00 am: Holy Communion, St Andrew's Thurning

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

10:30 am : Bible Sunday, Swannington

For more information on any events please see our website or Facebook page or contact the Benefice Development Administrator, Sharon, to receive our weekly newsletter or advertise any events.

Email Revd Nigel: revd.nigelkinsella@gmail.com

Email Sharon: parishofficerwv@gmail.com

FACEBOOK: Reepham & Wensum Valley Events

WEBSITE: www.reepham-and-wensum-valley-team-churches.org.uk

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>

Festival of Luke the Evangelist

Isaiah 35: 3-6

Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert;

2 Timothy 4: 5-17

As for you, be sober in everything, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

As for me, 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.

Do your best to come to me soon, for Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me in ministry. I have sent Tychicus to Ephesus. When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments. Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will pay him back for his deeds. You also must beware of him, for he strongly opposed our message.

At my first defence 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.

Luke 10: 1-9

The Mission of the Seventy-Two

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. Go on your way; I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' And if a person of peace is there, your peace will rest on that person, but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the labourer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'

The Collect - St. Luke the Evangelist

Almighty God, you called Luke the physician, whose praise is in the gospel, to be an evangelist and physician of the soul: by the grace of the Spirit and through the wholesome medicine of the gospel, give your Church the same love and power to heal; 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 forever.

Post Communion Prayer

Almighty God, who on the day of Pentecost sent your Holy Spirit to the apostles with the wind from heaven and in tongues of flame, filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel: by the power of the same Spirit strengthen us to witness to your truth and to draw everyone to the fire of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen