

Words of Light and Hope from Sue Page, LLM

Celebrating Advent means learning how to wait....

Not all can wait –
certainly not those who are satisfied,
contented,
and feel that they live in the best of all possible worlds!
Those who learn to wait are uneasy about their way of life, but yet have seen a vision of greatness in the world of the future and are patiently expecting its fulfillment.

The celebration of Advent is possible only to those who are troubled in soul, who know themselves to be poor and imperfect, and who look forward to something greater to come.
For these, it is enough to wait in humble fear until the Holy One himself comes down to us, God in the child in the manger.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Prayer

God of latent life and growing shoots,
We wait for You in an expectant world:
We long for Your wisdom to be at work in our lives
And, with our sisters and brothers,
We yearn for justice to be done on earth.
Amen

Christ's Coming

God did not wait till the world was ready,
Till nations were at peace.

God came when the nations were unsteady,
And prisoners cried for release.
God did not wait for the perfect time.
God came when the need was deep and great.
God dined with sinners in all their grime,
Turned water into wine. God did not wait
Till hearts were pure. In joy God came
To a tarnished world of sin and doubt;
To a world like ours, of anguished shame
God came, and God's light would not go out.
God came to a world which did not mesh,
To heal its tangles, shield it scorn.
In the mystery of the Word made flesh
The Maker of the stars was born.
We cannot wait till the world is sane
To raise our songs with joyful voice,
For to share our greed, to touch our pain,
God came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!
Madeleine Engels

Advent is a time of waiting....
As we wait to celebrate once again the coming of our God in Jesus
We wait and pray...
In Taizé we learn that true Prayer is Waiting.....
Prayer is waiting...intending...
.....and above all desiring God.
Prayer is a holding on to God,
until waiting, waiting we move into the knowledge that we are being held by Him
Brother Roger of Taizé



Pew Notes

Advent services across the Benefice

Monday 19th December

6pm, Carol Service, St Andrew's Wood Dalling

Tuesday 20th December

4pm, Dress Up Nativity, St Mary's Elsing

Wednesday 21st December

6pm, Carol Service, St Mary's Gt Witchingham

Thursday 22nd December

3pm, Carol Service, St Mary's, Bylaugh

Saturday 24th December

11am, Family Christmas Crafts and Treats at Gt Witchingham Village Hall.

Christingle

2pm and 4pm, St Mary's, Reepham
4pm, St Margaret's, Lyng

Midnight Mass

11.30pm at St Andrew's, Attlebridge, St Mary's, Reepham and St Mary's, Elsing

Sunday 25th December

9am, Holy Communion, St Peter and St Paul, Salle

9.30am, Family Service, St Andrew's, Thurning

10.30am, Holy Communion in St Margaret's, Swannington;

All Saints', Weston Longville; St Mary's, Elsing and St Mary's, Reepham.

10.30am Family Holy Communion at St Mary's, Sparham



The Rev'd. Helen Rengert, 01603 879275 revdhelenrwv@gmail.com

The Rev'd. Keith Rengert, 01603 879275 revdkeith@gmail.com

The Rev'd. Judith Sweetman, 07484862962 (Friday to Sunday)
judith.sweetman@btinternet.com

The Rev'd. Richard Turk, 07721 035009 revdrichardrwv@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

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.

**Readings for Sunday 18th December,
Fourth Sunday in Advent**

The Collect

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Isaiah 7:10-16 (NRSVA)

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

Psalms 80:1-7, 16-18

Qui regis Israel

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.

- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 4 O LORD God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbours, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
- 17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
- 18 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Romans 1:1-7 (NRSVA)

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through

whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 1:18-25 (NRSVA)

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:
"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,"
which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus