

Words of Light and Hope from Fran Neale

As we celebrate Pentecost today, I thought it would be interesting to focus on **wind** and **fire** and some of the pictures they conjure up for us. Both are forces which can do great positive things, but can also be hugely destructive.

First **wind**

The big, old four masted schooners, with their many sails were usually moved solely by the force of the wind.

Hebrew scholars (I'm not one of them!) know that the Hebrew word "ruah" or "ruach" may be translated as "wind", "breath" or "Spirit".

"Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
Ye clouds that sail in heaven along,
O praise him, alleluia."

Certainly in England and Holland and probably other countries, people have harnessed the power of the wind, as in windmills to grind wheat into flour, and wind pumps to drain unwanted water from farm land. And more recently there has been a proliferation of wind turbines to provide greener, cleaner energy.

"The wind blows where it likes, you can hear the sound of it but you have no idea where it comes from or where it goes". J B Phillips version.

Then **fire**

"Thou fire so masterful and bright
that givest us both warmth and light'
O praise him."

We don't use actual fires as much as people of even a century ago, but there are still camp fires, bonfires, wood burners, kitchen ranges, candles.....and probably more examples.

It is interesting to note that on the first Pentecost, the disciples saw the tongues of fire on one another's heads, not on their own. One could ponder different reasons and significance for this.....

"The flame shall not hurt thee, his only design
thy dross to consume and thy gold to refine."

Finally, if you have ever experienced such a strong wind that you could lean into it without falling over, or have been near enough to a bushfire to feel its heat, then you know how truly awesome both wind and fire can be.



Pew Notes

- **Pimm's and Hymns**—Sunday 4th June, 5pm at The Rectory, Lyng If you would like to sing in the choir, please email Laura laura@fordingbridge.com and join us for rehearsals at the Rectory on Friday 2nd June at 10am.
- An evening of **French gypsy jazz in the garden at Elsing Hall**, Saturday 10th June 6.30pm—Tickets £20 via www.norfolkchurchestrust.org.events
- **Reepham Churchyard Wildlife Day** Saturday 10th June from 10 - 12 noon. Follow the sensory nature trail and help to count the wildlife living in the churchyard. There will be a cake stall. Offers to make cakes to Sue Cripps please.
- **Guided Country Walk and Tea**—Sunday 11th June, 2pm from Collin Green Farm, Lyng. Tickets include tea £7.50 (adult), £3.50 (under 10s). Easy walking, no dogs, children must be accompanied. Contact Carol 872275 / Edwin 872522
- **Our Pet Service**— All well behaved pets are welcome to join us from 10.30am on Sunday 25th June at St Margaret's, Swannington for our annual pet service

Service for next week: Sunday 4th June — Trinity

9am	Holy Communion	St Peter and St Paul, Salle
10.30am	Morning Worship	St Mary's, Reepham
10.30am	Holy Communion	All Saints', Weston Longville
10.30am	OASIS	St Mary's, Sparham
10.30am	Holy Communion	St Mary's Elsing
5pm	Pimm's and Hymns	The Rectory, Lyng

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

The Rev'd. Keith Rengert, 01603 879275 revdkeith@gmail.com (Sunday only)

The Rev'd. Judith Sweetman, 07484862962 (Friday to Sunday)

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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

If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact your Parish Safeguarding Officer. Details in the church porch or on the RWV website.

Readings for Pentecost (28th May)

Acts 2. 1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

"In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.
Even upon my slaves, both men and women,

in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.

And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Psalms 104:26-37,37b

26 Yonder is the great and wide sea
with its living things too many to number, *
creatures both small and great.

27 There move the ships,
and there is that Leviathan, *
which you have made for the sport of it.

28 All of them look to you *
to give them their food in due season.

29 You give it to them; they gather it; *
you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.

30 You hide your face, and they are terrified; *
you take away their breath,
and they die and return to their dust.

31 You send forth your Spirit, and they are created; *
and so you renew the face of the earth.

32 May the glory of the LORD endure for ever; *
may the LORD rejoice in all his works.

33 He looks at the earth and it trembles; *
he touches the mountains and they smoke.

34 I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; *
I will praise my God while I have my being.

35 May these words of mine please him; *
I will rejoice in the LORD.

36 Let sinners be consumed out of the earth, *
and the wicked be no more.

37 Hallelujah!

Numbers 11:24-30

So Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again. Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. And a young man ran and told Moses, 'Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.' And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, 'My lord Moses, stop them!' But Moses said to him, 'Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD's people were prophets, and that the LORD would put his spirit on them!' And Moses and the elders of Israel returned to the camp.

John 20:19-23

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

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