

**Words of Light and Hope from
Helena Crockford (LLM)**

Today is Sanctuary Sunday, the close of Refugee Week.

An old Celtic proverb reads: 'It is in the shelter of each other that the people live.' Human warmth, welcome and friendship are all forms of sanctuary, something we can all work to offer to those we encounter.

The Bible has much to say about welcoming the stranger and lost:

I was a stranger and you welcomed me... Matthew 25:35

Have them make me a sanctuary, so that I may dwell among them.

Exodus 25:8

And the Word became flesh and lived among us. John 1:14

I am standing at the door, knocking; if you ... open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me. Revelation 3:20

Inderjit Bhogal has written the following prayer:

Migrant God, free from borders, your presence spans all creation.

You take sanctuary in us, in you is our eternal sanctuary.

We behold you in community with those uprooted from their homes by war, poverty, persecution

and extreme weather, especially those who make their way to these shores on small boats. Be the shelter of their lives.

Bless their courage and resilience in seeking freedom and sanctuary. Bring us to build cultures of welcome, hospitality and sanctuary for all; Community where there is conflict; Compassion where there is cruelty; Humanity where there is hatred; Hospitality where there is hostility; And so, to practice and proclaim hope.

In the Name of Christ.

Amen

There is an old reflection of hospitality from the Irish

Gaelic Rune of Hospitality, the Carmen Gadelica:

We saw a stranger yesterday.

We put food in the eating place,

Drink in the drinking place,

Music in the listening place,

And with the sacred Name of the triune God,

He blessed us and our house,

Our cattle and our dear ones,

As the Lark says in her song,

Often, often, often goes the Christ,

In the stranger's guise.

May God allow us to listen to the

Lark's song!

(Find out more at

<https://churchofsanctuary.org>)



REEPHAM & WENSUM VALLEY
TEAM CHURCHES

Pew Notes

- Saturday 1st July— **The Choir of Merton College, Oxford in Concert**, 7pm at St Peter and St Paul's, Salle. Tickets are £20 and available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/salle or call 0333 666 3366
- Sunday 2nd July— **Attlebridge Annual Garden Party** at Ashtree Farm, Station Road, Attlebridge, 12.30 to 2.30pm - Open Gardens, refreshments and BBQ. Entry £5 includes tea, coffee or squash and a hot dog, burger or veggie burger. Cakes stall and tombola to raise funds for St Andrew's Church.
- Sunday 2nd July— **Beach Mission BBQ**, 4pm at The Rectory, Lyng. Everyone is welcome £5 per person—contact Rev'd Richard to book.
- Saturday 8th July— **The Tarantara Choir : A Choir to Suit All Tastes**, 7.30pm at St Peter and St Paul's, Salle. Tickets: £16, Under 14s £8— available from Very Nice Things and the Farm Shop in Reepham, Bawdeswell Garden Centre or online: www.reephamrotary.org.uk/concert.

Services for next week: Sunday 2nd July — Fourth Sunday after Trinity

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
10.30am	Sung Eucharist with Merton College Choir	St Peter and St Paul's Salle

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)

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 25th June

Genesis 21:8-21 The child grew, and was weaned; and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. So she said to Abraham, 'Cast out this slave woman with her son; for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac.' The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. But God said to Abraham, 'Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named after you. As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring.' So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed, and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba.

When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bow-shot; for she said, 'Do not let me look on the death of the child.' And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. And God heard the voice of the boy; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, 'What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him.' Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. She went, and filled the skin with water, and gave the boy a drink. God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness, and became an expert with the bow. He lived in the wilderness of Paran; and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

Psalms 86: 1-10 , 16-end Inclina, Domine

- 1 Bow down your ear, O LORD, and answer me, *
for I am poor and in misery.
- 2 Keep watch over my life, for I am faithful; *

save your servant who puts his trust in you.

- 3 Be merciful to me, O LORD, for you are my God; *
I call upon you all the day long.

- 4 Gladden the soul of your servant, *
for to you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

- 5 For you, O LORD, are good and forgiving, *
and great is your love toward all who call upon you.

- 6 Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer, *
and attend to the voice of my supplications.

- 7 In the time of my trouble I will call upon you, *
for you will answer me.

- 8 Among the gods there is none like you, O LORD, *
nor anything like your works.

- 9 All the nations you have made will come and
worship you, O LORD, *
and glorify your Name.

- 10 For you are great; you do wondrous things; *
and you alone are God.

- 16 Turn to me and have mercy upon me; *
give your strength to your servant;
and save the child of your handmaid.

- 17 Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who
hate me may see it and be ashamed; *

because you, O LORD, have helped me and
comforted me.

Romans 6:1b-11 What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that

Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 10:24-39 'A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household! 'So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground unperceived by your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows. 'Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven. 'Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and one's foes will be members of one's own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

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