

Words of Light and Hope from Jane McClarty Officially, we are in the last days of summer, and autumn begins either this coming Friday 1st September (meteorological autumn) or at the autumn equinox (23rd September). Our reactions to this particular change of season are often quite strong: some of us feel melancholy at the prospect of leaves drifting from the trees and the coming winter, while others of us feel that September is the start of new things – which is probably the legacy of the timing of the school year! There is a wonderful poem in the Apocrypha, called the Song of the Three Jews (supposed to be the song of praise sung by the three friends of Daniel who were thrown into the fiery furnace). Part of it is used in the Book of Common Prayer where it is called the Benedicite (simply the first word of the poem, Bless!). This poem makes clear that all creation, including the varieties of the weather and the seasons, is created by God and exists to give God praise. ‘Bless the Lord, winter cold and summer heat; sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever’ it says. Perhaps we can reconcile ourselves to the more difficult weather of autumn and winter by thinking of it praising God in its own way – which in turn might make us resolve to protect the song of creation, under threat as never before, as far as we can. Mary Oliver’s poem imagines the natural world looking forward to the change of season – which perhaps will help us see it in a different light, ourselves.

Song for Autumn Mary Oliver

Don’t you imagine the leaves dream now
how comfortable it will be to touch
the earth instead of the
nothingness of the air and the endless
freshets of wind? And don’t you think
the trees, especially those with
mossy hollows, are beginning to look for
the birds that will come—six, a dozen—to sleep
inside their bodies? And don’t you hear
the goldenrod whispering goodbye,
the everlasting being crowned with the first
tuffets of snow? The pond
stiffens and the white field over which
the fox runs so quickly brings out
its long blue shadows. The wind wags
its many tails. And in the evening
the piled firewood shifts a little,
longing to be on its way.

Scripture quotations overlaid are from New Revised Standard Version Bible: Anglicized Edition, copyright © 1989, 1995 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. The Psalms are from the Book of Common Prayer, 1979.



Pew Notes

- Sunday 10th September, 9am-11am **Attlebridge Art and Produce Show**. Entries to be submitted in the morning— return at 3pm for a tea party and results. All welcome!
- Sunday 10th September, 10.30am— **Harvest Service**, St Mary’s, Gt Witchingham
- Saturday 16th September, 2-4pm **Exploring Prayer with “Why Pray?” by Denise Triessman** at St Michael’s, Reepham
- Sunday 17th September, 10.30am—**Harvest Service, St Andrew’s**, Attlebridge
- Sunday 17th September, 4pm— Wood Dalling **Harvest Afternoon Tea** (venue TBC)
- Sunday 24th September, 10.30am—**Harvest Service**, St Mary’s, Reepham
- Sunday 1st October, 4pm—**Tea and Tents**, The Rectory, Lyng
- SAVE THE DATE—Friday 13th October, **Harvest Supper** at Hall for All, Weston Longville.

Services for next week: Sunday 3rd September — (Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity)

9am	Holy Communion	St Peter and St Paul’s, Salle
10.30am	Morning Worship	St Mary’s, Reepham
10.30am	Holy Communion	St Mary’s, Elsing
10.30am	OASIS Harvest Service	St Mary’s, Sparham
10.30am	Holy Communion	All Saint’s, Weston Longville
4pm	Songs with Cider	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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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.**

Exodus 1:8—2:10 Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. He said to his people, ‘Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.’ Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labour. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labour. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, ‘When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live.’ But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, ‘Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?’ The midwives said to Pharaoh, ‘Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.’ So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, ‘Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live.’

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. When she could hide him no longer

she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him. The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. ‘This must be one of the Hebrews’ children,’ she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh’s daughter, ‘Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?’ Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, ‘Yes.’ So the girl went and called the child’s mother. Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, ‘Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.’ So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh’s daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, ‘because’, she said, ‘I drew him out of the water.’

Psalms 124 *Nisi quia Dominus*

- 1 If the LORD had not been on our side, *
let Israel now say;
- 2 If the LORD had not been on our side, *
when enemies rose up against us;
- 3 Then would they have swallowed us up alive *
in their fierce anger toward us;
- 4 Then would the waters have overwhelmed us *
and the torrent gone over us;
- 5 Then would the raging waters *
have gone right over us.
- 6 Blessed be the LORD! *
he has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth
- 7 We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; *
the snare is broken, and we have escaped.
- 8 Our help is in the Name of the LORD, *

the maker of heaven and earth.

Romans 12:1-8 I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Matthew 16:13-20 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, ‘Who do people say that the Son of Man is?’ And they said, ‘Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’ He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ Simon Peter answered, ‘You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.’ And Jesus answered him, ‘Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.’ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.