

Words of Light and Hope from Tony Footitt.

Monkshood – Augustine of Hippo - 28th August.

Monkshood is a rare flower in the wild but common enough in gardens. Each flower is a miniature monk's hood. A teacher's academic gown and hood are derived from the monastic habit. St. Augustine of Hippo was a wild and passionate man, but was converted through the love and prayers of his mother Monica. One day an unseen voice in the garden urged him to take up and read a book lying on the table. It was open at Romans 13.14: Put on the Lord Jesus and make no provision for the body to gratify its desires. He was so moved by this message that he was baptised and ordained and although not a professed monk, he was eventually chosen as Bishop of Hippo in Algeria. He was a precursor of African Christianity, of which Trevor Huddleston, Desmond Tutu and Nelson Mandela have been such fine recent heroes. Augustine was one of the great teachers of the early Church, and wrote over 100 books. His autobiographical Confessions, and his visionary City of God, have continued to be a considerable influence since his death on 28th August 430. We can certainly empathise with this great scholar when he complained about the soaring price of oil for his lamps!..... Although few teachers wear monastic gown and hood these days, their profession plays a vital role in society.

(From A Calendar of Wild Flowers.)

Merciful Lord, who turned Augustine from his sins,
to be a faithful bishop and teacher:
grant that we may follow him in penitence and discipline,
till our restless hearts find their rest in you;
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 for ever. Amen. (Common Worship.)



REEPHAM & WENSUM VALLEY
TEAM CHURCHES

Pew Notes

6th September: 2:30—4pm Broken Planet?, St Michael's, Reepham

12th September: 6pm Peace and Quiet, Swannington Church.

13th September: 9am—5pm Norfolk Churches Trust: Bike, Walk, Drive in the Norfolk countryside.

20th September: 3pm Afternoon Tea Concert with Serendipity at St Margaret', Swannington.

For more information on any events please see our website or Facebook page or contact Joy to be on our weekly newsletter.

Services for next week: Sunday 31st August 2025

10:30am Holy Communion St Mary's Reepham

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

To contact the administrator Joy, please either email or call 07770672329.

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:

<https://www.reepham-and-wensum-valley-team-churches.org.uk/>

The Collect

O God, who hast prepared for them that love thee such good things as pass man's understanding: Pour into our hearts such love toward thee, that we, loving thee above all things, may obtain they promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Isaiah 43:8-13

Lead out those who have eyes but are blind, who have ears but are deaf. All the nations gather together and the peoples assemble. Which of their gods foretold this and proclaimed to us the former things? Let them bring in their witnesses to prove they were right, so that others may hear and say, "It is true." "You are my witnesses," declares the LORD, "and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me. I, even I, am the LORD, and apart from me there is no savior. I have revealed and saved and proclaimed — I, and not some foreign god among you. You are my witnesses," declares the LORD, "that I am God. Yes, and from ancient days I am he. No one can deliver out of my hand. When I act, who can reverse it?"

Luke 22:24-30

A dispute arose among the disciples as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. But Jesus said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. "You are those who have stood by me in my trials; and I confer on you, just as my Father has conferred on me, a kingdom, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel."

Acts 5:12-16

The apostles performed many signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon's Colonnade. No one else dared join them, even though they were highly regarded by the people. Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number. As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by impure spirits, and all of them were healed.

Luke 11: 1-13

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples." He said to them, "When you pray, say: "' Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation. '" Then Jesus said to them, "Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him.' And suppose the one inside answers, 'Don't bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can't get up and give you anything.' I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity he will surely get up and give you as much as you need. "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

