Words of Light and Hope from Helena Crockford LLM

Today is All Saints Sunday, one of the nine major festivals of the church year, which marks the last month of the liturgical year with a season of remembrance. With All Souls on 2nd November, they give us a time to give thanks for those whose lives have borne witness to God's blessings. It is interesting how the saints, and the saintly in our midst, seem not 'other worldly' as one might expect, but more deeply human. This poem and prayer capture that.

'A Last Beatitude' by Malcolm Guite

And blessèd are the ones we overlook;
The faithful servers on the coffee rota,
The ones who hold no candle, bell or book
But keep the books and tally up the quota,
The gentle souls who come to 'do the flowers',
The quiet ones who organise the fete,
Church sitters who give up their weekday hours,
Doorkeepers who may open heaven's gate.
God knows the depths that often go unspoken
Amongst the shy, the quiet, and the kind,
Or the slow healing of a heart long broken
Placing each flower so for a year's mind.
Invisible on earth, without a voice,
In heaven their angels glory and rejoice.

Prayer: For All the Saints by Janet Morley

For all the saints who went before us
who have spoken to our hearts
and touched us with your fire,
we praise you, O God.

For all the saints who live beside us
whose weaknesses and strengths
are woven with our own,
we praise you, O God.

For all the saints who live beyond us
who challenge us to change the
world with them,
we praise you, O God.

Dates for your diary.....*(see our website for more information)*

Pre-Christmas Coffee Morning - St Margaret's Church, Swannington, 10am-12pm 21st November. Raffle, Tombola, Christmas gifts etc (and lots of cake!)

'Oh Yes it is!' The History of the English Pantomime – a talk by Jim Stebbings at St Margaret's Church, Swannington, 2.30pm 29th November, £10 with seasonal refreshments, tickets from pamela.smith@btinternet.com

Music for the Season with Singing for All Community Choir and Taverham Brass Band – Hall for All, All Saint's Church, Weston Longville, 7.30pm Wednesday 2nd December, £10 on the door (under 16s free), free seasonal refreshments.

REEPHAM & WENSUM VALLEY BENEFICE

Pew Notes 1st November

Upcoming Sunday services

- **Sunday 8th November – Remembrance Sunday**
  9.00am Mattins, St Andrew's, Thurning
  10.45am Remembrance Service, St Mary's, Reepham
  10.30am Remembrance Service, Village Hall, Gt Witchingham

- **Sunday 15th November**
  10.00am for 10.30am Café Church, St Michael's, Reepham
  10.30am St Andrew's, Attlebridge
  10.30am Mattins, St Peter & St Paul, Salle
  (Mattins replacing Evening Prayer at Salle until Spring 2027)

- **Sunday 22nd November – Christ the King**
  9.00am Holy Communion, St Andrew's, Thurning
  10.30am Holy Communion, St Mary's, Reepham
  10.30am St Margaret's, Swannington

- **Sunday 29th November – 1st Sunday of Advent**
  10.30am Benefice Communion Service, St Mary's, Reepham

Contacts:
Rector: Revd Nigel revd.nigelkinsella@gmail.com
Benefice Development Administrator: Sharon, parishofficerwv@gmail.com
If you would like to receive our weekly e-newsletter or advertise any events please email Sharon

If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact your Parish Safeguarding Officer, details in the church porch or on the RWV Benefice website: https://www.reepham-and-wensum-valley-benefice.org.uk

All Saints' Day

1 John 3.1-3

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.

And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Matthew 5.1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:
'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Collect

God of holiness, your glory is proclaimed in every age: as we rejoice in the faith of your saints, inspire us to follow their example with boldness and joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Post Communion Prayer

God, the source of all holiness and giver of all good things: may we who have shared at this table as strangers and pilgrims here on earth be welcomed with all your saints to the heavenly feast on the day of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

REEPHAM & WENSUM VALLEY BENEFICE

The Reepham and Wensum Valley Benefice

has a new website address

www.reepham-and-wensum-valley-team-churches.org.uk

is now

www.reepham-and-wensum-valley-benefice.org.uk

please use the new address on any information