Words of Light and Hope from Muriel Rogers

My mind wandered as we gently bobbed up and down in a small boat on a sea loch near Ardnamurchan, Scotland. It was a fine warm day and the white cottage, we were calling home for the week, glistened as it nestled in the lee of the mountain cliffs behind it. We were having a relaxing break on the Isle of Carna, a small island, about 600 acres in total. The island held 3 houses, one of which was empty and the other occupied by the island's caretaker. There were no roads or lanes on the island, only the odd track. It was truly a wild piece of Scotland, home to otters and eagles. We were quietly fishing for mackerel.

When it came time to head home, James pulled the starter cord. I waited for the quiet chug of the engine but all we heard was a sharp twang as the cord snapped. It snapped so close to the engine housing that there was nothing left to pull. Undeterred, we unshipped the oars and started to row, we didn't have far to go. We rowed but remained in the same place, the tide was stronger than us, we were going nowhere.

On the mainland we could see workers from the fish farm coming and going. We needed help but how to let them know? We each took an oar and held them pointing to the sky. After a few minutes a boat approached, and we were asked what was wrong. They laughed and climbed on board. In no time at all they had removed the engine housing and were then able to pull what little cord was now showing and start the engine. With promises that they would inform the caretaker, and no doubt add their own comments about the state of the boat, they headed back to work.
There are many people who are more than willing to help but sometimes they need to be informed that there is something wrong. I sometimes wonder what would have happened to us that day if we hadn't have taken the oars with us. Don't ever be ashamed to ask if you need help.

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

'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), seasonal refreshments on arrival.

REEPHAM & WENSUM VALLEY BENEFICE

Pew Notes 15th November

Upcoming services

- **Sunday 22nd November – Christ the King**
  9.00am Holy Communion, St Andrew's, Thurning
  10.30am Holy Communion, St Mary's, Reepham
  10.30am Praise & Thought, St Margaret's, Swannington
- **Sunday 29th November – 1st Sunday of Advent**
  10.30am Benefice Communion Service, St Mary's, Reepham
- **Wednesday 2nd December**
  7.00pm Choir & Band, All Saints, Weston Longville
- **Sunday 6th December – 2nd Sunday of Advent**
  9.00am Holy Communion, St Peter & St Paul, Salle
  10.30am Holy Communion, St Mary's, Reepham
  10.30am Morning Prayer, Weston Longville
- **Sunday 13th December – 3rd Sunday of Advent**
  10.30am Carols, Village Hall, Great Witchingham
  3.00pm Carols, St Mary's, Reepham
  5.00pm Candlelight Carols, St Andrew's, Thurning

Visit our website to see all December services across the Benefice

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

Readings for Holy Communion - Attlebridge

1 Thessalonians 5. 1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Matthew 25.14-30

'For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Reading for Café Church - Reepham

1 Corinthians 13

If I speak in the tongues of humans and of angels but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers and understand all mysteries and all knowledge and if I have all faith so as to remove mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions and if I hand over my body so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part, but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see only a reflection, as in a mirror, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love remain, these three, and the greatest of these is love.