

All Saints' Church

Cottenham with Rampton



Pastoral Letter #6

22th April 2020

Dear Church Family,

I do hope that this letter finds you well and that you had a happy Easter.

I very much enjoyed delivering the Easter cards during Holy Week as part of my daily exercise. It was lovely seeing where you all live (an opportunity I don't get very often) and to marvel at your beautiful front gardens (Edward and Gill Kramer) and abundance of rhubarb (Alan and Janet Johnston). Thank you to Alison Wedgbury for delivering the books and Easter eggs for our regular Church children; it's lovely to hear that they were appreciated.

Whilst we weren't able to meet together physically during Holy Week, approximately ten of us got to grips with Zoom (video conferencing) which enabled us to 'gather' for evening reflections each day. I really valued the experience of visually seeing members of the Church family, hearing their voices, and worshipping together. As this was such a positive experience, Cheryl Lowe will be arranging Evening Prayer on Sunday evenings at 6pm for the foreseeable future through Zoom. If you want to join us (using Zoom is free and actually quite easy to use) please let Cheryl (cheryl@cynewulf.co.uk) or I know, and we'll send you a link to the service.

It was positive to see that the Easter Service live-streamed on Facebook on Easter Day had 175 views and reached 214 people. Whilst I doubt that all 175 watched the whole of the service, it is encouraging that many people who might not usually engage with the Christian faith have chosen to do so in these difficult times. As a church, we will need to think how we continue to engage with people online once the crisis is over.

Given how popular online services have become, I plan to continue with these during the lockdown. You may be pleased to know that I have created a YouTube channel for the church and the weekly service will be uploaded to both Facebook and the Church website on Sundays around 10.30am. This will enable those not on Facebook to also access the service. Sermons will continue to be available in written form on the website and will also be posted/hand delivered to those without Internet access. Hopefully all of you are finding some way to worship whether this is online, watching or listening to a television or radio service, or following printed material in your own home.

For your prayers, please could you remember the following:

- Janet Hudson following Martin's funeral on Wednesday 22nd April
- Rona Gardner and Brenda Morphet as they recover from surgery
- Jean Wilmshurst and Pat and John Easterling who remain unwell
- All those working in the NHS and care homes during the pandemic

- Staff and residents at Fitzwilliam House and Cottenham Court
- Parents juggling working from home with home-schooling and caring for their children, particularly those with very little ones
- Those caring for elderly relatives
- Grandparents missing their grandchildren
- Ken and Elizabeth Hewitt as they celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary (60 years) on Thursday 23 April and give thanks for a long and happy marriage.

If you are using the 'Prayer and Worship from Home' resource and saying Morning and Evening Prayer, you might like to know the Lectionary (set) readings for the week ahead:

Sat 25 th April	Exodus 18:13 to end; Colossians 4: 2 to end
Sun 26 th April	1 Peter 1: 17-23; Luke 24: 13-35
Mon 27 th April	Exodus 19; Luke 1: 1-25
Tues 28 th April	Exodus 20: 1-21; Luke 1: 26-38
Wed 29 th April	Exodus 24; Luke 1: 39-56
Thurs 30 th April	Exodus 25: 1-22; Luke 1: 57 to end
Fri 1 st May	Exodus 28: 1-4a, 29-38; Luke 2: 1-20

The readings from Exodus feel very relevant at the moment. God led the people of Israel out of Egypt into an uncertain future, where they had to rely on him for their every need. He led the way with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night and never left them, however much they grumbled and rebelled. All he asked them to do was *trust* him. And that's what we're called to do in these troubled times. I always find it comforting that the last words Jesus says to his disciples at the end of Matthew's gospel is that he will be *with them always*, to the very end of the age. A great promise on which we can depend.

Do keep in touch with each another, offering prayer and support as needed. If you need assistance with anything, don't be afraid to ask.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and evermore. Amen.

Best wishes, Lynda

Rector of All Saints Cottenham with Rampton

01954 583651 rector@allsaintscottenham.org.uk