

All Saints' Church

Cottenham with Rampton



Pastoral Letter #8

6th May 2020

Dear Church Family,

One virtue which is much needed today is *resilience*: the ability to bounce back. It's a vital trait when events have, in various ways and to varying degrees, knocked over or crushed so many people. Now, as we glimpse – faintly and far away – the light at the end of the tunnel and with it the ending of this dreadful period, many are raising questions about the future. Most of these questions hinge on resilience. How quickly, if at all, are we, our country and our churches going to bounce back? And, it's probably wise to ask some questions before bouncing back, in particular, whether there are things we have learned in lockdown that we'd want to take with us into the new 'normal'. Certainly, as we think about church, we know that we will need to maintain a better online presence for those unable or uncertain about coming to church on a Sunday morning, and to continue with a regular Pastoral Letter as people are saying that they value the sense of feeling part of community that it brings. As the country prepares for an easing of the lockdown, let's be ready to help each other to 'bounce back' and find a new normal. We know that it will be a while before church buildings re-open, so worship online and in our homes will continue for the foreseeable future, but please hold in your thoughts and prayers those who have worked throughout (as key workers), and others as they prepare to return to work. There are, of course, other things we'd like to take with us into the new 'normal' – the sense of neighbourliness that has emerged during the crisis with people being willing to help one another more, families spending more time with each other, and a greater sense of community as a village. Long may they continue.

I do hope that most of you with Internet access were able to view Sunday's service. As a reminder to those who are less confident, these are the steps to follow:

1. Type All Saints Cottenham into the search bar at the top of your Internet screen
2. Click on the search result – All Saints Cottenham. This brings you to the 'Home' page with a picture of the church in the middle
3. On the left hand side of the screen, click 'Sunday Services Online'
4. Half way down the page, click on the underlined purple title of Sunday's service - *10th May - 'I am the Way'* - this will take you to YouTube
5. Click on the arrow in the middle of the screen and enjoy!

I hope that the rest of you are engaging with something spiritual on a Sunday, either through the television or radio, or by using the Prayer and Worship Booklet along with the daily reading. It's a good discipline to keep the Sabbath in some way or another.

Services and events happening this week are:

Fri 8th May at 2pm – Weekly Bible Study on 1 Corinthians led by Frances Horgan using Zoom. If you've downloaded Zoom and want to join, please let me know and I'll send you the link.

Sun 10th May – online service available on Facebook and YouTube from early on Sunday morning. Watch at whatever time is convenient to you.

Sun 10th May at 11am – coffee and chat after the service using Zoom. Do join us and catch up with one another.

Sun 10th May at 6pm – Evening Prayer using Zoom led this week by Alison Wedgbury. If you want to join, please let Cheryl Lowe (cheryl@cynewulf.co.uk) know, and she'll send you a link to the service.

For your prayers, please could you remember the following:

- Those who are missing contact with loved ones
- Those unwell at this time, particularly Jean
- All those working in the NHS and care homes during the pandemic; all other key workers keeping vital services going
- Parents continuing to juggle working from home with home-schooling and caring for their children
- For the light at the end of the tunnel – for the government as they decide how to move forward in lifting restrictions and keeping us safe at the same time
- For peace throughout the world as we prepare to mark the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day.

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

Sat 9 th May	Exodus 40: 17-end; Luke 4: 31-37
Sun 10 th May	Acts 7: 55 to end; John 14: 1-14
Mon 11 th May	Numbers 9: 15-end; Luke 4: 38-end
Tues 12 th May	Numbers 11: 1-33; Luke 5: 1-11
Wed 13 th May	Numbers 12; Luke 5: 12-26
Thurs 14 th May	Numbers 13: 1-3, 17-end; Luke 5: 27-end
Fri 15 th May	Numbers 14: 1-25: 7; Luke 6: 1-11

We are currently updating the Church Directory. If you are not presently in the directory, or your details have changed in any way, please let Matthew Unwin-Riches, Parish Administrator know (admin@allsaintscottenham.org.uk or 252298 Wed mornings).

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

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