

All Saints' Church

Cottenham with Rampton



Pastoral Letter #10

20th May 2020

Dear Church Family,

When out walking about the village at the moment, you cannot avoid seeing pictures of rainbows in people's windows and doors. Rainbows are everywhere as signs of gratitude for our heroes in the NHS and social care sector for what they are doing to save lives and care for people in the Covid-19 pandemic. To see a rainbow there has to be sunshine and showers, and you have to be looking up into the sky to notice it. Heroes emerge in times of challenge and danger to save us, and we notice them because we realise *now* we need them, even though they have been there all the time. Sun and rain are common, but when we see them combined in a rainbow we look on in wonder and gratitude, sensing some significance. We remember that the rainbow was a sign to Noah after the flood – God's ongoing promise to protect, not destroy. It is a sign of *hope*, the promise that danger will pass and we will come out the other side.

We see rainbows because of the reflection, refraction and dispersion of sunlight in the water droplets of the rain. The colours are all part of the clear pure light that we see by and which bring us day. What we glimpse when we see a rainbow is that, for pure light, all colours are present, needed, included. Spread out in a rainbow, they are a beautiful arc across the earth, like humanity made in the image of God, diverse yet one.

None of us can possess a rainbow. It is for all to see, and you cannot get closer or further away from it. The promise it holds that danger will pass and there are good things ahead is there for us all equally. We are always the same distance from that promise whenever we can see the rainbow, never closer or further away, whichever direction we travel.

So, as we see rainbows, let us remember God's promise that the Holy Spirit will be present in the sunshine and the showers, within the diversity of human life which, only when we notice and are grateful, will bring about the fullness of light and love.

Thank you for your positive comments about the online services. As you can imagine, it's been a steep learning curve over the last few weeks. Please follow the steps in Pastoral Letters 7 and 8 if you're not too confident in finding your way to the right place on a Sunday morning.

Services and events happening this week are:

Thurs 21st May at 7pm Ascension Day - Service with Holy Communion using Zoom. If you wish to join the service and receive a consecrated wafer to consume at home, please let Lynda know ASAP (safely prepared).

Fri 22nd 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 24th May – online service available on Facebook and YouTube from early on Sunday morning. Watch at whatever time is convenient to you.

Sun 24th May at 11am – coffee and chat after the service using Zoom. Do join us and catch up with one another. (The global problem with Zoom experienced last Sunday has been resolved. Lovely to think that churches worshipping worldwide overloaded the system!).

Sun 24th May at 6pm – Evening Prayer using Zoom led this week by Sarah Rossouw. If you want to join, please let Cheryl (cheryl@cynewulf.co.uk) know, and she'll send you a link to the service. During May and June, we are exploring the meaning of The Lord's Prayer, one line at a time. This week, it's 'Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven'.

For your prayers, please could you remember the following:

- The family of Rosalie Dunnico who died on Monday (Landlady of The White Horse, Cottenham for many years); and the family of Ruby Jean Blythe who died on 1st May
- Those with long-term ill-health and their families caring for them
- All those working in the NHS and care homes during the pandemic; all other key workers keeping vital services going; those developing a vaccine for Covid-19 and effective treatment for those seriously ill in hospital
- For our local schools as they begin to plan how to safely increase provision for more children from 1st June
- For the government as they implement their strategy to bring us gently out of lockdown, and for those who are worried at the possible consequences of this.

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 23 rd May	Numbers 21: 4-9; Luke 7: 18-35
Sun 24 th May	Acts 1: 6-14; John 17: 1-11
Mon 25 th May	Numbers 22: 1-35; Luke 7: 36 to end
Tues 26 th May	Numbers 22: 35 to 23: 12; Luke 8: 1-15
Wed 27 th May	Numbers 23: 13 to end; Luke 8: 16-25
Thurs 28 th May	Numbers 27: 12 to end; Luke 8: 26-39
Fri 29 th May	Numbers 20: 1-13: 7; Luke 8: 40 to end

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 on 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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