

All Saints' Church

Cottenham with Rampton



Pastoral Letter #12

3rd June 2020

Dear Church Family,

I read an interesting article today by Revd Canon J. John about *haste* as some of us emerge out of lockdown. In the same way that passengers on planes rush for the exit the minute the plane grinds to a halt (or even before!), there is a temptation for us to mentally 'rush for the exit'; to put, without any thought, the whole two months or so of lockdown finally and completely behind us as the restrictions are eased. Haste can be a dangerous thing and he suggests four things that we shouldn't forget:

1. We shouldn't forget *unfinished matters*. There may be things that we've been unable to do during lockdown, or things that we did briefly or badly. There may be flowers to place on the grave of someone whose funeral you couldn't attend, or a grieving friend you need to sit with and comfort. There may be apologies to make.
2. We shouldn't forget *unfulfilled promises*. Under difficult circumstances, it's human to make promises, whether to ourselves, to others or to God, of things we will do once it is 'all over'. These can quickly be forgotten. So, as lockdown is eased, there's an opportunity to re-consider these promises and, if made before God, to try and keep them.
3. We shouldn't forget *unacknowledged blessings*. Yes, it's been a difficult time, but for many people there were plus points too. We've had more contact with our neighbours, digital skills have been gained, books were read and parents have had more time with their children. You may have even had a deeper sense of God's presence or learnt more about him or dug deeper into the Bible. Why not take some moments to look back and thank God for those blessings.
4. We shouldn't forget *unexpected blessings*. Whilst the lockdown might have come quite suddenly, all those who managed to stay close to God during this time will, I think, have learnt something about themselves, their family or God himself. In the enforced separation from family and friends, many of us have found time to spend with God that we hadn't before. You may have found your priorities have changed. Try and hold on to these as life gets inevitably busier.

So, whilst it's tempting to move quickly on, it's wise to keep an eye on the past too. Let's pause for a moment before we join the crowd pushing for the exit.

It's lovely to hear of many of you enjoying the Sunday online service and the opportunities to connect with each other during the week by Zoom. However, do remember those without the Internet; a letter/card or telephone call is often very welcome.

Services and events happening this week are:

Fri 5th June 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 7th June – Online service available on Facebook and YouTube from early on Sunday morning. Watch at whatever time is convenient to you.

Sun 7th June at 11am – coffee and chat after the service using Zoom. Do join us and catch up with one another.

Sun 7th June at 6pm – Evening Prayer using Zoom led this week by Cheryl Lowe. If you want to join, please let Cheryl (cheryl@cynewulf.co.uk) know, and she'll send you a link to the service. During June, we are continuing to explore the meaning of The Lord's Prayer, one line at a time. This week, it's 'Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us'.

For your prayers, please could you remember the following:

- The families of Ruby Jean Blythe, Rosalie Dunnico, Valerie Stubbings and Ethel Kester who have recently died
- Those with long-term ill-health and their families caring for them, particularly Pauline Eke (Franklin Gardens) currently in hospital
- Those needing to remain in lockdown, particularly those living alone
- 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 Cottenham Primary School with increased numbers of children in school following the return of some pupils in Reception and years 1 and 6
- For those in positions of authority and responsibility in discerning the way ahead for the country.

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 6 th June	Joshua 6: 1-20; Luke 10: 17-24
Sun 7 th June	2 Corinthians 13: 11-13; Matthew 28: 16-20
Mon 8 th June	Joshua 7: 1-15; Luke 10: 25-37
Tues 9 th June	Joshua 7: 16 to end; Luke 10: 38 to end
Wed 10 th June	Joshua 8: 1-29; Luke 11: 1-13
Thurs 11 th June	Joshua 8: 30 to end; Luke 11: 14-28
Fri 12 th June	Joshua 9: 3-26; Luke 11: 29-36

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.

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