

All Saints' Church

Cottenham with Rampton



Pastoral Letter #18

15th July 2020

Dear Church Family,

WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR?

It was a lawyer who asked the question of Jesus. It produced the Parable of the Good Samaritan. When I was a raw curate and not very worldly wise I was in one of those small church groups that are supposed to be the life blood of the church, the basis of congregational growth – where we can really meet our fellow pew-sitter face to face and really get to know them in a friendly, domestic setting. The topic for that particular group was, “Who is my neighbour?”

In the group we had a lovely bloke called Chris who, as well as being one of our lay readers, was an executive with the National Coal Board. When we got to the bit when everyone was asked Jesus question of the lawyer, “What do you think?” we got a series of rather pious answers, including mine. When it came to Chris his answer was, “It’s my Christian duty to consume. That’s the law of supply and demand”. There was silence. Chris had suddenly brought the real world into that group of the most religious in our congregation. It was especially a conversion moment for me. But from that moment I had to face the reality of the world in which most people live: the world of the means of production, distribution and exchange.

This was the raw reality that Chris had introduced into that rather privileged church group, the basic economic law of supply and demand. The law we are all chained to: the chains we cannot lose. As a parish priest and as an industrial chaplain I lived and worked and prayed alongside those who were both victims and beneficiaries of this iron law. What mattered most was the companionship of work: the need to be needed, whatever our status, creed or colour.

We have still a long way to go at the moment before the law of supply and demand turns in our favour. However, as Lynda has well said, it’s not the supply and demand of material things we most miss but the supply and demand for the physical embrace of love and friendship with our family, friends and neighbours. That’s what that church group was really about.

God bless and keep safe

Ian

If you do not have access to the Internet (but have a DVD player) and would like a DVD recording of the weekly online service, please let Graham Appleby know (07803 932453).

Services and events happening online this week are:

Fri 17th July at 2pm – Bible Study on Zoom led by Frances Horgan. This week we will continue discussions using the final video of Jessica Martin’s “Holiness and Desire”. This week will be the last Bible Study for this term. The Bible Study group will reconvene in September.

Sun 19th July – Online service available on Facebook and YouTube from early on Sunday morning. Watch at whatever time is convenient to you.

Sun 19th July at 11am – coffee and chat after the service using Zoom. Do join us and catch up with one another.

Sun 19th July at 6pm – Evening Prayer using Zoom led this week by Sarah Rossouw. If you want to join, please let Cheryl Lowe (cheryl@cynewulf.co.uk) know, and she’ll send you a link to the service. Over the summer we are going to be focusing on the Apostle’s Creed.

For your prayers, please could you remember the following:

- Those known to you who have recently lost loved ones
- Those who are unwell and their families caring for them, in particular Joan Marsh (Mike’s mum) and Sheila Howarth (undergoing surgery on 15th July)
- For those suffering continuing anxiety because of disrupted family plans, end of furlough and uncertainties about jobs.
- Those who continue to shield so are unable to have much contact with family members
- All those working in the NHS and care homes
- For Lynda on annual leave – for good rest.

If you are using the ‘Prayer and Worship from Home’ resource, these are the Lectionary (set) readings for the week ahead:

Sat 18 th July	1 Samuel 4: 1b to end; Luke 20: 27-40
Sun 19 th July	Romans 8: 12-25; Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43
Mon 20 th July	1 Samuel 5; Luke 20: 41 to 21: 4
Tues 21 st July	1 Samuel 6: 1-16; Luke 21: 5-19
Wed 22 nd July	1 Samuel 7; Luke 21: 20-28
Thurs 23 rd July	1 Samuel 8; Luke 21: 29 to end
Fri 24 th July	1 Samuel 9: 1 to 14; Luke 22: 1-13

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, Revd Canon Ian Winterbottom and Maggie Appleby, ALM

In Lynda’s absence, please contact Graham Appleby, Churchwarden:

07803 932453 , appleby@me.com