

All Saints' Church

Cottenham with Rampton



Pastoral Letter #21

5th August 2020

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for completing the recent questionnaire. We had 67 responses which was fabulous. What was even more fabulous was hearing what you've been doing during lockdown to continue growing in faith. Almost 70% of you said that you have been joining the All Saints online service, with the majority of the rest of you joining a service elsewhere, either online, on the TV or radio. I'm a very happy vicar!

Just over half of you said that you will be returning to church now, with the rest wanting to wait until transmission rates in particular have reduced to a very low level. I totally understand this. Please come back when you feel able.

Last Sunday, we had our first service back in church which went very well. People have commented that they felt very safe with the safety measures in place – social distancing, handwashing, wearing of face coverings. People are able to sit where they want, either in a chair or one of the back pews. Somebody asked on the questionnaire why we hadn't moved to a 9.30am service or alternated between 8.30am and 10.30am. Due to the need to ensure our safety measures were effective, PCC wisely decided that our first services should be those where the numbers are traditionally lower, hence re-introducing the 8.30am first. This gives us an opportunity to tweak our processes before the larger 10.30am service re-starts in September. A couple of others asked about outdoor services, in particular the opportunity to sing. However, the Church of England guidance applies the same restrictions to outdoor services as it does indoor, so we wouldn't gain anything.

Thank you for your positive messages of support. It is so good to hear that you are enjoying the online services, Evening Prayer using Zoom and the Coffee and Chat at 11am. Lovely that the Pastoral Letters are being well received too. Rest assured that everything currently in place will continue for the foreseeable future.

As we continue to navigate our way through unprecedented times, can I encourage you to pray about what God is calling us as church to be and do in the communities of Cottenham and Rampton. Can you also think about your own needs, particularly if you're not returning to church anytime soon, and let me know if there are ways in which we can better support you, as well as thinking about how we can engage with those new to All Saints who have been joining us online. Please share your ideas with one another (and me!) as you chat about what church might look like in the 'new normal'. We are all capable of great ideas and God speaks to all of us in different ways, so please don't hesitate to share what you are thinking.

Services and events happening online this week are:

Sun 9th August – 8.30am Service of Common Worship Holy Communion at All Saints' Church, Cottenham.

Online service available on Facebook and YouTube from early on Sunday morning. Watch at whatever time is convenient to you. If you'd like a DVD of the service, please let Graham Appleby know (07803 932453).

Sun 9th August at 11am – coffee and chat after the online service using Zoom. Do join us and catch up with one another even if you haven't been before. It's really good to see one another!

Sun 9th August 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. We continue to focus on the Apostle's Creed.

For your prayers, please could you remember the following:

- Those affected by the blast in Beirut, the injured and the bereaved
- Those who have recently lost loved ones, especially the family of Edna Winter (Rampton)
- Those who are unwell and their families caring for them, in particular Joan Marsh (Mike's mum), Sheila Howarth, Pat Easterling, Pam Lumsden and Irene Winterbottom
- For those taking time off this summer, for rest and relaxation
- For those still shielding
- For the government and its advisors as they respond to an increase in Covid infections
- All those working in the NHS and care homes.

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

Sat 8 th Aug	1 Samuel 17: 55 to 18: 16; Luke 23: 36 to end
Sun 9 th Aug	Romans 10: 5-15; Matthew 14: 22-33
Mon 10 th Aug	1 Samuel 19: 1-18; Acts 1: 1-14
Tues 11 th Aug	1 Samuel 20: 1-17; Acts 1: 15 to end
Wed 12 th Aug	1 Samuel 20: 18 to end; Acts 2: 1-21
Thurs 13 th Aug	1 Samuel 21: 1 to 22: 5; Acts 2: 22-36
Fri 14 th Aug	1 Samuel 22: 6 to end; Acts 2: 37 to end

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