

All Saints' Church

Cottenham with Rampton



Pastoral Letter #22

12th August 2020

Dear Church Family,

I hope you've been enjoying (or surviving!) the unusually hot weather. No doubt normal conditions will resume by the weekend once the thunderstorms break the heatwave.

This week, I need to talk about financial giving to the Church; always a difficult subject.

All churches rely entirely on the support of generous Christians. Every person's giving is vitally important and helps to maintain the church building, meet the costs of keeping the church open (heat and light) and supports the ministry and mission of the church. During lockdown, when we were not able to hold services in the church, it was difficult for those who give through the plate to continue their giving, and financial contributions fell by over £2000. Coupled with a loss of hall bookings, our finances are down by over £5000 on the same period last year. We chose not to furlough Matt, our Parish Administrator, and he has performed a vital role in sending out communications during lockdown; however his hours have now been reduced to reflect a lighter workload.

I wonder if you'd allow me to ask several things of you:

- If you usually give through the collection bag, or through the envelope scheme, and have donations/envelopes waiting at home, could you please forward these to Frances Horgan, our Treasurer, so that she can pay them into the bank. Could you also consider moving over to the Parish Giving Scheme as this is such an easy way to manage your giving and is also a more efficient way for the church to claim Gift Aid on donations received. We'd be happy to forward you an information pack
- If you are relatively new to the Church and haven't given much thought to regularly contributing to the work of the church financially, can I encourage you to give this some serious thought and sign up to the Parish Giving Scheme
- If you currently give – thank you very much! But if you haven't reviewed your giving for some time, I wonder if you could give this some thought and consider whether you are able to increase your giving to help us reduce the shortfall?

We give, as Christians, because God has been generous to us; because Jesus gave; and because it's a way of living out our faith. Jesus says, '*Freely you have received, freely give.*' If, however, lockdown has caused you financial hardship, please ignore this request but talk to us about how we can help you through this difficult time. St Paul writes: '*Now you are the Body of Christ and each one of you is a part of it.*' Let's both support the Church and one another.

Services and events happening online this week are:

Sun 16th August – 8.30am Service of BCP 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 16th 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 16th 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), Julie Houghton and Aileen Pinfold (both Fellowship Tea ladies)
- Those who are unwell and their families caring for them, in particular Joan Marsh (Mike's mum), Sheila Howarth, Pat Easterling, Pam Lumsden, Irene Winterbottom and Annette Bothma (Sarah Rossouw's sister-in-law)
- 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-19 infections, and in how to respond to migrants/refugees crossing the Channel seeking safety and a future in the UK
- 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 15 th Aug	1 Samuel 23; Act 3: 1-19
Sun 16 th Aug	Romans 11: 1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15: 10-28
Mon 17 th Aug	1 Samuel 24; Acts 3: 11 to end
Tues 18 th Aug	1 Samuel 26; Acts 4: 1-12
Wed 19 th Aug	1 Samuel 28: 3 to end; Acts 4: 13-31
Thurs 20 th Aug	1 Samuel 31; Acts 4: 32 to 5:11
Fri 21 st Aug	2 Samuel 2: 1-11; Acts 5: 27 to end

Watch out for a new sermon series starting next week on the book of Jonah. Not to be missed!

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