

All Saints' Church

Cottenham with Rampton



Pastoral Letter #23

19th August 2020

Dear Church Family,

A few weeks ago I was channel hopping on the TV and I came across *'Richard E Grant's Hotel Secrets'*. I wonder if you've ever seen it. It was the first time I'd come across it, but I gather he travels around the world visiting extremely expensive and iconic hotels. In the episode I watched, he was in Tokyo at the Claska Hotel. There's something about Tokyo that I hadn't known before, and that is that there are more small dogs in Tokyo than there are small children. Fancy that! The owner of the Claska Hotel noticed that people liked to bring their dogs with them when they met their friends for coffee or lunch, so he decided to open up a dog grooming parlour in the basement of the hotel. Pets are dropped off for a shampoo and snip while their owners sip coffee! How wonderful!

That got me thinking. A hotel owner noticed the behaviour/preferences of his guests and decided to respond appropriately. I wonder if we've been noticing what the Holy Spirit has been doing during the pandemic? A popular definition of mission is to *'watch what God is doing and join in'*. How has God been at work in our villages over these last six months? As the 'scattered Church', have *you* noticed ways in which villagers are communicating differently, behaving differently, that invite us, as Church, to respond in ways we haven't before? For example, if people are asking questions about faith and life, and prefer to engage online, should we be thinking about running an Alpha Course through Zoom in the autumn or New Year? If people feel safe gathering in smaller groups, should we be looking at offering small services this Christmas which we repeat, knowing that we won't have a large Carol service?

It would be great if you could think about how you've seen God at work in Cottenham and Rampton over these difficult months and what this might mean for us, as a church, going forward. Please let me know your thoughts. Some of the most wonderful ideas will come from you!

Services and events happening online this week are:

Sun 23rd 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).

This week, we begin a new sermon series on the book of Jonah, over the next four weeks the sermons will be:

Aug 23rd - Jonah 1: A Passionate God

Aug 30th - Jonah 2: A Merciful God

Sept 6th - Jonah 3: A Persistent God

Sept 13th - Jonah 4: A Gracious God

If anybody would like to read the Bible passage or prayers for an online service, do please let me know, particularly if you haven't yet been asked.

Sun 23rd 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 23rd August at 6pm – Evening Prayer using Zoom led this week by Alison Wedgbury. If you want to join, please let Cheryl Lowe (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 young people adversely affected by the allocation of A Level and GCSE grades
- For those taking time off this summer, for rest and relaxation
- 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 22 nd Aug	2 Samuel 2: 1-11; Acts 5: 27 to end
Sun 23 rd Aug	Jonah 1: Matthew 16: 13-20
Mon 24 th Aug	2 Samuel 3: 12 to end; Acts 6
Tues 25 th Aug	2 Samuel 5: 1-12; Acts 7: 1-16
Wed 26 th Aug	2 Samuel 6: 1-19; Acts 7: 17-43
Thurs 27 th Aug	2 Samuel 7: 1-17; Acts 7: 44-53
Fri 28 th Aug	2 Samuel 7: 18 to end; Acts 7: 54 to 8: 3

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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