

All Saints' Church

Cottenham with Rampton



Pastoral Letter #25

2nd September 2020

Dear Church Family,

With Lynda on holiday, your letter this week is a team effort from Cheryl and Maggie.

Cheryl writes: I was watching TV with my daughter last week and one of the children in the programme we were watching asked his mother to make him a cloak so he could “be a hero”. It started me thinking about who my heroes are, not the heroes from movies who wear cloaks or save the planet, but the ones who have been real role models, people I aspire to be more like.

When I was younger I aspired to be like my childhood vicar’s wife, always elegantly dressed, never a hair out of place, an immaculate home and serving tea in china cups & saucers with beautiful cakes on doilies – I never quite got there, my hair and my home usually have a more ‘lived in’ look.

My heroes now are a more mixed bunch – a colleague who is giving up her spare room to a young friend who has been unexpectedly widowed; a friend who juggles the complex mental and physical needs of her family but is unfailingly cheerful and caring whenever you meet her; people who have adapted to lockdown by learning all kinds of skills they never thought they would need (including Lynda learning to record and edit our Sunday services and my Mum who at 88 has mastered using zoom so she can stay in touch with her church and family); another friend who asked if a meeting could be rearranged as the suggested afternoon was their ‘sabbath time’ to be alone with God. All people who show traits that I can admire and have a chance of imitating.

Then I was watching a service from another church online and their vicar was speaking about the passage in Matthew 16 where Jesus asks the disciples ‘who do you say I am?’ and wanted the disciples not to give Him the answers from the crowds but their own answers, gained from their experience of knowing Him and being with Him. And it occurred to me that while it was good to try and be more like my heroes, that maybe I should encourage them by telling them what I had learned – or was trying to learn – from their example.

Through much of the lockdown we went out every Thursday evening to clap for carers, telling NHS staff and key workers that we appreciated what they were doing. May I encourage you to give a hoorah to heroes and tell the individuals you admire what they mean to you.

Services and events happening online this week are:

Sun 6th Sept – 8.30am Service of Morning Prayer at All Saints’ Church, Cottenham, led by Alison Wedgbury.

Online service available on Facebook and YouTube from early on Sunday morning (recorded by Lynda). 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 and next week, we continue our way through a sermon series on the book of Jonah:

Sept 6th - Jonah 3: A Persistent God

Sept 13th - Jonah 4: A Gracious God

Sun 6th Sept 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 6th Sept at 6pm – Evening Prayer using Zoom led this week by Sarah Rossouw. If you want to join, please let Cheryl know (cheryl@cynewulf.co.uk), and she'll send you a link to the service. We continue to focus on the Creeds.

Starting in September (date to be confirmed) there will a fortnightly bible study on a Wednesday evening. This will alternate with a service of compline and prayer, both being on zoom. If you are interested in joining either or both of these please let Cheryl know (cheryl@cynewulf.co.uk).

A service of Holy Communion with the sick and housebound may now be celebrated in individual's homes. Communion will consist of bread that has previously been consecrated. If you would like to participate in communion at home, please contact Alison Wedgbury, Sue Hooks or Maggie Appleby; contact details are in the Church directory.

For your prayers, please could you remember the following:

- For those places in the world affected by conflict or disaster: Beirut, Belarus, the Yemen;
- Those who have recently lost loved ones;
- Those who are unwell and their families caring for them, in particular Joan Marsh (Mike's mum), Sheila Howarth, Janet Johnston and Irene Winterbottom;
- For schools and colleges as they return for the new academic year;
- All key workers and those working hard to find a vaccine for Covid-19;
- For Lynda and Martyn as they take a two-week break (Sat 29th Aug to Sat 12th Sept).

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

Sat 5 th Sept	2 Samuel 17: 1-23; Acts 10: 17-33
Sun 6 th Sept	Jonah 3: Matthew 18: 15-20
Mon 7 th Sept	2 Samuel 18: 1-18; Acts 10: 34 to end
Tues 8 th Sept	2 Samuel 18: 19 to 19: 8a; Acts 11: 1-18
Wed 9 th Sept	2 Samuel 19: 8b-23; Acts 11: 19 to end
Thurs 10 th Sept	2 Samuel 19: 24 to end; Acts 12: 1-17
Fri 11 th Sept	2 Samuel 23: 1-7; Acts 12: 18 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, Cheryl and Maggie.