

## All Saints' Church

Cottenham with Rampton



### Pastoral Letter #26

9<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Church Family,

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

Alison writes:

I love finding connections between people and places. I like detective stories and quizzes (when I'm not reading serious books on theology, ethics and prayer of course!).



Here's a quiz question:

What's the connection between the All Saints' sermon series on Jonah and Nineveh and a famous detective?



The answer: Archaeology

Every winter in the 1950s, Agatha Christie would go with her famous archaeologist husband Max Mallowan to the Middle East, including to the site of ancient Nineveh in Iraq. Amongst the ruins of that great Assyrian city were found amazing statues, friezes and cuneiform writing that Jonah himself may have seen. Agatha Christie carefully cleaned the beautiful ivory carving above, the 'Mona Lisa' of Nineveh. While in Iraq, Agatha wrote some of her Hercule Poirot novels including 'Murder in Mesopotamia', set in Nineveh. Today you can see impressive Assyrian treasures in Gallery 23 of the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge.

It's wonderful what can come out of ruins. Cities, cultures and human lives may suffer terribly but also revive. We can see that in the monthly newsletter from one of the Christian charities that we at All Saints' Church support. Tearfund works today in Iraq, in Nineveh (modern day Mosul). After the terrible destruction of war and the murderous actions of IS in recent years, people are returning to their ruined villages to rebuild homes and lives. Many thousands of Christians had been driven out but are now returning. Iraq is still officially a 'fragile state' but, in Nineveh/Mosul, Tearfund is helping women and men to re-start local businesses, schools are opening, and people of different faiths are learning to live together again. Buildings may still be in ruins, but human goodness overcomes disaster.

We are all connected, all children of God. Many of us experience the loss of jobs, homes or loved ones. Our own hopes may have been in ruins at times. But we too can pray these words from the Autumn 2020 Tearfund magazine article about Iraq:

*Home is where the hope is,*

*the hope of Christ,*

*the hope of a new day,*

*the hope of a love that never fails.*

Whatever happens in our lives, wherever we are, in Cottenham and Rampton or elsewhere, we too can trust in that hope, that love that never fails.

Services and events happening online this week are:

**Sun 13<sup>th</sup> Sept** – 8.30am Service of BCP Holy Communion at All Saints' Church, Cottenham, led by Revd Lynda Davies.

**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 come to the conclusion of our sermon series on the book of Jonah. This week, it's Chapter 4: A Gracious God.

**Sun 13<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> Sept at 6pm** – Evening Prayer using Zoom. If you want to join, please let Cheryl ([cheryl@cynewulf.co.uk](mailto:cheryl@cynewulf.co.uk)) know, and she'll send you a link to the service.

**Sun 13<sup>th</sup> Sept at 09.45-10.15 (ish)**- Junior Church on Zoom, with Bible story and very active participation!

For your prayers, please could you remember the following:

- Those affected by the stabbings in Birmingham and the shooting in Ipswich.
- For those places in the world affected by conflict or disaster. In particular at this time Yemen, as the situation worsens and Covid-19 takes hold, and Beirut and Belarus
- 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, John and Pat Easterling, Janet Johnston and Irene Winterbottom
- For schools and colleges as they return for the new academic year
- All those working in the NHS and care homes, and those working hard to find a vaccine for Covid-19.
- For Lynda and Martyn as they continue on their break (Sat 29<sup>th</sup> Aug to Sat 12<sup>th</sup> Sept)

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

Sat 12 <sup>th</sup> Sept	2 Samuel 24; Acts 13: 1-12
Sun 13 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Jonah 4; Matthew 18: 21-35
Mon 14 <sup>th</sup> Sept	1 Kings 1: 5-31; Acts 13: 13-43
Tues 15 <sup>th</sup> Sept	1 Kings 1: 32 to 2: 4; 2: 10-12; Acts 13: 44 to 14: 7
Wed 16 <sup>th</sup> Sept	1 Kings 3; Acts 14: 8 to end
Thurs 17 <sup>th</sup> Sept	1 Kings 4: 29 to 5: 12; Acts 15: 1-21
Fri 18 <sup>th</sup> Sept	1 Kings 6: 1, 11-28; Acts 15: 22-35

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, Alison & Maggie