

All Saints' Church

Cottenham with Rampton



Pastoral Letter #30

7th October 2020

Dear Church Family,

It's hard to believe that this is Pastoral Letter #30. Who would have thought that they would have lasted this long! If you're finding them helpful, please do let me know. I plan to continue writing on a weekly basis for the foreseeable future unless lots of people tell me that it's too often. Feedback is always helpful.

I saw a post by the Diocese of Oxford last week that I thought useful to share. It says:

LIVING WELL THROUGH THE NEXT SIX MONTHS

Living with Covid-19 will be hard for everyone this winter. The Prime Minister has asked us all to observe the Rule of Six. There are lessons and challenges that Christians can draw from this number to help us live well in these times.

- **SIX MONTHS IS THE NEW HORIZON**
Focus on Easter and lean back into the great themes of the church year.
- **SIX DAYS TO WORK AND A SABBATH TO REST**
Reclaim the gift of one day each week for rest and re-creation.
- **SIX PEOPLE TO JOURNEY WITH**
Rediscover church as small groups of people supporting one another.
- **SIX WAYS TO BE SALT AND LIGHT**
Identify the people and community organisations you can support.
- **SIX PERCENT TO YOUR CHURCH**
If your income is stable, increase your giving to sustain the local church.
- **SIX PEOPLE TO PRAY FOR**
Pray for people you know to discover the riches of our faith.

“... neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Romans 8: 37-39

There's some good advice here I think. At the start of lockdown, we were being told to prepare for a marathon, not a sprint. And now, we're being told it's not a marathon but a triathlon. We all need to find patterns of living that will sustain us through the next six

months at least. It's obvious that Coronavirus isn't going away and that restrictions on what we're able to do will tighten and loosen as the infection rate increases and decreases.

Having a day a week for rest is good advice that has stood the test of time, having been established during the Israelite's journey to the Promised Land in Moses' time. Being part of a small group is also Biblical – just think of the disciples' time with Jesus, sitting and learning together in a small group. Whilst our small groups aren't meeting in person at the moment, there are lots of opportunities to meet via Zoom for Compline, Bible Study and Coffee and Chat. For those who fancy an informal chat mid-week, I'm introducing '*Brew at 2*' on Wednesdays via Zoom from 14th October. Use the link in today's email or contact me for more details. It will be nothing heavy, come and chat about anything you like.

Many of you are providing good support within the local community. It's a great way to witness in the villages in which we live.

I'm sure that Frances would be over the moon if people were able to increase their giving to the church. Our outgoings exceed our income by about £10,000 at the moment.

And do keep praying for each other!

It was lovely to be part of Alison's licensing service last week and to present her with her Reader's Scarf at the morning services. We look forward to her ministry among us. A new ordinand has joined us from Ridley – Hazel Davis. You will have an opportunity to meet/see her in the weeks to come.

Last Sunday we held our Vestry Meeting and APCM and elected Graham Appleby and Chris Lowe as our Churchwardens for this year. Graham Maile joined Edward Kramer as a Deanery Synod Rep and Nick Nourie joined the PCC as a new member. Thank you to everyone who serves the church in this way.

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,

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