

All Saints' Church

Cottenham with Rampton



Pastoral Letter #41

23rd and 30th December 2020

Dear Church Family,

It's been lovely this last week to receive photographs of the stone Baby Jesus given to every child in Reception at Cottenham Primary, with the challenge to create a manger for him. One of my favourites is this one from Joseph Carpenter (great Christmas name!) with two superhero figures playing Mary and Joseph. It forced me to reflect that Mary and Joseph were indeed heroes of their time. As a young woman, hardly more than a girl, Mary said yes to the task required of her by God in Gabriel's message, knowing something of the trouble ahead. And Joseph chose to stick by her, despite the wagging tongues, and raise the child as his own. What a great couple God chose to bear and raise his Son.



Christmas is almost here and we have services on Christmas Eve – 7.30pm in Rampton and 9pm in Cottenham, and then again on Christmas Day. The 8.30am service will be BCP Communion and the 10.30am will be Family Communion with the opportunity to share what Father Christmas has brought.

Whilst the levels of Covid-19 transmission in South Cambridgeshire are still much lower than the national average, it's inevitable that the new strain of Coronavirus we are hearing about in the news will lead to more cases in the coming weeks and months. For that reason, and to keep people as safe as we can, the PCC has taken the decision to suspend in-Church services from 27th December for the foreseeable future. Services will of course continue online, with only weddings and funerals taking place in the Church (unless Boris decides otherwise). I do hope you understand.

Do keep in contact with each other whilst we're away, particularly remembering those on their own at Christmas. I'm very grateful to Lesley Maile, Frances Horgan, Alison Wedgbury, Maggie Appleby, Cheryl Lowe, Sue Hooks, Jennie Steer and Ian Winterbottom for maintaining regular contact with folk and alerting me to specific need.

Please can you remember in your prayers those who are unwell: Peter Tilbury, Janet Johnston, Phyll Greed, Bob Ward and Jean Wilmshurst; and for the families of Gladys Bransom and Sean Fuller who have recently died.

Thank you to all who were involved in making the outdoor Live Nativity such a success on Sunday. Isabella and Elliott were fabulous as Mary and Joseph and Matt played a very convincing innkeeper. The real sheep and 'donkey' were wonderful.



If you haven't already, do watch the online Carol Service. You can find it by searching for the Church website www.allsaintscottenham.org.uk and then clicking 'Christmas 2020' on the left and then 'Online Carol Service' at the bottom of the page. There's the familiar readings, traditional Carols, O Holy Night by Prime Brass, and much more.



There will be an online service on Christmas Day and the next one will be on Sunday 3rd of January when we'll be celebrating the Epiphany. The next Coffee and Chat over Zoom will also be on Sunday the 3rd at 11am. If you've not joined for a while, why not come along and catch up with those you've not seen for a while?

As usual, I will be on leave in-between Christmas and New Year. Do contact the Churchwardens (Graham Appleby or Chris Lowe) in the first instance if you need a minister. It will be good to take a rest and enjoy some time with close family.

That just leaves me to wish you all a happy Christmas and a much better 2021. We look forward to the time when most of us are vaccinated and Covid-19 is a thing of the past.

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,

Revd Lynda Davies

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