

## All Saints' Church

Cottenham with Rampton



### Pastoral Letter #47

10<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Church Family,

Thank you to Alison Wedgbury and Maggie Appleby for pulling last week's letter together during my week of annual leave. As some of you will know, it wasn't the most restful of weeks as both Martyn's and my mother are unwell, mine recovering from Covid-19 in her care home. Having kept Covid out for best part of the year, it's really unfortunate that several of our care homes are struggling at the moment, Fitzwilliam House in the village included. Both staff and families need our ongoing prayers.

Thank you to all those who responded to the recent plea for financial support. There's been much in the news this last week (The Times) about the sustainability of many local churches with news that '*most dioceses intend to prune the number of clergy and diocesan staff*'. Here, in the Ely Diocese, each deanery (collection of churches in a local area) has been asked to compile a 'Deanery Plan' which will address, amongst other things, the number of clergy needed going forward. Cottenham with Rampton is fortunate to have its own Rector, but we place ourselves at risk if our outgoings are not met by our regular giving. If you haven't yet had the opportunity to respond, there is still time. You can donate online through the church website ([www.allsaintscottenham.org.uk](http://www.allsaintscottenham.org.uk)) or by scanning this QR code with your Smartphone, or set up a Standing Order through the Parish Giving Scheme. Huge thanks to Graham Appleby for setting up the online giving.



We seem to have hurtled through the season of Epiphany with Lent starting next week. As a Church we will be reading through the first 6 chapters of the book of Daniel, using Jeff Lucas' book 'Singing in Babylon'. This will form the basis of sermons throughout Lent and be the theme of Bible study during the Friday Bible study group. If you would like to join (via Zoom), please let me know. The book is easily available online if you want to purchase a copy. Video content will be released weekly as part of the National Big Church Read - you can access them through [www.thebigchurchread.co.uk](http://www.thebigchurchread.co.uk)

There will be an online Zoom service on Ash Wednesday at 7.30pm. If you would like some ash to mark your forehead during the service, please let me know and I'll get some to you.

This Sunday, we are in for a real treat. Our Junior Church families and leaders have planned and recorded much of the service with children of all ages taking part. Having seen some of the footage, I'm fear I may soon be out of a job! Do please come along to the service and support our youngsters – they're not just the church of tomorrow, but very much the church of today too (as are we all!).

Please can you continue to pray for:

- Those who are unwell, including Peter Tilbury, Rona Gardner, Bob Ward, Janet Johnston, and Pam Lumsden
- The families of Richard Gautrey, William Hornett, Mary Waldock and Pamela Dean who have recently died
- Those feeling especially alone this Valentine's weekend
- All those working for the NHS; and those rolling out the vaccine
- Those in severe economic need and those relying on Foodbanks
- Those struggling with mental health in this third lockdown
- Local teachers and teaching staff who are providing education for children of key workers/vulnerable children as well as teaching online
- Parents who continue to juggle work with home-schooling, not knowing how long for
- Our local care homes struggling with outbreaks of Covid
- The government and scientific advisors who are deciding the best and safest way forward.

A reminder that **Evening Prayer** continues at 6pm on Sundays through Zoom (contact Cheryl Lowe for the link). Do also prioritise **Coffee and Chat** on Sunday at 11am, again through Zoom. It's a great way to reconnect with the church family so come if you can. There's always a warm welcome.

If you need any help with anything or just fancy a chat, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

A prayer to finish – Prayer for the Nation:

Loving God,  
at this time of crisis  
when so many are suffering,  
we pray for our nation and our world.  
Give our leaders wisdom,  
our Health Service strength,  
our people hope.  
Lead us through these parched and difficult days  
to the fresh springs of joy and comfort  
that we find in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

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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