

All Saints' Church

Cottenham with Rampton



Pastoral Letter #49

24th February 2021

Dear Church Family,

I wonder if you were watching the livestream link to Cambridge Botanic Gardens last week waiting for the blooming of the infamous Moonflower, a rare cactus which hadn't previously flowered anywhere in the UK. The flower is usually found in the Amazon rainforest and this particular one was brought to the botanic garden in 2015. It's remarkable that this beautiful flower only lasts for 12 hours, just long enough to be pollinated. Whilst I wasn't glued to the livestream, I did enjoy watching news of the flower on the local and national news. It was lovely to hear Alex Summers, the Glasshouse Supervisor, regard the blooming of the Moonflower as 'symbolic of light in dark times', good timing for this to be flowering during a global pandemic and a reminder of the hope that our Christian faith also brings as we head towards Easter.



Things certainly do appear to be looking much better. The roll-out of the vaccine has been a tremendous success, the government has announced its pathway out of lockdown, snowdrops and daffodils are blooming and we've enjoyed some warmer, spring-like weather. The PCC meets on Tues 9th of March to discuss how and when in-person services in both churches should resume.

We continue through the book of Daniel for our Lent sermon series. This week, we'll be looking at chapters 3 and 4 as we think about how to live *courageously* as Christians. Many of you joined the Friday Bible Study – there's always room for more and huge thanks to Frances Horgan for leading.

During Lent, do take time (if you're able) to visit the churchyard. Many have taken the opportunity to tie a ribbon to the church gate to represent someone they are missing or have lost over this last year. There are plenty of ribbons in the porch or you can bring your own. There's also an opportunity to reflect on an aspect of Lent using the wonderful trees in the churchyard. Do have a look.

Usually during Lent, the Lent lunches raise money for our three charities: Tearfund, Cambridge Blind Mission and Jimmy's Nightshelter. If you'd like to make a donation to our Lent charities, please forward a cheque to Frances.



Alternatively, you can make a donation direct through each of the charities' websites. Until 20th May the government is matchfunding all donations.

Please can you continue to pray for:

- Those who are unwell, including Peter Tilbury, Rona Gardner, Bob Ward, Janet Johnston, Pam Lumsden, Pat Labistour and Joan Marsh
- The families of Pamela Dean and Mary and Cyril Waldock who have recently died
- Those struggling with mental health as the lockdown continues
- All those working for the NHS and in our care homes at this difficult time
- Those in severe economic need and those relying on Foodbanks
- Local teachers and teaching staff who are providing education for children of key workers/vulnerable children as well as teaching online and getting ready for all children to return in March
- The government and scientific advisors as we embark on a path out of lockdown.

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. There will be a service of **Compline** on Wed 3rd of March at 7.30pm – contact Cheryl Lowe if you'd like to join in.

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

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

Rector@allsaintscottenham.org.uk

01954 583651