

All Saints' Church

Cottenham with Rampton



Pastoral Letter #51

10th March 2021

Dear Church Family,

This Sunday is Mothering Sunday which, last year, was the first Sunday that services were suspended in church. The first national lockdown was announced the day after. Since then, of course, there have been two further lockdowns, and whilst the restrictions are slowly beginning to lift, most of us will be unable to have family time together this weekend. We remain thankful for the telephone and modern technology such as Zoom and Facetime, but we know it won't be the same. There is so much to look forward to later in the Spring/early Summer when, God willing, all limits on social contact will end. In thinking of our mothers this week, there's a lovely 'Mother's Prayer' in the Celtic Daily Prayer book I'd like to share with you:

May you always be
a strong arm to the weak;
and may you always be
a comfort to the crying;
a smile to the lonely,
a blessing to the grieving;
and may you always be
a haven for the anxious.

May your life be full of Jesus
and his love;
may you be God-driven by the
Father and the Spirit;
and may you be his hands
and smile
and be his hands of comfort.
And may you always be
his blessing to the world.
Amen.

This week we continue through the book of Daniel for our Lent sermon series. On Sunday, we'll be looking at chapter 8 as we think about how to live *trustingly* as Christians. Why not have a read of the chapter before the online service (or reading the sermon).

Do still add a ribbon to the church gate (if you haven't already) and have a look at the reflection cards on the trees. This week it's the turn of the flowering cherry tree. As I said last week, we are planning during Holy Week to construct a large Easter Garden just inside

the churchyard on the right but Ken and Anna will need some helpers. If this is you, please contact Ken on 251606.

At its meeting last night, PCC agreed to re-open the church for services from Good Friday. This was based on the following factors:

- The stay at home rule ends on the 29th of March
- Most of you will have had the first vaccine by then; some of you will have had the second
- The current rate of infection in the local area is very low
- The safety procedures – wearing of face coverings, social distancing, not gathering in groups afterwards – remains in place.

We very much look forward to seeing you.

As we continue through Lent, please can you pray for:

- Mums on their own this Mothering Sunday
- Those who are unwell, including Peter Tilbury, Rona Gardner, Bob Ward, Janet Johnston, Pam Lumsden and Pat Labistour
- The families of Mary and Cyril Waldock, John Easterling, Michael Saxby, Danny Granger, Dorothy Brannan and Joan Marsh (Mike's mum) 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
- For our local schools as they adjust to *all* children and young people being back. We pray especially for those who may be feeling anxious
- The Royal Family – for forgiveness and reconciliation.

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.

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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