

All Saints' Church  
Cottenham with Rampton



Pastoral Letter #60  
23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021

Dear Church Family,

While Lynda our Rector is on a well-earned break for a fortnight, here is this week's letter from me again, Alison Wedgbury, LLM (Reader).

The past week has been what you might describe as a 'typical' midsummer week, with more daylight, more rain, some storms but with the promise of more sun soon. For some of us it means more football, tennis or cricket matches to watch. For others it means more garden flowers or beans to pick. Maybe, by the time you're reading this, the temperature has risen again and you are enjoying more heat or protecting yourself against it. 'Taking care' can always mean both enjoying the world that God created and also being 'care-ful' of some of the world's effects.

Unsettled June weather nearly always catches us by surprise. That itself is a surprise because some of us have now seen a great many local summers in our lives and we know it really happens quite a lot! So, how do we react to being unsettled? To having big questions about the present and future?

Last Sunday's Gospel reading was Mark 4.35-41. Jesus calms the storm on the Sea of Galilee and also calms his disciples who have panicked. They have been seriously unsettled, about the physical storm and about their faith. They have been really scared of drowning, both literally and spiritually. That's the story the Junior Church families thought about this week. They were asked how they would feel if they were the disciples in that boat with Jesus and '*In what situations is it more difficult to feel able to cry out?*'. Clearly that question is not just for children.

The very young ones had a paper cut-out of Jesus, the boat and the waves and acted out the storm and then the calm. Their parents were encouraged to sing a song to the tune of 'Row, row, row your boat...': *Go, go, go with God, all the time today. Jesus hears you when you cry, and helps you every day.* Go on, try that song if you like. For older children there were lots of other suggestions to try during the week:

- ice some cupcakes with the word 'love' and give them to someone
- write personal prayers to God on a sheet of paper, make an origami boat and float it away on the river
- every evening, spent two minutes in quiet, praying about any 'storms' you are facing. Ask God to give you peace.

For some of us the month of June has been very unsettling in other ways, with the death of someone we love, with a diagnosis of illness, with a broken relationship. It seems hard to simply trust in God and ask for calm and peace.

But it's always worth doing.

Here is a prayer to God that is quick for anyone to say, last thing at night or if you can't sleep. They are simple but extremely deep words.

***'Compline'***

***Into thy hands  
I commend my spirit.***

***It fits in them  
Exactly.<sup>1</sup>***



Waiting is necessary, but not necessarily easy. We continue to look forward to the easing of Covid restrictions and vaccinations for many more people of all ages.

It is lovely that many people have returned to onsite services in Cottenham church on Sundays. At the same time, it is good to keep in touch by phone, letter, email, All Saints' Facebook, YouTube recordings and the Cottenham and Rampton church websites. Sunday Junior Church, Friday Bible study and Sunday evening services, live online on Zoom, are all connecting various people in special ways. We are blessed all round!

Finally, Lynda would like to remind you that as indoor visits are now permitted, she is very happy to do that when she is back from annual leave on 5<sup>th</sup> July.

**Until 5<sup>th</sup> July**, please phone one of the churchwardens who will help you with interim contacts: **Lesley Maile 07926 059917 or Chris Lowe 07752 804215**

The next pastoral letter will be in July.

Lynda's email is **rector@allsaintscottenham.org.uk**  
and her phone number is **01954 58365**.

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<sup>1</sup> Southgate, Christopher *'Compline', a poem in 'Rain Falling By The River, new and selected poems of the spirit'* (Norwich: Canterbury Press, 2017)