

**All Saints' Church
Cottenham with Rampton**



**Pastoral Letter #61
7th July 2021**

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for your thoughts and prayers during my annual leave. Martyn and I enjoyed a lovely week in West Sussex enjoying the beautiful South Downs and deserted beaches. We were very lucky with the weather! The weekend of our return culminated in the ordination of our new Curate, Marie. She introduces herself in the remainder of this letter. Marie is a self-supporting minister (SSM) and will be with us on a part-time basis. I'm very excited to be working with Marie and learning from each other. Do come along to church this Sunday and meet her in person – there'll be cake and Prosecco in the churchyard afterwards to celebrate her arrival.

“Hello everyone!

My name is Marie Lucchetta-Redmond. I'm half-French, half-Italian, and I've lived in Cambridge since the end of 1994. I have two grown-up children, Louis, a contemporary music composer living in Germany, and Lucie, a primary school teacher living just outside Cambridge. My husband Eamonn is Irish, so we have strong European connections.



I was brought up as a Roman Catholic in France in the Paris region, and I became an Anglican when I came to live in Britain for work. I have been a translator for 40 years. I have always been curious about people and their individual stories. I strongly believe that it is through language that we can better understand each other, our cultures, our ideas and our aspirations.

When I came to Cambridgeshire, I discovered that my neighbour was the curate of my local Anglican church. In a very biblical way, he kept knocking on my door and inviting me to church. I received the most wonderful welcome in the Church of England, and I am so grateful for that. My incumbent soon encouraged me to start writing intercessions. He then put me forward for training as an Authorised Lay Minister in Worship Leading. I absolutely loved that year of training. It was extremely interesting, like starting to really know the Church of England. I will never forget the day of my Authorisation. I got an incredible sense of belonging from it.



Soon after, I heard God's call again, nudging me still, and I trained for Lay Ministry. I became a Lay Reader in 2012 and wore my blue scarf with great joy. Then I thought that was it, I had really answered God's call. I was so wrong. I had become a volunteer speaker for Christian Aid, and whenever I would preach, give a talk, or facilitate a workshop, the local incumbent would ask me: *'Have you thought about ordination?'* I found it hard to imagine God would want more from me. I felt a bit like Mary on this picture on the left. I wonder if you know it. It is taken from a beautiful mural by Fra Angelico in what is now the Museo di San Marco in Florence but was once a monastery.

It is a depiction of the Annunciation that shows Gabriel with magnificent wings kneeling before a young humble Mary. And Mary's face seems to question God's decision: 'Are you sure?' The close-up picture of Mary's face with her questioning expression is very precious to me, because it reminds me of what it means to say 'Yes' to God. I am so glad I did. My years of training for ordination at the Eastern Region Ministry Course (ERMC) were intense but extremely valuable. What a privilege!



And now, I very much look forward to meeting you all in person and sharing in God's work with you in Cottenham. Many blessings to you all. See you soon!"

Do please keep your eye on the Weekly Sheet as there are various events coming up that will be of interest to you. If you're not in church, remember that you can view the Weekly Sheet from the church website, as well as watch the online service which contains the sermon and related prayers for that week. The online service returns this Sunday after my two-week leave.

Do continue watching out for one another, particularly those you've not yet seen. We are aware that a few folk need transport to return to church. If you're able to help in this way, do please get in touch with me. It's a wonderful way of serving the church community.

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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