

Winter 2019-20



The best present of all

A message from Lynda Davies

You can always tell that the season of Advent is upon us when major retailers launch their Christmas ads on TV, though most will already have been viewed on YouTube before they hit our screens. Many refer to the launch of the John Lewis Christmas ad as the starting gun for Christmas shopping. 2019 has so far been bigger, better, and more heartwarming than ever, with the little girl and her dragon taking the nation by storm. This overexcited dragon can't help but spew out fire, unhelpfully melting everything in his path including the town Christmas tree. But all comes good at the end when the dragon completes his destiny by doing only what *he* can do - lighting the Christmas pudding - and all previous mishaps are forgiven.



Sainsbury's this year introduces us to the character of 'Nick the Sweep', a little chimney sweep wrongly accused of stealing a Christmas orange. To reverse the wrongful conviction, a lovely lady (and witness to the event) seeks him out and rewards him with a

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**All Saints' Cottenham
with Rampton**

£1.50

The best present of all continued from page 1

sackful of oranges which then, in the dead of night, he puts in the stockings of the children in the town orphanage. The strapline “*If you can’t do something special for someone at Christmas, then when can you?*” is one that Sainsbury’s hopes will encourage us to shop at their store.

But the advert which is getting a lot of people talking is the one that didn’t cost millions to make, but just £100. Showing on social media and featured on the news is the advert by Hafod Hardware, a small hardware store in the Welsh town of Rhayader. The two-minute Christmas video featuring the owner’s two-year old son, Arthur, has gone viral. Many have said that it captures the true spirit of Christmas more effectively than the multi-million pound efforts of the big stores. The plot isn’t complicated. Arthur wakes up, brushes his teeth, eats his breakfast and heads to the shop. He serves customers, decorates a Christmas tree – and in the final shot magically turns into his thirty-year-old dad, ending with the strapline “*Be a kid this Christmas.*”



None, of course, contain any mention of the real reason for the celebration of Christmas. That yes, Christmas *did* begin with a small child – the birth of Jesus. How amazing that God sent his Son to earth as a tiny baby, to grow and live among us in human form, drawing to himself the most unlikely of people, and who continues today to seek to draw people from all walks of life. That, of course, has to be the greatest gift of Christmas.

There are many things I enjoy about being a Vicar, but one of the best has to be watching children’s nativity plays. However much they differ, they all tell the story of Mary and Joseph’s bumpy ride to Bethlehem, no room in the inn, shepherds of varying numbers out in the fields as angels appear to announce the arrival of a special child,



followed by the visit of wise men from the east bearing strange gifts. Watching, with proud parents, the wonder and joy of small children acting out the greatest story of all time, helps me to remember God's incredible love for each and every one of us.

May I take this opportunity to invite you to join us at a Christmas service to experience for yourself the awe and wonder of this special season. There's lots to choose from. Why not put aside the busyness of the season for a while, and reflect on what the coming of Jesus means to you.

And, as Christmas approaches, I pray that we may we keep a balance. To keep our buying in perspective, not to spend more than we need to, or can afford. Let us not give in to the pressures of this world and not equate love with money spent. Help us to always remember the many, many people who have so much less in material things. But, above all, let's remember that the greatest gift of all is Jesus.

Living Nativity tableau at All Saints' church, Rampton



Reflection by Ian Winterbottom

A reflection on justice in society, following the deaths of Jack Merritt and Saskia Jones on 29th November 2019.

One of the demands of Chaplaincy is to be a prophetic voice in the world of work. I was reflecting on this whilst visiting two magistrates' courts in response to a request for chaplains from Her Majesty's Courts Service.



Portrait of John Keble by George Richmond.

We might remember the famous sermon on National Apostasy preached in 1833 by John Keble at the opening of the Oxford Assizes. Keble denounced the nation for regarding the Church as a mere institution of society rather than the prophetic voice of God. It was a time of enormous social change. The Test and Corporation Acts, which had guarded the exclusive position of the Church of England, had been repealed in 1828. Catholic emancipation came in the following year. The Great Reform Act of 1832 created a parliament which, though still the church's legislature, was no longer purely Anglican or necessarily Christian. Keble's sermon marked the beginning of what later developed into the Anglo-Catholic movement within the Church of England. This reaction to the growing diversity of the nation is not dissimilar to the place of religion in our own time.

In the two courts I was privileged to attend I was impressed by the dignity, humanity and compassion, but also firmness, of the District Judge and of the three magistrates: a white man, a woman and an Asian chairman. Jack Merritt, the young Cottenham man whose tragic death we mourn, clearly wrestled with that difficult conflict between the demand for justice to be seen to be done and offering the opportunity for repentance, forgiveness, redemption and



The prayer corner at All Saints' church with a Book of Condolence in memory of Jack Merritt. Photograph by Joe Webster.

rehabilitation, replacing hate and rejection with love and hope. This sounds so much like the language of the Gospel: the love and will of God.

In an *Observer* article, Will Hutton (an agnostic) of the New Economics Foundation praised the Church of England for its openness and tolerance. The German post-marxist philosopher Jürgen Habermas has acknowledged the Enlightenment's debt to Christianity. His view is that religion deserves tolerance and respect because it promotes human equality before God and understanding of the important difference between what is wrong and what is evil. We have a great need to unlock the spiritual capital latent in faith communities, not only for our contribution to national debate on ethical issues but also as spontaneous providers of local services which dispense distributive justice to those in need. Powerful media voices argue for keeping religion a private, personal and marginal affair, and say that the only viable modern social and political culture is a totally secular one: there should be no place for religion in the public sphere.

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Yet it was the churches and mosques that provided the primary refuge and support for the victims of Grenfell Tower inferno and other tragedies.

A few years ago I was a guest of the Church of Sweden, *Svenska Kyrkan*, in City Centre Gothenburg. The Swedish Church had been more closely related to the state than the Church of England. The state, for instance, forced the church to ordain women and stopped all those who opposed this policy from being ordained priest. Its fraught relationship with the state was resolved in 2000 when it was disestablished and obtained the freedom to order its own life, worship and mission. With that freedom, the church in the city of Gothenburg had been completely revised to better fulfil its pastoral and missionary challenges in contemporary secular Sweden.

Many of us would argue that radical rationalism and individualism emasculate society morally and erode the essential life-enhancing ingredients of faith, hope, joy and meaning on which society prospers. We would distinguish between a secular political culture and a liberal, pluralist one in which all contributions are



St Clement & St James Church, Kensington, provided support to survivors of the Grenfell Tower fire.



heard, respected and valued. That is our best defence against religious or any other kind of extremism.

John Keble's warning was a timely one for his rapidly-changing age and for ours. Yet we might do well to look further back to Richard Hooker, the father of Anglicanism. He would have been indifferent to much of our present synodical introspection. Today, I guess he would be looking generously and openly outwards, obedient to the compassionate heart of God; urging the church independently to involve itself prophetically in the political, social, economic and media frameworks which actually determine the moral life and future of the nation and of the world. It's in court chaplaincy above all where the churches can speak prophetically of the love and compassion of God.



Statue of Richard Hooker outside Exeter Cathedral.

From the Registers

We welcome into the family of the church by baptism

17 November Emily Baggett
 Kitty Pitcher

We rejoice in the marriage of

7 September Polly Drew and Benjamin House

We commend into God's care those who have died

17 September Norma Burkett
20 September Anne Esgate
30 September Gerald Walker
18 December Lorna Young

Notes from St Norman's

continuing the series by Frances Horgan

Extracts from the diary of Martin Merriman, organist and choirmaster

December 12

Christmas has come early this year. I received my first Christmas card on November 24; something of a personal record. As a choirmaster whose responsibilities are many and various – the service music does not file itself – I am clear about the importance of good organization and getting ahead, but there are surely limits. Many people now buy their Christmas cards in early January, when they are cheaper; why not send them at the same time, when they are uppermost in our minds and we would be sure to avoid the Christmas rush?

As I embarked once more on the delicate task of putting together a programme for our annual carol service (the importance of including at least a couple of pieces written after 1900 while maintaining a sense of tradition and continuity can scarcely be overstated), I was struck, not for the first time, by the ludicrous incongruity of some of our best-loved carols. In an era when a few flakes of snow falling on Christmas Eve are headline news, the lines

*See amid the winter's snow
Born for us on earth below*

are oddly at variance with observed facts.

See amid the winter's fogs
might be better, but then there is the problem of the rhyme, and I am sadly no poet.

*See amid the winter's fogs
In his little baby togs*
is the best I have so far come up with.



Or what about

*In the dull late autumn
Rain was pouring down?*

I admit it doesn't have quite the same ring.

Choir practice was in church this evening, as we needed to organize the seating for the service. Normally I am delighted to practise in church. The acoustic is, I think it is fair to say, flattering, and while nothing can entirely eliminate the almost physical discomfort produced by exposure to Daniel Duckett's slightly flattened nasal tenor, the overall effect is significantly improved.



However, the annual debate over the seating arrangements for the carol service is one that I always approach with a certain measure of dread. Where should we sit? What should we sit on? Who should sit next to / in front of / behind whom? Who, being deaf in one ear, needs to sit on the far right of the group with his good ear towards the organ? Who will feel claustrophobic if placed next to a pillar? The questions go on and on, always the same, always insoluble. I close my ears and tell myself it will be alright on the night.

After twenty minutes of heated discussion, we took out our carol books and addressed ourselves to our first carol: Boris Ord's familiar setting of *Adam lay ybounden*. As I brought down my hand for the first beat, the choir took a collective breath. I also breathed deeply and reminded myself that profane words are unacceptable in the House of the Lord.

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Notes from St Norman's continued from page 9

“Shall we try that again?” I said. “And this time, do remember to breathe *before* you are supposed to come in.”

Valerie Parker cleared her throat, ominously. “The thing is, Martin, we *would* breathe before we were supposed to come in, if we knew *when* we were supposed to come in, which we don't because your beat isn't clear enough.”

I restrained myself, with some difficulty, from riposting that whether or not my beat was clear (which by the way it was, very), what was perfectly clear to all was that nothing in this world was ever Valerie's fault, and simply replied “OK, I'll try to make it a bit clearer next time. I'll give you two bars in.”

Our second attempt was considerably more successful. Canon Drinkwater was a little late coming in, but he admitted it and said he had been distracted by a spider. “Or a pink elephant,” I thought, but didn't say, remembering the canon's fondness for gin and the fact that the sun goes down early in the winter months.

Thirty minutes had now elapsed, and we had not progressed beyond the first page of the first carol, as Valerie Parker pointed out with self-righteous predictability. A successful choirmaster, like a successful general, knows how to turn his enemy's weapons against him.

“How right you are, Valerie,” I said. “And I heard from Duncan that you've not started your Christmas cake yet. The practice will finish on time *if* I have everyone's undivided attention for the next thirty minutes. Agreed?”

The choir practically saluted, and we romped through the next three pieces without further incident.

A great and mighty wonder!

The characters in this piece are fictitious. Any similarity to persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental.



Update on the work of the Friends
by Ken Hewitt and Graham Appleby

It is now a year since the first members of the Friends joined the growing numbers, with the intent to give financial support to All Saints' church building as a village asset in addition to a place of worship. Some 50% of the members are from the village and surrounding areas and are not from the worshipping community, which gives the Friends

a healthy balance of backgrounds, perspectives and interests.

Of course, All Saints' doors are open during the daytime for personal visits including quiet reflection for those of any faith or none. The Friends' committee members have been busy organizing fundraising events over the past year, with several planned for 2020 (see page 12).

We are grateful for the generous response in supporting the events during the year. The Helen Medlock Ensemble concert in January was a tremendous boost with a total of £1,505 raised for the official launch of the 'Friends of All Saints Cottenham'. Later in January, the Friends held its first AGM. In May we shared the proceeds of another Medlock concert with £823 for our funds.

The next event was a combined Cake Stall in front of the home of John and Pat Easterling and an Open Garden at the home of Ken and Dawn Marr. Our grateful thanks to the hosts of these events, the total for the day being £547. The Open Weekend with Tower Trips was very popular, raising £292, with a further private tower tour making an additional £45.

The Curry Palace was host to our next event when Mr Miah laid on a charity day for us by kindly donating 30% of the day's takings, making £645. Many villagers kindly turned out to support us and enjoyed a delicious curry.

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Friends of All Saints' continued from page 11

Membership subscriptions and donations amounted to £3,500, minus a small amount of publicity costs leaving a bank balance of £7,313 at the time of writing.

Forthcoming Events

A Wine tasting Evening has been arranged for 29th February 2020 in All Saints Hall at 7.00pm when Deborah Loveluck has kindly consented to conduct the tasting of a selection of wines with a professional appraisal of each one. Those remembering her last tasting session in 2014 will know we are in for a treat.

Graham Appleby and Ron Horgan are arranging an Astronomy Evening sometime in February to include talks of an astronomical nature and if skies are clear there will be opportunities to use telescopes to see some heavenly bodies. This will be accompanied by food and drinks, perhaps a barbecue or food in the Hall depending on the weather. Dates will be announced in due course.

The Medlock Ensemble has kindly offered to entertain and fund-raise for us again with another high-quality concert in All Saints' in March, most likely on Sunday 29th. The recent Medlock concert on Sunday 24th November 2019 in All Saints' was supported by some 250 people, raising a massive £2,900 for Camtrust. We look forward to her next exquisite programme.

Other ideas still floating in the background are a Ceilidh in church and an Auction of Promises.

The next Friends AGM will be on 27th February in All Saints' when officers and committee will be elected. Any offers?

New members are always welcome, as are new ideas. To join, use the form in the centre of this booklet, pick up a form in church or download one from: <https://friendsofallsaintscottenham.com/>
Membership renewals will start on 1st January 2020. For further information, contact Canon Ian Winterbottom, 54 Wilkin Walk, Cottenham, CB24 8TS ianwinterbottom@aol.com 01954 202018.

Pull out this leaflet and complete the form on page 16 to join the Friends of All Saints'.

Friends of All Saints Cottenham



Become a Friend of All Saints Cottenham

Your opportunity to help keep in good order this iconic
Grade-I listed building at the centre of the community

All Saints' Cottenham

The church of All Saints is a thriving Anglican community whose centre of worship is the well-known iconic church building at the north end of the busy village of Cottenham, South Cambridgeshire. A church has existed on this site for over 800 years. The building represents to many what it means to be a village; it is part of the landscape. Of course, the Christmas and Easter services in church are especially popular with Cottenham residents, there literally being standing room only for the annual Carol service! Through the years many weddings, christenings and funerals have been conducted there with a wonderful mix of joy, reverence and gratitude.

Funding Through the generosity of the 'core' worshipping community of All Saints' church, the running costs are met fully year on year, meaning that the building is kept warm and well-lit and most importantly that the church has its own minister, the Rector of Cottenham with Rampton. Recently the church building has undergone a major refurbishment programme with radical changes to the layout and a big improvement in access for the disabled. The improved, flexible space has already attracted several high-quality concerts, and has great potential for further events that will benefit the whole community. However, the stark reality is that very little additional funds exist for forward planning and for meeting the inevitable high cost of maintaining in good order this magnificent **Grade-I listed** building, much loved by the community at large. It is now imperative that we make plans for a secure future for the **church building**.

The building is much appreciated by the community – these are some comments written in the visitors' book:

A very peaceful and beautiful church - I love the East window; so glad the building is kept open and thank you to the person that I met here for your warmth and friendliness; visiting my grandparents, with happy memories of this church and village that will always be part of who I am; thank you for keeping church open for visitors; visiting Cottenham on behalf of American friend with family connections here - thank you for being open; thank you for keeping this piece of England's history for generations - enchanted with this church!; descendent of John Coolidge, Cottenham



It is our intention in forming a **Friends of All Saints Cottenham** to seek support, both practically and financially, from the countless families and individuals from the community at large who value and care about the upkeep and future wellbeing of the building. The skills and ideas of all the Friends will be vital to initiate and support a programme of fund-raising events, talks and other ideas that will be appreciated and enjoyed by as large a number of people as possible.

You are warmly invited to join the Friends of All Saints Cottenham and in doing so help secure the rich heritage of this unique building for future generations to enjoy.

The annual cost of membership is £10. Life membership is £100

To join the Friends, please fill in the form over the page

Let's Be Friends

The church has been serving the people of Cottenham for over 800 years. If you want to know that the building will be here and in good order for future generations to enjoy, why not join the **Friends of All Saints Cottenham**.

For a small annual membership fee, you will be supporting essential restoration projects. Please fill in your application below and hand to one of the Friends' committee members. Cheques should be made payable to 'Friends of All Saints Cottenham' and may be posted to Canon Ian Winterbottom, 54 Wilkin Walk, Cottenham CB24 8TS. ianwinterbottom@aol.com 01954 202018

Name	
Work/Home address	
telephone	
email	

Declaration: I hereby apply to join the Friends of All Saints Cottenham:
for 1 year (£10); for life (£100) [delete as applicable]
I agree that my contact details as written above may be stored in machine readable form for the sole purposes of receiving communications from the 'Friends'.

Signed and Dated:

Receipt: I hereby acknowledge receipt of £ (cash/cheque) from:

for *one year / life* membership of the Friends of All Saints Cottenham

Signed and dated by:

Position in the Friends' Committee:

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Hustings at All Saints' by Lesley Maile

A report on the event organised by Christians Together in Cottenham preceding the General Election of December 2019.

It was a wet night at the end of November and I didn't really want to leave the warmth of the house but I had never had the opportunity to go to a hustings before so Graham and I ventured out. Like many people, my mind was not yet wholly made up as to who I should vote for in the December election despite reading the newspapers, listening to the radio, receiving election fliers and discussing the matter with friends. I thought that having an opportunity to listen to all three of the candidates speaking at All Saints' would help me.

The church was bustling when we arrived and it felt a little strange as the altar rail had been removed and chairs were in position for the prospective MPs and for the chair of the meeting, Mike Smith. Graham pointed out that I had naturally gravitated to the place we usually sit for services but that was mostly because I have to lip read as well as using my hearing aids in order to work out what is being said. As it was, our sound system and the recent repositioning of the speakers on the pillars meant I was able to hear the proceedings well.

When the three aspiring politicians were ushered onto the platform by Mike, I had a strange sense of dislocation. They looked like their photos on the electioneering pamphlets that had been coming through the door and yet in a strange way they looked utterly unlike their photos! It is rather the disconcerting feeling one has, after watching Wimbledon on the television for many years, and then winning tickets to Wimbledon and actually going to the courts. It all seems familiar and yet the perspective is different! So it was when the three candidates spent a few minutes introducing themselves at the beginning of the hustings. Here were three seemingly very ordinary people, the sort you could meet any day in the post office queue, and yet they were attempting the extra-ordinary - to

become one of only six hundred and fifty MPs out of all the eligible millions of adults in the UK!

Before the hustings, questions had been submitted and fifteen were chosen. Lynda, our rector, was given the role of bustling round the church with a microphone as the questions were read out by those who had thought of them. The questions were wide-ranging, from expected issues such as the National Health Service, Trident, social housing and education to rather more light-hearted ones such as what qualities did the leaders of their party possess that the candidates most admired. The would-be MPs had just one minute to answer each question and were kept in check by placards held up warning them their time was running out and then that their time was up. Mike was an excellent moderator throughout: courteous but firm.

The candidates spoke in a different order each time and often one could anticipate their answers, as they were careful, on the whole, to toe the party line and to use their party's manifesto. What was more interesting was the manner in which each person spoke, the way they chose to express themselves and the personal details and experiences they brought to each question; their body language was fascinating too. In nearly two hours of questions and answers, carried out in a warm, polite (if at times a little heated) and informative manner, there was much to think about.

All three candidates passed the 'Lesley Maile suitability test' that I apply in many situations, which is "would I ask this person round for tea?" All three candidates had strengths: one had political experience already at high levels; one spoke very thoughtfully and did not use 'politician speak'; and one was very concerned about the injustice in society. They were interesting and thoughtful people. If you were to ask me if I would go to a hustings again, I would answer "yes" and go like a shot. If you were to ask me if it would help me choose how to cast my vote, then I would answer that in all probability it would make my choice even more difficult!

A Christmas version of I Corinthians 13

Borrowed from *Fourth Bridge*, the magazine of Episcopal Cursillo in Scotland

If I decorate my house with beautiful bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny baubles, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another decorator.



If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of mince pies, roasting a perfect turkey, and lay a magnificent table, but have no love for my guests, I am just another cook.



If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home, and give all that I have to charity, but do not have compassion in my heart for those in need, I am just another social service; it profits me nothing.



If I decorate the tree with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes and attend a myriad of holiday parties but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child.

Love sets aside the decorating to help one's wife with boring housework.

Love puts the Christmas present shopping on hold in order to run the elderly neighbour to the doctor.

Love is kind, though harried and tired.

Love doesn't envy another's home that has more expensive presents, or even coordinated Christmas china and table linen.

Love doesn't yell at the children to get out of the way; love is glad that they are there to be in the way.

Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return, but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, even irritating relatives.

It believes all things, and encourages teenagers to aim high for their future.

It hopes all things, endures all things, even a spouse who is depressed about their job prospects.

Love never fails other people.

Computer games will crash, even cashmere jumpers will wear out, and golf clubs will get lost. But the gift of love will endure forever.



A warring world awaits

A poem written by Ian Winterbottom in 2006 for the
Derby Forum of Faiths poetry competition

A warring world awaits,
Whilst the age-long rumour
Of a Universal Love
founders in fond but fearful faith,
whose timid troublesome territories
of untroubled certainties
leave untried
the deep-dreamed depths
of Divinity undivided;

an earth unhealed, un-whole,
where Sufi, Saint and Sadhu yet still shine.

A warring world awaits
the perfected paradise of persistent prophecy
of peace made present,
as two or three – or more
gather now with open hearts
in whatever Name they know.

Follow that star . . .

A poem written by Ian Winterbottom in the hope that
Derby would become a City of Hospitality

Listen, you who have ears to hear,
the machinery of justice groans
In distant unfamiliar speech.
The sun that bids us wake
now rests beneath the western sky,
and hour by hour
fresh lips are making Thy wondrous doings –
Prophets of our Christian doom.

But is the Way now lost – the Truth, the Life?
The Cross is carried
in a packed container,
beneath the Euro Star,
Britain bidding brightly –
Bethlehem – the West!

“O come to us, abide with us” we sing
and the groans – the distant unfamiliar speech
become Emmanuel – God with us.
Here is no Christian doom!
Hear, you who have ears to hear,
Jerusalem’s bells ring out
as, in harmony,
Crescent, Cross and Lotus
proclaim the Pentecostal City.

Lest we forget by Ken Hewitt

Back in November 2018 we commemorated the centenary of the 1914 – 18 war with Remembrance Services across the nation and beyond. Now, a few months on, it is largely forgotten except for a few with families torn apart by the conflict.

Several Cottenham families were all but wiped out in those dreadful years. As I walked around the village green alone, waiting for the roll of honour to be read out, my reflection was on a few stories my father told me of the war.

Rarely did he mention it, but some stories still stick in my mind, like the night he was sent out as a messenger, later to return to a shell crater where he had left his troop in the trenches. He escaped that one.

The next was when the water carrier on his back was riddled with bullet holes but missed his body.

The saddest story was at one Christmas when there was a one day cease-fire when soldiers on both sides left their trenches and greeted each other with gifts of tobacco and biscuits. They were then ordered back to their lines to resume the slaughter. How futile.

So many interesting stories have been told by old people when we were young but too bored with them to listen, then after they had gone, we wish we had.

Back on the village green, how different it might have been, I could have been walking round with my cousins and their families, except all my uncles were killed in the war and my father sent back to England wounded.

'Lest We Forget': sadly, most of the following generations have.



Above:
Remembrance poppies display
made by pupils of Cottenham
Primary School

Left:
Cottenham war memorial with
the names of village men who
died in the First World War

Below:
Wreaths at Cottenham war
memorial on 11th November
2018



Regular services and groups

The 10.30 am Sunday service takes place every Sunday in church. One Sunday a month is an All-Age service, other weeks are Holy Communion. See All Saints' Diary for the schedule for each month. Services always include hymns and are followed by fellowship with refreshments in the church hall.

Junior Church runs in term-time, except when it is an all-age service. We start in church, then go across to the hall, where the Samuel Group (older children) meet upstairs and the younger children downstairs. There is no lower age-limit, and parents are welcome to accompany their children until they settle. We have stories, songs, games and craft activities, and re-join parents during Communion. For more information contact Sarah Ward (sarah@wardhome.me.uk) or Alison Wedgbury (alisonwedgbury@gmail.com).

The 8.30 am Sunday service takes place every Sunday in church. This is always Holy Communion without hymns. On alternate weeks the Book of Common Prayer is used.

Morning Prayer is held on Saturdays at 9 am in church. Based around a simple liturgy, we spend up to forty-five minutes together praying for varied needs and seeking to discern what God is saying to us and the church.

Wednesday communion services take place at different locations in the village on a monthly pattern. Details are published in the weekly and monthly notice-sheets.

The **Evening Discipleship Groups** meet either weekly or fortnightly and include a Bible study, discussion, fellowship and prayer. Members aim to encourage and support one another and are always open to new members. To find out about what groups are currently running or planned, please contact Lynda Unwin (lynda.kingsfarm@gmail.com) or Revd Lynda Davies (583651, rector@allsaintscottenham.org.uk).

The **Daytime Discipleship Group** meets in term-time on Tuesdays at 1.30 pm. Anyone who is happy to study with small children present is welcome. If you are interested in joining, please contact Kirsten Burrows (kirsten.burrows@gmail.com).

The monthly **Fellowship Tea** is an opportunity for anyone to meet for prayer and a chat over afternoon tea. It takes place on the third Monday of each month in the Community room at Franklin Gardens from 2.30 to 4 pm. If you would like to know more, or if you require transport to and from the tea, please contact Sue Hooks (250560) or Maggie Appleby (200035).

Little Saints is a group for babies and pre-school children with their parents and carers. They meet in All Saints' Hall on Thursday mornings in term-time from 10 to 11.45 am. If you would like to know more, please contact Emma McCaughan (250827, emma.mccaughan@pobox.com).

Does God Matter (DGM) is run by Christians Together in Cottenham for secondary-school-aged young people who have a church connection and those that attend can invite a friend. They meet at Cottenham Baptist Church on some Sunday evenings from 6.15 to 8 pm. DGM is an opportunity for young people to chat about the universe, God and relevant issues in a café style environment and an opportunity to meet together, have fun and build positive relationships. For information and dates please contact Emma May (07917 714660, emma.may.uk@gmail.com).

All Saints' Choir usually practises in All Saints' Hall on Thursdays from 7 to 8 pm, but dates and times can vary. They practise hymns for the 10.30 Sunday services and learn other music for special occasions. New members are always welcome. For more information, contact Frances Horgan (horganfm@gmail.com).

All Saints' Praise Band plays at the All Age Service once a month and practises immediately before the service. If you play an instrument and would like to know more, please contact Emma McCaughan (emma.mccaughan@pobox.com).

All Saints' Bellringers practise in the bell tower most Wednesday evenings 7.30 to 9 pm. New members are always welcome and the team will be glad to provide training: if you would like to chat about it, call the Tower Captain, Simon Wilson (251105).

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Contributions for the next magazine are welcome.
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