

All Saints' Church

Cottenham with Rampton



Pastoral Letter #2

20th March 2020

Dear Church Family,

I do hope that this letter finds you all well. It is my intention to send out a weekly letter every Wednesday so, if there's anything you would normally send to the office to go in the Weekly Sheet, please send it to me by Monday evening.

This Sunday, the Archbishops have called for a National Day of Prayer. You can find more information at www.cte.org.uk/calltoprayer The Archbishop of Canterbury will lead a national virtual service which will be broadcast as part of the BBC Radio 4 Sunday Worship programme (and 39 local BBC radio stations) and online from 9am. It would be lovely if, as a Church, we were also all able to pray at 10.30am, the time when most of us would gather to worship. Please find, at the end of this letter, some prayers you can use. Songs of Praise is broadcast on BBC1 at 1.15pm, a special service for Mothering Sunday. Lots of choice! I will be in church at 8.30am celebrating the Eucharist alone, but on behalf of you all.

Going forward, both churches remain open for private prayer. I continue to say Morning Prayer in All Saints' Cottenham around 9am, and Evening Prayer sometime between 5 and 6pm each day. Please let me know of any prayer needs.

As I grapple with new technology – all the local clergy held a meeting using Zoom this week – I intend to record a service for next Sunday as we continue our sermon series on the book of James. More information on how you can access this will come in my next letter. I will also produce a resource helping you to worship at home.

Please can you continue to remember in prayer those who are unwell at this time: Jean Wilmshurst, Pat and John Easterling, Martin Hudson, Rona Gardner and Brenda Morphet. Rona and Brenda are recovering from surgery. Please also remember the family of John Smith whose funeral is on 26th March. Do also pray for me as I prepare to take my grandmother's funeral in West Sussex next Friday.

As I explained in my first letter, I or a member of the Church Leadership Team will be contacting you in the next week to ask if you are OK and offer any support you may need. Please don't be afraid of asking for help – we are a Church family and will want to support and encourage one another.

With love and best wishes,

Lynda

Rector of All Saints Cottenham with Rampton

Prayers for the National Day of Prayer

For those who are anxious

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

For those who are ill or isolated

God of compassion,
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.
In their loneliness, be their consolation;
in their anxiety, be their hope;
in their darkness, be their light;
Comfort and heal them,
through him who suffered alone on the cross,
but reigns with you in glory,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

For hospital staff and medical researchers

Gracious God,
give skill, sympathy and resilience
to all who are caring for the sick,
and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.
Strengthen them with your Spirit,
that through their work many will be restored to health;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

For the Christian community

We are not people of fear:
we are people of courage.
We are not people who protect our own safety:
we are people who protect our neighbours' safety.
We are not people of greed:
we are people of generosity.
We are your people God, giving and loving,
wherever we are, whatever it costs
For as long as it takes, wherever you call us.

Amen