

All Saints' Church

Cottenham with Rampton



Pastoral Letter #15

24th June 2020

Dear Church Family,

It's been lovely to open the church each morning and know that All Saints' Rampton is open too. There have been visitors each day to enjoy the quiet and tranquillity that the space provides. Thank you for leaving the little cards on the chairs so we know which ones to clean.

This morning I listened to a new song by John L. Bell which he has written to reflect our current experiences of physical separation and isolation. It's called 'We will meet' and the words are:

We will meet when the danger is over,
we will meet when the sad days are done;
we will meet sitting closely together
and be glad our tomorrow has come.

*Until then may we always discover
faith and love to determine the way.
That's our hope and God's will and our calling
for our lives and for ev'ry new day.*

We will join to give thanks and sing gladly,
we will join to break bread and share wine;
and the peace that we pass to each other
will be more than a casual sign.

So, let's make with each other a promise
that when all we've come through is behind,
we will share what we missed and find meaning
in the things that once troubled our mind.

You can listen to the song at www.iona.org.uk and I'll try to include it during one of our online services. New guidance is due shortly following Boris' announcement that church services can resume in our buildings but we are unlikely initially to be able to share communion in the usual way or sing. I attended a leadership webinar last week called 'Leadership in Lockdown' which sensibly advised us not to rush back to worship if it ends up being much less than we can do online. PCC will be considering this when it meets tonight at 7.30pm.

As the easing of lockdown now enables socially distanced garden visits, I'm very happy to visit people at home if this is something you'd like. Just let me know.

Services and events happening online this week are:

Fri 26th June at 2pm – Short talk and discussion on Anglicanism led by Alison Wedgbury using Zoom. The title of the talk is: ‘Anglicanism: How did it start? Where in the world did it go? What do Anglicans disagree about today?’ The talk is open to all, whether you’ve been part of the Bible Study Group or not. If you want to join, please let me know and I’ll send you the link.

Sun 28th June – Online service available on Facebook and YouTube from early on Sunday morning. Watch at whatever time is convenient to you.

Sun 28th June at 11am – coffee and chat after the service using Zoom. Do join us and catch up with one another.

Sun 28th June at 6pm – Evening Prayer using Zoom led this week by Cheryl Lowe. If you want to join, please let Cheryl (cheryl@cynewulf.co.uk) know, and she’ll send you a link to the service. This week, we conclude our sermon series on The Lord’s Prayer by looking at the word ‘Amen’.

For your prayers, please could you remember the following:

- PCC as it meets via Zoom tonight
- Those known to you who have recently lost loved ones
- Those with long-term ill-health and their families caring for them, particularly Pauline Eke (Franklin Gardens) currently in hospital
- Those who are still shielding and unable to have much contact with family members
- All those working in the NHS and care homes
- For the hospitality sector as it moves towards re-opening
- For those affected by the attack in Reading, those who were injured and particularly the families of those who died.

If you are using the ‘Prayer and Worship from Home’ resource, these are the Lectionary (set) readings for the week ahead:

Sat 27 th June	Judges 7; Luke 14: 25 to end
Sun 28 th June	Colossians 3: 1-11; Luke 12: 13-21
Mon 29 th June	Judges 8: 22 to end; Luke 15: 1-10
Tues 30 th June	Judges 9: 1-21; Luke 15: 11 to end
Wed 1 st July	Judges 9: 22 to end; Luke 16: 1-18
Thurs 2 nd July	Judges 11: 1-11; Luke 16: 19 to end
Fri 3 rd July	Judges 22: 29 to end; Luke 17: 1-10

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, Lynda.

Rector of All Saints Cottenham with Rampton

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