

## All Saints' Cottenham with Rampton general contacts

### Rector: The Rev'd Lynda Davies

6 High Street, Cottenham, Cambridge CB24 8SA  
01954 583651 [rector@allsaintscottenham.org.uk](mailto:rector@allsaintscottenham.org.uk)

**Churchwardens:** Graham Appleby  
Esther Hunt  
[wardens@allsaintscottenham.org.uk](mailto:wardens@allsaintscottenham.org.uk)

**Assistant Wardens:** Mike Marsh  
David Woodcroft  
Graham Maile  
Lesley Maile

**Bookings for All Saints' Hall:** 01954 251137

**Tower Captain:** Simon Wilson 01954 251105

### All Saints' News Team

**Website:** Graham Appleby

All Saints Church website  
<http://www.allsaintscottenham.org.uk>

**Facebook:** Vicki Norton

**Magazine Editor:** Jane Webster

**Circulation:** Jennifer Macbeth 01954 250021

Contributions for the next magazine are welcome.  
Please email if possible to [editor@allsaintscottenham.org.uk](mailto:editor@allsaintscottenham.org.uk)

# Spring 2019



## A message from Lynda Davies

Writing this mid-February, I'm aware that you will be reading it at the start of March which, this year, is also the beginning of Lent in the Christian calendar.

During the six week period leading up to Easter, Lent is one of the most important times of the year for many Christians around the world. It is regarded at a similar level of importance to Advent – the build up to Christmas, but whilst Advent is a celebration and a time of excitement as Christmas approaches, particularly for children opening doors on their Advent calendars to find the chocolate hidden within, Lent is quite different. From its start on Ash Wednesday (6<sup>th</sup> March this year) to its conclusion on Easter Sunday, Lent has been a traditional time for giving something up, typically chocolate in the Western world! But do we know why we give chocolate up?

People tend to choose chocolate as it's a luxury item. Others will give up meat or alcohol for the same reason. It is also becoming increasingly common to give up other things such as watching television, going to the gym or contributing to social media. A year or so ago, I gave up Facebook, realising that I was spending far too long each day catching up with posts! It was becoming a bit of an obsession.

Continued on page 2

All Saints' Cottenham  
with Rampton

£1.50

## Message from Lynda Davies continued from page 1

The purpose of giving something up is to refocus our faith during this time. If you *do* give something up, maybe the challenge to ask yourself is: How is this refocusing my faith? Is what I'm giving up creating space for me to spend more time thinking about Jesus?

In more recent years, it has become popular to *take something up* during Lent, rather than to give something up. This can be committing to follow a Lent study, reading through one of the Gospels in the Bible or taking up a challenge to be more generous. Why not have a look at the *40acts for Lent*, an online resource that, every day throughout Lent (not including Sundays), sends a generosity challenge and short Bible-based blog straight to your inbox. Each act is designed to sharpen your awareness and give you practical ways to stretch your faith as well as your generosity.

This year, instead of a Lent course meeting in people's homes, there is the opportunity each week to watch a thought-provoking film (some weeks at the Salvation Army Hall; others at All Saints' Church Hall), followed by time for discussion. Please see the panel opposite for more information.

It is still good, however, to engage with a Lent guide and, this year, I'll be using Justine Allain Chapman's *The Resilient Disciple* for my own journey through Lent. It's £7.53 on Amazon and comes highly recommended. But whatever you choose to do, I pray that each of us will arrive at Easter with both a deeper sense of self and a deeper engagement with God.



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 Red Lynda Davies (583651, [rector@allsaintscottenham.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:kirsten.burrows@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](mailto: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 Lynda Unwin ([lynda.kingsfarm@gmail.com](mailto:lynda.kingsfarm@gmail.com)) or Emma McCaughan ([emma.mccaughan@pobox.com](mailto: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).

**ATTIC** and **Does God Matter (DGM)** are run by Christians Together in Cottenham for secondary-school-aged young people who have a church or holiday club connection and those that attend can invite a friend. They meet at Cottenham Baptist Church on some Sunday evenings from 6.30 to 8.15 pm. **ATTIC** is a social group that gives young people the opportunity to meet together, have fun and build positive relationships. **DGM** is an opportunity for young people to chat about the universe, God and relevant issues in a café style environment. For dates for both groups please contact Steve Whyatt (01223 237874, [steveuw@genr8.org](mailto:steveuw@genr8.org)).

## 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 Emma McCaughan ([emma.mccaughan@pobox.com](mailto:emma.mccaughan@pobox.com)) or Sarah Ward ([sarah@wardhome.me.uk](mailto:sarah@wardhome.me.uk)).

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, 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 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](mailto:emma.mccaughan@pobox.com)).

## Films for Lent

**Paul Apostle of Christ** (15)  
Thursday 14th March, 7.30 pm at  
the Salvation Army Hall  
Paul, in prison in Rome, is visited by  
Luke who writes about his life

**The Shack** (12)  
Thursday 21st March, 7.30 pm at  
All Saints' Church Hall  
Based on best-selling novel

**I, Daniel Blake** (15)  
Thursday 28th March, 7.30 pm at  
the Salvation Army Hall  
Captures the welfare bureaucracy  
of modern Britain

**The Case for Christ** (PG)  
Thursday 4th April, 7.30 pm at  
the Salvation Army Hall  
Investigative reporter sets out to  
disprove Christianity, with  
unexpected results

**Risen** (12)  
Thursday 11th April, 7.30 pm at  
All Saints' Church Hall  
A Roman tribune is tasked to find  
out what happened to Jesus after  
the crucifixion, aiming to disprove  
the rumours of a risen Messiah,  
again with unexpected results

## From the Registers

We welcome into the family of the church by baptism

14 October Molly Moran  
Raye Eloise Dean  
9 December Beauden Lane

We commend into God's care those who have died

11 October Tony Foster  
14 November Sylvia Hester Lamb  
23 November Hilda Bartingale  
11 December Jim Sutton  
14 December Dorothy Unwin  
8 January Tony Searle  
24 January Alice King  
15 February Margaret Palmer  
21 February Valerie Bowles

## Starting the year well by Cheryl Lowe

A small group started 2019 by reading the Gospel of Luke aloud in All Saints' church. The idea of doing this came from reading through the Psalms as part of the *Thy Kingdom Come* week of prayer during 2018. We felt then that reading a whole book through was a great way to see new things in familiar words. Reading the gospel of Luke together, particularly so soon after hearing the first few chapters in the familiar Christmas readings, was a good start for our Year of Discipleship.

Those of us doing the reading all noticed different things: the way that Luke speaks of events as simple fact – more like a news report than story; the way that Luke hints at the disciples travelling as a group with Jesus learning from him as they travel; the completeness of reading the whole story of Jesus' life from beginning to end without interruption or additional explanation.



Reading aloud has always been a pleasure for me. Somehow you look at a text in a different way when you are reading the words aloud for the benefit of others, rather than reading silently. My younger daughter who is in her twenties will still ask me to read a Dr Seuss story to her if she is feeling unwell - it's a simple way to share time together and for us to re-read familiar words. Whilst Luke's gospel doesn't have the rhythm and rhyme of Dr Seuss, it's still a well-paced read, with lots of action and an excellent blend of

on their anniversary. I had not realised that this was possible but luckily Gary knew and organised it for them. As some of you will know, they were absolutely thrilled and I dare say several of you will have seen the card.

Once again, thank you to everyone for making that day even more special and for making Mum and Dad still feel an important part of All Saints.



Lorna (left) and Reg (second from right) with cousins at the anniversary party. Photograph supplied by Lynda Unwin.

## Cambridge Executive Cars

Your personal, reliable and friendly private hire taxi service

[www.cambridge-executive-cars.co.uk](http://www.cambridge-executive-cars.co.uk)

Cottenham based Airport, Seaport and Rail transfer specialists!

Going home or need to get to the airport at the end of term? Travel in style with an executive service for the cost of a usual taxi!

For an enquiry or quote please contact or call

[bookings@cambridge-executive-cars.co.uk](mailto:bookings@cambridge-executive-cars.co.uk) Richard on 07782 130 380

## Seventy wonderful years by Lynda Unwin

On 31st October my parents, Reg and Lorna Young, celebrated their seventieth (Sapphire) wedding anniversary. As this is such a rare event we thought you might like to read more about them and how we celebrated. Of course they are extremely lucky to both still be alive at this age, in spite of serious illnesses over the last twenty years or so, but this does not take away from the achievement of a long and happy marriage.

My parents were born only nine days apart and lived about a mile from one another so they went to school together and knew each other well as children. My mother claims that, as a teenager, she did not really like my father but clearly something changed because in 1948 they married. My father had been in the army during the Second World War so they had been apart for some time but he was demobbed in 1946 and they were able to make plans.

Many things have happened in their lives over those seventy years including of course a daughter, grandchildren and great grandchildren who were all keen to celebrate with them. Sadly, none of their siblings are still alive but they were especially pleased and surprised to welcome my cousin Bruce to the family party on 28th November. The party itself was something of a surprise and I managed to keep the guest list a secret so they had no idea that extended family members or friends were coming. They were so thrilled to see friends from church arriving as well as family but Bruce was my big secret. The photo shows him with his wife taken with my parents on that special day.

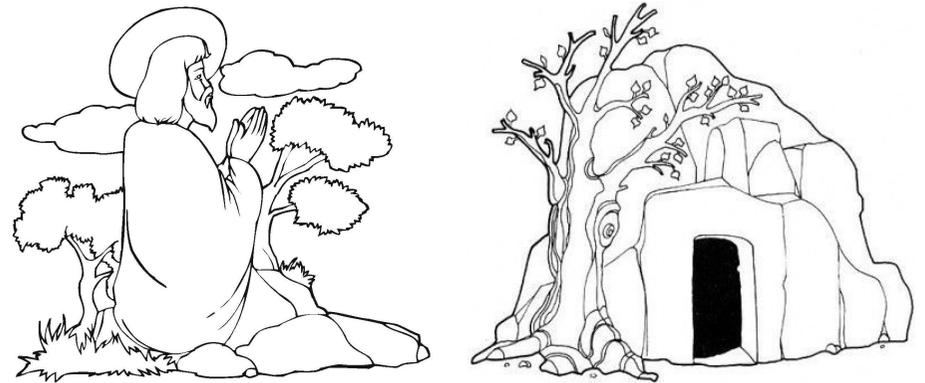
I am so grateful to Revd. Lynda for announcing the occasion in church and interviewing them after the service. We also appreciate all the cards and congratulations they received from church members and extend our thanks to everyone who celebrated with them in All Saints' Hall that Sunday morning.

The celebrating was not quite over in October as last month they received a card from Her Majesty the Queen congratulating them

familiar words and bits that make you go "oh", whether that's because you hadn't appreciated the order things happen in or because something strikes you in a way it hasn't before.

For me one of the things that struck me was how, throughout His ministry, Jesus knew how it would all end and yet still patiently taught, healed and simply spent time with His friends without the urgency that we might have thought necessary when all the 'action' had to be packed into just a couple of years.

Reading a whole gospel, following the story from Christmas to Easter in one go was two and a half hours well spent, and I would encourage you to try reading it for yourself. We are thinking of reading through the Book of Acts sometime around Easter and I am sure that we will be other opportunities later in the year to come and read out loud together.



To quote Dr Seuss *"The more that you read the more things you will know. The more that you learn the more places you'll go."*

Join us and your spiritual journey may go to new places!

All Saints' church runs Bible study groups which meet weekly or fortnightly on various days of the week. For information about current groups and study courses, please contact Revd Lynda Davies.

## Being Disciples a book review by Lesley Maile

I wonder if you, like me, thought that any book written by Rowan Williams (former Archbishop of Canterbury, Professor of Theology and now Master of Magdelene College) would be far too hard to read and understand. Nothing could be further from the truth!

*Being Disciples* is a slim book of six short chapters, simply written by an inspiring teacher of Christianity. In it Rowan Williams clearly explains what the Bible tells us about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. He also presents a vision of how being a disciple should have a profound effect on the world around us.

Throughout this book the reader is challenged to examine themselves about just how seriously they take their life in Christ. Rowan Williams gently asks if what we do, how we think, how we speak and how we act allows Christ and the Holy Spirit to be apparent in our everyday lives. As disciples, how best can we live within the community of the church, honouring God and continuing to learn about Him? He makes suggestions about how we might grow in the life Jesus shares with us so that we can be light and hope in the world.

Of course, reading a book about how to be a disciple does not turn us into disciples and Rowan Williams himself is the first to acknowledge this. The huge strength of this book is, though, that it is written by a man whose fervent desire to follow his master, Jesus, shines through every page. Because he himself is in the process of “forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead”, he is able to write with utter conviction and authenticity.

Whether you are just interested in finding out about Christianity, or are starting out as a Christian, or perhaps you have been a Christian for all of your life, this book will appeal to you. The simplicity and elegance of the writing is easily understood yet contains profound truths. This is a book you can go back to time and time again and fresh insights will strike you. I cannot imagine a better book to read during All Saints’ year of discipleship.

The speaker showed a slide which had a vast range of behaviours listed. I was relieved when he reduced these to just six. These were: passion; gratitude; hope; curiosity; love; humour. He went on to explain that passion is closely linked with courage and bravery, and curiosity is linked with creativity.

### Personal Application and conclusion

I found that, for me, courage or bravery was quite a significant area to consider and seek to nurture. As I have reflected on this, there are a number of areas that are relevant including: taking responsibility; acknowledging failure; living in the truth; being persistent when things are difficult; tackling difficult tasks rather than avoiding them; standing firm; being prepared to reach out; being prepared to be vulnerable. Going through Advent I was reminded again and again that the angels always say “Do not be afraid.”

As far as creativity is concerned, this is somewhat linked with courage. I find it does take courage to branch out in new directions; some of the things I am seeking to develop or do are poetry, singing and juggling.

In the question time somebody raised the issue of faith. The reply established that, as far as the speaker was concerned, faith was right at the centre and these positive behaviours spring out of an awareness of the transcendent.

I was delighted to attend the lecture and find that, although many psychologists are not believers, here was an individual of faith who was applying his academic skills and experience to helping people develop what many would think of as Christian Virtues. I have incorporated many of his points into my New Year’s Resolutions.

The *Science meets Faith* talks occur on the second Monday of the month at the Wesley church in Cambridge. For details of forthcoming subjects see <http://www.wesleycam.org.uk/sciencemeetsfaith.php>.

If you would like to attend but need help with transport, please contact Mick Lumsden or Graham Appleby.

## The science of Christian character development

A report by Mick Lumsden on a talk by Dr Roger Bretherton of the University of Lincoln, given in December 2018 as part of the Science meets Faith series.

The speaker is a Christian psychologist focusing on research. He covered an enormous amount of ground, exploring the development of character through science, theology and practice. These notes can only be a very partial extract from everything that was covered and include some personal reflection.

### Psychology – positive or negative?

The focus of most psychological research appears negative to most people because the emphasis has been on helping troubled people live more settled lives. The speaker's work is refreshingly focused on how 'ordinary' people can live more fulfilled lives by living in the knowledge of psychological research.

In effect this means identifying virtues or positive patterns of behaviour that lead to people being more fulfilled or thriving. However it is not enough to know which virtues are most important - it is also necessary establish how to embrace them in practical ways.



Traditionally the Christian church has listed virtues in various ways.

I found this approach very interesting. It stands in marked contrast to most sermons I have experienced, where the speaker takes a short passage from the Bible and explains it.

## A tale of two ladies - and others

by Revd Ian Winterbottom

In January we formally launched *Friends of All Saints Cottenham* and set about growing a network of friends who for one reason or another value our very beautiful and unique church building – unique especially to the people of Cottenham. We have a church open and ready to be of service to the village. Using the space we have now created, we can host events such as our Launch Concert on 5<sup>th</sup> January and also more easily offer opportunities for many kinds of community use. Ordinary generous congregational giving is needed for the vital everyday mission and running of the church. Yet a six hundred-year-old building is in constant need of often costly maintenance. We have an interim committee already at work. In April we have our first Friends Annual General Meeting by which time we want to urge as many as we can to commit to the Friendship. Meanwhile I want to tell two stories about making Friends for the Church.



## A tale of two ladies continued from page 7

For almost forty years of my fifty years as an Anglican priest I had the privilege of serving the Church in some of the most challenging situations. Irene and I lived through the 1984-5 miners' strike in two parishes and then through the closure of the collieries in already vulnerable communities. I will perhaps tell some of that story in a future edition. For mutual support a colleague and I brought together five struggling parishes and two daughter churches into a team ministry. Our team consisted of two, on occasions three, priests and five invaluable Lay Readers.

Keith was an ex- mining engineer made redundant by the pit closures. In honour of his ministry with us he was appointed a Lay Canon of Derby Cathedral. Edna was the wonderfully unassuming wife of one of my colleagues. She nursed her hundred-year-old mother at home in the vicarage. June, who is now ordained, became very close to Irene and myself after her husband quite unexpectedly died in his late forties. Then there were the two Peters. One was a railwayman who, again, became redundant when the railway infrastructure that had served the collieries was no longer needed. The other Peter suffered from a mining injury which more or less confined him to a wheelchair from which he preached and in which he did his visiting. He had a remarkable ministry in his village.

In addition to their combined experience of life was that of my longest serving colleague, Father Gordon. He had been ordained later in his life. He and his wife had run a corner shop in one of the more run-down areas of Derby. As a young man he had also worked as a railway porter on Derby station before being called up as a 'Bevan Boy' to work in the pits to support the war effort. And there was me as Team Rector. I grew up in the back streets of a Lancashire mill town, yet I had a mind full of theological and ecclesiastical theories and I was poor in the life experiences of my colleagues. However, working together with the small local parish

and prayer became known as Divine Reading or *Lectio Divina*.

There are twenty participants on this particular course. We are all from different walks of life with very varied religious and denominational backgrounds. It is interesting to note that a large number of these participants are in fact clergy or part of a lay ministry team. Together we have been exploring ways of praying, looking at the various traditions of Christian Spirituality and the ministry of spiritual direction. Our weekly sessions include presentations, tutorials, assignments and small group work involving practical listening exercises and observations.

People seek this ministry at different points in their lives and for various reasons. It can be a way to make better sense of a faith journey; to find clarity and support at times of significant life choices; to respond more deeply to God's presence and move toward wholeness and freedom. Many people find that, at particular points in their pilgrimage, this pattern of reflective companionship can be a significant help.

## JASON KIRBY

### Professional Painting & Decorating Ltd

All Aspects of Internal & External Decorating.  
Period, Residential & Commercial Properties.  
City & Guilds Qualified.  
Full Public Liability Insurance  
Quality & Reliability At Competitive Rates.  
References Available.  
Local, established business built on reputation.

Tel/Fax: 01954 211775  
Mobile: 07966 174431  
jasonkirbyltd@gmail.com



A Professional Service from Start to Finish



## PEASGOOD & SKEATES

THE FAMILY FUNERAL SERVICE



Personal Care and Attention

- all faiths repatriations
- horse drawn and green funerals

Bespoke Service Sheets

Memorials

Pre-Paid Funeral Plans from Golden Charter

617 Newmarket Road – Cambridge

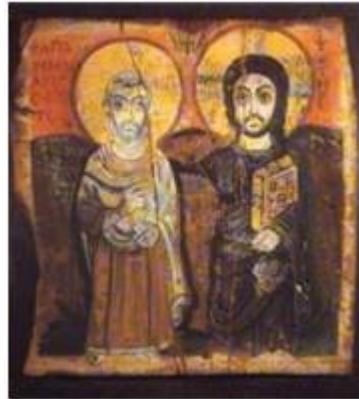
Tel: (01223) 415255

[www.peasgoodandskeates.co.uk](http://www.peasgoodandskeates.co.uk)

*Independent Funeral Directors of Distinction*

## Spiritual Direction Course by Margaret Edwards

In September 2018 I began a Spiritual Direction Course which is run by the Ely Diocese. This is initially a one-year course which may be extended into a second year. At the end of the two years I will be a credited Spiritual Director. Although I am not quite sure what path this will take and the implications for my job at this present time, I am very excited to see where this may lead and humbled by how much God is teaching me.



A 6th-century Egyptian icon known as *Jesus and his friend*

The course is led by a team of experienced tutors and offered by Cambridgeshire Courses in Spiritual Direction which is part of the Society of Retreat Conductors.

Spiritual direction is an ancient practice, manifested throughout history and across culture. Because 'praying is a historical constant of humanity' it is not surprising that people have always sought other people to hear and aid their prayer.

On the Island of Malta is found the Hagar Qim temple. Its buildings are amongst the oldest free-standing buildings in the world, predating Stonehenge and the Egyptian pyramids. A rock wall remains with an opening. This is where 'the listener' stood. Before people entered the temple, they told their regrets and hopes to the priestess.

Traditions of Spiritual Direction go back to the Desert Fathers, where people sought out these Abbots and Ammas, looking for holiness and purity of heart. In the Celtic Tradition we meet the 'soul friend' and centres such as Iona and Lindisfarne became bases of spiritual direction. In the west we also find the Traditional Benedictine practice of scriptural reading, focussing on meditation

congregations, we sustained the worshipping and pastoral life of the churches in villages struggling to survive.

I was also invited to join the corporation of North Derbyshire Tertiary College. The college had outposts in most of the devastated colliery villages and played a major part in retraining and restoring faith and hope there. Local people described one poor, isolated ex-mining village as "the place God forgot." God hadn't. God had given us a representative ministry, rooted incarnationally at that critical time in those communities. On two memorable occasions, the biggest of our church buildings had a reconciling part to play. Irene remembers Christmas 1984 when the miners' children and their bitterly divided families from the school in which she taught gathered together in church for their carol service. For that hour, striking and working miners laughed and cried and loved as one.



Then, in November 1992 we received the news that the last of our collieries were to close. With the support of the National Union of Mineworkers, the Miners' Welfare, the local family of schools and the Town Council we brought the community together in the same church. It was the first time the Bishop and our very left-wing MP had ever met and they shared the same pulpit with me. We were able to adjust the moveable furniture to accommodate an estimated nine hundred people.

Continued on page 10

**A tale of two ladies** continued from page 9



That brings me to my Tale of Two Ladies - two remarkable laywomen, and the reason why I decided to write this piece. The Trent Valley is a part of the county very different from the ex-coalfield area of North-East Derbyshire. Irene and I moved to a 'spare' village vicarage there when the Bishop asked me to lead the Derby Ecumenical Industrial Mission. The village was one of seven parishes scattered along the north side of the river. All but one had ancient church buildings with few resources. The village in which the Rector lived was ten miles away. He did what he could to have a presence in our village but there was a deep feeling that church had abandoned them. Keeping the church in our village afloat financially and spiritually without a live-in priest was a huge struggle. There were two other institutions in this village of about 1,500 people where people came together. One was the C of E controlled primary school. The other was the village club-cum-pub. Yet the village church, with a history of at least a thousand years, was in desperate need of support.

Along came my Two Ladies. One lady is the daughter of a prominent local farmer and the latest of a dynasty of Churchwardens.

But at All Saints I feel I have found a spiritual home, somewhere I can continue to deepen my relationship with God. I have found such faith and wisdom in the people I have met at All Saints, and have been inspired to explore whether God wants me to study towards lay ministry.

I don't know why God brought us to the UK, but I believe He did. In part, I believe it was to allow François to have the opportunities that were not available to him in South Africa. But I feel deep down there is more, something He wants me or us to do here. I am finding it challenging to allow the process to unfold in God's time, and for His purpose to become clear.

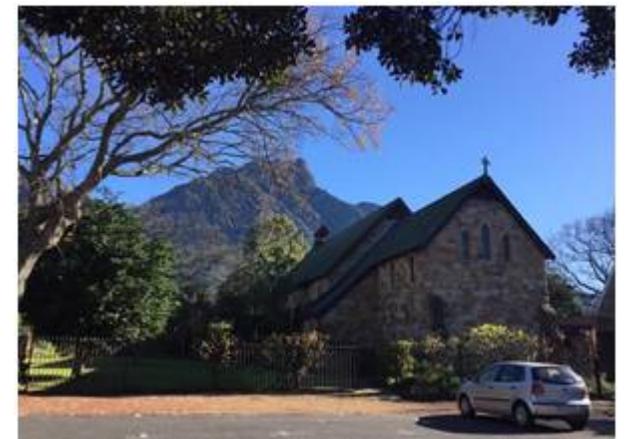
I am happier here than I have ever been in my life, and grateful to have found new friends and a new church family to journey with while God reveals His plan. God will continue to answer my prayers.



Above: first winter in the United Kingdom

Below: St Andrew's church, Newlands in Cape Town to which Sarah previously belonged

All photographs for this article by Sarah Rossouw



## God's answer to my prayers continued from page 17

My knuckles were continually white as my brother bowled along very narrow country roads at speed. But yet everyone obeys the rules of the road and the motorists are so polite, forgiving and patient. Trains arrive on time (well mostly) and when we put our residence permits into an envelope and posted them off to get a UK driver's licence, they actually came back to us. Windows and doors seal and keep the draft out, and everyone takes their shoes off when entering the house. But then, there is no one once or twice a week to come in and clean those floors or iron or wash, so everyone is just more considerate.

The first time I opened the front door to a stranger was very scary – there was no security gate between me and him and I was completely vulnerable. But it was just the postie delivering a parcel with a cheery hello and a smile. It made me realise that the crime and violence levels in South Africa had a massive impact on my sense of well-being. I didn't realise that although I wasn't consciously afraid, there was always an underlying tension or stress as I was always on the lookout for potential dangers and poised for fight or flight. In the UK that is gone. I feel at peace. The difference is tangible.

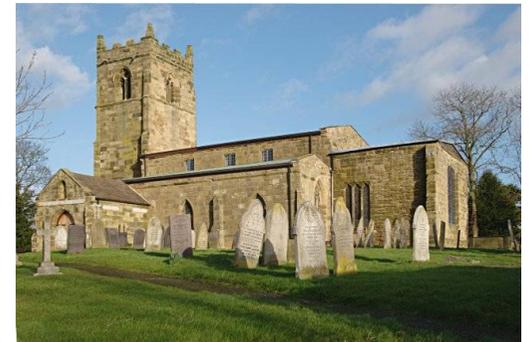
I know God's hand was in our move. Everything just fell into place. We found work easily, we found a place to stay that was inexpensive and affordable and we found Cottenham!

I still remember very clearly the day I first walked into All Saints'. I was greeted warmly and made to feel very welcome. As this was the third church I had been to, I was starting to get used to a lady vicar. Vicar, not minister, another bit of English to get used to. Services were still being held in the hall and it was a while before I could see the inside of the church. Leaving my church family in South Africa was one of the hardest parts of coming to the UK. I was fairly new to the community and yet felt so much a part of it. I was unsure if I would be able to find another church family where I felt as comfortable.

She is chair of the Parish Council and a foundation governor of the Village School. Before her recent retirement she had been a management consultant, managing several local building projects. The other lady is a long term incomer to the village – a music consultant who is also the Church organist. She was awarded a PhD by the local university for her thesis on solving the educational problems faced by children of the large Mirpuri Muslim community in Derby. Having become close friends, they set about activating the Village Plan. That involved studying the history of the village and particularly the history of the ancient village church. In the process they enlisted many non-churchgoing villagers including a successful local business-women and the licensee of the village club-cum-pub and others, particularly those with media skills.

Out of their efforts the *Friends of St. Wilfrid's* - the struggling village church- was born.

The *Friends* set about both studying the history and heritage of the church and planning to establish its future. This was to preserve it as a place of worship but also to restore its medieval function as a centre for the needs of the community, as a conference centre and as a



place for the study of local history. I was enlisted largely as interpreter of Medieval Latin documents and as theological consultant! (I befriended the classics master at nearby Repton School who was an altar server at his Parish Church where I occasionally helped out). We had the support of the great majority of the village, who set about an impressive programme of fundraising. We approached other bodies: Derbyshire County Council, South Derbyshire District Council, the Diocesan Advisory Committee, the Victorian Society and several others. We had discovered that for nearly four centuries the

## A tale of two ladies continued from page 11

parish was run by the Knights Hospitaller of St. John. This brought the local branch of the St. John's Ambulance on board. We now had enough ammunition to go to Nottingham and ask the Heritage Lottery Fund for a grant of over £1 million. We were eventually awarded about three quarters of that. The *Friends of St. Wilfrid's* are now on the verge of achieving their objective – the historic transformation of their parish church for today and preserving it for the future.



I have other stories I could tell. German friends have told us of the important part their village church played in restoring faith and hope after the country's catastrophic losses in 1945. Journeying through rural Russia after the collapse of Communism we saw that nearly every village had scaffolding for rebuilding the church tower.

All Saints' primary purpose is for the worship and service of God. As someone once said, every parish church is the womb in and from which God is incarnated in each town and village. It houses the altar where Christ gives his Body to become the Body of the Church. Alongside is the lectern from which the story of God's friendship for all humankind has been told and explained to generation after generation. Our parish church is witness to a village's story. It is a place where villagers have come to find solace and forgiveness; to rejoice, to mourn, to remember, to hope or to restart their lives. It is just there: open and waiting for those of faith, of little faith or of none. Somewhere in that there is a definition of Friendship. As Friends of All Saints' we are working to build and to extend that Friendship.

## God's answer to my prayers by Sarah Rossouw

What would you say if your husband, one unsuspecting morning, suggested that you move from your home in Cape Town, South Africa to another country six thousand miles away and start a new life? When I started praying to God to show us how to give François the opportunity to be the man God intends him to be, I did not expect *that* to be the answer. But somehow I knew that it was indeed God's answer and I said "yes."



François and Sarah in South Africa

So, six months to the day of that initial conversation, we touched down at Heathrow and The Big Adventure began. The next three months were filled with a host of administrative tasks – opening a bank account, applying for NI numbers, swopping drivers' licenses and just ogling at all the different foods and brands on the supermarket shelves! The simple task of doing grocery shopping took three times longer. The many different varieties of familiar foods made my head spin. The ready availability of foods that were a rare treat for me made my mouth water.

Everything was new and different. Even the English language spoken in the UK is different. We wear pants over our underpants, you wear trousers over your pants. A crunchie for us is made with oats and flour and sugar, and a flapjack looks like your crumpet.... or is it a pancake? But then what is a crêpe??? Tea is what we have with your flapjack at 4 pm, and dinner is our evening meal.

## 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](mailto:ianwinterbottom@aol.com) 01954 202018

<b>Name</b>	
<b>Work/Home address</b>	
<b>telephone</b>	
<b>email</b>	

**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:

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**