

All Saints' Church

Cottenham with Rampton



Pastoral Letter #48

17th February 2021 - Ash Wednesday

Dear Church Family,

During a 'daily exercise' walk last weekend, it was lovely to see the snowdrops in the Churchyard at All Saints' Rampton. They are such a timely reminder of spring just around the corner. Apparently, over time, snowdrops have evolved to symbolise sympathy and consolation. The white of the snowdrop symbolises innocence and purity and, because it's the first flower to bloom at the end of winter and the beginning of spring, it also symbolises hope. With the impressive roll out of the vaccine, the daily reduction in numbers infected and the promise of warmer weather on the way, it really feels as if we're turning a corner, and that our hopes for an end to lockdown will soon be realised.



As you read this, Lent will have begun. As you'll have read before, the book of Daniel will be our theme for Lent this year, both in sermons preached and in a Bible Study group meeting on Fridays at 3pm. If you'd like to be part of the latter and haven't already let me know, then please get in touch and I'll send you the Zoom link. The themes for each week will be:

- Week 1: Chaps 1 & 2 – Living Distinctively
- Week 2: Chaps 3 & 4 – Living Courageously
- Week 3: Chaps 5 & 6 – Living Consistently
- Week 4: Chaps 7 & 8 – Living Trustfully
- Week 5: Chaps 9 & 10 – Living Prayerfully
- Week 6: Chaps 11 and 12 – Living Faithfully

As the church remains closed for services at the moment, and groups cannot meet in person, we plan to use the outdoor space around All Saints' Cottenham to help you engage with Lent this year. Using the various trees in the churchyard, there will be some laminated cards inviting you to stand and pause and reflect on a particular Bible verse or passage. And to represent those who we've either lost over the last year, or haven't been able to see, there will be an opportunity to take a ribbon from the bench inside the porch and tie it on to the church gate. This will be open to the whole community and advertised on social media. Why not walk to the church as part of your daily exercise and take part in one or both activities.



A huge 'well done' to our Junior Church families and their leaders for leading last week's service. They were brilliant and such a blessing to us. Hopefully they will lead again later in the year.

Fairtrade Fortnight runs from 22nd February to 7th March. If anyone would like Judi Middleton to order any items for them, please email her at middleton810@btinternet.com Alternatively, you can order for yourself at www.traidcraftshop.co.uk

Please can you continue to pray for:

- Those who are unwell, including Peter Tilbury, Rona Gardner, Bob Ward, Janet Johnston, Pam Lumsden and Pat Labistour
- The families of Richard Gautrey, William Hornett, Mary Waldock and Pamela Dean who have recently died
- Those struggling with mental health in this third lockdown
- All those working for the NHS; and those rolling out the vaccine
- Those in severe economic need and those relying on Foodbanks
- Local teachers and teaching staff who are providing education for children of key workers/vulnerable children as well as teaching online and getting ready for all children to return (maybe 8th March)
- Our local care homes struggling with outbreaks of Covid
- The government and scientific advisors as they agree a path out of lockdown.

Don't forget the **Ash Wednesday Service** tonight at 7.30pm. You'll have already received the Zoom link in an email but, if not, please get in touch.

A reminder that **Evening Prayer** continues at 6pm on Sundays through Zoom (contact Cheryl Lowe for the link). Do also prioritise **Coffee and Chat** on Sunday at 11am, again through Zoom. It's a great way to reconnect with the church family so come if you can. There's always a warm welcome. The **Tuesday Bible Study Group** meeting next week at 7.30pm will be looking at the book of Lamentations – contact Cheryl Lowe if you'd like to join in.

If you need any help with anything or just fancy a chat, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

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

Rector@allsaintscottenham.org.uk

01954 583651