

# ST BOTOLPH

C A M B R I D G E

*From the Priest in Charge*

Dear Friends

## Newsletter 21

### Welcome



*(The Annunciation window at St Botolph's, image courtesy of David Eastwood))*

Welcome to this Advent and Christmas edition of the monthly Newsletter.

Included are all the services for this month. Please take a few moments to look at the listing as there are several changes to the customary pattern of services.

A new departure will be the provision of **Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve**. Following last month's consultation, there was some support for this to be provided and at the earlier time of **6:30pm**.

This is often a fallow time of the day in-between other activities. We hope therefore that some will find this time attractive and come to church to rejoice and give thanks again at God's love for His people by sending His Son to be Our Saviour.

The Gospel reading on Christmas Eve tells the familiar Christmas story of the Nativity of Our Lord born in a manger at Bethlehem and of shepherds abiding and seeing; and the heavenly host rejoicing. On Christmas Day, the Gospel is the Prologue to St John's Gospel which sets the Incarnation in the broader and majestic context of Creation and the Redemption of the world, of Light and Life coming into the world, full of grace and truth. Both Gospels complement one another wonderfully well and it would be good if you felt able to hear them both read in church and reflect on their significance for our hopes and how we live our lives.

### **Services during Advent and over Christmas**

Set out below is the pattern of services over the next month or so, together with the various preachers:

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December – **Advent Carol Service with Holy Communion** in church at 11am.

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December – Holy Communion at 10:30am

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December – Mattins with Holy Communion for Advent Three (Gaudete Sunday) at 11am  
 Revd Dr Alex Jensen, Principal, Eastern Region Ministry Course preaching

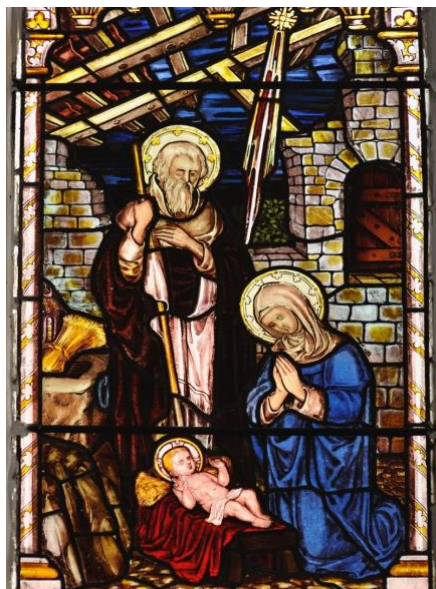
Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December – Holy Communion at 10:30am and Compline by Zoom at 9pm

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December – Carols, music and readings for Christmas by St Botolph's Choir at 1:45pm.**  
***To be live streamed – details to follow***

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December – Sung Eucharist for Advent Four at 11:00am.  
 Revd John Summers, Chaplain, Trinity College, preaching

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December – no service

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2020



*(The Nativity Window at St Botolph's, image curtesy of David Eastwood)*

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December – Midnight Mass for Christmas Eve at 6:30pm**  
**Revd Dr Jonathan Holmes preaching**

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> December – Sung Eucharist for Christmas Day at 10:30am**  
**Fr Stephen preaching**

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> December – Holy Communion (*said*) for the Sunday after Christmas at 11am

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> December – Holy Communion at 10:30am

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2021 – **Sung Eucharist for the Feast of the Epiphany (transferred) at 11am**

Ben O'Neill, Assistant Chaplain, Stamford School, preaching

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January – Holy Communion at 10:30am

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January – **Epiphany Carol Service with Holy Communion at 11am**

Please make a note of all these dates and what is happening on them in your diaries.

## Intinction



The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have issued a Pastoral Letter to clergy in the past few days to allow the practise of intinction to occur again at the administration of Holy Communion. This practise is defined as *The simultaneous administration of consecrated bread and wine is effected by the president taking a piece of bread carefully from the paten or ciborium with the fingers and touching it briefly but carefully to the surface of the wine, allowing a small amount of the wine to suffuse into the bread.*

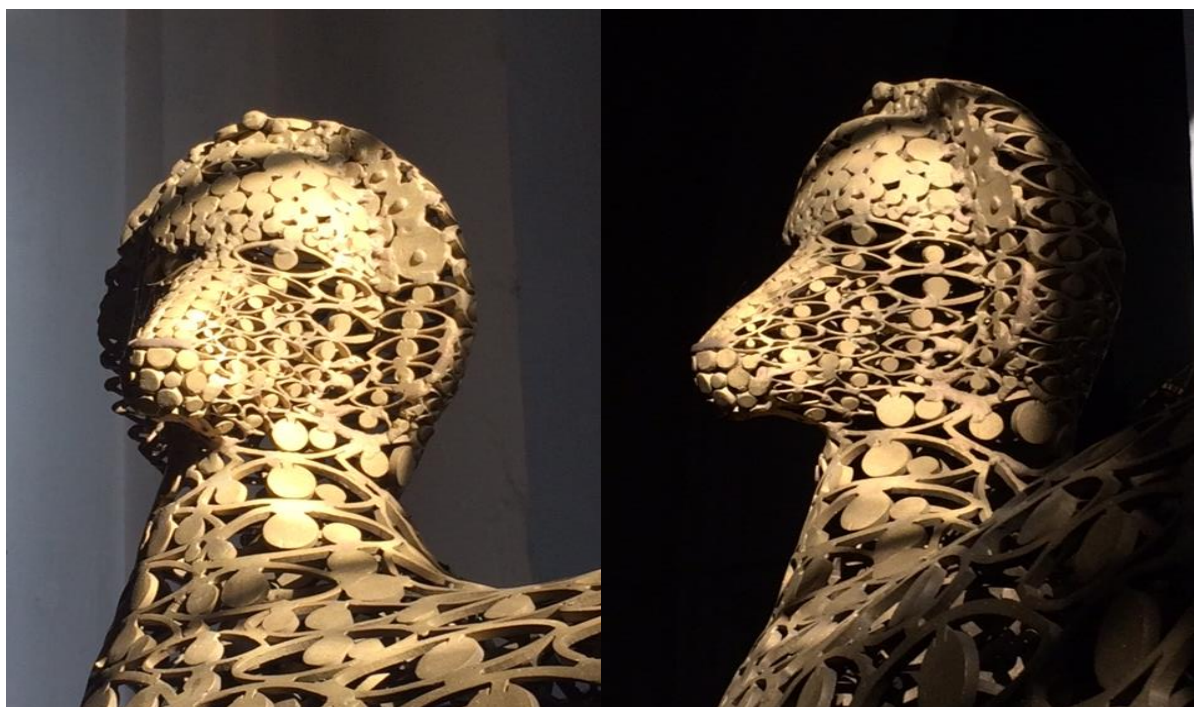
Although the Church believes Our Lord to be fully present sacramentally in each of the elements of bread and wine, nevertheless it has always been understood in the Anglican tradition that both elements should be offered to communicants as a faithful adoption of Our Lord's own example at the institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper with His disciples.

The Diocesan Bishop has made it clear that clergy are under no pressure to adopt this practise. However, it would be my intention, agreed with the PCC, to offer the intincted sacramental body of Our Lord at the Holy Communion. The consecrated bread *without intinction* will also continue to be offered.

It will though be somewhat cumbersome and awkward to offer intincted wafers without bespoke vessels such as that shown in the image above. It may be that the practise is not workable without the support of a server, which is not possible at the present time, due to social distancing requirements.

Therefore, while I shall offer intincted wafers this month, I shall also review the practical working out of it with the PCC in January.

## The Lamb of God sculpture



*(Images courtesy of Professor Richard Widdess)*

Twenty-seven responses were received to last month's Consultation regarding the sculpture of The Lamb of God. Eighteen responses were in favour of progressing the acquisition of The Lamb, two were ambivalent and seven were against. All responses were provided in full, but on an anonymised basis, to the PCC and considered at the meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> November.

After a full discussion, the PCC voted by seven in favour, none against and one abstention to progress the acquisition of The Lamb with the lodging of a Faculty application, which would be supported by the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC), following a recent meeting in church with them.

A comment that was echoed several times in all the responses received was to express unease at the potential price of £20,000. Although this would not be a charge on PCC finances, with the money needing to be raised by a mix of grant applications and private donations, it was felt, particularly in the current circumstances of the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic, that the asked for price was set much too high. It was therefore agreed to seek a renegotiation of the price to a more modest and possibly more achievable level. Both Sarah and I were mandated by the PCC to pursue these discussions and report back.

## **Advent Verse**

Advent awakens us to our need for God our Redeemer, the one who comes to the darkness of our world and our hearts as light and joy and grace. Such is the divine love in which the law is fulfilled and has its meaning. Such is the grace of Advent. May all our hearts be opened to allow it to lead us into the real joy of Christmas.

In the words of Christina Rossetti, in her Advent poem:

*Behold, the Bridegroom cometh: go ye out  
With lighted lamps and garlands round about  
To meet Him in a rapture with a shout.*

Best wishes

*Fr Stephen*

Priest in Charge

Parish Church of St Botolph, Cambridge