

# ST BOTOLPH

C A M B R I D G E

*From the Priest in Charge*

Dear Friends

## Newsletter 22

### Our St Botolph's community



Welcome to this Newsletter for January at the start of a new year. Let us hope and pray that the COVID – 19 vaccination programmes can be rolled out swiftly so that some semblance of normal life can return by Easter, which falls on the 4<sup>th</sup> April this year.

I am conscious that before this time we shall have a difficult period ahead as the pandemic rages around us. It is the Church's policy nationally at present for our churches to remain open for the conduct of public worship and the opportunity of private prayer, a policy that I wholeheartedly support. It is indicative of need that our votive candle stand and prayer board continue to be well used, even though our opening hours are heavily restricted currently.

As the pandemic has continued to a greater or lesser extent for ten months now, our community at St Botolph's has seemed to transform into several separate congregations. While there are those who participate in pretty much everything, there are also those who come to church to worship regularly, but not online; then there are those who are especially vulnerable and are shielding

at home. Then there are those who are happy to join worship by Zoom at home (such as the service of Compline fortnightly on a Wednesday evening at 9pm); and those who are not because of the technology involved.

While I long for the day when we can all, with confidence, be back in church together, it is important that we continue to identify with St Botolph's as both our spiritual and community home as the Body of Christ in this place.

In respect of the latter, I should like to offer the opportunity of say a *virtual Coffee Morning*, where as many of us as possible can come together socially on Zoom for a chat with one another. I well remember the refreshments we used to be able to have after the service on Sunday morning, where the conversations at times extended to over an hour (once to one and a half hours) as we enjoyed each other's company.

It would be extremely helpful if you might let me know your thoughts about this suggestion and / or make other suggestions that would help to hold us all together socially at this very difficult time.

Rest assured that the entire congregation is held constantly in my thoughts and prayers as we wait for the tide of pandemic either to pass or to no longer affect us so critically. It is the hope of Resurrection that we look forward to at Easter this year, more than any others.

### **Services during Epiphany**

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

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 & Compline by Zoom at 9pm

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

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January – Holy Communion at 10:30am

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> January – Sung Eucharist for the Second Sunday after the Epiphany at 11am.

Will Lyon Tupman, Ordinand, Westcott House, preaching.

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January – Holy Communion at 10:30am & Compline by Zoom at 9pm

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> January – Mattins *with* Holy Communion for the Third Sunday after the Epiphany at 11:00am.  
Revd Dr Jonathan Holmes preaching.

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January – Holy Communion at 10:30am

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February – Sung Eucharist for **The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)** at 11am.  
Fr Stephen preaching.

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

### **Comment about St Botolph's**

A recent tweet (posting on Twitter) by a visitor said this about St Botolph's:



*But here is a frontline Angel putting in ceaseless service in this difficult year in one of my favourite churches, St Botolph's*  
[@stbotolphcam](https://twitter.com/stbotolphcam)

*Beautiful, welcoming, inspiring, thoughtful place. Alleluia*

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At the time of writing, this tweet has been *liked* by 15 people and looked at by countless more people.

Both David Eastwood for St Botolph's and I on my own account retweeted this tweet, reaching an audience of followers in the many, many hundreds between us.

## Arthur Walmsley



Several of you very kindly continue to ask after our grandson's wellbeing, for which "thank you".

Here is a recent image of the happy chappie, now 6 months old, with his doting grandparents.

Best wishes  
*Fr Stephen*  
Priest in Charge  
Parish Church of St Botolph, Cambridge