

# ST BOTOLPH

C A M B R I D G E

*From the Priest in Charge*

Dear Friends

## Newsletter 23

Welcome to this February 2021 edition of the Monthly Newsletter.

### St Botolph's in the snow

Both David Eastwood and Will Lyon Tupman have been out and about taking images around Cambridge during and after the recent falls of snow. Here are some of their images of St Botolph's:



*(Image courtesy of David Eastwood)*



*(Images courtesy of Will Lyon Tupman)*

## Ash Wednesday and Lent 2021



The first day of Lent is **Ash Wednesday** on 17<sup>th</sup> February and our 6:30pm Sung Eucharist would ordinarily have begun with the signing of a cross on our foreheads, using the ashes from the burnt palm branches of Palm Sunday.

Our worship by Zoom currently makes that impossible this year. In any event, were public worship to be held, the instructions to clergy are to sprinkle the ashes over the recipient's head and in no circumstances to touch the recipient this year.

The Prayer Book has a special service for Ash Wednesday. It is called "A Commination" and comprises in large part a denunciation of impenitent sinners. We shall not use this section of the service but pick it up instead at the beginning of our Sung Eucharist with the recorded singing of Psalm 51. This will be to the hauntingly beautiful setting by Allegri – *Miserere mei, Deus*.

**I am delighted to welcome back the Bishop's Senior Chaplain, the Revd Dr Hannah Cleugh, as our preacher on this occasion.**

Ash Wednesday begins the 40 days of Lent, a time when we remember that Jesus spent 40 days in the desert fasting and resisting temptation.

Just as Jesus faced temptations in the desert, we too face many temptations in our everyday lives. As we celebrate the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday, I encourage you to think about how you can improve your discipleship.

Along with reminding us of our mortality, the ashes on Ash Wednesday are also symbolic of grief for the sins we have committed. We may not always be able to resist temptation as Jesus did, but Lent provides an opportunity to reflect, pray and repent for our sins.

In doing so, many people make small sacrifices or commit to life changes throughout the 40 days of Lent. It's a time for spiritual fasting so that we can cleanse our souls and renew our faith as we prepare to walk the way of the Cross with Jesus during Holy Week and celebrate the Resurrection on Easter Day.

It falls this year on the fourth of April this year, but it is my firm intention (DV) for to be back in church for public worship by 1<sup>st</sup> April for Maundy Thursday, if not earlier.

## Services during February

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

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> January – Sung Eucharist by Zoom for **The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)** at 11am.

Fr Stephen preaching.

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February – Compline by Zoom at 9pm.

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February – Sung Eucharist by Zoom for Sexagesima at 11am.

Fr Stephen preaching.

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February – Mattins with Holy Communion by Zoom for Quinquagesima at 11am.

Revd Margaret Widdess preaching.

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February** – A Commination and Sung Eucharist by Zoom for **Ash Wednesday at 6:30pm.**

Choral works include *Miserere mei, Deus* by Allegri.

The Revd Dr Hannah Cleugh, Senior Chaplain to the Bishop of Ely, preaching.

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February – Sung Eucharist by Zoom for the First Sunday in Lent.

Ben O’Neil, Assistant Chaplain, Stanford Endowed Schools, preaching.

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> February – Mattins *with* Holy Communion by Zoom for the Second Sunday in Lent.

Revd Dr Jonathan Holmes preaching.

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March – Compline by Zoom at 9pm.

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> March – Sung Eucharist by Zoom for the Third Sunday in Lent at 11am.

Will Lyon Tupman preaching.

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

## Short Notes

Although our services are currently by Zoom, the church remains open for private prayer at lunchtime on Tuesday and Friday.

There is quite a lot going on in the background currently:

- In accordance with the directions given by the DAC, the replastering of the section of the wall in the south eastern portion of the Nave has begun.
- The response from Cambridge City Council to our planning application to erect a garden shed in the north eastern portion of the garden is still awaited. The shed is intended to be set well back in the garden at the corner adjoining Corpus on two sides and ought not to be visible from Botolph Lane. It will enable a lot of gardening equipment to be removed from the Outer Vestry and provide a useful storage facility. A Faculty is nevertheless still required and so the process of gaining consent will continue after a response from the Planning Authority is received.
- In line with best charity practice, the PCC, led by Colin Greenhalgh, is retendering the contract for the position of Quinquennial Inspecting Architect to St Botolph's. The current architect, Ashley Courtney, has decided not to reapply for the position. We are grateful to him for his Quinquennial Inspection in 2017 and his oversight of associated works to the fabric over the past three and a half years.  
At the time of writing, four Cambridge firms have expressed an interest in the role and are visiting the church for informal discussions with the Wardens.
- The PCC is approaching the Bishop to clarify the status of St Botolph's now that the Suspension of Presentation (which basically means that an Incumbent cannot be appointed, solely a Priest in Charge) has expired after five years.

Best wishes

*Fr Stephen*

Priest in Charge

Parish Church of St Botolph, Cambridge