

# ST BOTOLPH

C A M B R I D G E

*From the Rector*

Dear Friends

## Newsletter 28



***Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise:  
be thankful unto him, and bless his name (Psalm 100: v4)***

The approach to our 700<sup>th</sup> Anniversary thanksgiving could not have been better with the affirmation of the parish by the Bishop in restoring the incumbency on 29<sup>th</sup> May, after a gap of 35 years.

It was a great privilege to baptise my grandson, Arthur, the next day, appropriately kept as Trinity Sunday.

Then a few days later on 3<sup>rd</sup> June we kept the Feast of Corpus Christi, with Ben O'Neill preaching, reminding us of St Botolph's being as a living sacrament, imbued with God's grace; and when especially we are gathered for the Holy Communion, being blessed by the presence of Christ who goes on feeding us spiritually.

This was soon followed by Evensong sung by the Choir of Queens College on the 9<sup>th</sup> June, before the 700<sup>th</sup> Anniversary festival of Dedication began properly

on 13<sup>th</sup> June. We heard a most uplifting sermon (*soon to be available on our church website*) from Fr Tim L'Estrange, President of the Botolphian Society, to place our patron saint into a wider context for us.

It was a pity that Canon Jessica Martin from the Cathedral could not attend in person a few days later on our Patronal Festival, but her sermon, delivered *in absentia* by the Rector, during Evensong on 17<sup>th</sup> June, reflected on 700 years of this church's mission and ministry from standing at the old Trumpington Gate to the city. Members of the Choir of Queens again sang the Office of Evensong beautifully for us.

Our weeklong series of festive services and events began fully on 23<sup>rd</sup> June, with Compline by candlelight in church.





*Figure 1 The John Tavener setting of The Lamb sung by members of the Choir (with apologies to Graham Day who has been obscured)*

Then on the following day, we had a presentation on the sculpture of The Lamb, which we wish to leave as the mark of the current generation on the ornaments of the church, otherwise not substantially varied since the Bodley restoration of the Chancel in the 1870s.

The Anniversary weekend was book ended either side by organ and cello concerts by exceptionally talented young performers who treated their audiences to some virtuoso displays on each of the musical instruments involved:



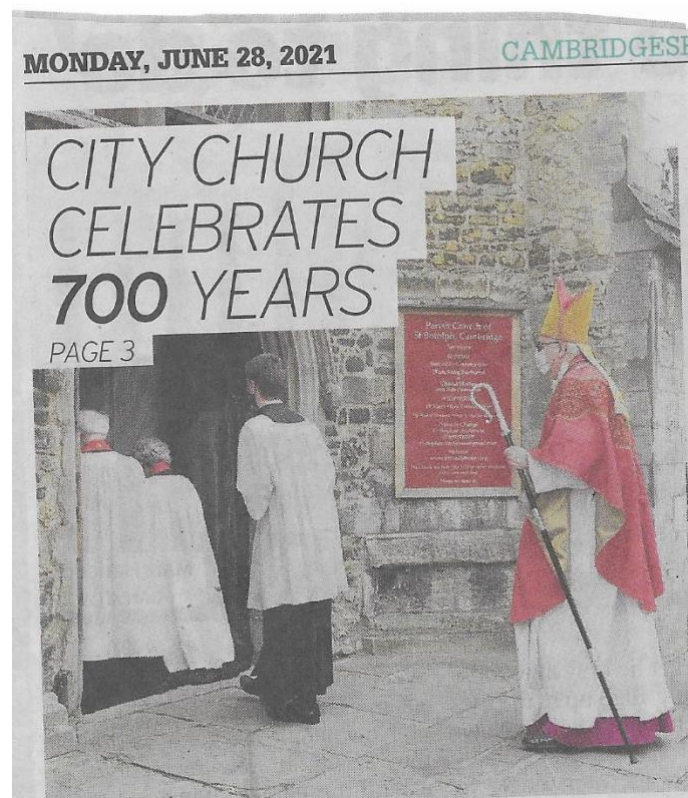
*Figure 2 The audience for the cello recital by Graham Walker on 28th June 2021 and Figure 4 Glen Dempsey before the organ recital*

All of these services and events seem to reach their peak in the Sung Eucharist for the 700<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on 26<sup>th</sup> June, with the Bishop back again – and in good form - to lead our thanksgiving celebration. The service was attended by several civic and academic dignitaries, including the High Sheriff of Cambridgeshire, the Deputy Mayors of Cambridge and Ely, the Leader of the Cambridge Council, the Master of Peterhouse and the Chairman of the Prayer Book Society. Under Tim Brown's enthusiastic direction, the Choir sang their hearts out and Andrew Morris played the organ with all his characteristic bravado and aplomb.



*Figure 3 The Bishop preaches the sermon*

Thanks to Tamara Sword, the Cambridge News sent a photographer to capture images from the service and I gave an interview separately to a reporter, all of which resulted in a feature article on 28<sup>th</sup> June, as follows:



*Figure 4 The Introit Procession to Psalm 122 on P1 of the Cambridge News*



# Church marks 700 years and launches a funding campaign

**HOPES OF RAISING £250,000 FOR IMPROVEMENTS SCHEME**

By **ALYA ZAYED**

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ONE of the oldest churches in Cambridge celebrated its 700th anniversary last week as it launched a fundraising campaign for improvements to the ancient building.

St Botolph's Church, on Trumpington Street, held a special service last weekend to celebrate its long history.

The building was erected in 1320, but there are mentions of a church on the site decades earlier.

In 1287, there was mention of one of the previous vicars of the church, and in 1200, a St Botolph's Church was mentioned in correspondence.

"When you think about it, all of the generations of people in 700 years that have come to the church, worshipped in the church or visited it, it's amazing," said church rector Father Stephen Anderson.

"There's a very strong sense of history."

"We still have a set of medieval bells in our tower. They were commissioned and put in in the year 1460 and they're still in use today."

"To have a set of medieval bells

still there and still in use and still sound absolutely wonderful is quite something."

The church even featured in the backdrop of ITV's *Grantchester*, which is based around the city.

The church's staff even met the cast during the filming in 2019, with Father Anderson describing the cast as "very gracious and lovely people".

The main birthday celebration on Saturday saw Bishop of Ely Stephen Conway, High Sheriff of Cambridge, and leader of Cambridge City Council, Lewis Herbert, all in attendance, as well as other special guests, although there were events on every

day last week.

The church team said it hoped to use the birthday celebrations to raise the profile of the historic building and begin fundraising to redevelop it.

Father Anderson said: "It's bang in the centre of Cambridge, and we want to raise its profile especially for cultural events to draw in a wider group of people."

"In a pre-Covid year, we would have 30,000 visitors to the church each year. We want to be able to add to that by being able to put on a number of musical and artistic events."

"But in order to do that we need to improve our disabled access, improve our toilet facilities, and our kitchen facilities, so we can pursue a greater range of musical and artistic events."

The church hopes to raise around £250,000 in total for all the redevelopment needed, but it would take it in stages and improve facilities on an individual basis.



A special service was held at St Botolph's Church to mark its 700 years

KEITH JONES



Figure 5 The main report on P3 of the Cambridge News

Shown below is the image of the Gospel proclamation:



Figure 6 Fr Stephen proclaims the Gospel

The weekend was rounded off by a wonderful Choral Evensong on Sunday evening as the St Botolph's Choir came together for an exceptional choral accompaniment, including most notably the *Stanford in C* setting for the canticles.

The service was tinged with some sadness as we had heard that John Barber had died the previous day. It was good that his partner and close friends could be present at Evensong though to hear the Choir sing the *Kontakion of the Departed*. We kept a silence to remember John and prayers were said for the response of his soul.



Figure 7 The flower display on the Reredos

It is true to say that St Botolph's rose fully to all the services and events in June and presented its best face possible, whether from the flower displays and church decoration, to the choral works performed by a choir seemingly twice the strength than the permitted six voices, to the hospitality offered despite the limitations of the restrictions on serving food and drink.

Thanks are especially due to the indefatigable Tim Brown who arranged the recitals and the presentations on The Lamb, the members of the Choir who sang with such enthusiasm and voice, to Sarah and David Eastwood who worked their socks off over the Anniversary weekend, aided by David Berry – back from Oxford especially to lend his support - June Woolhouse and Julia Anderson, together with Dan Jones who unobtrusively provided essential cover at the events either side of the weekend.

Most of all, my thanks to everyone for their support throughout all our services and events. What was done was an offering to the glory of God and the support of everyone was testimony to that.





*Figure 9 Compline with candlelight on 30th June 2021*

## **Will Lyon Tupman**

Please remember Will in your prayers, to be ordained Deacon on the 4<sup>th</sup> July and the parish of St Neots, where he will serve his title. We still hope to see Will from time to time, especially as he has bought himself a new car, which he is enormously pleased about, as his several tweets show:



*Figure 10 Will picks up his new car and Figure 11 Will takes delivery of the splendid Dinner service*

Will has been provided with a curate's house in St Neots – but only to discover that it was completely unfurnished.

Once again St Botolph's has risen to the occasion, with members of the congregation providing many of the furnishings and implements needed for an aspiring young curate, not the least the splendid dinner service for entertaining the Diocesan Advisory Council when a Faculty application is about to be lodged!



## **Forthcoming services during July and early August**

### **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> July – Fifth Sunday after Trinity**

I I am Sung Eucharist

Rev'd Dr Jonathan Holmes preaching

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> July

9pm Compline by Zoom

### **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July – Sixth Sunday after Trinity**

I I am Sung Eucharist *with* Holy Baptism of Charles Ernest Owers and Jayden Adam Sales

Rev'd Margaret Widdess preaching

### **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July – Seventh Sunday after Trinity**

I I am Mattins with Holy Communion

Fr Stephen preaching

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July

9pm Compline by Zoom

*St Botolph's Choir away*

### **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> July – Eighth Second Sunday after Trinity**

I I am Mattins *with* Holy Communion – *with congregational hymns*

Fr Stephen preaching

### **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> August – Ninth Sunday after Trinity**

I I am Holy Communion – *with congregational hymns*

Rev'd Margaret Widdess preaching

### **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> August – Tenth Sunday after Trinity**

I I am Mattins *with* Holy Communion – *with congregational hymns*

The Very Rev'd Peter Judd, previously Dean of Chelmsford, celebrating and preaching

### **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> August – Eleventh Sunday after Trinity**

I I am Holy Communion – *with congregational hymns*

Rev'd Dr Jonathan Holmes preaching

*St Botolph's Choir returns*

### **6pm Solemn Evensong for the Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

*Full choral accompaniment*

Fr Stephen preaching

***For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations (Psalm 100: v5)***

*Fr Stephen*

Rector

Parish Church of St Botolph, Cambridge

2<sup>nd</sup> July 2021