

ST BOTOLPH

C A M B R I D G E



Parish Profile of St Botolph's, Cambridge 10th March 2022

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Section one: Summary

St Botolph's is a "Prayer Book Parish Church". Writing up our 700th anniversary celebrations, the Prayer Book Society described St Botolph's as follows: *"Its worship is sacramental, ordered, structured and dignified, according to the Book of Common Prayer and the Authorised Version of the Bible, enhanced by a fine choral tradition. The orthodox preaching follows the Church's liturgical year and is based on the teaching of the Christian faith as understood in the Anglican tradition, and the exposition of the Scriptures."* (The Prayer Book Today, Michaelmas 2021pp 15-16).

The Book of Common Prayer is at the heart of St Botolph's. Our experience is that the traditional forms and language are appreciated as much by the young as the old, and as much by visitors from overseas as by local people. Under the previous Incumbent's leadership, and with a strong PCC, we have been growing steadily in numbers since 2017 providing a solid foundation for the next priest to build upon.

There is a lively sense of community amongst the congregation. Visitors at services often say that St Botolph's reminds them of how church used to be.

St Botolph is the patron saint of wayfarers, and churches dedicated in the name of St Botolph are often found, as we are, near the entrances to towns and cities. This fortunate location means that we have about 30,000 visitors in a normal year, quite apart from the transitory student population and our gathered congregation. We are often the first stop for visitors to Cambridge. We value the opportunity this gives to communicate the Christian message through material in the church, through very public and visible worship, and through direct, personal engagement with these visitors. Whilst we and they enjoy the fabric of St Botolph's and its Arts & Crafts decoration, our visitors comment mostly on the sense of peace and the opportunity to find rest and refuge from a noisy and turbulent world.

A sense of what St Botolph's means to its community – both congregation and visitors – can be gathered from the comments and photographs throughout this profile. Our website – www.stbotolphcam.org – and our Twitter (@stbotolphcam) and Instagram (@stbotolphcam) accounts give a feel for the life of the church. We especially encourage readers to look at the Trustees' Reports for 2019 and 2020 and at the service sheets and recordings of sermons, all of which are available on the website.

St Botolph's is actively supported by our patron, Queens' College. The majority of our services in the interregnum have been taken by Fr Max Bayliss, Chaplain of Queens' College, and one of the Fellows, Rev'd Dr Jonathan Holmes, is a regular preacher. The college has also been an important source of advice from time to time.

The PCC is at an early stage in exploring exciting new opportunities for collaboration with the Parker Library in the adjacent Corpus Christi College in relation to the history of early Christianity in England and the history of the Book of Common Prayer. This will, at the least, provide substantial new display material to support our outreach to visitors. Our new Rector will play a key role in shaping and steering this project as it develops over the next few years and strengthening St Botolph's as the Prayer Book Parish Church in Cambridge South Deanery.

"St Botolph's has been absolutely essential to my journey in faith. A warm welcome, beautiful words and music, often something delicious to eat and drink as well. It's like stepping into a family home each Sunday. Come and worship here - you really won't regret it!"



Section two: The broader context

St Botolph's is one of 15 churches in the South Cambridge Deanery in the Diocese of Ely. In 2021 Fr Stephen Anderson was appointed Rector of St Botolph's, ending a 30-year period of suspension of rights of presentation, the longest St Botolph's has been formally without a Rector in 700 years. With Fr Stephen's arrival in 2017, St Botolph's has striven to become more outward looking and to connect more with Diocesan activities and strategy.

In 2018 the PCC and the APCM approved a Development Action Plan as part of our response to the Diocesan strategy of "People Fully Alive: Ely 2025". A copy is available [here](#). At that time we described our vision as follows:

To grow our congregation and to strengthen the place of St Botolph's as a Prayer Book Parish Church, and a place of prayer and witness to Christian life in Cambridge that is especially welcoming to all.

We emphasised two of the Diocesan strategic objectives – *Engage* and *Grow* and three of the five levers of change: *Develop healthy churches and leaders; Serve the community; Re-imagine our buildings*. We challenged ourselves to show measurable change and we have done so. Many of the

tasks we set ourselves then have been completed and have become regular aspects of church life as described in our summary of progress in Appendix 1. Most importantly the average Sunday attendance has risen from 27 in 2016 to 41 in 2021 and our congregation is, on average, younger and more engaged.

The Deanery Plan (2019-2025) sought to Engage, Grow and Deepen the Church in South Cambridge and made the point that growth is not just about numbers but about holiness and discipleship too. Our commitment to the Book of Common Prayer, the quality of the preaching, the increased engagement of our congregation in serving and other roles, and the support we have provided for those looking to broaden their church experience, are steps in the right direction.

In that spirit, it is time to review our goals and to put in place a new plan for the parish for the next three years. We look forward to doing so under the leadership of a new Rector. This Profile sets out some of the PCC's thinking on this, the opportunities available to us and our sense of direction. In broad terms these include:

- Continuing the growth of St Botolph's as the Prayer Book parish church in Cambridge South Deanery.
- Deepening faith and developing discipleship.
- Developing and sharing a sense of the early history of Christianity in England – the period of St Botolph - the development of the Book of Common Prayer and its place in contemporary life, in collaboration with The Parker Library, Corpus Christi College and The Prayer Book Society.
- Engaging better with the 30,000 visitors that pass through St Botolph's each year.
- Increasing outreach to our immediate community

We are often visited by ordinands and would welcome the placement with us of ordinands for pastoral training and experience, as we have had in the past. Several ordinands, while not attached to St Botolph's formally, have been given the opportunity to serve at the altar and preach the Gospel to a diverse congregation and international visitors.

For many years St Botolph's was a substantial net contributor to diocesan funds, having a non-stipendiary priest-in-charge but paying a significant ministry share. This position changed with the end of that ministry, and with Covid also intervening, St Botolph's is only now re-establishing its financial position. This is described in more detail in Section 5.

“St Botolph's drew me in some years ago since it was my parish church. It also offered Prayer Book worship, that rich spiritual resource in which I had had the fortune to grow up. Still within reach in my retirement this ancient church continues to provide worship that gives a structure for measured, unfussy contemplation of the gift of God in Christ. It is a blessing too that we have a building of some 700 years where we are joined in our prayer by so great a cloud of witnesses.”

Section three: The Priest we are hoping and praying for

St Botolph's was wonderfully well served by Fr Stephen, whose retirement has created the current vacancy. During his time as Priest-in-Charge the PCC has been revitalized, the congregation is growing, a strong musical tradition is developing and a regular pattern of visiting preachers brings different perspectives.

We are keen for the new Priest, with the support of the PCC, to build on the firm foundations of this success and to continue to take St Botolph's forward within the Anglican tradition in matters of faith, belief, worship and preaching which has gathered our congregation to St Botolph's. We are looking for a parish priest who will connect with the congregation individually and collectively and will provide the pastoral care and support that is needed (pastoral visits to give Communion to those unable to attend services have been especially appreciated).

For 30 years or more St Botolph's has been well looked after by non-stipendiary priests. We cannot yet afford a full stipendiary priest, but we can afford to offer a House for Duty for a commitment of three days a week and the festivals. The existing Rectory is being transferred to the Diocese as it no longer fits the requirements for clergy accommodation. The Diocese has committed to finding an alternative property in line with the Green Book requirements or to provide a housing allowance if the new Rector has his or her own accommodation. We would expect this to be within walking or cycling distance.

Amongst the advantages of Cambridge as a place to live and work are the many opportunities for part-time work or academic study that might sit comfortably alongside parish duties.

As part of our proposed collaboration with Corpus Christi, the College is willing to offer dining privileges to the Rector. The collaboration with Corpus Christi College may in due course give rise to more substantial links and activities. It is early days but the Rector will play a key role in determining how St Botolph's can take advantage of these opportunities. This will require creativity, imagination and leadership.

We do not have a particular "type" (or gender) of Rector in mind: we look forward to meeting many different applicants with different strengths and characters to broaden and challenge our ideas about what the future should hold. Having said this, there are some characteristics that are important to the congregation and which will provide a strong foundation for the development of St Botolph's. These are:

- Familiarity with, and affection for, the Book of Common Prayer as this has been at the heart of our worship for many years, and commitment to it not only for its language but as an inspiring vehicle for faith, belief, worship and preaching.
- Knowledge and appreciation of the place of music in worship and the great benefits which come from a strong choral tradition.
- An interest in people and a willingness to engage with both the regular congregation and visitors from many different countries, faiths and customs.
- An ability to engage effectively with students (undergraduates and post-graduates) and those in their 20s and early 30s as well as with older people.
- The energy, leadership and sense of direction to continue to build St Botolph's congregation and to expand our role in the community.

- An instinctive wish to work collectively and collaboratively with all, valuing a diversity of gifts and personal styles.

Apart from these important attributes, familiarity with the following may be useful:

- The particular challenges of reaching out to a gathered congregation as compared with a geographic parish-based congregation.
- Academic life generally and the way in which academic institutions operate.
- Social media, which have a growing importance in connecting St Botolph's to the community and in attracting new worshippers.



Section four: About the parish

St Botolph's is a city-centre parish of moderate size, notionally comprising about 3,000 residents in term time, parts of six Cambridge colleges and a small number of businesses. Many of our parishioners are students, academics or college and university staff so the rhythm of academic life is an important background. There are many other churches in the city centre and with relatively few permanent residents our congregation is largely a gathered one from Cambridge and the surrounding villages, i.e. St Botolph's is now what is called a destination church.

St Botolph's Church is an old and historically important Grade 1-listed building, standing close to the site of the mediaeval gateway to the City of Cambridge from the south and west. 700 years after its construction this still means that many of those visiting Cambridge walk past the door. In an ordinary year about 30,000 of these visitors come into the church, some for prayer and reflection, some in search of heritage and many out of curiosity. Roughly 75%¹ of these visitors are from overseas, especially fitting for a Church named after a patron saint of travellers.

Before Covid, the church was open all day, every day but largely unsupervised. More recently opening has been less regular – generally for a few hours on three days a week plus Sundays - but necessarily always supervised to ensure compliance with COVID restrictions: one of the pleasures of church opening is the interaction with our many visitors. As of March 2022 the church is once again open throughout each day and welcomes visitors.

In addition to the church building itself, there is a parish room or vestry, a kitchen, a lavatory and the former vestry, now largely used for storage of church paperwork and music. The church stands in a churchyard and garden, one of the few green spaces in central Cambridge outside college grounds.

In 2021 we celebrated 700 years of worship in the current church building. The building is in good order and largely unchanged since the extensive restorations by George Bodley in the 1870s and the addition of the parish room and kitchen in 1924. The Arts & Crafts stained glass and decoration are a major attraction to many visitors and were conserved and restored in about 2010 with the support of English Heritage.

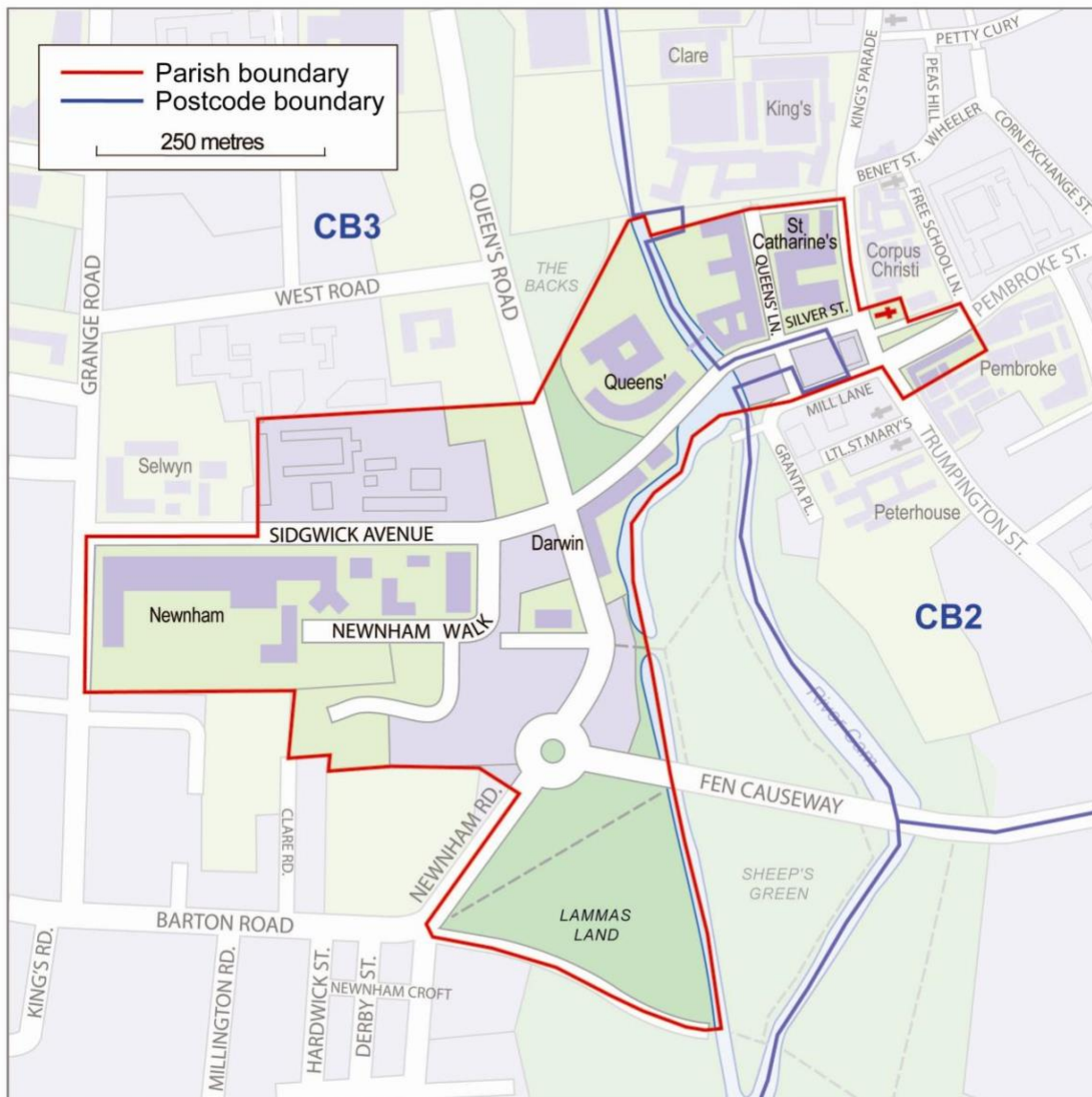
In more detail

The parish boundaries are shown in Figure 1 below. The parish comprises a mixture of college accommodation, commercial properties, rented accommodation and residential housing and several University faculties.

“When I came for my Cambridge interviews, S. Botolph's provided a place to rest and pray between them. I know it must provide solace for countless others.”

¹ Based on an analysis of 6 months of comments in the Visitors' Book in 2015

Figure 1: Parish Boundaries of St Botolph's, Cambridge



The parish is in the upper quartile in terms of deprivation (i.e. relatively prosperous). The summary parish census and deprivation data for 2021 show a population of just under 3,000, 85% of whom are aged between 18 and 29. This largely reflects the six colleges that lie partly or wholly within the parish: Queens', Newnham, Darwin, St Catharine's, Ridley Hall and part of Pembroke. The large student population changes every year: the undergraduates are only in residence for six months of each year of their (usually) three-year course, and there are many non-UK postgraduates. 78% of the population describe themselves as white and 16% as Asian.

Apart from the colleges and college hostels there are only just over 100 households, many of which are occupied by college or university staff and visiting academics and their families. Overall, the population is somewhat transient, though young and vibrant.

There are a number of businesses in the Parish, including two pubs, some restaurants, cafés and cake shops; a petrol station; two dentists and a doctors' surgery; four barbers/hairdressers; an art print shop; an architect; a men's outfitter; a cycle shop and a photographer.

Many visitors to Cambridge are dropped off (from coaches) in the Parish to walk into the city over the River Cam, past the famous view of the Mathematical Bridge and one of the most popular and accessible punt stations. This, and the very well-known Fitzbillies bakery, mean a substantial tourist footfall in the Parish. About 30,000 of these visitors come into the church building in a normal year from about 70 countries.

St Botolph's is bounded by several parishes and churches within a few hundred yards: Little St Mary's, St Bene't's, St Edward's, St Mark's Newnham, together with Downing Place United Reformed Church, as well as the college chapels and the University church of Great St Mary's. Each one offers a different facet of spirituality and worship to meet the needs not only of their own parishes but, like St Botolph's, of the wider community across the city and surrounding villages. St Botolph stands out in this company as the only church in Cambridge South Deanery to hold its services entirely using the Book of Common Prayer.

Our congregation

Our congregation is drawn mainly from outside the Parish. It is made up of those who choose to come for our form of worship, the welcoming Ministry, sense of fellowship, the music and the particular atmosphere of the church building. In addition to the regular congregation there is a wider circle of less frequent worshippers and supporters and friends, not just from in and around Cambridge but from further afield, and internationally.

Historically the average age of the regular congregation has been well above the average of the parish, but this has been changing over the last two or three years as new people have been attracted to our community: an increasing number of undergraduate and postgraduate students have joined the congregation, together with some younger families.



The PCC

The PCC has nine members, and the (Acting) Director of Music is also in attendance. The PCC is a mix of young and old, longstanding worshippers and more recent members of the congregation. The backgrounds of PCC members include accounting, publishing, marketing, academia (students and teachers), surveying and archives and medieval manuscripts.

The PCC meets between six and ten times a year as needed. Recently meetings have necessarily been by Zoom but we will return to face-to-face meetings once Covid allows. When necessary, day-to-day decisions are taken by the Rector, the Churchwardens, Treasurer and Sacristan, often with the advice of the Director of Music and, where appropriate, the architect.

A Development Action Plan Committee meets from time to time for more general discussions. This comprises PCC members and others in the congregation who wish to contribute to the direction of the Church.

The proposed collaboration with Corpus Christi will be placed in the hands of a formal sub-committee of the PCC once the likely shape of this becomes clearer.



Section five: About St Botolph's

This section provides more detail on St Botolph's, its worship, its place in the community and its resources. Further information is available from our website.

The church as a worshipping people

The liturgical pattern reflects the cycle of the Christian year. Our principal weekly service is at 11.00am on Sunday and is always Eucharistic – either a Sung Eucharist or a blended service of Mattins with Holy Communion. Compline is sung on alternate Wednesdays at 9.00pm by Zoom. During term time Morning Prayer is said at 9.15am on Friday mornings.

The major festivals of the Church are celebrated where they fall during the week with a Sung Eucharist in the evening. There is a Choral Evensong every two months or so, either with our own choir or a visiting choir from a college or further afield.



Before Covid Holy Communion was also celebrated at 10.30am on Wednesdays and 8.00am on Sundays and Evensong was said at 4.00pm on Sundays. These services have been suspended since Covid began and that has continued into the interregnum. We anticipate that the new Rector will want to re-visit this pattern of services.

During the interregnum services are being led mainly by Fr Max Bayliss, Chaplain of Queens' College, Rev'd Margaret Widdess and Rev'd Dr Jonathan Holmes, though many others have also stepped in. We are very grateful to all of them.

Some of the congregation would describe themselves as Anglo-Catholic, others as traditional Anglicans, but all are united in the use of the Book of Common Prayer for all our services. The churchmanship could be described as gently catholic. Vestments are worn. The Eucharist is celebrated East-facing. Weekly Service sheets are produced and help those who are less familiar

with the BCP to follow services. A sense of our worship can be found in our service sheets which are available for the last 18 months or so [here](#).

"The best word to sum up the atmosphere at St Botolph's, for this writer, at any rate, is tranquillity. To enter the west door from the street is to cross the threshold of the numinous, and to become more deeply aware of the presence of God."

Under the leadership of our Director of Music, the choir plays an important part in services, leading the congregation in psalms and hymns and through the sung parts of our services – the Nicene Creed and the Gloria are sung to Merbecke. The choir also sings the Kyries, the Sanctus and the Agnus Dei in a variety of settings, and a Communion anthem. It is the custom for the congregation to remain seated after the service whilst an organ voluntary is played. We have appointed an Organ Scholar for 2021/22 and further developments are planned to strengthen our musical life.

There is a strong tradition of visiting preachers at St Botolph's. This includes local retired clergy, college chaplains, ordinands and a number of visitors from further afield. Bishop Dagmar and Bishop Stephen have both preached twice in the last two years and Bishop Rowan Williams was a regular preacher when he was living in Cambridge. The church welcomes both men and women to celebrate and preach. Sermons are recorded and made available on the church website [here](#) and are frequently downloaded. Sermons are based on scripture and teach the faith and mission of the Church. They may reflect political or social concerns where these can be fruitfully informed or contextualised by scripture.



We have two regular servers, one of whom we have appointed as Sacristan and who leads Morning Prayer on Fridays. There is potential within the congregation to develop a full serving team.

Our congregation is a mix of longstanding members (30 years or more) and newer members, often arriving as students or post-graduates. There are several young families. 75 people receive our service sheets and newsletters each week. Average Sunday attendance was 38 in the second half of 2021, and 41 in the last quarter, including the choir, many of whom are regular members of the congregation. Services such as All Souls' Day and our Carol Services have 60 or more in attendance.

Our services are followed by coffee and tea in the church and most stay for this. These refreshments have become an important opportunity for the congregation to get to know each other. Visitors passing by often join in.

Our practice is to leave the West door open to the street to encourage passers-by to drop in during services: we find the music often draws people in. It is often the case that half-a-dozen visitors will drop in and listen to part of a service and some will participate more fully. Whilst the noise of the

street may occasionally be off-putting, we value the opportunity our location provides to worship in public.

Before Covid, we had a day of reflection for Lent led by Fr Peter Huckle SSJE and Fr Stephen took a group to Walsingham in 2019. These are something we would like to build on in future.

The church and the community it serves

St Botolph's church offers quiet space every day for private prayer and reflection in the heart of the city.

St Botolph's plays an important and visible role at key points in the lives of our community. Baptisms, confirmations, weddings and funerals take place on a regular, but not frequent, basis: four baptisms, three weddings, two confirmations and no funerals in 2021. We opened for services during the pandemic immediately it was legal to do so and sustained online services whenever it was not. By being open when many churches in central Cambridge were closed, and with no need for ticketed access, we played an important role in a time of great difficulty for many people. Our website received double the usual visits and our service sheets and sermons were downloaded much more often than had previously been the case.

As a corporate member of The Prayer Book Society St Botolph's is keen to promote the use of the BCP, not just through its use in all our services. Our previous incumbent was Chair of the Ely Diocese Branch of the PBS, a role which has now been taken up by a member of the PCC. In 2019 we held a very successful afternoon and early evening seminar on the practical use of the BCP, attended by around 100 clergy and lay people and chaired by Bishop Rowan Williams. A follow-on event was planned for 2022 but may be deferred until after the interregnum. Our experience is that the BCP is valued by Christians of many different traditions and of all ages. We delight in particular in introducing students and young people to the BCP and this has been an important aspect in the growth in our congregation. We are considering taking a more active role in The Prayer Book Society.



"A wonderful church, full of the Spirit of God. Peaceful yet vibrant. Beautiful, much loved and well cared for. Thank you for being open".

The church building has especially good acoustics, a good pipe organ and a recently acquired grand piano. It is an increasingly popular venue for visiting musicians, both for rehearsals and concerts. The opportunity to sing, for example, Faure's and Durufle's Requiems as part of a service has both attracted singers to take part and gathered large congregations. Choirs from Queens' College,

Corpus Christi College and St Catherine's College have sung evensong from time to time and we hope for further collaboration in this area.



We have six or more book sales and refreshment days each year, varying slightly with the seasons and liturgical calendar. We have about 4,000 books at any one time with new books arriving on a regular basis. These days are very popular and bring a steady stream of visitors into the church: it is not unusual to have 40 or more people at a time throughout the day. An experimental plant sale also attracted visitors and we plan to expand this activity.

Other events aimed directly at our immediate community include a summer barbecue, harvest lunch and support for the Ride & Stride fundraiser in early September each year. We would do more if we had more people available to make them happen.

Some activities have been disrupted by Covid. In previous years there has been a well-attended Church Outing, usually to a cathedral or similar point of interest, but this has been suspended for a couple of years. We hope that this will re-start in 2022.

Our engagement directly with those living in the Parish, as opposed to the wider, gathered congregation, has similarly reduced during Covid. Previously a newsletter was hand-delivered every month to each of the 100 or so households in the Parish. This has been replaced by email and social media, but at the expense of that direct connection each month. We will re-visit this during 2022.

The Parish has embraced social media with active Twitter and Instagram accounts (roughly 370 followers each) and a comprehensive website. The website receives between 100 and 120 hits a day

with 10-15 people exploring the site more fully each day. Sermons are typically downloaded between 150 and 200 times and the most popular has over 750 downloads. We have not so far streamed services beyond the congregation by Zoom. Compline by Zoom has shown us what can be done and this is an area for development in future.

There is a close relationship with the coffee shop in St Botolph's Lane, which is adjacent to the church garden. The café has very limited internal seating and we are in discussions about an arrangement whereby café customers could take advantage of the garden during the summer. We are keen that the garden should be more frequently open and available for public use.

Amongst the constraints on our activity are the lack of step-free access, our single lavatory (also not step free) and poor kitchen facilities. These make it difficult to hold larger events and restrict the type of events we can host. We have had to turn away mother and toddler groups, children's music events and larger concerts and we are unable to participate in the homeless and related initiatives without adequate catering. Addressing this, and improving the non-liturgical space, is a priority for the PCC, but will need energetic fundraising.

Each year we receive about 30,000 visitors in the church. We provide a much valued place for quiet reflection and prayer, and the board for visitors to leave prayer requests and the candle stand are well-used. Other visitors come to admire the Arts & Crafts decorative scheme, the medieval rood screen and Laudian font and other heritage features. Our website and social media accounts provide a way to connect with these visitors and the wider community of St Botolph's. We are striving to improve these and to link our online and in-church presence with more material and better presentation in the building itself, particularly around early English Christianity and the history and contemporary use of the Book of Common Prayer. This is an area which we are developing in collaboration with Corpus Christi College. However, there is no substitute for personal connection, and we are keen to explore whether an ordinand might be placed at St Botolph's to engage with this community (as has happened in the past).



The community life of the church requires many volunteers to be in the church the church, for gardening, cleaning, distributing leaflets, social media activities, refreshments after services, flower arranging, catering and, on book sale days, the heavy lifting to display and retrieve the 4,00 books. This is an important aspect of the life of St Botolph's and there is a real sense of community amongst the congregation, some of whom have been helping for many years. Several members of the PCC work or study in the

church while it is open to visitors. Eight of the congregation are now embroidering kneelers for the church – a shared activity well-suited to Covid times – and they have started to meet in the church on Friday mornings.

We are conscious that there is much more to do. We should like to develop links with the surgery in the Parish and with the Cambridge University Press, whose war memorial is in the side chapel, and we would like to consider further ways of making use of the chapel.

The church building and resources

Our financial position

The church is, or post-Covid will be, in a roughly stable position financially.

We have been through a period of change over the last few years with substantial spending from our own resources on heating and electrical projects and some necessary plaster and drainage work. At the same time, changes following the end of the previous incumbency meant a very significant reduction in regular donations and the loss of regular collections and fundraising activity during Covid exacerbated this.

More positively, the number of regular donors has doubled (to 14 in 2021) over the last two years as our congregation grows and we have added new sources via contactless giving and via our website. Our fundraising book sales have recommenced post-Covid and make a substantial difference, and there is increasing demand to hold concerts and similar events in the church, which provide extra revenue.

Our income and expenditure is summarised below at a high level. More details are in the Trustees' Report and Accounts on the website [here](#).

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
<i>Donations</i>	13,809	24,982	31,710	31,354	31,473
<i>Fundraising</i>	859	6,127	12,027	5,562	5,234
<i>Other</i>	358	455	263	225	233
<i>Total income</i>	15,026	31,564	44,000	37,141	36,940
<i>Ministry Share</i>	6,099	15,117	20,556	20,623	20,235
<i>Other current expenses</i>	12,246	15,765	8,580	7,152	8,145
<i>Operating result</i>	(3,319)	682	14,864	9,366	8,560
<i>Fabric spend</i>	(28,305)	(83,159)	(6,602)	-	(3,760)
<i>Related grants</i>	14,567	10,054	-	-	580
<i>Related donations</i>	15,882	7,555	8,041	7,342	7,314
<i>Total fabric spend</i>	2,144	(65,550)	1,439	7,342	4,134
<i>Result for the year</i>	(1,175)	(64,868)	16,303	16,708	12,694
<i>Total funds</i>	61,414	62,588	127,457	111,153	94,444
<i>Number of standing order donors</i>	10	7	6	5	5

We have approximately £60,000 in current accounts and invested with the CCLA, about £15,000 of which is restricted to fabric spend. This covers about 15 months of normal expenditure (including Ministry Share) and provides a small buffer but is clearly not adequate for further capital spend, having been significantly diminished by recent spending.

For at least the last 30 years St Botolph's has had the benefit of priests on a non-stipendiary basis. For much, if not all of that time, St Botolph's paid a substantial ministry share and was therefore a substantial net contributor to Diocesan funds. The changes described above have disrupted that.

The PCC's firm view is that St Botolph's is a growing church with a clear sense of direction and the energy, commitment and resources to fund a priest on a House for Duty basis. In the last couple of years we have been able to obtain grant funding for, for example, necessary security improvements (alarm and CCTV) and have benefited from generous donations from a wide network of friends and supporters to repair stolen lead and vandalised stained glass. Knowing that we have that network is a strong source of encouragement for our future plans.

Although it is not part of the PCC's funds, there is a "Vicars and Wardens" charity which is for the benefit of "the poor of the parish". This has cash balances of around £63,000 and 5.5 acres of land, the legacy of John Lanham (1657) and John Brewer (1706), from which the Rector and Churchwardens are able to make payments of (in total) around £1,000 per annum. This was used most recently to enable a member of the congregation to spend two weeks on placement in another parish. The PCC is considering how best to use these funds and whether to apply for the charity to be wound up and the funds released for an appropriate purpose, potentially to enable St Botolph's to strengthen its role in the community.

Our building and garden

St Botolph's is a Grade 1 listed building, constructed in around 1320. Entrance is through the West door underneath the bell tower on Trumpington Street. The church has a typical layout of nave and north and south aisles, simple and traditional. The chancel is a fine example of the Arts & Crafts influenced work of George Bodley in the late nineteenth century, separated from the nave by a rare medieval rood screen, the only one in Cambridge. There is a south porch and beside it, with access from the south aisle, a fifteenth century chapel. This was re-furnished as a memorial chapel after the Great War.

The church building is in good condition. The relatively small matters flagged in the last Quinquennial have been addressed and a new Quinquennial is due in 2023. We have appointed a new architect and look forward to her report.

The church provides a wonderful space for worship and can accommodate over 100 people. There is space within the church itself to host, for example, a sit-down harvest lunch for 40-50 people, or multiple stalls and 4,000 books for our fundraising events. The side chapel provides a small, private space which is suitable for some meetings and small services and can be used as a creche during services: this is rarely used and represents an opportunity for the future. Apart from our regular services, each year we have about six book sale and refreshment days, 4 or 5 concerts, 5 or 6 requests for rehearsal space and similar events and occasional additional choral services.

"It's been a while since I was last in Cambridge, and longer still since I sang in this church as an undergraduate. Lovely to see it still open and it feels as calm and welcoming as it always did."

There is more scope to use the building but our challenge from a fabric perspective is the administrative space that provides the facilities we need to host events. Our parish room – now also the vestry – is small and needs redecoration: it can just accommodate our PCC meetings. More significantly our very small kitchen is not suitable for anything more taxing than coffees and teas and is in urgent need of a complete refurbishment. We also have a single lavatory but no disabled access to this. The PCC hopes to address this with a significant upgrade to all these rooms to create a larger and better equipped space which will enable us to have a greater role in the community. This will be a substantial project needing serious grant funding and energetic fundraising, but it is key to enabling St Botolph's to take a stronger role in the community. Other fabric matters on the wish list include a sound system and hearing loop.

The churchyard and garden are great assets, often used for refreshments after services, for occasional lunches and for drinks and photographs after weddings and christenings. The garden is unlocked when the church is attended, but not otherwise for security reasons. The churchyard is open for the burial of ashes and in common with other Cambridge city-centre churches St Botolph's has a plot in Mill Road Cemetery.

Several of the Cambridge tour guides include St Botolph's on their walking tours. There are obvious possibilities to create links with other churches, colleges and sites linked to George Bodley and the Arts & Crafts movement and to make more of our literary links to Samuel Pepys and Ted Hughes.

Just before Covid we agreed to provide a home for a sculpture entitled "The Lamb" by Liviu Mocan, a prominent Romanian Christian artist, which was part of an exhibition celebrating Cambridge's role in the Reformation. This is now installed in the South Aisle and provides an attractive focus for prayer and contemplation. The terms on which the sculpture might remain are under discussion.



Thank you for reading this profile. Our clear vision and vibrant and engaged congregation give us hope for great things for St Botolph's. We pray for the right priest to help us fulfil these expectations.

Appendix

Development Action Plan St Botolph's, Cambridge 2018 to 2021

Our vision

To grow our congregation and to strengthen the place of St Botolph's as a Prayer Book Parish Church, and as a place of prayer and witness to Christian life in Cambridge that is especially welcoming to all.

The tasks we set ourselves

Develop healthy churches and leaders		
1	Develop and project a social media profile for St Botolph's with a new website and across Twitter, Instagram and Facebook, Google, TripAdvisor and A Church Near You. Use this to make ourselves more visible and more visibly active in the community and to engage more effectively with younger generations.	An ongoing commitment: we now have a new, comprehensive website and active Twitter, Instagram and Facebook accounts that have demonstrably connected with our congregation and the wider community.
2	Improve the signage and literature outside and in the church to engage with visitors more effectively, both on the Christian life and on the fabric of the building, and in multiple languages.	This is an ongoing activity with regularly refreshed posters and other material.
3	Set up a prayer board to enable visitors to request prayers to be brought to the attention of the congregation each Sunday. As part of this, create an area to encourage and enable prayer and contemplation at the East end of the South Aisle with chairs and appropriate signage.	This has been done and sits alongside the sculpture of The Lamb which provides a focal point for prayer in the South Aisle, and a well-used candle stand.
4	Seek to build on the solid foundations of the Wednesday morning communion.	Covid has meant the suspension of Wednesday morning communion, but in its place we have a well-attended Compline by Zoom on Wednesday evenings and this has connected a number of those from further afield, including Europe and the US.
5	Continue the invitations to visiting preachers with a view to developing a reputation for the quality and breadth of teaching. Build on this by leveraging our website and social media to circulate sermons and teaching more widely.	This continues with visiting preachers once or twice each month. Almost all sermons are recorded and made available on the website, and are typically downloaded about 50 times.

6	Focus more effort around the first Sunday of each month with a choir, refreshments and potentially a Sunday School.	We now have a well-established choir led by our Acting Director of Music and have just appointed an organ scholar for 2022. Refreshments now follow every Sunday service and most of the congregation stay and chat.
Serve the community		
7	Continue to keep the church open every day, and free of charge, as a place of quiet for prayer and contemplation, and as a refuge for those who need shelter and somewhere to rest.	Covid necessarily interrupted this but we remained open at least some part of every week when it was legal to do so. The church is now open again every day in daylight hours.
8	Seek out ways of connecting more directly with visiting academics and with students out of term-time (especially in the six colleges in our Parish) to encourage them to join us when college chapels are closed. Plan a series of events around the start of the academic year in September, for example lunch for new families in Cambridge.	Some progress has been made, but necessarily limited by Covid.
9	Offer to host an event at St Botolph's for ordinands along lines similar to the Old Wine event at Oxford in 2016, to provide them with guidance on the practicalities of using the Book of Common Prayer in services.	"Old Wine" was held in May 2019 and attended by about 100 people, a mixture of clergy and lay. A planned follow-on event for 2022 has been deferred during the interregnum.
10	Continue to seek an appropriate opportunity to develop a greater role in our immediate community.	This needs greater attention and should be the focus of our next three years.
Reimagine our buildings		
11	Improve the heating of the church: we need to be warmer during services for congregation and clergy, but this is also essential to us increasing the wider usage of the building. We have consulted the architect and a heating engineer and are awaiting indications of approach and cost.	Heating has been installed in the Church and in the rooms outside the main building.
12	Cosmetic (or more) refurbishment of the Church Room, the loo and kitchen facilities to enable us to more confidently host a wider range of events.	Minor improvements have been made, and some rearrangements, to enable better use of the Parish Room. These are limited until we can pursue a more substantial project.
13	Explore using our North and South Aisles as exhibition space for appropriate material, for example around mission, visitors and journeying. Both to provide spaces for would-be exhibitors and to encourage visitors to spend more time in the church.	This is now being explored with the support of The Parker Library and Corpus Christi College.

14	Build on the strong reputation of our six Visitors' Days each year, all with second-hand book sales, usually with refreshments and often an organ recital.	These continue and have been increasingly successful.
15	Offer the building as a space for talks and events related to our focus on mission, visitors and journeying. For example to language societies and the faculties on the Sidgwick site within our Parish.	Not yet explored as originally envisaged. Instead we have hosted a number of concerts by our own choir, by visiting choirs and occasional soloists, and these have proved very popular. We have also had occasional special choral services in addition to our usual pattern.