

ST BOTOLPH

C A M B R I D G E

From the Priest in Charge

Dear Friends

About the current situation 16

Future Pattern of Public Worship



As advised previously, the Government has announced that public worship in church can resume from Sunday 5th July. It is my intention to hold a Sung Eucharist at 11am on that day, as might normally be held, and I hope very much that as many of you as possible will want to be present and receive the Sacrament. Services thereafter will resume their usual pattern.

The provision of virtual services by Zoom will finish after today – with the possible exception of Compline by Zoom continuing on its current fortnightly pattern if there is a sufficient demand for it. However, although public worship will resume, it will not be a return to normality yet – and perhaps not for quite a while.

The following restrictions will apply:

- Entry to the church will take place through the West Door in the Tower, as usual, and then follow a circular movement around church to the pews (omitting the centre aisle), leaving by the South Door and garden into Botolph Lane.
- Singing is explicitly prohibited (because the voice and any associated droplets are thrown over a much larger area), but organ music is explicitly permitted. The prohibition of singing is a particular issue for us because it forms such a central part of our worship. We are looking at various possible options to mitigate the impact of this prohibition, while conforming to the letter and spirit of the guidelines.

- Prayer Books and Hymn books will be issued, but cannot be recirculated. Please take a set home with you and then bring the set back to subsequent services; otherwise leave the books in the pews, please, for sanitisation.
- A collection cannot physically be taken. The Good Box will be repositioned to be near the West Door on leaving, so a donation by card can be made then. Alternatively, please contact David Eastwood to arrange a standing order or other ways of contributing.
- The Sacrament will be administered in one kind only – the host. The Church holds that Christ is wholly present in each of the elements of bread and wine. It will be administered by the priest standing at the Chancel step, with the congregation receiving while standing too. Directions will be given for a circular movement around church to this Communion station, respecting social distancing.
- The priest will wear PPE, to include some or all of face shield, surgical mask and gloves. Although I should imagine that this will appear quite unsightly - and uncomfortable for the wearer - it is to give confidence that the maximum possible protection is being used and encourage participation.
- The Choir stalls will be closed. Therefore, sitting for the 8.00am and Wednesday 10.30am Holy Communion services, when the congregation normally sits in the Choir Stalls, will need to take place, socially distanced, in the Nave pews instead.

Services in July

Sunday 5th July

11.00am Sung Eucharist – Fr Stephen will preach on “What is the church for?”

Wednesday 8th July

10.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 12th July

8.00am Holy Communion

11am Service of Thanksgiving for our return to church and meeting one another

– preacher: Revd Dr Jonathan Holmes

Wednesday 15th July

10.30am Holy Communion

9.00pm Compline by Zoom

Church Opening for private prayer

Dan Jones, Deputy Churchwarden, is co-ordinating this activity. We are endeavouring to open on Tuesday, Friday and Saturday each week, between 12 noon and 2pm. We are still in need of more volunteers to be in attendance. Please contact Dan by email on deiniolj@icloud.com or by phone on 07780 116149. He will let you know what is involved and how it all works, which is very straightforward.

Annual Parish and Church Meeting

Normally the annual meetings are required legally to have taken place before the end of May each year (was April, until recently). But the closure of churches for an extended period due to the Coronavirus restrictions has required the time window for the holding of these meetings to be extended until the end of October. So, the annual meeting for St Botolph's to elect the Churchwardens, receive the Annual Accounts 2019, consider reports on various aspects of our activities, raise any questions, and appoint members to the PCC, will take place on:

Sunday 25th October after the 11am service (*shortened*)

Please put the date in your diary now.

Arthur Lucian Walmsley



If it doesn't seem too indulgent, here are a couple of images of our lovely grandson, Arthur. Over two dozen of you have very generously sent messages of congratulations, good wishes and offered prayers and compositions. It has not been possible to reply to them all individually, but I'd like everyone to know that Julia and I are very grateful to you for them. They have meant a lot to us to receive them, and the messages (alone) have been passed on to our daughter, Caroline, and Sean, Arthur's parents. Thank you all for your kindness and love.

Yours in Christ,

Fr Stephen

Priest in Charge

Parish Church of St Botolph Cambridge.