

ST BOTOLPH

C A M B R I D G E

From the Priest in Charge

Dear Friends

Newsletter 18

Welcome

It remains wonderful to be back in church on a continuous basis, even if the restrictions placed upon us to limit the spread of the Coronavirus seem to change week by week. One welcome development has been the easing of the restriction on the singing in church by the Choir.

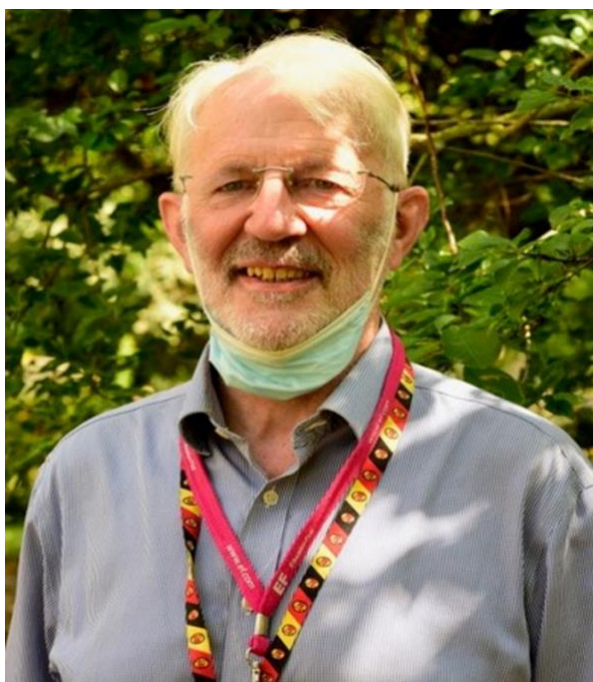


Last Sunday, for the first time, the Choir was able to sing together, socially distanced, in church. It was good to be able to free them from the confines of the Chapel and to lift the constraint on single voice cantoring only. This is a step in the right direction, although I regret that congregational singing is still not permitted.

The Choir rose to the opportunity magnificently as everyone present will recall. They were most ably led by Tim; and the singing was supported by

Peter's accomplished voluntary on the organ, drawing the current season of organ works by the Danish – German composer, Dietrich Buxtehude, to a close.

While it has been wonderful to welcome several new members of the congregation in the past few weeks, I am conscious that for many of you, a return to church still remains a distant possibility while the Coronavirus is still circulating (although the outbreak in Cambridge has been very well contained, compared to other parts of the country). Rest assured that you continue to be very much missed, thought about and prayed for; I hope that circumstances may soon allow for your return.



Appointment of Tim Brown as Interim Director of Music

I am delighted to announce the appointment of Tim Brown as Interim Director of Music at St Botolph's until further notice.

Tim came to us last October to “help out” after the departure of Adam McDonagh back to his native Ireland - and he has been “helping out” ever since – and on multiple fronts too.

Tim doesn't feel able to commit to a permanent appointment but is willing to continue to offer his services while they are still needed and he feels able to do so. We hope very much that this arrangement might continue well into the future.

We are fortunate to have someone of Tim's calibre and experience in post. If that were not enough, he brings considerable energy and enthusiasm to the role. He was Director of Music at Clare for many years and, much earlier, sung in the Choirs of both Westminster Abbey and King's.

Please join me in wishing Tim our best wishes for the future; and our thanks for his significant contribution to both the musical and parish life of the church.

Revd Patrick Cotton

Patrick's writing of verse has been inspired in recent weeks such that new compositions have been an almost daily occurrence in the past few weeks. There is not room here for all his writings, but here are two pieces that particularly caught my eye:

To gentle earth ..

Powerless against the rising tide of tarmac,
The snake of broadband, the monster plough
The gentle earth meekly submits
We demand, 'We want it, now!'

Seas of high yielding crops with pesticide
Feed our part of the human race
And bees and moths, and variety,
Succumb to myopic embrace

One day there might be found for us
In graveyard, festooned with stones
An un-tarmaced space where mother earth
Will open up, receive our bones.

I wonder if in years to come
An entrepreneur there will be
Who tarmacs the beaches so more cars
Can get down to the sea

*The blue sky dappled by the trees
The twitching leaves in fitful breeze
Humanity was shaped by these*

Babel towers seduce, subvert
 Our cleverness enthrals us
 In virtual world we feel quite free
 Self-discipline appals us

City dwellers, town raised child
 Breathing digitally laden air
 Pity, pity, pity them
 No blue remembered hills are there.

Distanced by our modern gods
 From our womb of gentle earth
 May the God of love
 Grant to us rebirth.

I'm bored ...

Thus the young child used to be
 [Before x-box, twitter, face-book, zoom
 Left with nothing on t.v
 In inert adult-friendly room.]

Once a leaf, an ant, a stone
 Would catch, enthrall, engage, fulfil,
 But now, sophisticated grown
 Restless mind will not be still.

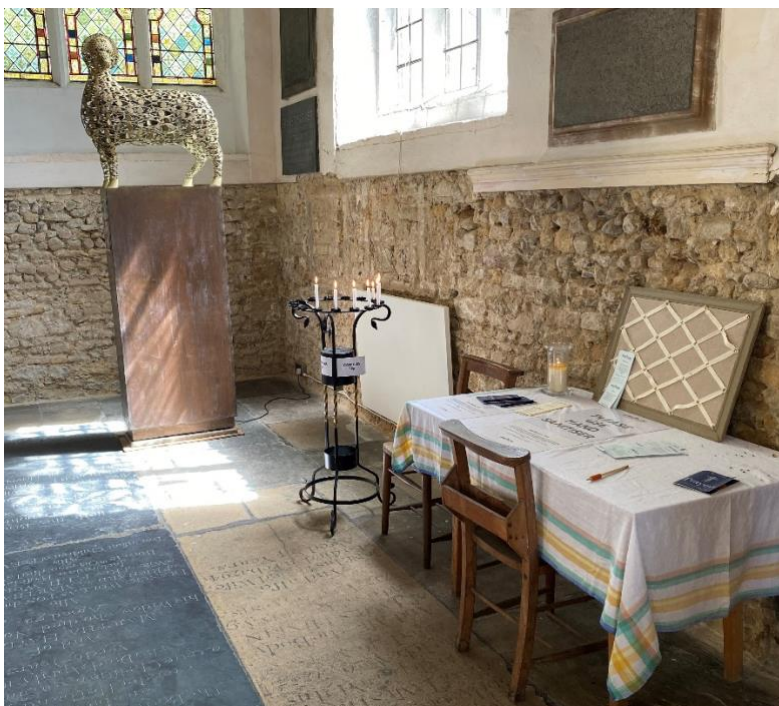
Such restless minds no longer give
 Life to ant or stone or leaf,
 restless minds no longer live.

But adults find so much to do
 Insistent tasks from dawn to dusk
 Interspersed with visits to internet zoo
 Days pass in bored-less rush

The bored child is bored no more
 But no longer is alive
 [Though following the scientific law
 Giving best chance to survive]

Oh where is the contented mind
That once could see beneath the shell,
And in that simple snail could find
The promise of Immanuel?

DAC applications



The PCC has lodged three applications with the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) as part of the Church's formal application process for planning consent which ends with the granting of a Faculty for work to proceed (if approved).

The applications are for us to retain the Lamb of God sculpture permanently (subject to fund raising); not to need to fully reinstate the south west wall now that it has dried out, but to leave it in its unrendered state, subject only to stabilising the wall by applying a breathable sealant; and to erect a shed in the far corner of the garden for the storage of garden tools, so that the Outer Vestry / Parish Room can be considerably tidied up and made more usable.

Following consideration at a meeting of the committee, a visit of the DAC to inspect the proposed work is planned for Thursday 27th August and we should know the outcome of our applications soon thereafter. A formal public consultation will then follow if the DAC recommends our applications.

Church Opening



Our current pattern of opening the church for private prayer on Tuesday, Friday and Saturday lunchtimes, 12 noon until 2pm, is drawing an increasing number of visitors, especially as the centre of Cambridge has become more active. Last Saturday, between 25 and 30 people came in.

We do still need more volunteers to assist the core team though. Two hours might seem a long time, but it seems to go quickly enough, especially when there is a stream of visitors with whom to chat. They are often surprised to find the church actually open.

Can you help to open the doors, please, if only occasionally? This work is vital. If so, please have a word with Dan, who is co-ordinating this activity and can let you know what is involved. Dan can be reached by email on deiniolj@icloud.com or by telephone on 07780 116149.

Future Dates

Set out below is the pattern of services over the next two months, together with the various preachers:

Sunday 6th September Sung Eucharist at 11am –
 Revd Dr Jonathan Holmes, Fellow of Queens, preaching

Sunday 13th September Mattins with Holy Communion at 11am –
 Revd Dr Mark Smith, Dean of Clare College, preaching

Sunday 20th September Sung Eucharist at 11am –
 Revd Ally Barrett, Chaplain of St Catharine's College, celebrating and preaching

Sunday 27th September Mattins with Holy Communion for Michaelmas (tfrd) at
 11am – TBA

**Sunday 4th October Sung Eucharist for Harvest Thanksgiving at
 11am –**

Will Lyon Tupman, Ordinand at Westcott House, preaching

**Sunday 11th October Mattins with Holy Communion at 11am –
 Bishop Dagmar of Huntingdon preaching**

Sunday 18th October Sung Eucharist for St Luke's Day (tfrd) at 11am –
 Revd Patrick Cotton preaching

**Sunday 25th October Mattins with Holy Communion at 11am –
 shortened service, followed by Annual Church Meetings**

Arthur Walmsley



Many of you have continued to ask after our grandson, Arthur. It is kind of you to have done so. He is doing very well, thank you.

Julia and I had the opportunity to visit last weekend and here is one of the images that were taken by our daughter, Caroline (with apologies for the awful clash of stripes and checks by the not very clothes co-ordinated grandparents).

Compline by Zoom

This short, evening service is offered *fortnightly* on a Wednesday evening at 9pm, by Zoom. The next service is this week on 26th August and I'll send out the Order of Service and Zoom joining link beforehand.

Yours in Christ

Fr Stephen

Priest in Charge

Parish Church of St Botolph Cambridge.