

# ST BOTOLPH

C A M B R I D G E

*From the Priest in Charge*

Dear Friends

## Newsletter 24

Welcome to this March 2021 edition of the Monthly Newsletter.

### Back to church



The consultation with members of the congregation regarding the preferred date for returning to church for public worship yielded a particularly good response, but an inconclusive outcome, with all three options (A 7<sup>th</sup>, B 21<sup>st</sup> & C 28<sup>th</sup> March) finding *equal* numbers in support. To some extent this reflects the diversity of the congregation and attitudes towards perceived risk.

My conviction that worship best takes place in church has to be balanced by the willing attendance of the congregation, also bearing in mind that some members can only attend remotely by Zoom at the present time.

My sense is to allow two more weeks for the incidence of the Coronavirus to decrease even further locally and for more vaccinations to be undertaken.

Consequently, **public worship will resume on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 11am**. This was not one of the options offered in the consultation, but given

the spread of the response, I hope that this balance of judgment will nevertheless find sufficient support, even though it is not going to suit everyone.

The 14<sup>th</sup> March Sunday, while being the Fourth in Lent, has several other titles attaching to it, namely *Refreshment Sunday*, *Laetare Sunday* and finally *Mothering Sunday*.

It seems entirely right to return to “Mother Church” on this day and I shall preach on what such a regard should mean for us.

## **Vaccination Programme**

A slight tongue in cheek comment follows.



After lobbying, the Government has now decided that the clergy represent a special case for earlier inclusion in the vaccination programme and so have placed clergy in the *Social Workers* category! Clergy have been advised to wear clerical collars when attending for a vaccination, lest there be a doubt about eligibility. Nevertheless, I hope that all

adults will be first vaccinated by 31<sup>st</sup> July, as the Government has announced, and the roll out continues at the current extended pace.

## **Services during March**

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

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.

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March – Mattins with Holy Communion for Laetare / Mothering Sunday at 11am.

Fr Stephen preaching.

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March – Compline by Zoom for *St Patrick's Day* at 9pm

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March – Sung Eucharist *for Passion Sunday* at 11am.  
Revd Margaret Widdess preaching.

## Holy Week 2021



**Palm Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March – Sung Eucharist** with distribution of palms and reading of the *Passion Gospel* at 11am.

Fr Stephen preaching.

Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March – Compline by Zoom in *Holy Week* at 9pm

**Maundy Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April – Sung Eucharist at 6pm** followed by a guided *Watch of the Passion*.

Fr Stephen preaching.

**Good Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April – Liturgy of the Day at 10:30am.**

Fr Stephen preaching.

**Easter Day 4<sup>th</sup> April – Sung Eucharist at 11am**

Professor Emerita Morna Hooker, *previously Lady Margaret Professor of Divinity & Fellow of Robinson College*, preaching

*The Prayer Book requires Communion to be received on at least three occasions during the year, one of which must be Easter Day.*

## APCM

The Annual Meetings to elect the Churchwardens and PCC and receive the Accounts and various reports on different aspects of our common life together will be on **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May at 12:15pm.**

Please put the date in your diaries and try to attend the meeting. There will be no sermon at the prior service on that day.

## Family News



Congratulations to Clare and George on the birth of a son, *Charles Ernest Gore Owers* on 18<sup>th</sup> February, weighing 7lbs 1 oz. Here is a lovely picture of mother and son looking happy and contented. We look forward to meeting Charles in person when public worship resumes soon.



Our own grandson, *Arthur Lucian Walmsley*, continues to grow quickly. Here is another image of him taken recently after 8 months. I shall baptise him during the service on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May.



## Short Notes

Although our services are currently by Zoom until 14<sup>th</sup> March, 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.

- Cambridge City Council has given listed building consent for a garden shed. An application has now been submitted for planning consent and we await the outcome. A shed 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 within the Church will continue after the secular response of 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.  
After each visiting the church, four Cambridge firms should shortly have submitted applications for the role.  
Interviews by Zoom will be held on 26<sup>th</sup> March. Dan will chair the interviews and be joined on the panel by Sarah, Colin and Fr Stephen.
- 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 the previous five years period.

Discussions have usefully been held with both the Bishop (Fr Stephen) and the Archdeacon (Sarah, Dan, David and Fr Tim Harling, acting for the Patron – Queens College).

The Bishop is prepared to receive an application from the PCC about this positively, but a significant practical issue has seemingly arisen in respect of the status of St Botolph's Rectory, which is now the home of the Archdeacon. An Incumbent, as opposed to a Priest in Charge, might ordinarily have a claim to be able to live in the Rectory.

A further meeting with the Archdeacon is planned in one month's time while the legal situation and historic agreements are investigated in the meantime.

Best wishes

*Fr Stephen*

Priest in Charge

Parish Church of St Botolph, Cambridge