

**S. BOTOLPH'S CHURCH,
CAMBRIDGE
NEWSLETTER FOR DECEMBER 2017**

From the Priest in Charge

Dear Friends,

Our English word 'Advent' comes from the Latin word *Adventus* which means 'coming'. Advent is a season of anticipation, of patiently watching and preparing for the coming of the Christ child.

Most of us will spend much time and energy over these coming weeks making ready our homes for Christmas—the decorations that have to be put up, the food that needs to be ordered, the presents that need to be bought, the tidying up for the arrival of family visitors.

In all of our busyness, we can easily forget that Christmas is not solely about, indeed not primarily about, making ready our homes, but making ready our hearts too to receive the most important visitor of all, Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Somehow, perhaps despite our best intentions, this tiny, helpless baby often becomes so crowded out by all our other preparations, that we lose sight of the fundamental gift of God Himself.

So, try to give over more time this Advent to watching for Our Lord's coming, discerning what God wants for us, what is His plan for us, listening to His voice, examining our lives—all so we are properly ready to welcome again God's love into our hearts as we greet Our Lord Emmanuel, God with us, at Christmas itself.

The themes of our Advent preparation, of watching, listening and welcoming are present in word and sacrament in all our services. If we put as much effort into preparing our hearts as we do our homes for Christmas, then we shall be ready to be richly blessed with the gift of Christ Himself, a gift that will be far more uplifting, far more enduring, far more sustaining in our lives than anything else we shall receive or do this Christmas. It should be our priority to prepare our hearts then this Advent and, if we do, all our other preparations to prepare our homes will fall into their proper place.

Yours in Christ,

Stephen.

Looking ahead

Sunday 10th December—Second Sunday in Advent. A musical treat in store this Sunday when the **11.00 a.m. Mattins will be Choral**, to be sung by members of the Vox Cantab Choir, directed by Louisa Denby (who played the organ for us in September). The preces and responses, together with the canticles, will be sung to plainsong based settings and the Anthem will be *Alma redemptoris mater* by Palestrina. The service will begin with the singing of the Advent Prose.

Sunday 17th December—Third Sunday in Advent. Evensong at 6pm, to be followed by **carol singing around the parish**. All welcome.

Sunday 24th December—Christmas Eve (Fourth Sunday in Advent). We welcome back **Bp Rowan Williams** as our preacher at the 11am Mattins this morning to deliver the final sermon before Christmas. Please do make a special effort to come and listen to what Bp Rowan has to say as we anticipate Christmas. I cannot think of a better preparation than this. The service will also incorporate a guided corporate penitential preparation for the approaching festival.

Monday 25th December—Christmas Day. As is customary on this day, the **Sung Eucharist will be at 10.30 a.m.**, not our usual 11.00 a.m., and include a good, traditional selection of carols. Please make every effort to be in church again today.

Sunday 7th January—The Epiphany (transferred). A carol service for Epiphany will be at 11.00 a.m. on this day. We shall be joined by a gathered choir to lead both congregational and choir carols for Christmas and the Epiphany. A shortened service of Holy Communion will follow at about 12.15 p.m. *Stephen*

From the Registers Funeral, 29th November 2017
Veronica Margaret Baker, Churchwarden aged 74

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Veronica Baker

On the afternoon of 29th November St Botolph's had standing room only for Veronica's funeral. Besides relatives, friends had come from all over, and areas from which those present had travelled included Northern Ireland, Luxembourg and of course Wales. This varied

congregation represented the many facets of her life, including her voluntary work. The Prayer-book service, which she had planned meticulously many months before her death, included the Croft setting of the Sentences. In St Botolph's we will remember her for the interest, energy and pastoral care she put into all she did—ever since 1972—whether with Sunday School, choir, those in trouble, or welcoming visitors, or as P.C.C. Secretary and Churchwarden. The list could go on and on. We all miss her presence hugely—and send our sympathy to her family. K.H.

Items for the January Newsletter by Tuesday 2nd January, please. K.H.

CALENDAR

ADVENT SUNDAY 3rd December 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion

11.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist;

Epistle, Miss Josselyn; Refreshments, Josselyn

Preacher: The Revd Patrick Cotton

4.15 p.m. Evensong

Wednesday 6th 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion

ADVENT II Sunday 10th 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion

11.00 a.m. Mattins (Vox Cantab Choir)

1. Genesis 3.9-15, 20, Mr Jarvis; 2. St Luke 1.26-38, Mr Hodson

12.15 p.m. Holy Communion

4.15 p.m. Evensong

Wednesday 13th 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion

ADVENT III Sunday 17th 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion

11.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist (Order 1)

Epistle, Mr Barker; Intercession, Mr Hodson

6.00 p.m. Evensong followed by carol singing in the parish

Wednesday 20th *Ember Day* 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion

Saturday 23rd Church Decoration from 9.30 a.m.

ADVENT IV *Christmas Eve* Sunday 24th

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion

11.00 a.m. Mattins

1. Isaiah 40.1-9, Mrs. Irvine; 2. St John 1.9-28, Mrs. Durham

Preacher: Bishop Rowan Williams

CHRISTMAS DAY Sunday 25th

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion

10.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist; Epistle, Mrs. Horbury

4.30 p.m. Evensong (said)

S. John's Day Wednesday 27th 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion

SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS Sunday 31st

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion

11.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist

Epistle, Mrs. Barker

Preacher: The Revd Patrick Cotton

Wednesday 3rd January 2018 Holy Communion 10.30 a.m.

EPIPHANY (transferred) Sunday 7th January 2018

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion

11.00 a.m. Epiphany Carol Service

12.15 p.m. Holy Communion

Refreshments, Hunter

S. Botolph's Cambridge

Priest-in-charge

The Reverend Stephen Anderson, 01223 843859, Mob: 07889 003588

Churchwarden: Mrs. K. M. Horbury, 01223 363529