

S. BOTOLPH'S CHURCH, CAMBRIDGE

NEWSLETTER FOR FEBRUARY 2018

From the Priest in Charge

Dear Friends,

Pope Francis was once asked: *"Who is Jorge Bergoglio?"* He replied: *"I am a sinner. This is the most accurate definition. It is not a figure of speech. I am a sinner ... whom the Lord has looked upon."*

We are all sinners before God. Our hearts are broken by the weight of our sin and our best hope is to ask for His mercy. Fortunately for us, God *"hates the sin, but loves the sinner"*, as the phrase goes, to whom He is always ready to show forgiveness.

We need grace to receive God's forgiveness and grace to forgive those who wrong us. That grace is always there for us – if we are prepared to seek it in penitence and faith.

The season of Lent, which starts on Ash Wednesday, is about our *turning* back to God, seeking His mercy, grace and forgiveness for our lives. We can do this turning by paying greater attention to saying our prayers, reading the Scriptures reflecting upon where and how our lives have fallen short of being worthy of God's love, saying sorry and genuinely trying to amend our ways.

Most especially, we should make an extra effort to attend church, particularly the Holy Communion, more frequently. There are two celebrations on **Ash Wednesday, the usual said Holy Communion at 10:30am and a Sung Eucharist at 6pm. Please try to be at one of these services on this day.**

Finally, a word about giving up something for Lent—please do. But remember self-denial is not a utilitarian exercise in self-improvement or money saving. The purpose of our self-denial is to identify with the fasting of Jesus in the wilderness and, with all our other turning, to better prepare ourselves to follow Him on the way of the Cross.

As we travel with Jesus this Lent, the possibility of our turning again to Him rests not just in His turning to us, but in His embrace of our broken hearts and lives. For that is the love that transforms and renews, but only out of our broken hearts.

Yours in Christ,

Stephen.

Looking ahead

Development Action Planning. Eight of us met recently to begin the process of drawing up a Development Action Plan for S. Botolph's, as required by the Diocese. Our principal objective is to better reach out to people whom we don't know and might be attracted by our worship and witness to Our Lord, Jesus Christ.

We had a wide-ranging discussion, which was conducted in a lively, enthusiastic and entirely positive manner. Further work is continuing, with the aim of presenting to the annual parish meeting (APCM) and the Archdeacon / Rural Dean, but at this stage, the PCC is being asked to endorse:

- the engagement of social media and an upgraded website to reach a wider audience, including younger people and visitors
- the exploration of forming a choir and the provision of children's activities
- the provision of improved heating in church, as part of our hospitality.

Please hold this important initiative in your thoughts and prayers. If you would like to come to future meetings, please have a word with me. They are open to all.

Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John is a six-week Lenten journey and reflection on the Gospel and Epistles according to S. John. It takes the form of a booklet, which is available, without charge, on the table at the back of church. The booklet comprises a prayer journal, contains guidance, and links to videos from the monks of Society of St John the Evangelist in the US. The declared purpose is to encourage us to open our hearts, deepen our faith and draw us nearer to Jesus in praying with the words of John.

The monks themselves aim to know and share an authentic experience of God's love and mercy. They are critically engaged with contemporary culture. Their website www.ssje.org contains some remarkable and compelling videos of their lives and witness.

I commend this booklet and the associated videos to you for your reflections and the deepening of your faith during this Lent.

Stephen.

Twitter

David Eastwood reports that our St Botolph's Twitter account is up and running, and can be found at @StBotolphCam.

FUTURE DATES FOR 2018

Saturday 17th March	BOOK SALE 10-4
Sunday 29th April	ANNUAL CHURCH MEETINGS
Bank Holiday Monday, 7th May	REFRESHMENTS, BOOKS & TOYS
St Botolph's week-end, 16th-17th June	REFRESHMENTS, BOOKS & TOYS
Saturday 14th July	REFRESHMENTS, BOOKS & TOYS
Saturday 8th September	REFRESHMENTS, BOOKS & TOYS
Sunday 7th October	HARVEST LUNCH
Saturday 1st December	ADVENT FAYRE

Summer Outing SATURDAY 9th JUNE

Booking forms available shortly for our excursion to Norfolk. We hope to visit Cawston, Blickling, and Trunch (another St Botolph's), the day culminating in tea at Paston.

K.H.

CALENDAR

PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE / PURIFICATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (CANDLEMAS)

Sunday 4th February

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion

11.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist

Epistle, Mr Barker; Refreshments, Barker

4.15 p.m. Evensong

Wednesday 7th 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion

QUINQUAGESIMA

Sunday 11th February

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion

11.00 a.m. Mattins

1. Exodus 24.12-end, Mr Jarvis; 2. II Cor. 3.12-end, Mrs. Barker

Preacher: Dr Jonathan Holmes, Fellow of Queens'

12 noon Holy Communion

4.15 p.m. Evensong

Ash Wednesday 14th February

10.30 a.m. Holy Communion

6.00 p.m. Sung Eucharist

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT 18th February

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion

11.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist (B.C.P.)

Epistle: Mr Hodson

Celebrant & Preacher: **Bishop Rowan Williams**

4.15 p.m. Evensong

Monday 19th D.A.P. meeting 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 21st *Ember Day* 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT 25th February

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion

11.00 a.m. Mattins

1. Isaiah 51.1-11, Mrs. Eastwood; 2. Galatians 1.1-9 & 23-end, Mrs. Irvine

Preacher: **The Reverend Dr Robert Mackley, Rural Dean and Vicar,
St Mary the Less, Cambridge**

12 noon Holy Communion

4.15 p.m. Evensong

Tuesday 27th February P.C.C. 8.00 p.m.

Wednesday 28th February 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT 4th March 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion

11.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist

Epistle, Mrs. Durham; Refreshments

Preacher: **The Reverend Peter Huckle S.S.J.E., Superior, Society of
St John the Evangelist**

4.15 p.m. Evensong

S. Botolph's Cambridge

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