

S. BOTOLPH'S CHURCH, CAMBRIDGE

NEWSLETTER FOR AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 2017

From the Priest in Charge

Dear Friends,

The challenge for the Church in our age is to speak to people individually about the relevance of God to our lives, to their meaning and purpose and how we live them, and to do so in ways that will capture our attention, invite our curiosity and retain our interest.

One prevailing view says that if that mission is to have appeal (and indeed reflect the nature of the church's own calling), both the institutional and local church must be as hospitable as possible in its welcome and in how it provides worship. One feature of that hospitality is accessibility: so, the church should present no barriers to comprehension or participation - in language, appearance and practice.

The General Synod has recently voted that clergy should no longer be required to wear robes at divine service (subject to one or two conditions). It is held that these (and much else that happens in church which is not seen in everyday life) are a barrier separating the clergy and are off-putting, particularly for younger people.

Yet, an alternative perspective holds that a "de-sacred-ing" of the church is taking place i.e. that which makes it holy or special is being removed to fit expectations drawn solely from everyday life. During my lifetime, for example, attendance on major festivals or fasts falling during the week such as Ascension Day, Maundy Thursday or Ash Wednesday has not been advocated (or even provided) as it once was. Nothing, it seems, should interrupt the patterns of secular life.

However, all the evidence is that, apart from in a few locations, the attractiveness of church is lessened, not increased, by attempting to make the church no longer different to the secular world. Existing members become discouraged by the removal of what they value and hold dear, and faith itself becomes more difficult to internalize because it has been shorn of its support structures. Perhaps it is no coincidence that we see increased attendance at cathedrals, with their strong choral traditions, ordered liturgies and fine preaching.

I stand squarely behind the notion that our experience of church should be different from ordinary life, not the same, if we are to provide an encounter with the Divine and invite transformation. Worship should

seek to lift us up, mind and soul, to a higher place and bring about amendment of life. Of course, the church has to live in the world, but that is not the same as saying it must be 'of' the world. The building up of discipleship and commitment seem to me to be better promoted by the Church holding on to its traditions. Of course, hospitality is vital – and we must endeavour to ensure newcomers are able to understand and participate fully in what we do - but so too is the presentation and consistency of our worship and how it is experienced. Entering into the mystery of God requires a lifetime of application.

Yours in Christ,
Stephen.

Upcoming Services & Events

Saints aplenty. During August and September, there are numerous weekday commemorations of major Saints which will be observed at the Wednesday 10:30am Holy Communion. From time to time, some of the hymns on the prior Sundays may foreshadow the particular celebrations.

Bp Rowan Williams has kindly agreed to Confirm Finn Jarvis (and any other candidates) when he visits S. Botolph's as our Celebrant and Preacher at the 11am Sung Eucharist on **Sunday 15th October**. Bp Rowan will visit again on Christmas Eve, **Sunday 24th December**, as our Officiant and Preacher at the 11am Mattins.

Ely Diocese Prayer Book Society—Sunday 19th November. As a church that uses the Prayer Book for most of our services, the PCC has agreed to join the Prayer Book Society (PBS), which promotes the usage of the Prayer Book more widely within the Church. We shall be a corporate member of the PBS for 1 year, with a review at the end of the period. I am the Chair of the Ely Diocese Branch of the PBS. **The Branch will meet on Sunday 19th November at Jesus College, beginning at 4:30pm, followed by Choral Evensong in the Chapel at 6pm.** I hope as many as possible will be able to come to both the meeting and to Choral Evensong. *Stephen.*

Saturday 9th September, our final **Visitors' Day** this summer, as usual coincides with **Ride, Drive & Stride** for Cambridgeshire Historic Churches. Contributions of food, books, and help on the day, please.

Harvest Lunch will take place in church on **Sunday 1st October** after the Sung Eucharist at 11 a.m. Please sign the list with names and offers of food when it appears in September. K.H.

CALENDAR

TRANSFIGURATION Trinity VIII Sunday 6th August

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion

11.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist

Epistle, Mrs. Horbury: Refreshments, Horbury

Wednesday 9th Holy Communion 10.30 a.m.

TRINITY IX Sunday 13th August 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion

11.00 a.m. Mattins

1. I Samuel 1.1-20, Dr Lindsay; 2. Mark 10.17-31, Mrs. Durham

Preacher: Dr Jonathan Holmes, Fellow of Queens'

12 noon Holy Communion

Wednesday 16th Holy Communion 10.30 a.m.

TRINITY X Sunday 20th August 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion

11.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist (Order 1)

Epistle, Mr Hodson; Intercession, Mrs. Irvine

Wednesday 23rd *S. Bartholomew* (trfd) Holy Communion 10.30 a.m.

TRINITY XI Sunday 27th August 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion

11.00 a.m. Mattins

1. I Samuel 9.1-10.1, Mrs. Baker; Romans 1.1-25, Dr Lindsay

Preacher: The Revd Patrick Cotton

12 noon Holy Communion

Wednesday 30 *Beheading of S. John Baptist* (trfd) Holy Communion 10.30

TRINITY XII Sunday 3rd September 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion

11.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist

Epistle, Mrs. Horbury: Refreshments, Norman

4.15 p.m. Evensong

Wednesday 6th *Nativity of the B.V.M.* (trfd) Holy Communion 10.30 a.m.

Saturday 9th Ride, Drive and Stride for Cambs. Historic Churches

Book Sale & Refreshments

TRINITY XIII Sunday 10th September 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion
11.00 a.m. Mattins
1. I Samuel 17.1-11, 32-51, Dr Lindsay; 2. Romans 12, Mr. Hodson
12 noon Holy Communion
4.15 p.m. Evensong

Wednesday 13th *Holy Cross Day* (trfd) Holy Communion 10.30 a.m.

TRINITY XIV Sunday 17th September 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion
11.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist (Order 1)
Epistle, Mrs. Irvine; Intercession, Mr Hodson
4.15 p.m. Evensong

Wednesday 20th *St Matthew* (trfd) Holy Communion 10.30 a.m.

TRINITY XV Sunday 24th September 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion
11.00 a.m. Mattins
1. I Samuel 26, Mr Barker; 2. I Peter 1.13-end, Mrs. Durham
Preacher: The Revd T. Harling (Dean of Queens')
12 noon Holy Communion
4.15 p.m. Evensong

Wednesday 27th *Michaelmas* (trfd) Holy Communion 10.30 a.m.
Saturday 30th Church Decoration for Harvest, 9.30 a.m. onwards

TRINITY XVI *Harvest Thanksgiving* Sunday 1st October
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion
11.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist; Epistle, Mrs. Barker
Harvest Lunch after the service
4.15 p.m. Evensong

S. Botolph's, Cambridge

Priest-in-charge

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

Churchwardens

Mrs. K. M. Horbury 01223 363529, Mrs. V. Baker 01223 426911