



## Update #19

Saturday 29th August

**Welcome to this nineteenth edition of 'Update',  
keeping you updated with church life during the lockdown restrictions...**

### **ONLINE FAREWELL TO REVD AELLA GAGE**

This Sunday (30th August) will be Revd Aella Gage's final Sunday here in the Town Centre Parish. Due to the ongoing lockdown restrictions, we are making preparations to mark his departure on Zoom. The log-in details for the *Online Farewell to Aella* are as follows — meeting ID: 875 1326 0919 // passcode: 782246 // link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87513260919?pwd=K2c1SW1pYmFwUi9nV1Z0ak51aStBdz09> We hope to put a recording of this on the church website, for those unable to access Zoom.

Aella and Liza's new address is: 15 Coast Road, West Mersea, Essex CO5 8LH.

### **JEAN BLOWERS**

We are saddened to report that Jean Blowers has died, peacefully, at the age of 88. It is expected that the funeral will be at St Botolph's in September, but arrangements are still in the early stages. Sadly, the funeral service will be subject to the government's lockdown restrictions, which currently permit no more than 30 people to attend. More details will follow. Please remember the family in your prayers at this sad time.

### **ALAN & JANICE GRIMSEY'S GRAND-DAUGHTER, LIZZIE**

We are delighted to hear that Lizzie has had her operation, which took 2.5 hours on Monday, and it would appear that it has been a complete success. Do please continue to remember Lizzie, and the whole family, in your prayers over the coming weeks.

### **RE-OPENING ST BOTOLPH'S ON SUNDAY MORNINGS**

It is very much hoped that St Botolph's will re-open for public worship on Sunday mornings next month. At the time of going to print, arrangements were still be worked on and no final decision had been made by the PCC. An announcement will hopefully be made in the next few days.

Please be prepared for the arrangements in church to be quite different: masks will be required, singing may still be restricted, and the seating arrangements will be different from normal. We understand that many people will still feel uneasy about returning to church, but the PCC hopes to enable those who wish to return to do so as soon as is safely viable.

## **PCC MEETING IN SEPTEMBER**

The Parochial Church Council meeting in September has been moved to Thursday 24th September, at 2:30pm. This is to allow the Archdeacon of Colchester (the Ven Ruth Patten) and the Area Dean of Colchester (the Revd Canon Paul Norrington) to attend the meeting, to assist the PCC in its preparation and planning for the future. Any concerns, or issues to be raised at the meeting, should be addressed in the first instance to either of the Churchwardens, at least a week before the meeting.

## **NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS**

- Please pray for Anne Haylett and Geoff Robinson, both of whom have recently had short stays in hospital.
- *Fred and Jane Woods write:* To all our friends at St Botolph's! Thank you so much for your prayers and your love. We very much appreciate your kindness. [*Editor:* Many will remember Revd Fred Woods, the previous Vicar in the Town Centre. Please pray on for him in light of his diagnosis with motor neurone disease.]
- The minutes of the July Online PCC meeting can be downloaded from the St Botolph's Church website (<https://stbotolphs.org/diary-notice/>).
- If you would like to know more about the current restrictions within which the PCC has to work, the formal advice can be viewed online, either via [www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches](http://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches) or via [www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship-during-the-pandemic/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship-during-the-pandemic](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship-during-the-pandemic/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship-during-the-pandemic)
- The Church of England has set up a Daily Hope Phone Line. Daily Hope offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line. The line — which is available 24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044 — has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions in mind.
- A short service of Morning Prayer, recorded inside St Botolph's, will be available on Sunday morning, via [www.facebook.com/towncentrevicar/videos](https://www.facebook.com/towncentrevicar/videos)
- Sadly, all concerts (and all other bookings) at St Botolph's have been cancelled until December.
- Practical help is available from many quarters. For those who still find themselves in need of practical help, however, those at St Botolph's are warmly invited to make use of [stpeterspracticalhelp@gmail.com](mailto:stpeterspracticalhelp@gmail.com)
- Anyone in pastoral need is invited to contact the relevant Pastoral Care Network Co-ordinators (Margaret Willoughby and Nicky Phillips for 'the north-west', Marion Abbott and David & Marion Branson for 'the south-west', Paul & Sheila Abbott and Gill Poppleton for 'the south-east', and Jack Harker and Pauline Palmer for 'the north-east').

## **THE READINGS AND COLLECT FOR THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY — Sunday 30th August**

*Jeremiah 15.15-21; Psalm 26.1-8; Romans 12.9-end; Matthew 16.21-end*

Almighty and everlasting God,  
you are always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than either we desire or deserve:  
pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy,  
forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid  
and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask  
but through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**