



St Botolph's Church, Colchester

16th May 2021

7th Sunday of Easter

Perhaps we may be able to get back to larger numbers at functions before too long.

Dear Friends,

With Ascension Day being last Thursday and Pentecost being Sunday 23rd of the month, we are in that ten day period of waiting and wondering what shall come next, and whilst we read in the Bible of the sometimes misguided thoughts of the disciples, and the blessings that arrived at Pentecost, we trust that locally, blessings will also come to the Churches at Pentecost. At St Botolph's we have all enjoyed joint worship with Castle Methodists since the middle of Lent, and we know that the Team at Castle wish to recommence worship in their own Church and be available for many more of their congregation.

In this Sunday's podcast sermon by the Bishop of Bradwell, Bishop John, speaks of the time from Ascension to Pentecost as 'in between time' using his words below, should give us a sense of direction.

In this 'in between time', we need to reflect on the purpose of our existence too. Jesus says, "As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world." We are sent. Ascension is a challenge for mission. The physical absence of the Master from among his disciples bestows specific responsibilities to them now. The historical mission of Jesus of Nazareth is over. Now it is the turn of his followers to continue his work in this divided and chaotic world. Between the present and the future there is an unknown length to be filled with our life and work. We should be willing to carry on that mission rather than living in fantasies. This in-between time is a time for action, a time to pray, a time to hope and a time to witness. We have no time to waste. May God help us to hear that call afresh again.

Our service this Sunday 'Saviour and Friend' celebrates all that our joint worship with Castle Methodists means to us. We hope you can join us at 10.30 am.

Next Sunday our Pentecost communion service will be led by Ven. Michael Fox.

Castle Methodist Church online worship is at <https://www.youtube.com/Colchestermethodists>

Do remember that we can log into the on-line worship at Christ Church. A range of options are available please have a look at Colchester Christ Church Facebook page.

Collect for 7th Sunday of Easter.

O God the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ
with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but
send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where
our Saviour Christ is gone before,
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.