



St Botolph's Church, Colchester

25th July 2021

8th Sunday after Trinity

Dear Friends,

Seventeen months on from the initial notifications of Covid 19 infections, we enter yet another chapter of a very long saga. With many in this country double vaccinated, the restrictive measures have been removed from a legal requirement and now, responsibility for safe conduct within our Church buildings is now placed in the hands of those that run the buildings.

Guidance from both national and local government and the Church of England, is that extreme caution should be the way ahead, and at the PCC meeting on Wednesday we have decided that we request worshipers to continue to wear face coverings, sanitise hands and keep safe distances between worshipers. We will continue to keep chairs spaced out, and will continue for a while, only offering the bread at Holy Communion. All, however, is not gloomy as we are now able to sing hymns again, albeit whilst still wearing face coverings,

As with all PCC meetings we were presented with accounts, and one sad observation is that our regular giving has declined substantially over the past year, and whilst we know that attendance has been low due to the pandemic, we do hope that we can all continue to support our church financially.

On a brighter note, your Churchwardens David and Ron, were officially 'Admitted to Office' and have given our pledge that we will, 'as officers of the Bishop, discharge such duties as are assigned to us'. Archdeacon Ruth Patten gave the 'Charge' informing us not only of our duties, but also offering support to parishes from our leaders at Deanery level.

And now a sad note. Sadly, Kate Churchill at the age of 98 died earlier this week, Kate, a long-term member of St Botolph's, had been in poor health for some time. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family.

The service this Sunday at St. Botolph's at 10.30 will be Holy Communion celebrating the festival of St James and led by Rev. Jacque Messinger, Assistant Curate at St Leonard's, Lexden. Next week our service of Morning Worship will be led by Sara Humphreys.

To join Castle Methodist Sunday service, you will need to search YouTube for Castle Methodist Church, finding the one with the stained glass in the circle and the service can be found live a few minutes before 10.30 am each Sunday and at any time after then.

A range of options are available at Christchurch, please have a look at Colchester Christ Church Facebook page.

Collect for Saint James Day.

**Merciful God, whose holy apostle Saint James, leaving his father and all that he had,
was obedient to the calling of your Son Jesus Christ and followed him even to death:
help us, forsaking the false attractions of the world,
to be ready at all times to answer your call without delay;
through 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**