

***ST. BOTOLPH'S CHURCH,
COLCHESTER***



***Newsletter
January 2023***

FOOD FOR THOUGHT Excerpts from readings used recently at special Morning Services.

Hope of the Hopeless

Desmond Tutu (1990)

The Church of God has to be the salt and light of the world.

We are the hope of the hopeless, through the power of God. We must transfigure a situation of hate and suspicion, Of brokenness and separation, of fear and bitterness.

We have no option. We are servants of the God who reigns and cares. He wants us to be the alternative society; where there is harshness and insensitivity, we must be compassionate and caring; where people are statistics, we must show they count as being of immense value to God; where there is grasping and selfishness, we must be a sharing community now.

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The Earth is our Mother

Chief Seattle addresses the President of the United States - 1854

Teach your children what we have taught our children, that the earth is our mother.

This we know; the earth does not belong to humanity; humanity belongs to the earth.

This we know; All things are connected like the blood that unites one family. Whatever befalls the earth befalls the sons and daughters of the earth. Men and women did not weave the web of life: they are merely a strand in it. Whatever they do to the web, they do to themselves.

One Life

A meditation from East Asia

He was born in a stable in an obscure village,
From there he travelled less than 200 miles.

He never won an election or went to college.
He never owned a home, he never had a lot of money

He became a nomadic preacher. Popular opinion turned against him.
He was betrayed by a close friend and his other friends ran away.

He was unjustly condemned to death, crucified on a cross among common
thieves, on a hill overlooking the town dump,
and when dead, laid in a borrowed grave.

Twenty centuries have come and gone. Empires have risen and fallen,
Mighty armies have marched and powerful rulers have reigned.

Yet no one has affected men as much as he.
He is the central figure of the human race.
He is the Messiah, the Son of God, Jesus Christ.

*‘He is the image of the unseen God,
and the first-born of all creation,
For in him were created all things, in heaven and on earth.’
(Colossians 1 vv15-16)*

More Food For Thought

On Saturday 25th February, Clive Joyce LLM is arranging a quiet day for
members of St. Botolph’s, Christ Church and Castle Methodist, in St
Botolph’s from 10am until 3pm. Full details soon.

St. Botolph’s Church Colchester 2023 *The New Year begins*

The use of the church by a wide variety of groups from the community, for
Christmas celebrations, passed very successfully.
A big vote of thanks is due to those members of the church who volunteered
to welcome the visitors in and ensure that the use of the building and facilities
went smoothly.

Things are much quieter at the moment during January and February. The
Church organ has been dismantled and is being completely overhauled for
the first time since the major rebuild of 1966, which created one of the finest
instruments in the East of England.

The cost of the work will be just under £17,000.00
So far we have raised nearly £12,000.00

The year has started splendidly at St. Botolph’s in terms of our Sunday
worship. Because of a problem with our church heating we have successfully
moved into our hall for the 10.30 am services. Whilst the heating is now
repaired, the hall is cosy and warm and we will continue our services there
until the end of February when the organ repairs will be completed.

The first such move was the combined Communion Service with Christ
Church, led by Rev. John Chandler on the first day of the New Year. It was
most inspiring and seemed to bode well for the coming working together with
the Christ Church team.

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

Sundays at 10.30 am

- 22nd January Holy Communion led by Ven. Michael Fox
29th January Morning Worship led by Michael Foster
(We will be joined by our Friends from Castle Methodist)
5th February Morning Worship led by Sara Humphreys LL M
12th February Holy Communion led by Ven. Michael Fox