



Welcome to St Botolph's Church

Jesus said "If anyone is thirsty,
let them come to me and drink"

Sunday 20th July 2025

Gathering

Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Here we are Lord; your people, your Church meeting together in your presence. We welcome each other and we welcome You. Make yourself known to us in new ways through our worship, our prayers and our understanding of your Word today. Amen.

Psalm 100

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

For the Lord is good and his love endures for ever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Hymn O Worship the King (*Tune: Hanover*)

O worship the King all glorious above,
and gratefully sing his power and his love:
our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendour and girded with praise.

O tell of his might and sing of his grace,
whose robe is the light, whose canopy space;
his chariots of wrath the deep thunder-clouds form,
and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.

The earth, with its store of wonders untold,
Almighty, your power has founded of old;
established it fast, by a changeless decree,
and round it has cast, like a mantle, the sea.

Your bountiful care, what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
and sweetly distils in the dew and the rain.

We children of dust are feeble and frail -
in you do we trust, for you never fail;
your mercies, how tender, how firm to the end!
our maker, defender, redeemer, and friend.

O measureless Might, unchangeable Love,
whom angels delight to worship above!
Your ransomed creation, with glory ablaze,
in true adoration shall sing to your praise!

We say sorry

The first commandment is:

‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul,
and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’

The second is this:

‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’

(Jesus’ Summary of the Law – Mark 12:29-31)

Let us confess our failures truly to serve God and our neighbour:

Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Canticle Benedictus (The Song of Zechariah)

Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel, who has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets God promised of old to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all that hate us, to show mercy to our ancestors, and to remember his holy covenant.

**This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham: to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.**

**And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
To give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of all their sins.**

In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

**To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace. (Luke 1.68–79)**

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Hymn Living God (*Words: Tony Rose. Tune: The Servant Song*)

Living God, you come among us,
And renew our life within,
From what's past we now move onwards,
And with you each day begin.

Holy God, you give your Spirit
To inspire us on life's way,
May we too give out to others,
Through the things we do and say.

Mighty God, you take our burdens,
Nothing's more than you can bear,
At all times you travel with us,
And our joys and sorrows share.

Gracious God, our faith grows stronger,
As we feed upon your word.
Help us pass this on to others,
In the name of Christ our Lord.

Readings

We are led in prayer by Philip Elwell

Lord, we ask You to prepare our hearts to receive Your Word with openness and eagerness. Open our ears so that we may hear

Your message clearly and soften our hearts to fully embrace it. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Colossians 1:15-28 - The supremacy of the Son of God

The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behaviour. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation – if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

Paul's labour for the church

Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness – the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord's people. To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ.

Luke 10-38-42 - At the home of Martha and Mary

As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, 'Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!'

‘Martha, Martha,’ the Lord answered, ‘you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed – or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.’

This is the Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Hymn Dear Lord and Father of Mankind (*Tune: Repton*)

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
forgive our foolish ways!
Reclothe us in our rightful mind;
in purer lives Thy service find,
in deeper rev'rence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard,
beside the Syrian sea,
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word
Rise up and follow Thee.

O Sabbath rest by Galilee!
O calm of hills above,
where Jesus knelt to share with Thee
the silence of eternity,
interpreted by love!

Drop Thy still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of Thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire
Thy coolness and Thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind and fire,
O still small voice of calm!

We confirm our faith and Christian unity

We believe in God the creator, who is always creative and invites us to affirm and explore who we are, with all our differences; and who is the source of our faith.

We believe in God the Saviour revealed in the world as Jesus the Christ who died and is risen, the one Lord of the church.

We believe in God the Reconciler, the Holy Spirit, who is always with us bearing witness with our spirits that we are the children of God.

We believe that our smallness can never diminish God's vastness; that our frailties can never overcome God's will for wholeness; that our sin can never crush God's power for new life even in the face of death.

We believe, and in this belief, we need one another, as a choir needs every voice and every part for the harmony to be complete.

We believe - that in the Holy Spirit, in Jesus Christ and in the love of God - we are one!

We believe - And may our lives reflect our belief.

Intercessions, including *The Collect of the Day* led by David Poppleton

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified: hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people, that in their vocation and ministry they may serve you in holiness and truth to the glory of your name; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

ending with The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

Hymn Jesus Christ is waiting (*Tune: Noel Nouvelet*)

Jesus Christ is waiting, waiting in the streets;
no-one is his neighbour, all alone he eats.
Listen, Lord Jesus, I am lonely too.
Make me, friend, or stranger, fit to wait on you.

Jesus Christ is raging, raging in the streets,
where injustice spirals and real hope retreats.
Listen, Lord Jesus, I am angry too.
In the Kingdom's causes let me rage with you.

Jesus Christ is healing, healing in the streets;
Curing those who suffer, touching those he greets.
Listen, Lord Jesus, I have pity too.
Let my care be active, healing just like you.

Jesus Christ is calling, calling in the streets,
'Who will join my journey? I will guide their feet.
'Listen, Lord Jesus, let my fears be few.
Walk one step before me; I will follow you.

Sending Out

Look at your hands: see the touch and the tenderness.

God's own for the world.

Look at your feet: see the path and the direction.

God's own for the world.

Look at your heart: see the fire and the love.

God's own for the world.

Look at the cross: see God's Son and our Saviour.

God's own for the world.

This is God's world.

And we will serve God in it.

May God keep us in all our days. May Christ shield us in all our ways.
May the Spirit bring us healing and peace. May God the Holy Trinity drive all
darkness from us and pour upon us blessing and light. **Amen.**

Let us go into the world rejoicing.

It is Christ who goes before us. Thanks be to God. Amen

Today's voluntary is *Trumpet Voluntary* by John Stanley

Please stay for refreshments in the hall (at the end of the corridor)

Churchwarden: David Poppleton 01206 570725 (please do not contact on Thursdays)

Vicar: Revd Chris Smith 07458 197461

GIVING

Giving is an important part of our worship.

One of the easiest way to give is by using the Parish Giving Scheme?

www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/colchester-st-botolph-colchester/

And if you pay tax, please ask for a Gift Aid form.

NOTICES

St Botolph's Brick Café is starting in September and is an exciting opportunity to welcome people to St B's on the first Saturday of every month. Would you like to be part of the team offering refreshments and welcome? If so speak to a PCC member.

SUNDAY SERVICES

27th July at 10.30 am. - Holy Communion led by Michael Fox

3rd August at 10.30 am – Morning Worship led by Clive Joyce

10th August at 10.30 am – Holy Communion led by Michael Fox

17th August at 10.30 am – Morning Worship led by Sara Humphreys

STAY IN TOUCH

Visit our website or call the parish office for more information

www.stbotolphs.org

01206 542307