



Welcome to St Botolph's Church

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

Sunday 1st February 2026

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

This is the day that the Lord has made. **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

We have come together in the name of Christ to offer our praise and thanksgiving, to hear and receive God's holy word, to pray for the needs of the world, and to seek the forgiveness of our sins, that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may give ourselves to the service of God.

Kid's Church – we pray for our young people and their leaders

Hymn

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
Tender to me the promise of His Word;
In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His name!
Make known His might, the deeds His arm has done;
His mercy sure, from age to age the same;
His holy Name, the Lord, the mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by;
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight;
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of His Word!
Firm is His promise, and His mercy sure.
Tell out my soul, the greatness of the Lord
To children's children and forevermore!

The church's prayer for today

Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple, in substance of our flesh: grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

We say sorry to God

God shows his love for us in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Let us then show our love for him by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.

We are forgiven

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and keep us in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

We stand to glorify the Lord

Glory to the Father
Glory to the Spirit
Be glorified at home
Be glorified in this country
Be glorified on earth
Glory to the Father
Glory to the Spirit

**Glory to the Son
For ever Three in One
Be glorified in Church
Be glorified in the World
Be glorified in heaven
Glory to the Son
For ever Three in One**

Hymn

Hark, the glad sound! the Saviour comes,
The Saviour promised long!
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
And ev'ry voice a song.

He comes the pris'ners to release,
In Satan's bondage held;
The gates of brass before him burst,
The iron fetters yield.

He comes from thickest films of vice
To clear the mental ray,
And on the eyeballs of the blind
To pour celestial day.

He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of his grace,
T'enrich the humble poor.

His silver trumpets publish loud
The Lord's high jubilee;
Our debts are all remitted now,
Our heritage is free.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Your welcome shall proclaim,
And Heav'n's eternal arches ring
With your beloved name.

Psalm 24

The earth is the Lord's and all that fills it, the compass of the world and all who dwell therein.

For he has founded it upon the seas and set it firm upon the rivers of the deep.

'Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord, or who can rise up in his holy place?'

‘Those who have clean hands and a pure heart, who have not lifted up their soul to an idol, nor sworn an oath to a lie;

‘They shall receive a blessing from the Lord, a just reward from the God of their salvation.’

Such is the company of those who seek him, of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob.

Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted up, you everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

‘Who is the King of glory?’ ‘The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord who is mighty in battle.’

Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted up, you everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

‘Who is this King of glory?’ ‘The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.’

Gospel Reading – Luke 2.22-40 (*Please stand*) read by Pat French

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, ‘Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord’),²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: ‘a pair of doves or two young pigeons’.

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him.²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah.²⁷ Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required,²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:
²⁹ ‘Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace.

³⁰ For my eyes have seen your salvation,³¹ which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.'

³³ The child's father and mother marvelled at what was said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: 'This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, ³⁵ so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped night and day, fasting and praying. ³⁸ Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn

Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
The holy One, is here;
Come bow before him now
With reverence and fear
In him no sin is found
We stand on holy ground.
Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
The holy One, is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord
Is shining all around;
He burns with holy fire,
With splendour he is crowned:
How awesome is the sight

Our radiant king of light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord
Is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord
Is moving in this place:
He comes to cleanse and heal,
To minister his grace -
No work too hard for him.
In faith receive from him.
Be still, for the power of the Lord
Is moving in this place.

We affirm our faith in God

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.

We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen

We are led in prayer by David Poppleton

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

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.

Notices

Kids church return and we reflect on our giving during the hymn

Hymn

In Christ alone

In Christ alone, my hope is found

He is my light, my strength, my song

This Cornerstone, this solid ground

Firm through the fiercest drought and storm

What heights of love, what depths of peace

When fears are stilled, when strivings cease

My Comforter, my All in All

Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone, who took on flesh

Fullness of God in helpless babe

This gift of love and righteousness

Scorned by the ones He came to save

'Til on that cross as Jesus died

The wrath of God was satisfied

For every sin on Him was laid

Here in the death of Christ I live, I live

There in the ground His body lay

Light of the world by darkness slain

Then bursting forth in glorious Day

Up from the grave He rose again

And as He stands in victory

Sin's curse has lost its grip on me

For I am His and He is mine

Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life, no fear in death

This is the power of Christ in me

From life's first cry to final breath

Jesus commands my destiny

No power of hell, no scheme of man

Can ever pluck me from His hand

Till He returns or calls me home

Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

We are sent out

Let us bless the Lord: **thanks be to God.**

**Blessing, honour and glory be yours, here and everywhere,
now and for ever. Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ.
Amen.**

Today's voluntary is Andante by Mozart

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

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.

SAFETY AND SAFEGUARDING

St Botolph's is a public space. Please note that CCTV operates throughout the building, and we kindly ask that you do not leave your valuables unattended.

Do you have a concern about a child or an adult at risk?

You can report your concern to the St Botolph's Safeguarding Team:
01206 542307- sarahtruder@gmail.com

Or you can report your concern to the Diocesan Safeguarding Team
01245 294444 - safeguarding@chelmsford.anglican.org

If you believe a child or adult is in immediate danger, please call the emergency services on 999 right away

NOTICES

Mid-Week Bible Study

Wednesday, 4th February

 10:30 am – Refreshments

10:45 am – 12:00 noon – Bible Study

Midday Prayer

Wednesday, 4th February

 12:00 pm – 1pm

 *All are warmly welcome!* 

Tomorrow, Monday 2nd February, WGT meets at Castle at 2.30pm for An Afternoon with Robin Sppitle.

Thursday 5th February there will be a 'Soup 'n' Snack lunch at Castle from noon – 1.15pm. All are welcome.

It is with sadness that we have learnt that Ron le Good has died. He had been worshipping with us at St. Botolph's for several years. His funeral will be held on Friday 6th February at 10.00am at the Crematorium. Please remember Ron's family in your prayers.

Our Red Bucket charity collection over Christmas for The Children's Society amounted to £117.80 with Gift Aid added a cheque for £141.36 has been sent to the society.

Pancake Party On Tuesday 17th February Castle Methodist have invited us to join them for their Pancake Party 12pm. Donations will go to St. Helena Hospice.

SUNDAY SERVICES

1st February at 10.30am - Morning Worship led by Chris Smith

8th February at 10.30am - Holy Communion led by Pat Prestney

15th February at 10.30am – Morning Worship led by Clive Joyce

18th February at 10.30am – Ash Wednesday Communion

A little something from the vicar...

As we continue to see new faces to St Botolph's Church, our vision to be a church where everybody is welcome is about to take another step forward.

Where Brick Café has warmly welcomed families, the next step in reaching the generations that are missing from our church family is to extend our welcome to young adults. We plan to launch a monthly group for 18–30s that will connect with and disciple young adults through a community centred on fun, friendship, and shared meals.

The group will be open and accessible to all young adults - whether they've been following Jesus for years or are just beginning to explore faith. This gathering will meet once a month (ideally on the 3rd Sunday of the month, in the evening) and will centre around three simple values:

- **Faith** – rooted in the Bible, prayer, and open conversation
- **Fellowship** – real friendships, inclusion, and mutual support
- **Fun** – shared meals, laughter, and relaxed time together

You might be wondering: this all sounds great, but how will we do this without overstressing our current team and finances? That is a very fair question, and I want to reassure you.

We are grateful that committed leadership is already in place. A small group of 18–30s connected with Christ Church are keen to help, and Beth Wakefield—who has experienced a similar ministry as a student—has generously offered to lead the group, with support from myself and Emma.

There is also a lovely opportunity here for the wider church family to be involved, should you wish. This might include:

- Coming along as a supportive 'parent' or 'grandparent' presence.
- Offering a listening ear or gentle mentoring, where appropriate.
- Helping with hospitality (food, setting up, welcoming.)
- Supporting financially or with resources.
- Praying for the group and the young people involved.

In terms of finances, we have applied for Church of England grant funding to cover the initial costs of food and resources. We are hopeful of a positive response, and even a modest grant would cover the group's needs for its first year.

Above all, I ask for your prayers. Please pray for the plans - that they would be wise and full of God's goodness. Pray for the young people - that they would feel truly welcome, and that they might grow closer to God and to one another.

Thank you for your love and support. I look forward to sharing more with you as plans progress.

With love,
Chris

STAY IN TOUCH

Visit our website or call the parish office for more information

www.stbotolphs.org

01206 542307