



# Welcome to St Botolph's Church

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

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

## **Welcome**

### **The Greeting**

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

### **If you are able, please stand**

Hail to the Lord's anointed  
Great David's greater Son.  
Hail in the time appointed  
His reign on earth begun  
He comes to break oppression,  
To set the captive free,  
To take away transgression  
And rule in equity.

He shall come down like showers  
Upon the fruitful earth  
And love, joy, hope, like flowers  
Spring in his path to birth.  
Before him, on the mountains  
Shall peace, the herald, go  
And righteousness, in fountains  
From hill to valley flow.

Kings shall fall down before him  
And gold and incense bring.  
All nations shall adore him  
His praise all people sing.  
To him shall prayer unceasing  
And daily vows ascend;  
His kingdom still increasing  
A kingdom without end.

O'er every foe victorious  
He on his throne shall rest;  
From age to age more glorious  
All blessing and all-blessed.  
The tide of time shall never  
His covenant remove.  
His Name shall stand forever  
That Name to us is Love.

### ***Prayer of Preparation***

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### ***Confession***

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ to save us from our sins, to be our advocate in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace with all.

**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.**

### ***Absolution***

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

### ***Gloria (please stand if you are able)***

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,**

**we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

### **Collect**

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; 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.

### **First Reading – Acts 10. 34-43** *read by David Branson*

<sup>34</sup> Then Peter began to speak: ‘I now realise how true it is that God does not show favouritism <sup>35</sup> but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. <sup>36</sup> You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup> You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached – <sup>38</sup> how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

<sup>39</sup> ‘We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, <sup>40</sup> but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. <sup>41</sup> He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen – by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup> He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup> All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.’

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

## **Hymn**

We three kings of Orient are;  
bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star.

*O star of wonder, star of light,  
star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light.*

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,  
gold I bring to crown him again,  
King forever, ceasing never,  
over us all to reign.

Frankincense to offer have I;  
incense owns a Deity nigh;  
prayer and praising, voices raising,  
worshiping God on high.

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume  
breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

Glorious now behold him arise;  
King and God and sacrifice:  
Alleluia, Alleluia,  
sounds through the earth and skies.

## **Gospel Reading – Matthew 3.13-17** read by David Branson

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

<sup>13</sup> Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John. <sup>14</sup> But John tried to deter him, saying, 'I need to be baptised by you, and do you come to me?'

<sup>15</sup> Jesus replied, 'Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfil all righteousness.' Then John consented.

<sup>16</sup> As soon as Jesus was baptised, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. <sup>17</sup> And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.'

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

## **Sermon**

### **The Creed**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**Prayers of Intercession** led by Nicky Phillips

## **The Peace**

The peace of the Lord be always with you **and also with you.**

*Let us offer one another a sign of peace.*

## **Offertory Hymn**

Hark, the glad sound! the Savior comes,  
The Savior promised long!  
Let every heart prepare a throne  
And every voice a song.

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

He comes the broken heart to bind,  
The bleeding soul to cure,  
And with the treasures of his grace,  
To enrich the humble poor.

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

## **The Communion**

The Lord is here.

**His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy, at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise, holy Father, heavenly King, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

**To you be glory and praise for ever.**

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

**To you be glory and praise for ever.**

Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross; we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; we look for the coming of your kingdom, and with this bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

**Christ has died:**

**Christ is risen:**

**Christ will come again.**

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of thanks and praise, and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty, renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**To you be glory and praise for ever.**

Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

### ***The Lord's Prayer***

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**

### ***Breaking the Bread***

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ; **Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.**

### ***Giving of Communion***

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

### ***Prayer after Communion***

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

### ***Hymn***

In the bleak midwinter  
frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron,  
water like a stone:  
snow had fallen, snow on snow  
snow on snow,  
in the bleak midwinter,  
long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him,  
nor earth sustain;  
heaven and earth shall flee away  
when he comes to reign:  
in the bleak midwinter



a stable place sufficed  
the Lord God Almighty,  
Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels  
may have gathered there,  
cherubim and seraphim  
thronged the air,  
but only his mother,  
in her maiden bliss,  
worshiped the Beloved  
with a kiss.

What can I give him,  
poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd,  
I would bring a lamb,  
if I were a wise man  
I would do my part,  
yet what I can I give him,  
give my heart.

### **The Dismissal**

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; 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.**

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

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## **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/](http://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](mailto:sarahtruder@gmail.com)

Or you can report your concern to the Diocesan Safeguarding Team  
01245 294444 - [safeguarding@chelmford.anglican.org](mailto:safeguarding@chelmford.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, 14<sup>th</sup> January



10:30 am – Refreshments

10:45 am – 12:00 noon – Bible Study



### **Midday Prayer**

Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> January



12:00 pm – 1pm



*All are warmly welcome!*



### **Brick Café reopens**

We're pleased to let you know that Brick Café returns after the Christmas break on the first Saturday in February, opening at 10am. A lovely opportunity to meet, chat, and enjoy time together.

## SUNDAY SERVICES

18<sup>th</sup> January at 10.30 am - Holy Communion led by Chris Smith

25<sup>th</sup> January there will be **no service at St. Botolph's**, but we are all invited to Christ Church at 9.30 am for a Confirmation Service led by The Bishop of Colchester

1<sup>st</sup> February at 10.30am - Morning Worship led by Chris Smith

8<sup>th</sup> February at 10.30am - Holy Communion led by Michael Fox

## STAY IN TOUCH

Visit our website or call the parish office for more information

**[www.stbotolphs.org](http://www.stbotolphs.org)**

**01206 542307**