



# Welcome to St Botolph's Church

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

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

## **Gathering**

The Lord says, "I have loved you with an everlasting love;  
I have drawn you with loving-kindness" (*Jeremiah 31:3*)

**Thank you, Lord, for drawing us to worship you here today.**

"Come near to God and he will come near to you" (*James 4:8*)

**Help us by your Spirit to come near to you.**

"Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs" (*Psalms 100:2*)

**You are worthy O Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and praise. Amen.**

**Hymn** Speak, O Lord (*Tune: Getty & Townend*)

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You  
to receive the food of Your Holy Word.

Take Your truth, plant it deep in us;  
shape and fashion us in Your likeness,  
that the light of Christ might be seen today  
in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.

Speak, O Lord, and fulfil in us,  
all Your purposes for Your glory.

Teach us, Lord, full obedience,  
holy reverence, true humility.

Test our thoughts and our attitudes  
in the radiance of Your purity.

Cause our faith to rise; cause our eyes to see  
Your majestic love and authority.

Words of pow'r that can never fail,  
let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;  
help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us.  
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time

that will echo down through eternity.  
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises,  
and by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.  
Speak, O Lord, till Your Church is built  
and the earth is filled with Your glory.

### **We say sorry**

The act of confessing our sin is not simply a recitation of our faults and wrongs, but also an opportunity to receive God's mercy and share in that abundant grace. Confident of God's love for us, let us offer our prayers, first in silence.

*We keep a short time of silence.*

**Holy God, we ask for your help, your power, your Spirit, so that we can amend our lives and grow more each day into the image of Christ.**

**We confess that we fear what is different. We confess that it's easier to lock the doors of our community than to receive those who don't look like we look, love like we love, or vote the way we vote. We confess that we have not lived out your call to share in abundant life and unconditional love.**

**We believe that you have the power to turn us around to a more inclusive way of living, so we ask you to do that. We ask you to give us the courage to change. We ask that you give us the energy, intelligence, imagination, and love to be your people in all we say and do. Amen.**

Friends, hear this Good News: the love of God is beyond measure, and we are included in that love. So, know that you are forgiven and thus freed to love and serve.

**Alleluia! Amen.**

### **Canticle** Benedicite – a song of creation (*shorter version*)

Bless the Lord all you works of the Lord: sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

Bless the Lord you heavens: sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

Bless the Lord you angels of the Lord: sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

Bless the Lord all people on earth: sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

O people of God bless the Lord: sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

Bless the Lord you priests of the Lord: sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

Bless the Lord you servants of the Lord: sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

Bless the Lord all you of upright spirit: bless the Lord you that are holy and humble in heart;

Bless the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit: sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

**Hymn** Praise, my soul, the King of heaven (*Tune: Lauda Anima*)

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;

to his feet your tribute bring.

Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
evermore his praises sing.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise the everlasting King!

Praise him for his grace and favour  
to his people in distress.

Praise him, still the same as ever,  
slow to chide, and swift to bless.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Glorious in his faithfulness!

Father-like he tends and spares us;  
well our feeble frame he knows.

In his hand he gently bears us,  
rescues us from all our foes.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Widely yet his mercy flows!

Angels, help us to adore him;  
you behold him face to face.

Sun and moon, bow down before him,  
dwellers all in time and space.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise with us the God of grace!

**Old Testament Reading** - Exodus 2:1-10 read by David Otter

Now a man of the tribe of Levi married a Levite woman, and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. But when she could hide him no longer, she got a

papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him.

Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the river-bank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her female slave to get it. She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. 'This is one of the Hebrew babies,' she said. Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?' 'Yes, go,' she answered. So the girl went and got the baby's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you.' So the woman took the baby and nursed him. When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, 'I drew him out of the water.'

**New Testament Reading** Luke 2:25-35 *read by David Otter*

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. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. 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, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

'Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace.

For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.'

The child's father and mother marvelled at what was said about him. 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, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

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

**Sermon**

**Hymn** We love the place, O God (*Tune: Quam Dilecta*)

We love the place, O God,  
In which your honour dwells:  
The joy of your abode,  
All earthly joy excels.

We love this house of prayer:  
For where Christ's people meet,  
Our risen Lord is here  
To make our joy complete.

We love the word of life,  
The word that tells of peace,  
Of comfort in the strife  
And joys that never cease.

We love to sing below  
Of mercies freely given,  
But O, we long to know  
The triumph song of heaven.

Lord Jesus, give us grace  
On earth to love to you more,  
In heaven to see your face  
And with your saints adore.

**Testimony** from “Dancing to the heartbeat of God”, a compilation for Lent.

**Hymn** *remaining seated we sing:* Help us to help each other (*Tune: St Hugh*)

Help us to help each other, Lord,  
each other's load to bear;  
that all may live in true accord,  
our joys and pains to share.

Help us to build each other up,  
your strength within us prove;  
increase our faith, confirm our hope,  
and fill us with your love.

Together make us free indeed  
your life within us show;

and into you, our living head,  
let us in all things grow.

Drawn by the magnet of your love  
we find our hearts made new:  
nearer each other let us move,  
and nearer still to you.

### ***We confirm our faith***

Let us affirm our faith in God:

**I believe and trust in God the Father, who made the world.**

**I believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ, who redeemed mankind.**

**I believe and trust in his Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God.**

**I believe and trust in one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

### ***Intercessions, including A Prayer for Today led by Pat French***

**Loving God, thank you for mothers and children and for all the joy of family life.**

**Be with those who are grieving because they have no mother;**

**Be close to those who are struggling because they have no children;**

**Be near to those who are sad because they are far apart from those they love.**

**Let your love be present in every home,**

**And help your church to have eyes to see and ears to hear the needs of all who come.**

**We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.**

### ***Distribution of flowers***

**Hymn** Now thank we all our God (*Tune: Nun Danket*)

Now thank we all our God  
with heart and hands and voices,  
who wondrous things has done,  
in whom his world rejoices;  
who from our mothers' arms  
has blessed us on our way  
with countless gifts of love,  
and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God  
through all our life be near us,  
with ever joyful hearts  
and blessed peace to cheer us,  
to keep us in his grace,  
and guide us when perplexed,  
and free us from all ills  
of this world in the next.

All praise and thanks to God  
the Father now be given,  
the Son and Spirit blest,  
who reign in highest heaven  
the one eternal God,  
whom heaven and earth adore;  
for thus it was, is now,  
and shall be evermore.

***Sending Out***

**God of Grace and compassion, your son, Jesus Christ was part of a family in Nazareth. He knew the love of a mother and of a father, and by dying on the cross, brought us all together as new family. Help us to work together for that day when the whole of humanity is united as one family in your church. Amen.**

So, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ make us gracious, the love of God make us loving, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit make us one with all God's people, now and always. **Amen.**

***Today's voluntary is*** Musette by Corrette

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

---

## NOTICES

### **Mid-Week Bible Study**

Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> March



10:30 am – Refreshments

10:45 am – 12:00 noon – Bible Study



### **Midday Prayer**

Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> March



12:00 pm – 1pm



*All are warmly welcome!*



Tomorrow, **16th March at 2.30 pm** WGT meets at Castle for a game of Countdown.

## SUNDAY SERVICES

22<sup>nd</sup> March at 10.30am - Holy Communion led by Chris Smith

29<sup>th</sup> March (Palm Sunday) at 10.30am - we join our friends at Castle Methodist Church, Maidenburgh Street

Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April, Maundy Thursday at 7.30pm Agape, including Communion

Good Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April, at 10.30am - A Reflective Service

Easter Day, 5<sup>th</sup> April, at 7.00am - Sunrise Communion in the Priory (weather permitting) led by Revd. Chris Smith followed by breakfast.

At 10.30am - Holy Communion led by Revd. Pat Prestney

## STAY IN TOUCH

Visit our website or call the parish office for more information

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

01206 542307