



Welcome to St Botolph's Church

Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" (*John 20:18*)

Easter Sunday 5th April 2026

Welcome

The Greeting

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

If you are able, please stand

Hymn

Jesus Christ is risen today; Hallelujah!
Our triumphant holy day; Hallelujah!
Who did once upon the cross; Hallelujah!
Suffer to redeem our loss; Hallelujah!

Hymns of praise then let us sing; Hallelujah!
Unto Christ our heavenly King; Hallelujah!
Who endured the cross and grave; Hallelujah!
Sinners to redeem and save: Hallelujah!

But the pains which He endured; Hallelujah!
Our salvation have procured; Hallelujah!
Now in heaven above He's King; Hallelujah!
Where the angels ever sing: Hallelujah!

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

Christ our Passover lamb has been sacrificed for us. Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil and confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.

Silence is kept.

Lord Jesus, you raise us to new life.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you forgive us our sins.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you feed us with the living bread.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Absolution

May the God of love and power forgive you and free you from your sins, heal and strengthen you by his Spirit, and raise you to new life in 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

God of glory, by the raising of your Son you have broken the chains of death and hell: fill your Church with faith and hope; for a new day has dawned and the way to life stands open in our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Children's activity

Gradual Hymn

From Heaven you came,
Helpless babe,
Entered our world,
Your glory veiled;
Not to be served
But to serve,
And give Your life
That we might live.

*This is our God,
The Servant King,
He calls us now
To follow Him,
To bring our lives
As a daily offering
Of worship to
The Servant King.*

There in the garden
Of tears,
My heavy load
He chose to bear;
His heart with sorrow
Was torn,
'Yet not My will
But Yours,' He said.

Come see His hands
And His feet,
The scars that speak
Of sacrifice;
Hands that flung stars
Into space
To cruel nails
Surrendered.

So let us learn
How to serve,
And in our lives
Enthroned Him;
Each other's needs
To prefer,
For it is Christ
We're serving.

Gospel acclamations:

Jesus Christ is risen from the dead.

All Alleluia.

He has defeated the powers of death.

All Alleluia.

Jesus turns our sorrow into dancing.

All Alleluia.

He has the words of eternal life.

All Alleluia.

Gospel Reading – John 20:1-18 read by Philip Elwell

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Glory to you, O Lord.

20 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. ² So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!'

³ So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. ⁴ Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, ⁷ as well as the cloth that had been wrapped round Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. ⁸ Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. ⁹ (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) ¹⁰ Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

¹¹ Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb ¹² and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

¹³ They asked her, 'Woman, why are you crying?'

'They have taken my Lord away,' she said, 'and I don't know where they have put him.' ¹⁴ At this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realise that it was Jesus.

¹⁵ He asked her, 'Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?'

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.'

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, 'Mary.'

She turned towards him and cried out in Aramaic, 'Rabboni!' (which means 'Teacher').

¹⁷ Jesus said, 'Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."'

¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: 'I have seen the Lord!' And she told them that he had said these things to her.

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 risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, 'Peace be with you.'

Then were they glad when they saw the Lord.

Alleluia, Alleluia.

The peace of the risen Christ be always with you

All and also with you. Alleluia.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn

Jesus lives! thy terrors now
Can, O death, no more appal us;
Jesus lives! by this we know,
Thou, O grave, canst not enthrall us.
Hallelujah!

Jesus lives! henceforth is death
But the gate of life immortal;
This shall calm our trembling breath,
When we pass its gloomy portal.
Hallelujah!

Jesus lives! for us He died;
Then, alone to Jesus living,
Pure in heart may we abide,
Glory to our Saviour giving.
Hallelujah!

Jesus lives! our hearts know well,
Naught from us His love shall sever;
Life, nor death, nor powers of hell,
Tear us from His keeping ever.
Hallelujah!

Jesus lives! to Him the throne
Over all the world is given:
May we go where He is gone,
Rest and reign with Him in heaven.
Hallelujah!

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. And now we give you thanks because in his victory over the grave a new age has dawned, the long reign of sin is ended, a broken world is being renewed and humanity is once again made whole.

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.**

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

God of Life, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection have delivered us from the power of our enemy: grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Hymn

Thine be the glory,
Risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory
Thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment

Rolled the stone away,
Kept the folded grave-clothes
Where Thy body lay.

*Thine be the glory,
Risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory
Thou o'er death hast won!*

Lo, Jesus meets us,
Risen from the tomb!
Lovingly He greets us,
Scatters fear and gloom.
Let the church with gladness
Hymns of triumph sing,
For her Lord now liveth,
Death hath lost its sting.

No more we doubt Thee,
Glorious Prince of life;
Life is naught without Thee:
Aid us in our strife;
Make us more than conquerors,
Through Thy deathless love;
Lead us in Thy triumph
To Thy home above.

The Dismissal

God, who through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ has given us the victory, give you joy and peace in your faith; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, rest upon you and all those you love, in time and in eternity. **Amen.**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Closing Voluntary – Easter Hymn by Mascagni

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

Red Bucket Collection for St John's Green School Community Cupboard

This Easter, St Botolph's is standing alongside families in times of need by supporting St John's Green School's Community Cupboard - a vital lifeline for our local community.

Funds raised will help provide essential items such as food, clothing, and hygiene products to those facing challenging times.

We invite you to give generously. Every donation, no matter how small, can make a real difference to a family in need.

Thank you for your kindness and support – and if you can bring cash to throw in the bucket then that is great.

SUNDAY SERVICES

12th April at 10.30am - Holy Communion led by Michael Fox

19th April at 10.30am - Morning Worship led by Sara Humphreys

26th April at 10.30am - St George's Day Civic Service led by Emma Smith

3rd May at 10.30am - Morning Worship led by Clive Joyce

STAY IN TOUCH

Visit our website or call the parish office for more information

www.stbotolphs.org

01206 542307

A little something from the vicar...

*For lack of guidance a nation falls,
but victory is won through many advisors.
Proverbs 11:14*

The writer of Proverbs understood something that still rings true today: communities flourish when people come together, share their wisdom, and make decisions together. It's a simple idea, but it sits right at the heart of why we have our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM).

Once a year we gather to look back with gratitude for all that has happened in the life of St Botolph's Church, and to look ahead together to where God might be leading us next. We also choose the people who will help lead and serve the church in the year ahead.

The APCM isn't just a formality or a box to tick. It's one of the ways we live out being a church family, listening to one another, sharing responsibility, and discerning the way forward together.

I do hope you'll be able to join us on **Sunday 10th May**.

Before then, we need to fill some vacancies and complete the nominations so everything is ready for the meeting. If you might be interested in serving in one of these roles, or would simply like to find out a bit more about what's involved, please do have a conversation with me or our churchwarden David. We'd love to hear from you.

We currently have vacancies for one PCC member, one Treasurer, one Churchwarden (in addition to David), and two Deanery Synod Representatives.

PCC Member: PCC stands for Parochial Church Council, which sounds intimidatingly official but is really just the church's committee - the group of people who meet regularly to make decisions about how the church is run, what it spends money on, and where it's heading. A

PCC member is an elected volunteer who sits on that council and helps shape those decisions. They might weigh in on whether to renovate the building, how to support a new project, or what the church's priorities should be for the coming year. They help link the everyday churchgoer with the leadership, making sure every voice is part of the conversation. Being a PCC member basically means helping to think about what the church needs to be doing and working together to make it happen.

Treasurer: Every organisation needs someone keeping an eye on the money. The treasurer tracks what comes in (donations, fundraising, grants) and what goes out (heating bills, staff costs, maintenance), make sure the books are accurate and above board, and present the finances to the wider church community so everyone can see where things stand. They're not there to make financial decisions alone - that's a team effort - but they are the person who makes sure the church stays financially healthy and that nobody gets any nasty surprises.

Churchwarden: Think of the churchwardens as the church's main helpers and caretakers. It is one of the oldest roles in the Church of England (we're talking centuries of history here), they are officers of the Bishop and work closely with the vicar to keep everything running smoothly, both during services and in the day-to-day life of the church. That means making sure the building is safe and looked after, that services can actually happen, and that the congregation and clergy are cared for. Churchwardens are the first point of contact for practical issues or questions from the congregation. They also have a formal role in representing the church members and helping the vicar make sure the church is well-run, welcoming, and safe.

Deanery Synod Representative: If a single Church of England church is like a neighbourhood, then a deanery is like the wider town - a group of local churches in the same area that are connected together under the leadership of an Area Dean. A Deanery Synod Representative is the person elected by their local church to attend the deanery's regular meetings and represent their congregation's

views there. Think of them as your church's delegate to a slightly bigger conversation. They bring news, ideas and concerns from their home church to the table, and then come back and report what's being discussed and decided at the wider level. It might not be the most glamorous role in the church, but it matters for making sure every congregation has a voice in the broader life of the Church of England.

One thing worth mentioning: anyone standing for election to these roles must meet the eligibility criteria set out by the Church of England (we can provide these, along with a full role description). As these positions carry responsibility within the life of the church, applicants must also be willing to take part in the Church of England's Safer Recruiting process. This includes completing the necessary safeguarding checks and training to help ensure that St Botolph's remains a safe and welcoming place for everyone.

There are so many good things going on at St Botolph's – I can't wait to celebrate them with you at the APCM and to look ahead together to all that God has in store for us. Thank you for being part of the journey.

With love,
Chris