



Welcome to St Botolph's Church

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

Sunday 6th September 2026

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit

As it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be forever. Amen

We think of the beauty of creation. For every kind of living creature on the earth, under the sea and in the sky.

We praise you, Lord, for your goodness and love

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

Hymn – Morning had broken

Morning has broken
like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken
like the first bird.

Praise for the singing!
Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing
fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall
sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall
on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness
of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness
where God's feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight
Mine is the morning
born of the one light
Eden saw play!
Praise with elation,

praise every morning,
God's recreation
of the new day!

The church's prayer for today

O God and Father of all that was, is and ever shall be, help us to be thankful for all that is made at the hands of your Son and through the wisdom of your Spirit, that we may care in heart and in deed for the life of our world, to the praise and glory of your holy name.

We say sorry to God

The earth is the Lord's and all that fills it. Let us confess and repent of the ways in which we have caused it harm.

You laid the foundations of the earth, but we have claimed your world as our own. Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

All things were created through you and for you, but we have not lived this way. Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

You make all things new, but our hope has grown dim. Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, we humble ourselves in your presence and seek your face. Help us to turn from our mistreatment of your good creation.

Hear us, good Father, and heal our land.

O Lord, make haste to help us

Hear us when we cry to you

We are forgiven

Christ have mercy on us. Pardon and deliver us from all our sins. Confirm and strengthen us in all goodness and keep us in the eternal life that comes from knowing you. **Amen**

We stand to glorify the Lord

Blessed are you, Holy God: Father, Creator, Life-giver

You have spoken the world into being in goodness and love and filled it with wonder and beauty

We give you thanks and praise

Blessed are you, Holy God: Son, the Word in the beginning, through whom all things live and move and have their being

Truly divine and truly human, living and dying for us, and rising to new life as the first fruit of your renewed earth

We give you thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, Holy God, Holy Spirit, burning in our hearts, bringing us to faith, and calling us to work with you for the renewal of the earth

We give you thanks and praise.

Hymn - All Creatures of our God and King

All creatures of our God and King,

Lift up your voice and with us sing

Alleluia, alleluia!

Thou burning sun with golden beam,

Thou silver moon with softer gleam,

O praise him, O praise him,

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Thou rushing winds that art so strong,

Ye clouds that sail in Heav'n along,

O praise him, alleluia!

Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,

Ye lights of evening, find a voice.

O praise him, O praise him,

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

And all ye saints of tender heart,

Forgiving others, take your part,

O sing ye, alleluia!

Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,

Praise God and on him cast your care:

O praise him, O praise him,

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Let all things their creator bless,
And worship him in humbleness,
O praise him, alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, Three in One:
O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

Old Testament Reading – Isaiah 55: 12-13 *read by Peter Jeffery*

¹² You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.

¹³ Instead of the thornbush will grow the juniper, and instead of briars the myrtle will grow. This will be for the Lord's renown, for an everlasting sign, that will endure forever."

Gospel Reading – John 15:1-8 *(Please stand) read by Peter Jeffery*

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

¹ "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes^[a] so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵ "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

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

Sermon

Hymn – For the beauty of the earth

For the beauty of the earth
For the beauty of the skies
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies

Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise

For the beauty of the hour
Of the day and of the night
Hill and vale and tree and flower
Sun and moon and stars of light

Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise

For the joy of human love
Brother, sister, parent, child
Friends on earth and friends above
For all gentle thoughts and mild

Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise

For each perfect gift of thine
To our race so freely given
Graces human and divine
Flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n

Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise

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 Nicky

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

Hymn - All things bright and beautiful

All things bright and beautiful,

all creatures great and small,

all things wise and wonderful,

the Lord God made them all.

Each little flow'r that opens,

each little bird that sings,

He made their glowing colors,

He made their tiny wings.

The purple-headed mountain,

the river running by,

the sunset and the morning

that brightens up the sky.

The cold wind in the winter,

the pleasant summer sun,

the ripe fruits in the garden:

He made them every one.

He gave us eyes to see them,

and lips that we might tell

how great is God Almighty,

who has made all things well.

We are sent out

May God our Father, whose glory is proclaimed in the heavens, awaken in us a delight and wonder in this good creation.

Amen.

May God the Son, the Word made flesh, through whom all things were made, fill us with his risen life.

Amen.

May God the Holy Spirit, who hovered over the waters of creation and formed the world from chaos, form us in the likeness of Christ and empower us to work with him for the renewal of the earth.

Amen.

And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with us now and always

Amen

Today's voluntary is The Creation's Hymn from Six Lieder by Beethoven

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

GIVING

If you would like to make a one-off donation or support the work of St Botolph's Church regularly, the easiest and best way to do so is through 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 Parish Safeguarding Officer:
Emily Gooch - 01206 542307- stbotolphssafeguarding@outlook.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

WGT meets after the summer break tomorrow on **7th September** at 2.30pm at Castle Methodist when we will be appending an afternoon with Revd. Jo (Jeffery)

PCC meeting will be held at St Botolph's on **Wednesday 9th September** at **2.30pm**.

Soup 'n' Snack Lunch is on **Thursday 10th between 12pm and 1.15pm**. At Castle. All welcome.

Heritage Open Days – help needed!

The church will be open from **10.00am–3.00pm between 12th and 20th September** as part of Heritage Open Days.

If you're able to help steward on any of these days, please add your name to the rota sheet in the Welcome Area. After the service, the rota will be moved to the hall. Thank you for your help!

St Botolph's Autumn Clean

We're having a clean-up at St Botolph's on **Friday 25th September, from 10.00am–2.00pm**.

If you can spare an hour or two (or even the whole session!), we'd love to have your help. Many hands make light work!

Deanery Day 2026 - 10th October

On Saturday 10th October, the Deanery of Colchester are holding another Deanery Day. The Day is for all members of the 24 CofE Churches in the Colchester area, and it's at St. John's Church in Ipswich Road Colchester from 9:30am to 3:30pm.

There'll be lots of seminars and workshops as well as worship – with refreshments provided including tea, coffee and pastries as we arrive and a buffet lunch.

This year's theme is Mission; and there's a strong line-up of presenters and seminar leaders. There will be experts on being a Christian at work; in our leisure; in later life; in urban, estate and rural settings; caring for the environment, being welcoming to all, and more. All the topics and biographies of the speakers are on the Deanery website at www.colchesterdeanery.org.uk/deaneryday.

The day is completely free, but you do need to sign up using the sign-up sheet at church.

SUNDAY SERVICES

13th September at 10.30am - Holy Communion

20th September at 10.30am - Morning Worship

27th September at 10.30am - Holy Communion

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 and the acting treasurer...

Dear friends,

First of all, thank you.

Thank you for all the ways you contribute to the life of St Botolph's. Whether you pray faithfully, volunteer your time, offer practical help, encourage others, give financially, or simply join us in worship, you are part of what makes this church such a welcoming and caring community. We are deeply grateful for each and every one of you.

From Sunday 18th to Sunday 25th October, we will be taking part in the Church of England's Generosity Week.

Generosity Week invites us to reflect on far more than church finances. It is an opportunity to give thanks for all that God has given us: love beyond measure, the gift of the Holy Spirit, the beauty of creation, the gift of each new day, and above all, Jesus Christ. As we focus on generosity, we are drawn to the generous heart of God, whose love is the source of every blessing.

Generosity is also an invitation into a way of living that recognises that "We love because he first loved us" (1 John 4:19). At its heart, generosity is not about budgets or buildings. It is a joyful response to God's generosity towards us, expressed in the ways we care for one another, welcome our neighbours, support those in need, and share what we have.

Our prayer is that this spirit of generosity and gratitude will continue to grow in every part of our lives: in our hospitality to friends and family, in our compassion for our community, and in the way we support the life and ministry of St Botolph's.

As part of that conversation, we'd also like to share a little about how our church is sustained. St Botolph's is not funded centrally by the Government or the Church of England. The ongoing ministry and care of our church are made possible through the generosity of those who

support it, alongside income from the mobile phone mast in our tower and from groups who hire our building, such as Crafty Drama and local orchestras.

Together, these gifts enable us to care for our beautiful church building, support our clergy, organist and administrator, contribute to wider diocesan ministry such as safeguarding and training, and keep St Botolph's open as a place of worship, welcome and community. Altogether, it costs around £100,000 each year, or just over £270 each day, to sustain this work.

If, as part of your own prayerful reflection during Generosity Week, you would like to explore or revisit supporting St Botolph's financially, there are several ways to do so. Some people choose to give regularly through the Parish Giving Scheme, others make occasional gifts, and some remember the church in their will as part of their legacy. Every gift, whatever its size, is received with gratitude and helps support the ministry we share together.

Above all, thank you for being part of the St Botolph's family. We hope Generosity Week will be an opportunity for all of us to celebrate God's abundant generosity, to give thanks for all we have received, and to discover fresh ways of sharing that generosity with others.

With our love and prayers,
David and Chris