



Welcome to St Botolph's Church

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

Sunday 4th October 2026

Welcome to our Harvest Celebration

In the fading of the summer sun,
the shortening of days,
the cooling breeze,
the swallows in flight,
and the silver light of the moon,
we see your hand at work, and we praise you.

In the browning of leaves once green,
the morning mists and autumn chill,
the fruit that falls,
and frost's first kiss,
we see your hand at work, and we praise you.

For the promise of harvest held within a seed:
the oak tree within an acorn,
the bread within a grain,
the apple within a pip.
For the mystery of nature, gift-wrapped for us to sow,
we see your hand at work, and we praise you.

Creator God,
forgive us when we are ungrateful,
when we fail to notice the wonder of this world,
the endless cycle of nature, of life and death and new life.

Forgive us for taking without giving,
and reaping without sowing.
Open our eyes to see you,
our lips to praise you,
and our hands to share.

**May we tread lightly on this earth,
and may our footsteps be worth following,
for they lead to you.
Amen.**

Harvest offerings are brought to the front during the hymn

Hymn - We plough the fields and scatter
The good seed on the land,
But it is fed and watered
By God's almighty hand;
He sends the snow in winter,
The warmth to swell the grain,
The breezes and the sunshine,
And soft refreshing rain.

All good gifts around us
Are sent from heaven above;
Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord,
For all His love.

He only is the Maker
Of all things near and far;
He paints the wayside flower,
He lights the evening star;
The winds and waves obey Him,
By Him the birds are fed;
Much more to us, His children,
He gives our daily bread.

We thank Thee, then, O Father,
For all things bright and good;
The seedtime and the harvest,
Our life, our health, our food.
No gifts have we to offer
For all Thy love imparts,
But that which Thou desirest,
Our humble, thankful hearts.

We say sorry to God and one another

Let us confess our forgetfulness of God, where we have neglected to give thanks and where we have wasted the gifts of creation.

We confess to you our lack of care for the world you have given us. Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

We confess to you our selfishness in not sharing the earth's bounty fairly. Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

We confess to you our failure to protect resources for others. Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

We are forgiven

The Lord enrich you with his grace, and nourish you with his blessing; the Lord defend you in trouble and keep you from all evil; the Lord accept your prayers, and absolve you from your offences, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour. **Amen.**

We Glorify the Lord

Let the earth glorify the Lord, praise him and highly exalt him for ever. Glorify the Lord, O mountains and hills, and all that grows upon the earth, praise Him and highly exalt Him for ever. Glorify the Lord, O springs of water, seas, and streams, O whales and all that move in the waters. All birds of the air, glorify the Lord, praise him and highly exalt him for ever. Glorify the Lord, O beasts of the wild, and all you flocks and herds. O men and women everywhere, glorify the Lord, praise him and highly exalt him for ever. **Amen.**

Hymn – Come, ye thankful people, come,
Raise the song of harvest home!
All is safely gathered in
Ere the winter storms begin;
God, our Maker, doth provide
For our needs to be supplied;
Come to God's own temple, come,
Raise the song of harvest-home.

All the world is God's own field,
Fruit unto His praise to yield;
Wheat and tares together sown,
Unto joy or sorrow grown;
First the blade, and then the ear,
Then the full corn shall appear:
Lord of harvest, grant that we
Wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come
And shall take His harvest home,
From His field shall in that day
All offences purge away,
Give His angels charge at last
In the fire the tares to cast,
But the fruitful ears to store
In His garner evermore.

Even so, Lord, quickly come,
Bring Thy final harvest home;
Gather Thou Thy people in,
Free from sorrow, free from sin;
There, forever purified,
In Thy garner to abide:
Come, with all Thine angels, come,
Raise the glorious harvest-home.

The church's prayer for today

Eternal God, you crown the year with your goodness and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season: grant that we may use them to your glory, for the relief of those in need and for our own well-being; 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. Amen.

Old Testament Reading - Deuteronomy 8:7-18 *read by David Root*

For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land – a land with brooks, streams, and deep springs gushing out into the valleys and hills; ⁸ a land with wheat and barley, vines and fig-trees, pomegranates, olive oil and

honey; ⁹ a land where bread will not be scarce and you will lack nothing; a land where the rocks are iron and you can dig copper out of the hills.

¹⁰ When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the good land he has given you. ¹¹ Be careful that you do not forget the Lord your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day. ¹² Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, ¹³ and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, ¹⁴ then your heart will become proud and you will forget the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

¹⁵ He led you through the vast and dreadful wilderness, that thirsty and waterless land, with its venomous snakes and scorpions. He brought you water out of hard rock. ¹⁶ He gave you manna to eat in the wilderness, something your ancestors had never known, to humble and test you so that in the end it might go well with you. ¹⁷ You may say to yourself, 'My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.'

¹⁸ But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today.

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

Gospel Reading - Luke 12:16-21 (*please stand*) read by David Root

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

And he told them this parable: 'The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. ¹⁷ He thought to himself, "What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops."

¹⁸ 'Then he said, "This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. ¹⁹ And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry."

²⁰ 'But God said to him, "You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?" ²¹ 'This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich towards God.'

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

Sermon

Hymn - *Bless the Lord, O my soul,
O my soul, worship His holy Name.
Sing like never before, O my soul.
I'll worship Your holy Name.*

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning;
It's time to sing Your song again.
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me,
Let me be singing when the evening comes.

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger,
Your Name is great and Your heart is kind;
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing,
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.

And on that day when my strength is failing,
The end draws near and my time has come;
Still my soul sings Your praise unending,
Ten thousand years and then forevermore.

We affirm our faith in God

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

We are led in prayer by Philip Elwell

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 - You shall go out with joy

And be led forth with peace,

And the mountains and the hills

Shall break forth before you.

There'll be shouts of joy,

And the trees of the field

Shall clap, shall clap their hands.

And the trees of the field shall clap their hands,

And the trees of the field shall clap their hands,

And the trees of the field shall clap their hands,

And you'll go out with joy.

We are sent out

May the blessing of God our Father, who turns the seasons and swells the grain, go with us and make us wise stewards of his creation.

May the blessing of Jesus the Son, who breaks the bread, go with us and inspire us to be labourers in his harvest.

May the blessing of the Holy Spirit, whose breath fills all creation, go with us now, help us to share the earth's harvest fairly, and bear the fruit of love, joy and peace. **Amen.**

Voluntary - Alleluia from Exaltate Jubilate by Mozart

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

Mid-Week Bible Study

Wednesday, 7th September

10:30 am for Refreshments, 10:45 am – 12:00pm – Bible Study

Followed by **Midday Prayer** at 12:00pm – 1pm

✨ *All are warmly welcome!* ✨

Tomorrow, Monday 5th October – Women's Get Together will meet at 2.30pm at Castle Methodist Church where they will be entertained by Colchester Handbell Ringer. All are Welcome.

Wednesday 7th October the PCC meets at 2.00pm in church.

A little something from the vicar...

A few weeks ago, I had the privilege of being at the first gathering of Rooted, our new group for young adults aged 18-30. The invitation is simple: Real people. Real conversations. A deeper faith. And that is exactly what happened.

We began by talking about our roots. What is it that feeds us? What anchors us? What holds us in place when life is going well - and perhaps more importantly, when it isn't?

We talked honestly about how life is feeling right now: what we are celebrating, and what is challenging us. There was laughter, there was thoughtful conversation, and there was a real willingness to bring our different experiences and questions to the table.

It struck me that the conversation we were having at Rooted is one that belongs to all of us, whatever our age.

Jesus talks about it at the end of the Sermon on the Mount. He describes two people building houses. One builds on rock; the other builds on sand. Both houses experience exactly the same weather. The rain falls, the streams rise, and the winds blow and beat against them. The difference is not whether the storm comes. The difference is what the house has been built on.

'Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.' Matthew 7:24

Following Jesus does not give us a storm-free life. Christians face disappointment, grief, mistakes, uncertainty, illness, pressure and all the other things that are part of being human. Jesus never promises otherwise. What he does offer us is a firm foundation.

We jumped out of the building metaphor for a bit and talked about Paul, who can seem almost storm-proof at times. When he is shipwrecked, he is the one encouraging everyone else not to panic. When Paul and Silas are thrown into prison, they respond by praying and singing hymns. They were

not people who never experienced storms. They were people whose lives were rooted somewhere deeper than the circumstances immediately around them.

Of course, none of us can simply press a magic button and become as unflappable as Paul! But it is a good question: Where are my roots? What am I building my life on?

And as we talked, our conversation turned to what this looks like in practice. Jesus is not simply giving us a helpful principle about having a strong foundation. He is asking us to root our whole lives in him - in who he is, in what he has said, and in the way he calls us to live.

The wise person in Jesus' story is not simply the person who has heard his teaching and thought, "That sounds good." The wise person is the one who puts it into practice.

That is both challenging and wonderfully practical. What would it look like for us to actually put Jesus' words into practice? In our relationships? In the way we speak? In the decisions we make? In how we respond when life is difficult?

That was one of the things I loved about our first Rooted gathering. We had a lot of fun. We had some deep conversations. But we finished with a recognition that following Jesus isn't simply about talking about faith. It is about letting his words take root in us and shape the way we live.

I came away from the evening feeling hugely encouraged. I'd had a deep and honest conversation with a group who reminded me all over again just how much obedience matters, and I found myself feeling incredibly grateful for these young adults - for their honesty, and their openness to think seriously about what it means to follow Jesus in real life.

I can't wait for their next gathering on 18 October at 6pm, so please pray for Rooted and for these young adults, whose faith and willingness to apply what Jesus says to their lives is exciting to be around. And if you are 18-30, or you know someone who is, do come along. You will be welcome exactly as you are.

And wherever we are in life, these are good question for all of us to ponder: Who are my roots in? Am I allowing Jesus to be the one who anchors me, shapes me and gives me a firm foundation for life?

May we be people who don't simply hear the words of Jesus, but put them into practice.

Love,
Chris

SUNDAY SERVICES

11th October at 10.30am - Holy Communion

18th October at 10.30am - Morning Worship

26th October at 10.30am - Holy Communion

STAY IN TOUCH

Visit our website or call the parish office for more information

www.stbotolphs.org

01206 542307

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP

REAL
PEOPLE.
REAL
CONVERSATIONS.
A DEEPER
FAITH.



ROOTED



ST BOTOLPH'S CHURCH
COLCHESTER CO2 7EE



3RD SUNDAY
OF THE MONTH



6PM



18-30
WELCOME

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP
