

Welcome to St Botolph's Church

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

Sunday 8th November 2026

Welcome

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen

We meet in the presence of God
who knows our needs, hears our cries,
feels our pain, and heals our wounds.

Hymn

And did those feet in ancient time
Walk upon England's mountains green?
And was the holy Lamb of God
On England's pleasant pastures seen?

And did the Countenance Divine
Shine forth upon our clouded hills?
And was Jerusalem builded here
Among these dark Satanic mills?

Bring me my bow of burning gold
Bring me my arrows of desire
Bring me my spear, O clouds unfold!
Bring me my chariot of fire.

I will not cease from mental fight
Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand
Till we have built Jerusalem
In England's green and pleasant land.

Collect

Almighty Father, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the King of all: govern the hearts and minds of those in authority, and bring the families of the nations,

divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin, to be subject to his just and gentle rule; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First Reading - 1 Thessalonians 4.13-18 *read by Nicky Phillips*

Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about
those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of
mankind, who have no hope. [14] For we believe that Jesus died and rose
again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have
fallen asleep in him. [15] According to the Lord's word, we tell you that
we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will
certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. [16] For the Lord
himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the
voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead
in Christ will rise first. [17] After that, we who are still alive and are left
will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in
the air. And so we will be with the Lord for ever. [18] Therefore
encourage one another with these words.

Gospel Reading - Matthew 25.1-13 *read by (please stand) read by Nicky Phillips*

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

'At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took
their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. [2] Five of them were
foolish and five were wise. [3] The foolish ones took their lamps but did
not take any oil with them. [4] The wise ones, however, took oil in jars
along with their lamps. [5] The bridegroom was a long time in coming,
and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.
[6] 'At midnight the cry rang out: "Here's the bridegroom! Come out to
meet him!"
[7] 'Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. [8] The foolish
ones said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going
out."
[9] "'No," they replied, "there may not be enough for both us and you.
Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves."

10 ‘But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom
arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding
banquet. And the door was shut.
11 ‘Later the others also came. “Lord, Lord,” they said, “open the door
for us!”
12 ‘But he replied, “Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.”
13 ‘Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the
hour.

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

Sermon

We are led in Prayer *by Pat French*
Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hymn
I vow to thee, my country, all earthly things above
entire and whole and perfect, the service of my love;
the love that asks no question, the love that stands the test,
that lays upon the altar the dearest and the best;
the love that never falters, the love that pays the price,
the love that makes undaunted the final sacrifice.

And there's another country, I've heard of long ago
most dear to them that love her, most great to them that know;
we may not count her armies, we may not see her King;
her fortress is a faithful heart, her pride is suffering;
and soul by soul and silently her shining bounds increase,
and her ways are ways of gentleness, and all her paths are peace

Act of Remembrance
Psalm 46.1 – “God is our refuge and strength; a very present help in trouble.”

We remember before God those who have died, and those who are still serving their country in war and peace.

We commit ourselves to work in penitence and faith, for reconciliation between the nations, that all people may, together, live in freedom, justice and peace.

We pray for all who in bereavement, disability and pain continue to suffer the consequences of fighting and terror.

We remember with thanksgiving and sorrow those whose lives, in world wars and conflicts past and present, have been given and taken away.

They shall grow not old,
as we that are left grow old;
age shall not weary them,
nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun
and in the morning,
we will remember them.
We will remember them

Silence

When you go home, tell them of us and say
For their tomorrow, we gave our today.

Ever-living God, we remember those whom you have gathered from the storm of war into the peace of your presence; may that same peace calm our fears, bring justice to all peoples, and establish harmony among the nations, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

L***et us commit ourselves to responsible living and faithful service.***

Will you strive for all that makes for peace? **We will.**
Will you seek to heal the wounds of war? **We will.**
Will you work for a just future for all humanity? **We will.**

Merciful God, we offer to you the fears in us that have not yet been cast out by love: may we accept the hope you have placed in the hearts of all people, and live lives of justice, courage and mercy; through Jesus Christ our risen redeemer. **Amen.**

We say sorry to God and one another

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, through our own fault, in thought, and word, and deed, and in what we have left undone. We are heartily sorry, and repent of all our sins. For your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.

We are forgiven

May God who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our Saviour forgive us our sins and make us holy to serve him in the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We give Glory to God

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.**

We declare our faith in God

Though he was divine, he did not cling to equality with God, but made himself nothing. Taking the form of a slave, he was born in human likeness. He humbled himself, and was

obedient to death even the death of the cross. Therefore God has raised him on high, and given him the name above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen. *(Philippians 2.9-11)*

Hymn

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:

Under the shadow of thy throne,
thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our defence is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received her frame,
from everlasting thou art God,
to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in thy sight
are like an evening gone;
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all its sons away;
they fly, forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guide while troubles last,
and our eternal home!

We share God's peace

Jesus said: 'Love one another as I have loved you, so you are to love one another.'

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

We share 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.

Father, you made the world and love your creation. You gave your Son Jesus Christ to be our Saviour. His dying and rising have set us free from sin and death. And so we gladly thank you, with saints and angels praising you, and saying together:

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.

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said: 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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:
Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth. Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with all the saints to feast at your table in heaven. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

We pray 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.

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.

We share Communion

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.
Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord,
To the glory of God the Father.

Everyone is invited to the Lord's Table – and if you would prefer to receive a blessing, please keep your hands by your side.

Prayer after Communion

God of peace, whose Son Jesus Christ proclaimed the kingdom and restored the broken to wholeness of life: look with compassion on the anguish of the world, and by your healing power make whole both people and nations; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hymn

Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus going on before.
Christ, the royal Master, leads against the foe;
Forward into battle see His banners go!

Refrain:
Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus going on before.

At the sign of triumph Satan's host doth flee;
On then, Christian soldiers, on to victory!
Hell's foundations quiver at the shout of praise;
Brothers, lift your voices, loud your anthems raise.

Like a mighty army moves the church of God;
Brothers, we are treading where the saints have trod.
We are not divided, all one body we,
One in hope and doctrine, one in charity.

Crowns and thrones may perish, kingdoms rise and wane,
But the church of Jesus constant will remain.
Gates of hell can never 'gainst that church prevail;
We have Christ's own promise, and that cannot fail.

Onward then, ye people, join our happy throng,
Blend with ours your voices in the triumph song.
Glory, laud, and honor unto Christ the King,
This through countless ages men and angels sing.

We are sent out

To a troubled world **peace from Christ.**
To a searching world **love from Christ.**
To a waiting world **hope from Christ.**
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

Voluntary: Berceuse by Louis Vierne

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@chelmford.anglican.org

If you believe a child or adult is in immediate danger, please call the emergency services on 999 right away.

NOTICES

📖 Journey with us through Advent

This year's advent course is 'The Weary World Rejoices' and everyone is welcome to join us on Wednesdays as we explore the promises of Christmas. Come along at 10:30am for refreshments and an opening song, finishing by midday.

Session 1 – The Promise of Truth – Wednesday 18th November
Session 2 – The Promise of Compassion – Wednesday 25th November
Wednesday 2nd December – no advent course but please join us to decorate the church for Christmas
Session 3 – The Promise of Restoration – Wednesday 9th December
Session 4 – The Promise of Justice – Wednesday 16th December

Jane Humbles has moved to Shropshire to be nearer her daughter. She would like to keep in touch with St. Botolph's. Her new address is – 27, Welsh Walls, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY11 1AP

Wednesday 11th November the PCC meets at 2.00pm in church.

SUNDAY SERVICES

15th November at 10.30am - Morning Worship
22nd November at 10.30am - Holy Communion
29th November at 10.30am - Holy Communion
This is our Covenant Service with Castle Methodist when they will join us

STAY IN TOUCH

Visit our website or call the parish office for more information

www.stbotolphs.org
01206 542307



REMEMBRANCE DAY