

# St Botolph's Church

## Family News

5th April 2020

Palm Sunday



A new format for the time being as different software is being used.  
Content may be less than usual



### Services 5th April

Online Sunday Service (Available from Saturday evening)

[www.sbots.church](http://www.sbots.church)

### Services week commencing 6th April

Live stream of Morning Prayer at 8:00am -  
Seven days a week

[www.sbots.church](http://www.sbots.church)

### John 12:12-14

The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, "Hosanna!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!"

And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written,

"Fear not, daughter of Zion;  
behold, your king is coming,  
sitting on a donkey's colt!"

### Collect for Palm Sunday

Almighty and everlasting God, who in your tender love towards the human race sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross: grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; 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.

**Help us to enfold our church family with prayer. Please pray for these people this week:**

- Don Cash & Family
- Family of Steve Frost
- Debbie Palmer & family
- Nick Evans & family
- Paul Gosling & family
- Ron Eyre & family
- Maurice Haynes
- Tina McMillan & family
- Family of Les Adams

### Smartphone Apps

The Church of England has smartphone apps - "Daily Prayer", which may be helpful if you use smartphones. Also "Time to Pray".

They are available for iOS and Android.

There is also "Today's Prayer" which is on their website. [www.churchofengland.org](http://www.churchofengland.org)

Andy has found a great new app called Dwell. It's a listening Bible and will read the bible to you including reading plans. Andy has managed to get a church subscription free for 6 months just follow this link.

Do pass it on to others in the congregation,  
<https://dwellapp.io/signup/with/wnLXGC>

### Contact details

**Rector:** Revd. Mark Lucas: Tel: 01536 628501

Mob: 07788 100757

E-mail: rector@stbots.church

**Youth:** Revd. Andy Clark Mob: 07590 617738

E-mail: andy@stbots.church

**Families** Helen Tilney Mob: 07973 164020

E-mail: helen@stbots.church

**Wardens:** Peter Jackson: Tel: 01536 514284

E-mail: peterjackson@stbots.church

Adrian Keach Tel: 01536 723008

E-mail: adrian.keach@tiscali.co.uk

**Office:** Tel: 01536 414052

E-mail: admin@stbots.church

### St Botolph's Church Weekend

It is with much regret that Mark has taken the decision to cancel church weekend for 2020. It may seem premature as there are 5 months before the scheduled dates. However the weekend requires a great deal of planning and preparation which really begins now.

The hog roast was already booked and will have to be cancelled.

There seemed to be little choice given the uncertainties of the current situation.

We look forward to 2021.

### Church Office during Government Restrictions

Church office is closed for the time being.

Paul is working from home and can be contacted by email at [admin@stbots.church](mailto:admin@stbots.church), or text to 07549 958613.

The office phone, 01536 414052 is diverted to the above mobile.

Standard office hours are Monday to Thursday 10am to 2pm, but if you need to call outside those hours, that is fine.

Preferably not overnight!



*Prayer Letter*

April 2020



**1** In many parts of China, April ushers in the spring season. Please pray that the epidemic will recede as the weather is getting warmer.


**2** Please pray for residents in Wuhan and nearby regions. They were locked down for nearly 2 months. Many people have been affected psychologically because of their lack of communication with the outside world, and their need for outdoor activities. Pray for God's mercy and healing.

**3** Thousands of Wuhan residents died during the Covid-19 outbreak. Please pray for God's comfort for the bereaved families.

**4** Today is Ching Ming Festival (also called Tomb Sweeping Day), a day when Chinese traditionally commemorate their ancestors, offer sacrifices to deceased family members. The Covid-19 outbreak has made this year's festival day more significant. Pray that the Lord will comfort all who are grieving and help them find the true meaning of life in Christ.

**5** Today is the first Sunday in April. Many churches would normally have Holy Communion on this day. To prevent spreading of the virus, churches do not permit large gatherings. Please pray for these churches as they worship and conduct their Holy Communion services online.

**6** Please pray for believers who are currently able to gather in twos and threes. Whether they are family members or close friends, meeting openly or secretly, pray for God's grace upon them all. When we pray for them, we also experience the "communion of saints".

 Many full-time ministers are since last year when their churches were forced to split into small groups. This year, Covid-19 has made their situation worse, because they do not have insurance or fixed income. Please pray for pastors and other church workers whose lives are seriously impacted.

**8** A Christian businessman named Q was moved by the Holy Spirit to set up a special fund to provide aid to full-time church workers in the countryside and in 3rd tier cities. He is calling more believers to contribute to this fund. Thank God for these believers, and pray that more people will participate in this ministry.

**9** Pray for a pastor named L. His village was locked down during the Covid-19 outbreak. All local ministries had to be suspended. In his church there are many elderly and sick members who need care. Pray for God's mercy and provision.



**10** Today is Good Friday. Let us come prayerfully before the Lord, and meditate on the significance of the crucifixion.

**11** Today is Holy Saturday. Let us reflect on that day when

the disciples were fearful, sad and deeply disappointed, following Jesus' crucifixion. Let us remember that God was powerfully at work, even in the darkest and saddest time. Let us pray that Chinese Christians will hold fast to their hope in Christ.

# **St Botolph's Church**

Good News for Barton Seagrave