

Caffeination

Now that we are free (!) we would like to introduce social mixing after the morning service at St Botolph's. The traditional way, of course, to encourage this is to serve coffee, that greatest social lubricant of our time. Of course, we need to be careful to be safe, so we will take the following precautions:

No one should be made to feel bad if they choose not to join a coffee making team if invited to. We must respect one another in this.

1. Entrance and egress to and from Church House garden should be by the gate and not through church house.
2. Coffee will be served from tables outside on the patio.
3. No biscuits will be served. Please bring your own if you wish, but do not share them.
4. Coffee, sugar, milk etc. will be put into cups as required only by the coffee team.
5. The coffee team will wash their hands regularly with soap and hot water.
6. All crockery and cutlery, however small amount, will be washed in the dishwasher, not the sink. This is far more hygienic and a basic rule for health and hygiene in the kitchen.
7. As far as possible people should use Church House Garden for social mixing and not the fellowship room or anywhere inside the house.
8. Face coverings should be worn inside Church House.
9. If the weather is inclement we will not offer coffee.



Refreshments after our Sunday 10.00am Service



Do you enjoy having a chat over coffee after our 10.00am Sunday Services. If so we need your help if we are to continue to do so. Volunteers are needed to join the Coffee Rota to help occasionally with serving refreshments (coffee, tea and squash) after our 10.00am Sunday Services in Church House.

If you can help please let Heather in Church House Office know.

Telephone 01536 414052 Email: heatherknighton@stbots.church

St Botolph's Church Family News Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity 29th August 2021



Collect - Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

Almighty God, who called your Church to bear witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself: help us to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may be drawn to you; through him who was lifted up on the cross, and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Sunday Church Services for 29th August

Please join us in **Church at St Botolph's for our 10.00am Family Service** as we continue to welcome the congregation back into Church to worship.

Sunday services from St Botolph's Church continue to be Live-Streamed but please try to join us in Church this Sunday instead, we'd love to see you.

Or join us at **11.00am for a Service in Church at St Edmund's Church Warkton,**

Please use the Village Hall Car park in Warkton village if you are coming by car.

What's happening next week?

- **Sunday 29th August**
10.00am Family Service in Church
11.00am Morning Service at Warkton
- **Monday 30th August**
- **Tuesday 31st August**
5.55pm St Bots TROTS
(runners meet in Church House Carpark)

- **Wednesday 1st September**
- **Thursday 2nd September**
10.00am Staff Meeting
- **Friday 3rd September**
- **Saturday 4th September**

Protection, Peace and Praise

The CoV pandemic has been a 'shock to the system.' Strong and, for many, very frightening warnings of serious consequences have been given should we contract the virus. Many of us have witnessed the veracity of these warnings firsthand. And while vaccination promised a fatal blow to the virus the reality has been somewhat different with many of the double vaccinated contracting CoV. We are now told that face coverings, social distancing, and regular hand washing will be with, albeit voluntary, for some time yet.

So here is the difficulty. The work 'voluntary.' This makes meeting together in church difficult. There are those who do not wish to wear face coverings, especially when singing, and those who believe they should. There are some who are genuinely still vulnerable, and those who are simply anxious, and there are those who are desperate to be rid of all memory of the pandemic. Everyone is entitled to exercise their own conscience, and it is not my place to take sides. The exception to this is that we should all be sensitive to those expressing an irrational anxiety, whilst trying to help them. I'll write more on this in due course. In Romans 14v13 Paul writes, 'Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother.'

So, here are our latest guidelines:

1. In the chancel area we will continue to maintain social distancing and face covering for those who need it. The chairs are no longer socially distanced (we have to put them somewhere!), but social distancing should be maintained in this area. Please be sensitive to those using this area, many or most have good reason to be there. Please do not enter, or approach, this area if you are not wearing a face covering. If you need to enter this area, please use hand gel before you do, and only touch what is necessary. Those using this area are valued members of the church family and we must honour that.
2. In the rest of the church building, you are free to exercise your own conscience, only with sensitivity and thought for others. You may wear a face covering if you wish, but also be aware that there will be those not wearing face coverings. Social distancing will be hard in this area so, if that's important to you, please use the chancel 'safe' area.
3. If you experience any symptoms, please do not come to church. The livestream will continue for the time being, so you don't miss out too much. Recognised CoV Symptoms now include almost anything! Loss of taste is still a leading one, but also cold and flu like symptoms, aches and pains, and diarrhea and abdominal problems. In truth if you are feeling unwell in any way at all please stay at home.

May God bless, preserve, and keep us, for His glory alone.

Mark

Mission to the Masses

As we come out of CoV isolation blinking our way back to normality we can breathe a sigh of relief. The pain is over. We can meet again, touch again, live again. But things will not be as they were, not least because the memory of CoV, lost loved ones, isolation, and pain, will be forever with us. We give thanks to God for His mercy and, at the same time, we trust Him for our future as we shut down CoV and re-boot normality. And as we push the reset button, we have an opportunity to assess our effectiveness as God's mission people in a needy world. We have been thinking and praying through areas of ministry asking, is there a need o make changes? If so, a reboot is the best time to try.

William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury 1942-44, said, 'The Church is the only institution that exists primarily for the benefit of those who are not its members.' If we are to be a mission shaped church, then this must be at the forefront of our thinking. Church attendance in England is now under 1 million each week, that is fewer than 2% of the population. Since 1980 the church attendance has dropped by 50%. This is a crisis. How do we address it? Well, there are many ways, and, as a general rule, churches that preach the Bible clearly and live it out consistently are either growing or at least, not shrinking. But we also need to make church attendance as easy and natural as possible. With these things in mind, we have been addressing our Sunday services. How can we make it easy for people to attend? How can we best take the opportunity to share the good news of the gospel with people? So, over the last year, the team and wardens of St Botolph's and St Edmund's have been thinking and praying and would like to suggest an amendment to Sunday service times to meet this challenge. The changes are experimental and will be discussed by the PCCs near the end of October. Some may be disappointed by these changes, others, I know, will be delighted. I would ask you to consider what William Temple said, and what our mission is. I will happily talk with any of you who are struggling to understand. This is a genuine dialogue.

So, from 12th September our cycle of services in the Benefice will be

St Botolph's

Sunday 8.30am – Morning Service 1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday
Sunday 10.00am – Morning Service with Promise Land
Sunday 7.00pm – Evening Service
Thursday 11.00am – Morning Service followed by seniors' activity

St Edmund's

Sunday 8.30am – Morning Service 2nd and 4th Sunday
Sunday 5.00pm – Evening Prayer

Mark

Contact details

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(Opening Hours Mon - Thursday 9:30am - 12:30pm.)