

S. BOTOLPH'S CHURCH, CAMBRIDGE
NEWSLETTER FOR APRIL 2019

From the Priest in Charge

Dear Friends,

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week, a week in which we immerse ourselves in all four Gospel accounts of the Passion. We are *in* the spectacle of Holy Week, *in* the events of the Passover journey, *in* the events that belong to the Way of the Cross. We are *in* all of the crowds, *with* all of the actors, but, above all, we are there *with* Christ.

In a way, that will perhaps be the hardest part of Holy Week: to be with Christ as he suffers the madness and the folly of our words and actions unleashed upon him with such cruelty and fury. We confront ourselves but even more we encounter Christ for us and in us. Yet that will be our comfort, our strength. The most quoted verse in scripture "*God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life.*" (John 3:16) is for us to ponder.

It all seems rather melodramatic, you might be thinking. How does any of the story of Christ really relate to me? There is nothing in this story that does not relate to us in our inner disorders, anxieties, self-presumption, indifference towards others, and to the care of ourselves. There is nothing melodramatic about Holy Week; it is simply the drama of redemption, the drama of the heart and core of the Christian faith. To enter into Holy Week is to participate in the redemption of our humanity accomplished by Christ. It is accomplished by our being with him. That is the great challenge of Holy Week.

We learn more about ourselves and about Christ in his sacrifice for us. What we learn about ourselves is wonderfully embraced in the liturgies of *Palm Sunday*. We go from the cries of "*Hosanna*" to the shouts of "*Crucify.*" These are our words that reveal our contradictions.

Holy Week confronts us with ourselves in the contradictions of our sins. That, paradoxically, is the good news, if we can learn

from what we see and hear in the pageant of Holy Week. If we can, it will be because we are willing to be defined by God's Word, his Word audible and visible, in Word and Sacrament. Then, and only then, will we begin to be who we are in Christ.

The intensity of the Passion belongs to the increase of joy in us. *Palm Sunday* marks the beginning really of one long continuous liturgy that brings us to *Easter* and to Eastertide. We know the story, but to feel it and to be in it, this is the great project of Holy Week for us. "*Draw near with faith.*" Embrace it, pray it and feel it!

Yours in Christ, Stephen.

Easter Day—the rubric of the Prayer Book directs *And note, that every Parishioner shall communicate at the least three times in the year, of which Easter to be one.* Easter is the most important day in the Church's year, even more important than Christmas. It is in the rising of Christ from the dead that we find the hope and promise of eternal life with Him. Please make a special effort to rejoice in the Resurrection and all it means at one of the Holy Communion services on that day.

Easter Lilies, the traditional flowers of Easter, are regarded as a joyful symbol of beauty, hope, and life. The bulb of these flowers buried in the ground represents the tomb of Jesus and the white trumpet-like fragrant flowers symbolize His life after death. It is traditional for lilies to be bought at Easter in commemoration of a loved one who has passed away, but in the hope of the Resurrection. If you would like to have an Easter Lily placed in church in memory of someone dear to you, and also give a modest contribution towards the building up of the Flower Fund, please let Sarah have your donation of £3 per stem.

Mrs Katharine Horbury—retires from the position of Churchwarden on 23rd May after in excess of 30 years of committed and unstinting service. A huge debt of gratitude is owed to her from past and present generations of worshippers. There will be an opportunity to express our gratitude **after the 11**

a.m. Sung Eucharist on Sunday 3rd July. Please make a note of the date in your diaries now. Katharine will continue as Deanery Synod representative and so remains ex officio on the P.C.C.

Mr Andrew Morris—retires from playing the organ regularly for us on Maundy Thursday. He does not want a fuss, but please come to the 6 p.m. Sung Eucharist on that day to show, by your presence, your appreciation of his gifted and virtuoso playing for us over several years. It is hoped that Andrew may be persuaded to come back from time to time to play at the occasional service or give a recital. He is very much part of our community.

Annual Parish Meetings—were held on Sunday 17th March. Mrs Sarah Eastwood and Mr Andrew Hodson were elected as Churchwardens (Andrew from 23rd May). Mr Adam McDonagh and Mrs Tamara Sword will join the P.C.C., in addition to existing members. We congratulate them all on their respective roles.

Heating—after at least 18 months of discussions and looking at almost every option, the P.C.C. has agreed unanimously to accept the latest proposal from our M&E consultants for new radiant heat panels to be installed in the Nave and Chancel. These will work like and be attached to the existing radiant panels on the back of pews, but be much more efficient and give a higher heat output. We have been trialling two examples in church for a few months now. The intention is mostly to heat the individual rather than the air mass in the church. This follows advice from the conservator, Mt Tobit Curteis, not to heat or cool the church too quickly as that risks damaging the fine paintwork in the church.

A renewed Faculty application for formal permission to proceed with these works, which will include an upgrade to our electrical capacity, is now to be lodged and, in parallel, tender documents will be issued to potential contractors. The intention is to carry out the works in the summer months over six weeks, during which the church will need to be closed, except for services.

Window Cleaning—the PCC has agreed for the windows to be cleaned in early October after completion of the electrical works.

Old Wine—Monday 10th June: 5:30pm – 9:30pm

This event, arranged in conjunction with the Prayer Book Society, is to promote the better understanding and greater usage of the Prayer Book. There is a separate flyer for the Programme.

We are to provide a Supper for all delegates and there is a need, please, for volunteers to assist with the provision of the Supper and the clearing away afterwards. **All offers of help to Sarah (Eastwood) please.** The purpose of arranging this event is to raise the profile of St Botolph's locally and its usage of the Prayer Book for worship. It is already over two thirds booked.

Choir—Adam McDonagh would be delighted to hear if you're interested in joining the Choir. All levels and abilities to sing are welcome. Rehearsals are at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday for an hour, before the 11 a.m. service. Contact Adam by email on am2555@cam.ac.uk or by having a word with him. He is very approachable! *Stephen.*

Concert—Sedbergh Preparatory School Chamber Choir presents: *A Concert of Sacred and Secular Favourites*, on Sunday 28th April at 1.45 p.m. (retiring collection for church funds). **All Welcome.**

Bank Holiday Monday, 6th May: Visitors' Day; contributions of food, and help on the day, please. K.H.

St Botolph's Outing, Sat. 18th May, to Southwell, among the least known and most beautiful cathedrals, & Newstead Abbey, Byron's home. Please book; forms in church or from Mrs. Horbury. K.H.

Calendar

Wednesday 10th April Holy Communion 10.30 a.m.

PALM SUNDAY 14th April 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion

11.00 a.m. Procession of Palms & Sung Eucharist

Epistle, Mrs. Eastwood; no sermon. 4.15 p.m. Evensong

Wednesday in Holy Week 17th Holy Communion 10.30 a.m.

MAUNDY THURSDAY 18th April 6.00 p.m. Sung Eucharist

Preacher: the Priest-in-charge

GOOD FRIDAY 19th 10.30 Mattins, Litany & Ante-Communion

Isaiah 52.13-53.12, Miss Josselyn; Epistle, Mr Jarvis;

Preacher: the Priest-in-charge

EASTER DAY 21st April 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion

11.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist; Epistle, Mrs. Horbury

Preacher: The Reverend Dr Jonathan Holmes

4.15 p.m. Evensong

Wednesday 24th April 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion

EASTER I / LOW SUNDAY 28th 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion

11.00 a.m. Mattins: The Reverend Patrick Cotton

1. Exodus 12.1-13, Mr Hodson; 2. I Peter 1.3-12, Mrs. Barker

12 noon Holy Communion 4.15 p.m. Evensong

Wed. 1st May SS. *Philip & James* 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion

EASTER II 5th May 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion

11.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist

Celebrant & Preacher: **Bishop Rowan Williams**

Epistle, Mrs. Durham; Refreshments, Durham 4.15 p.m. Evensong

S. Botolph's Cambridge Website: <https://www.stbotolphcam.org>

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