

S. BOTOLPH'S CHURCH, CAMBRIDGE
NEWSLETTER FOR NOVEMBER 2018

From the Priest in Charge

Autumn, the season of harvest, the time of gathering, is also the time of barrenness, of the stark and grey emptiness of nature's year. After the fruits of creation have been gathered in, the fields and gardens lie bare, desolate and emptied of their summer glory. The colourful array of the autumn leaves quickly gives place to the sombre greyness of the twilight of the year.

Yet beyond the gathering of the fruits of creation, we remember also the spiritual gathering of the fruit of our lives to Christ, even if we are in the twilight days and years of our lives.

Jesus gathers us into the barn and grace of his Kingdom. He makes something glorious out of the seeming barrenness of our lives, come what may. There is a gathering of the fruit of human lives into the joy of life eternal.

The festival of All Saints celebrates the great festival of the spiritual harvest, the gathering of all who have gone before us in Christ's name and in whom we see something of the light of Christ shining through them.

Within this greater context of *All Saints*, the redeemed community of our humanity, we remember also our common mortality at the associated commemoration of *All Souls*. We remember all have died, especially those known personally to us; and we remember them to God.

We also remember on *Remembrance Sunday* later in the month all who have died specifically for the sake of our social and political

freedoms and life. Remembrance Sunday reminds us, especially in its secular settings, of the spiritual and specifically Christian principles which underlies our nation state, even if they no longer seem to animate our souls and our institutions as once they did.

Such is a kind of forgetting. All of our November remembrances signal, perhaps, a kind of return. But if, and *'if'* is the big, little word here, if we can remember in a spirit of forgiveness, then so much the better. For then our remembering will be joined all the more surely to God's *forgiving remembrance* of all our follies, all our sufferings, all our griefs, and all our deaths. We will do all of our remembering within the greater sacrifice of Christ for the whole world.

Every time we celebrate the Holy Communion, we join our remembrance of saints and sinners like us with the remembrance of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ: *"Do this in remembrance of me."*

Our remembrance is shaped by the cross, by the prayer of forgiveness of the Son to the Father for us, precisely, in the awareness of our limitations and our sinfulness; *"Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."*

As we confront daily the spectacles of our inhumanity towards one another, we discover over again that, in the grey month of November, there is a gathering into glory of all the scattered leaves of our humanity.

Stephen

Looking ahead

Sunday 11th November – Remembrance Sunday. We shall begin the main service at 10.55 a.m. on that day to incorporate an Act of Remembrance, including the Silence and prayers for all who gave their lives in two World Wars and conflicts since, followed by a slightly adapted Sung Eucharist (BCP), instead of Mattins that day.

Sunday 25th November – Sunday next before Advent. We end the Church's liturgical year by welcoming the **Lord Bishop of Ely** as our celebrant and preacher at the Sung Eucharist. We shall be joined by members of the choir of Great St Mary's again to lead our singing. There will be refreshments afterwards so that there is a chance to meet the Bishop and have a chat with him. Would you please make a special effort to be present on this important occasion in the life and witness of our community with our Diocesan Bishop.

Sunday 17th December – Third Sunday in Advent. We shall be joined once again by the Cambridge choir, *Vox Cantab*, to lead our singing at the Sung Eucharist. At the equivalent service last year, their fine voices were an inspiration.

In the evening, Evensong will be sung at 6pm, following which we shall go carol singing around the parish, ending up at 5 Grange Road for refreshment.

Heating St Botolph's – the PCC has agreed to proceed with Phase One of the proposed heating scheme and authorised the preparation and issue of the relevant tender documents for return and review on 27th November. Phase One will see the replacement of the existing pew heater panels with more effective and efficient new pew heaters in the same locations, together with the installation of new infra red heaters in the Sanctuary. Heating will also be installed in the peripheral areas, such as the Vestry and the Church Room.

Phase Two provides for four convector blower heaters in the Nave and two further infra red heaters for the Chancel. A decision on Phase Two will be deferred for 12 months so that the experience of the Phase One improvements is available. It is possible then that Phase Two may not be needed; or have a different composition.

Stephen

Our **ADVENT & CHRISTMAS FAYRE** this year is on **Saturday 1st December** from 10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. Items for sale, please—baking, preserves, gifts, cards, toys, decorations, etc.—and offers of help, all gratefully received. K.H.

CALENDAR

ALL SAINTS' DAY (transferred) Sunday 4th November

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion

11.00 a.m. Procession & Sung Eucharist

Epistle, Mrs. Irvine; Refreshments, Irvine

Preacher: Fr Peter Huckle S.S.J.E., Superior, Society of St John the Evangelist; Voluntary, *Apparition de l'Église éternelle*—Messiaen

4.15 p.m. Evensong

Wednesday 7th November Holy Communion 10.30 a.m.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 11th November

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion

10.55 a.m. Sung Eucharist & Act of Remembrance

Lesson: Mr Barker

Preacher: Dr the Hon. Christopher Brightman,

A.L.M., Diocese of Lincoln

Voluntary: Fantasia in C. Minor—J.S. Bach

4.15 p.m. Evensong

Wednesday 14th Holy Communion 10.30 a.m.

TRINITY XXV (Readings for the Fourth Sunday after Epiphany)

18th November 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion

11.00 a.m. Mattins

1. Amos 7.1-15, Mr Hodson; 2. St John 8.1-11, Mrs. Irvine

Preacher: The Reverend Dr Jonathan Holmes

12 noon Holy Communion

4.15 p.m. Evensong

Wednesday 21st 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion

SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE ADVENT 25th November

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion

11.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist

Celebrant and Preacher, The Lord Bishop of Ely

Epistle, Mrs. Durham

Voluntary: Festival Voluntary—Flor Peeters

4.15 p.m. Evensong

Wednesday 28th *S. Andrew*, transferred

10.30 a.m. Holy Communion

Saturday 1st December *Advent Fayre*, 10.00 a.m.—3.00 p.m.

ADVENT SUNDAY 2nd December 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion

11.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist;

Epistle, Eastwood; Refreshments, Galey

Preacher: The Priest-in-charge

4.15 p.m. Evensong

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

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