

S. BOTOLPH'S CHURCH, CAMBRIDGE

NEWSLETTER FOR DECEMBER 2018

From the Priest in Charge

Dear Friends,

Advent is about our openness to the things of God. It is the season of teaching, the season of the light of Christ coming to a world of darkness.

St Paul in his Epistle to the Romans *calls us to* awaken out of the sleep of complacency and indifference. *"The night is far spent,"* he says (13:12), but *"the day is at hand,"* the day of the Lord. *"Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light."* We are called to awaken to truth and virtue; in short, to our life in Christ.

And we see this life in Christ and what it means for us in the pageant surrounding His birth – the conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary *by the Holy Spirit*, the birth of St John the Baptist, *the voice crying in the wilderness, calling us to repentance*, the Holy Birth itself in a lowly stable *because there was no room at the inn*, the shepherds and the angels, and the journey of the Magi *to come and worship Him*.

In all of the busyness of our own preparations for Christmas, let us spare some time then to learn again and reflect on the narrative and drama of the Christmas story itself. Let us take these truths into our hearts and let them impact the way we live, influence our daily decisions, inform the choices we make and the attitudes we adopt.

Let us therefore make room for Christ in this holy season. Let us read and learn again the meaning of the Christmas story. Let us ponder what that means for us. Let us prepare our hearts to receive Him again.

And if we do, we shall then be ready on Christmas Day to rejoice anew at the greatest present of all – the birth of God’s own Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Saviour – with prayerful, thankful and contrite hearts.

Let us pray then that we may know, believe and adore Him, who is Christ the Lord.

Stephen.

Heating – since I wrote optimistically last month about the imminent prospect of new heating in St Botolph’s, it now seems that it will not now after all be installed in time for this winter. The intention for the new heating though remains undiminished.

Our planning has become even more broadly based, with the addition of Tobit Curteis, conservator, to our working group. Several further options have been discussed and are now going to be evaluated. Specific monitoring, using demonstration units, will be set up to evaluate the full impact the new heaters will have.

This will make our ultimate decision, on which heaters to choose, sounder as they will be based on evidence on how they will work in our setting and so we shall be able to have greater confidence in them. All this will take time, however. I shall continue to do my utmost to bring these evaluations to a conclusion at the earliest opportunity.

Prayer Station – The Bishop of Ely was able to dedicate our new Prayer Station (currently in the South Aisle) during his visit on 25th November. Cards are provided for completion with specific prayer requests. They can then be fixed to the prayer board. The intention then is for these to be collected together, offered and prayed for, at the principal 11 a.m. service every Sunday.

Order of Service – feedback from several visitors and new worshippers over the past few months has suggested strongly that a booklet to contain our Order of Service in full would be very much appreciated by those not familiar with our services. These booklets are to supplement the red Prayer Books, not supplant them.

A new Order of Service booklet for the Holy Communion service, with everything following sequentially and no need for page turning to find the next place in the service, was introduced on 25th November. Please ask for a copy of the Order of Service if you would find it helpful.

Services in December

9th December – Second Sunday in Advent. We welcome the Dean of King's, the Revd Dr Stephen Cherry, as our preacher this morning.

16th December – Third Sunday in Advent. Once again Vox Cantab will be with us to sing the Eucharist. The setting will be *Missa tertii toni* by Ceballos.

Later that day, there will be **Carol Singing around the Parish**. We meet in church for Evensong (sung) at 6 p.m., following which we proceed around the parish for Carol Singing, ending up at 5 Grange Road for refreshments.

25th December - Christmas Day. We celebrate the Incarnation by a **Procession and Sung Eucharist at 10:30 a.m.** on that day. Please do make a special effort to come to church to rejoice at the greatest gift we can ever hope to receive – our life and salvation in Jesus Christ.

Services in 2019:

6th January – The Epiphany of Our Lord. Procession & Sung Eucharist at 11 a.m.

13th January 2019 – Epiphany Carol Service at 11 a.m.

Stephen

CALENDAR

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

Voluntary: Fantasia in C Minor BWV 562 (J.S. Bach)

4.15 p.m. Evensong

Wednesday 5th 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion

ADVENT II Sunday 9th 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion

11.00 a.m. Mattins (Vox Cantab Choir)

1. Isaiah 64.1-7, Mrs. Barker; 2. St Luke 3.1-6, Mr Hodson

Preacher: The Revd Dr Stephen Cherry, Dean of King's

Voluntary: Cortège (Flor Peeters)

12 noon Holy Communion

4.15 p.m. Evensong

Wednesday 12th 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion

ADVENT III Sunday 16th *O Sapientia* 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion

11.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist (sung by Vox Cantab)

Setting: Missa tertii toni—Rodrigo de Ceballos

Epistle, Mr Barker

Voluntary: Chorale Prelude on Nun kommt der Heiden Heiland BWV

659—J.S. Bach

6.00 p.m. Evensong followed by carol singing in the parish

Voluntary Eric Thiman, Postlude on Adeste Fideles

Wednesday 19th *O Root of Jesse* 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion

ADVENT IV Sunday 23rd *O Emmanuel*

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion

11.00 a.m. Mattins

1. Isaiah 32.1-8, Mrs. Irvine; 2. Revelation 22.6-end, Mrs. Durham

Preacher: The Reverend Patrick Cotton

Voluntary: Fantasia in G Major BWV 572 (J. S. Bach)

12 noon Holy Communion

4.15 p.m. Evensong (said)

CHRISTMAS DAY Tuesday 25th

10.30 a.m. Procession & Sung Eucharist; Epistle, Mrs. Horbury

Preacher: The Priest-in-charge

4.30 p.m. Evensong (said)

SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS Sunday 30th

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion

11.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist

Epistle, Mr Jarvis

Preacher: The Revd Patrick Cotton

Wednesday 2nd January 2019 Holy Communion 10.30 a.m.

EPIPHANY Sunday 6th January

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion

11.00 a.m. Procession & Sung Eucharist

Preacher: The Priest-in-charge

Epistle, Mr Hodson; Refreshments, Horbury

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

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