

## S. BOTOLPH'S CHURCH, CAMBRIDGE

### NEWSLETTER FOR FEBRUARY 2019

*From the Priest in Charge*

Dear Friends,

Numbers in scripture are especially significant as they are often used to convey a deeper meaning than simply to give a measurement.

One of the most significant is the number *forty*. It is used to mark time periods with a dominant theme, often either a time of trial or testing; or to point to a transition from one time period to another.

We encounter it as this month opens with the feast of *Candlemas*. It marks the first time that Christ comes to Jerusalem to be presented in the Temple. It happens *forty* days after his birth. It also marks, in the Jewish custom, the purification of his mother *forty* days after child-birth.

There is something quite profound in these traditions: the one honouring God for the birth of a child; the other, recognizing the uncertainties and wonder of child-birth itself. In the Book of Common Prayer, the latter sensibility contributes to a special liturgy commonly known as "*The Churching of Women*", which is otherwise known as a service of "*Thanksgiving after Child-Birth*".

Candlemas gives way to the season of the "*Gesimas*" – three Sundays which mark seventy (Septuagesima), sixty (Sexagesima) and then fifty (Quinquagesima) days before Easter. It is a season of transition, moving us from the beginnings of Christ's earthly life to the end of it. We move from the light of Christmas to the life of Easter; from the birth at Bethlehem to the passion and Resurrection at Jerusalem. The *purification and presentation of Candlemas then is a turning point - it anticipates the transition from light overcoming darkness, to life conquering death.*

We begin our preparation for Easter in the season of Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday; this year it is on 6th March. It is *forty* days until Easter (omitting the Sundays). *Forty* days witnessing to the *forty* days spent by Christ in the wilderness being tested by the devil.

We encounter *forty* again in the period between Easter and the Ascension. And it was *forty* years after the death of Jesus in 30AD that the Temple was destroyed.

*Forty* is indeed a significant number.

Stephen.

**Notices—Advance Dates:**

**Ash Wednesday—Wednesday 6th March.** The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on 6th March. There will be the usual Wednesday celebration of Holy Communion at 10.30 a.m.; and then again **with a Sung Eucharist at 6pm**, with the imposition of ashes, as we begin our walk with Christ as He faces all the trials and temptations of the devil. We remember our own mortality, that we are but dust and to dust we shall return, but for our hope in the Resurrection.

**APCM—Sunday 17th March.** Our annual meetings to hear reports on various aspects of our common life together and elect the churchwardens and PCC will be held after the Sung Eucharist on 17th March (the Second Sunday in Lent). Please make a note of the date in your diary now.

**Quiet Day for Lent—Saturday 23rd March: 11 a.m.—4 p.m.** Fr Peter Huckle SSJE will lead a Quiet Day for Lent for us based on the theme *Who do you say that I am?* (St Matthew 16 – St Peter's confession at Caesarea Philippi). All welcome, whether regular or new to St Botolph's. Further details nearer the time.

**Old Wine—Monday 10th June: 5.30 p.m.—9.30 p.m.**

This event, arranged in conjunction with the Prayer Book Society, is to promote the better understanding and greater usage of the Prayer Book.

Old Wine takes its name from the text St Luke 5.39, which states: *"No man also having drunk old wine straightway desireth new: for he saith, The old is better."*

It will comprise a mixture of worship and panel presentations and discussion of various aspects of Using the Prayer Book. The event is aimed primarily at ordinands, but is also open to others, both clergy and laity, who are interested in the subject matter.

Chaired by Bishop Rowan Williams, the speakers include our own Andrew Morris, our Rural Dean, Fr Rob Mackley, and a former ordinand well known to us, Revd Fergus Butler-Gallie.

We are to provide a Supper for all delegates and a call for volunteers to assist in the preparation and clearing away of the Supper will be made nearer the time.

Members of the Development Action Planning Group are overseeing the arrangements.

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. Bookings are already being received.

*Stephen*

Here are a few words from **Adam McDonagh**, whom we have welcomed as Director of Music:

Hello everyone, my name is Adam and I am very grateful and excited to be your new Director of Music at St Botolph's. As was mentioned in last month's newsletter, I come from Dublin, Ireland, where I completed a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance. I have more recently finished the M.Phil. in Music Studies in Cambridge University (graduating later this month!), and I have since decided to stay here to work as a freelance musician because I love this city very much. My current musical work includes teaching piano in King's College School, accompanying the M.Mus. singers at the Faculty of Music and looking after the administrative work of Queens' College Choir. I have lots of experience of running, conducting and singing in choirs back in Dublin and here in Cambridge (for more information, please see my biography on the St Botolph's Church website).

I am already enjoying very much the opportunity to develop the musical life of St Botolph's and I am greatly looking forward to developing it further. I am currently focusing on building the church choir from the ground up. After a very successful Epiphany Service earlier this year, you will be delighted to know that several members of the congregation, of the choirs in Queens' College and from the city more widely, have happily decided to sing at our weekly services. To make it even bigger and better, what I really need now is YOUR help! If you have a voice, please contact me. I would be thrilled if you could join the choir. If you do not want to sing in the choir, that is absolutely fine, but we certainly need a vocal congregation so please do come along to hear us and sing with us every Sunday! Also, even if it is simply spreading the word to your friends, family and neighbours that St Botolph's has now a new choir and a new Director of Music, that will already be increasing the choir's visibility and promoting the musical life of our beautiful church and wonderful parish.

The choir and I welcome all levels and abilities to sing every Sunday morning (rehearsals at 9.45 a.m. for 11 a.m. services), catering to singers who enjoy singing well-known hymns as well as some more challenging anthems. I hope you will enjoy coming along to your weekly service even more with the music that we will be providing for you. If you have any questions, comments or ideas, please do not hesitate to contact me at [am2555@cam.ac.uk](mailto:am2555@cam.ac.uk). I look forward to meeting you soon!

**Items for the March Newsletter** by Tues. 26th February, please. K.H.

## CALENDAR

**PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE / PURIFICATION OF THE  
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (CANDLEMAS) (transferred)**

Sunday 3rd February                      8.00 a.m. Holy Communion

11.00 a.m.          Sung Eucharist

Epistle (Gal. 4.1-11), Mr Barker; Refreshments, Barker

Preacher: The Priest-in-charge

Voluntary: Prelude & Fugue in A—J.S. Bach

4.15 p.m.          Evensong

Tuesday 5th    Parochial Church Council, 8.00 p.m.

Wednesday 6th      10.30 a.m.      Holy Communion

**THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**

Sunday 10th February

8.00 a.m.          Holy Communion

11.00 a.m.          Mattins

1. Isaiah 59.12-20, Mrs. Horbury; 2. Ephesians 5.21-6.9, Mrs. Irvine

Preacher: The Priest-in-charge

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

12 noon          Holy Communion (shortened)

4.15 p.m.          Evensong

Wednesday 13th February

10.30 a.m. Holy Communion

**SEPTUAGESIMA** Sunday 17th February

8.00 a.m.          Holy Communion

11.00 a.m.          Sung Eucharist

Epistle: Mr Hodson; Intercession, Mr Hodson

Preacher: The Reverend Dr Jonathan Holmes

Voluntary: Praeludium in E—Dieterich Buxtehude

4.15 p.m.          Evensong

Wednesday 20th      10.30 a.m. Holy Communion

**SEXAGESIMA** Sunday 24th February

8.00 a.m.          Holy Communion

11.00 a.m.          Mattins

1. Genesis 3, Mrs. Eastwood; 2. I Corinthians 10.1-13, Mrs. Barker

Preacher: The Reverend Patrick Cotton

Voluntary: Fugue on a theme of Corelli (BWV 579)—J.S. Bach

12 noon      Holy Communion (shortened)

4.15 p.m.    Evensong

Wednesday 27th February 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion

**QUINQUAGESIMA** 3rd March 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion

11.00 a.m.      Sung Eucharist

Epistle, Mrs. Durham; Refreshments, Durham

Preacher: Dr the Hon. Christopher Brightman, A.L.M., Diocese of Lincoln

4.15 p.m. Evensong

**ASH WEDNESDAY** 6th March

10.30 a.m.    Holy Communion

6.00 p.m.    Sung Eucharist (*with ashing*)

Preacher: The Priest-in-charge

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

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