

S. BOTOLPH'S CHURCH, CAMBRIDGE

NEWSLETTER FOR AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 2018

From the Priest in Charge

Dear Friends,

Record heatwaves, droughts and wild fires this summer have affected the UK. Almost everywhere, there has been little or no rain since May and the ground is hard and scorched from the sun. Rivers and reservoirs are drying up. Those of us who remember the summer of 1976, recall not only the hosepipe bans, but the stand by pipes and bowsers in the streets as the mains water supply was turned off during the day, the outbreak of ladybirds in late August and the near impossibility of buying potatoes well into the autumn.

Two things have characterised this summer's heatwave. Firstly, record day temperatures have affected not just the UK, but pretty much the whole of the Northern hemisphere – from North America to Europe to Russia and Asia (except the citizens of Iceland who have had nothing but rain!); and secondly there has not been much cooling at night, particularly in the Middle East, where temperatures have remained incredibly high – 43C in Oman, for example. The world is getting and remaining hotter.

Commentators have begun talking about this and the associated disasters in Biblical terms. The headline in *The Times* on 25th July gave the wildfires in Greece the quote "*A biblical disaster*". What does this mean?

It is true that God has sometimes caused extreme weather events and natural disasters to awaken us to His purposes for us— scripture tells us that God sent plagues to Egypt, a flood to Noah and a storm to Jonah, for example. The Book of Deuteronomy 11:17 warns that *the anger of the LORD will be kindled against you, and he will shut up the heavens, so that there will be no rain, and the land will yield no fruit, and you will perish quickly off the good land that the LORD is giving you.*

But it is not true that every extreme weather event is caused directly by God. God has given us our world to live in. He created it and He set the forces of nature. In much the same way that God allows

people to do wrong things, God allows the earth to reflect the consequences of people's actions on creation.

The evidence is that the world is warming, the polar ice caps which influence our weather are shrinking fast and heatwaves are becoming more frequent and extreme. We should see these as a megaphone from God, pointing to the consequences of our actions. Our misuse of creation cannot defy the natural laws that govern it. We are seeing the outcome of our own misuse.

It is time to remember that the world is God's world, not our own, and moderate our behavior accordingly. Otherwise it will not be God's actions that destabilize our climate, but our own.

St Paul, writing to the Romans, speaks of creation being subject to *frustration in the hope that it will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God* (Romans 8:19-21). It envisages that we should be co-workers with God in the salvation of the whole of creation, not simply consumers of it to excess.

Stephen.

Looking ahead

Evensong – Evensong is not said in church on the Sundays in August, but resumes on Sunday 9th September at 4.15 p.m.

Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th October—Welcome Weekend. A

Welcome Weekend to introduce St Botolph's to students and academics at the start of the Michaelmas term will be held. Please make a note of the dates in your diaries now and watch out for further details nearer the time.

Stephen.

Saturday 9th September, our final **Visitors' Day** this summer, as usual coincides with **Ride, Drive & Stride** for Cambridgeshire Historic Churches. Contributions of food, books, and help on the day, please.

Harvest Lunch will take place in church on **Sunday 7th October** after the Sung Eucharist at 11 a.m. Please sign the list with names and offers of food when it appears in September. K.H.

CALENDAR

TRINITY X Sunday 5th August 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion

11.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist

Epistle, Mrs. Durham: Refreshments, Durham

Preacher: The Priest-in-Charge

Voluntary: Marche triomphale on *Nun danket alle Gott*—S. Karg-Elert

Wednesday 8th Holy Communion 10.30 a.m.

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY Sunday 12th August

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion

11.00 a.m. Mattins

1. Ezekiel 11.14-20, Mrs. Horbury; 2. Luke 4.1-13, Mr Hodson

Preacher: The Reverend Patrick Cotton

Voluntary: Fugue in G—J.S. Bach

12 noon Holy Communion

Wednesday 15th Holy Communion 10.30 a.m.

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY Sunday 19th August

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion

11.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist

Epistle, Mr Hodson; Intercession, Mr Hodson

Preacher: The Reverend Patrick Cotton

Voluntary: Alla Marcia—John Ireland

Wednesday 22nd Holy Communion 10.30 a.m.

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY Sunday 26th August

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion

11.00 a.m. Mattins

1. Ezekiel 33.1-11, Mrs. Durham; Luke 6.20-38, Mr Eastwood

Preacher: The Revd Patrick Cotton

Voluntary: Paean—Philip Moore

12 noon Holy Communion

Wednesday 29th *Beheading of St John Baptist* Holy Communion 10.30

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY 2nd September

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion

11.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist

Epistle, Mrs. Irvine; Refreshments, Norman

Preacher: The Priest-in-Charge

Voluntary: Sonata 5, Allegro molto—F. Mendelssohn

Wednesday 5th *Nativity of the B.V.M.* (trfd)

Holy Communion 10.30 a.m.

Saturday 8th Ride, Drive and Stride for Cambs. Historic Churches

Book Sale & Refreshments

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY Sunday 9th September

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion

11.00 a.m. Mattins

1. Ezekiel 34.1-16, Mrs. Eastwood; 2. Luke 7.36-end, Mr. Hodson

Preacher: The Reverend Dr Jonathan Holmes

Voluntary: Fugue in G (Gigue)—J.S. Bach

12 noon Holy Communion

4.15 p.m. Evensong

Wednesday 12th Holy Communion 10.30 a.m.

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY Sunday 16th September

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion

11.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist (Order 1)

Epistle, Mr Jarvis; Intercession, Mr Hodson

Preacher: The Priest-in-Charge

Voluntary: Prelude and Fanfare—G. Jacob

4.15 p.m. Evensong

Wednesday 19th *Ember Day* Holy Communion 10.30 a.m.

ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS (trfd) 23rd September

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion
11.00 a.m. Mattins
1. Daniel 10.10-19a, Mr Barker; 2. Revelation 12.7-12, Mrs. Durham
Preacher: The Priest-in-Charge
Voluntary: Sonata 6, Allegro molto—F. Mendelssohn
12 noon Holy Communion
4.15 p.m. Evensong

Wednesday 26th Holy Communion 10.30 a.m.

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY 30th September

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion
11.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist; Epistle, Mrs. Barker
Preacher: The Reverend Patrick Cotton
Voluntary: Fantasia and Fugue in A minor—J.S. Bach
4.15 p.m. Evensong

Wednesday 3rd October Holy Communion 10.30 a.m.
Saturday 6th Church Decoration for Harvest, 9.30 a.m. onwards

TRINITY XIX *Harvest Thanksgiving* Sunday 7th October

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion
11.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist; Epistle, Mrs. Irvine
Voluntary: Concerto in A minor, first movement (Vivaldi/Bach)
Harvest Lunch after the service
4.15 p.m. Evensong

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

 @stbotolphcam  @stbotolphcam  @stbotolphcam

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