



**St Botolph's Chronicle
Update 23
Week Ending
Friday 18th September**

**This week's Editor –
Carole**

Dear Friends,

This month, as we return to worshipping in church, we are celebrating the season of Creationtide, where, as you might expect, we focus on all of God's wonderful creation. As I write this, we are experiencing a few days of an "Indian Summer". I have been enjoying the warmth of the sunshine, hoping that the brightness of the sun might help ripen the tomatoes in my back garden. The combine harvesters have been busy bringing in the wheat pictured here in the fields around Sleaford.



Many of us enjoy gardening where we can do our part in tending our small part of God's creation. In creation, God gave us stewardship of the whole of the Earth. In Genesis chapter 1 we read these words: -

“God said, ‘Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have stewardship over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.’” Genesis 1:26

Our role then is to be good stewards of creation, yet the forest fires on the western side of the USA, the melting glaciers and rising sea levels, indicate that we have been failing in our obligations. The David Attenborough programme entitled “Extinction-The Facts” which was shown on BBC television on Sunday 13th September drew our attention to the loss of biodiversity across the globe: and that loss is accelerating.

As we focus on creation in this short season in church, I would invite you to pray for our planet and for a change in heart for all of humanity. We need to do more to reduce global warming and prevent the destruction of the natural habitats of so many species. In addition to praying we must also start changing our habits: reducing our car usage; reducing our use of plastics; eating less meat; etc.



The small steps we take now can make a difference for the future, and in changing our damaging behaviour, we can start to restore God's creation and thereby fulfil His purpose for us. We need to do all we can to save the rainforest, pictured on the left, in Guyana, South America and elsewhere. Let strive then to be better stewards of creation and let us each try to do our bit for the planet.

Every blessing
Mark

Do not forget the Helpline number if you cannot get through on our usual numbers
07592 065567

Poem for Summer to Autumn

The Day Hung Written by Sue Tuck whilst in France

The day hung
Still, warm,
A rising mist of peacefulness
In the early morning
Lying, listening,
Contemplating the day ahead
As the sun slowly rose
Over ghost-like trees
Their silhouettes a purple hue
Although a short distance away, remain
Wrapped in another world
Whose landscape formed in breathtaking beauty
Shared secrets of the earth only with themselves
The day hung
And I was glad,
Glad to be part of all things new.



Sleaford Larder



At this harvest time as we gather in the wonderful gifts of creation it is also a time to remember those less fortunate than ourselves. If you are able would you please bring a food offering for the Food Bank which continues to face high demand during the pandemic. Please bring your offering to church if you are attending the services on Sundays at 11am or on Wednesdays between 12 and 1pm.



Rule of Six



Most of us will be aware of the new Rule of Six and how it will affect us. I was delighted to hear that it will not affect places of worship and that we will be able to continue to worship God in our church building. I thought it would be an appropriate time to re-emphasise the importance of all of us complying with the protocols we have in place for worship in church.

If you need any clarification of what these rules are please contact Mark or Al or speak to the stewards who will be available on Sundays and Wednesdays. Helping each other to stay safe will be a wonderful example of Cristian love and service.

Guess the Young'un

Last month's young'un was Doug Cornford

Who is this beautiful baby?

Clues:

Has a soft spot for Harley
Does he take the high road or the low road?



Church opening:

With the resumption of church services on a Sunday the church will no longer be open for private prayer on Monday or Friday but will be open on Wednesdays between 12 and 1pm for private prayer beginning 2nd September. This allows 72 hours between opening of church to abide by COVID-19 cleaning rules.

Church Services

Booking a place at our church services

As you know we have now held our first two services back in church. We now believe that we can seat 25 people in the pews each week. My reason for writing is to clarify the booking system for Sundays, which will operate from now on.

In the interest of fairness, we cannot allow people to block book for every Sunday in the month. Instead, we need to actively manage the spaces available for worship in order to allow as many people as possible to attend worship across each month. We now ask you to “request” a place at church during the week leading up to the service by contacting Maria, either by email or by phone by Thursday morning. We will then allocate places to as many people as possible and as fairly as possible. This will take some administration and so I ask for your patience as we learn how best to manage this process.

For clarity, if you have already asked Maria to book you a place at each service in September, you may not now be able to attend each service. You must contact Maria again in the week leading up to the Sunday you wish to attend. Maria will then confirm if you have a place for the Sunday near the end of that week. You may contact Maria by e-mail at m.fryer@outlook.com. or 01529 240139.

We have now had two Sunday services in church which have been recorded so then been available on YouTube. There have been a few technical teething problems but these are being addressed and services will continue to be available on YouTube

APCM 2020

Due to COVID-19 our APCM this year had to be postponed but has been re-scheduled for Thursday 1st October at 7pm using virtual media. For those who do not have access to the internet you can still take part by using the telephone, we may not be able to see you but we will still be able to hear you! If you would like to take part in this but need help in setting it up please let Maria know so assistance can be given by having a trial run by joining a coffee morning. Further details will be given nearer the date.

The Electoral Roll – St Botolph’s

The Electoral roll has now been closed for this years’ APCM but anyone, who qualifies, can submit a form any time before the next APCM in 2021.

Church clock

Our insurance company has agreed the claim for damage due to lightning strike so we now await the repairers fitting us into their schedule.

The frequency of issues

The PCC has agreed that the Chronicle will become a monthly edition with a return to a weekly pew sheet style of updates etc. as services resume; this will be circulated by email in addition to being available to take away from services.

Photo Gallery

We are creating a gallery of images from this time of Lockdown. We are hoping to show what, as a parish, we are creating or observing. Why not join in? Please have a look at <http://quarringtonchurchsleaford.co.uk> . You can send your photos (jpegs please) to stbquarrington890@gmail.com

50:50 Club results. April to September

April 1st prize 38 Mr Robertson	2nd prize 92 Mrs Churms
May 1st prize 88 Ann Waters	2nd prize 80 Mr Pick
June 1st prize 1 Peter Gratton	2nd prize 69 Mr Neuman
July 1st prize 182 Mrs James	2nd prize Mrs I Prentis
August 1st prize 139 Anne Waters	2nd prize 144 Mr Lowder
September 1st prize 142 Mr Smeath	2nd prize Dulcie Hind

Giving During the Lockdown

If you wish to make a donation by cheque, or set up a regular gift through the bank by standing order, then please give to the following account: -

By bank transfer

Bank: HSBC. Account Name: St Botolph's Church, Quarrington.

Sort Code: 40-42-07

Account No 21515403

By Cheque:

Please send any cheques made payable to "St Botolph's Church Quarrington"
to: Mr D Pursell, St Botolph's Church Treasurer, 75 London Road, Sleaford, NG34
7LL

Via the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS)

PGS receives regular giving on our behalf via the direct debit system and then passes it on to us, including the Gift Aid on behalf of taxpayers. More details from our treasurer

Please do not hesitate to contact David Pursell on 01529 306448 or by e-mail at jndpursell@hotmail.com to get information or advice about any aspect of our giving. And thanks again for your continued support.