



St Botolph's Chronicle

Update 28

Week Ending

Friday 26th March

Editor – Carole

Dear Friends,

I cannot believe it was 4 years ago when I came to meet you all on placement during my training for ordination. Although perhaps a little premature I thought, along with Jayne, it might be appropriate to look back at a few memorable moments of our journey with you. I certainly did not envisage my final year with you to be one of lockdown, virtual services and stolen moments of fellowship on the doorstep or by telephone.



Over the next few months, we are offered hope as society looks to open up once more. I think we can afford a little introspection in our own community. There are so many things to look forward to, meeting up with friends, singing in church once again, Men's group, Ladies Group (although it has been meeting virtually) and the sense of the seasons through our praise and worship.

I received a journal from you when I left my placement in 2018 before my ordination. Looking back, I read in my notes from the Pilgrim Creeds course that I used a lot of Greek and Hebrew, just goes to show how you might know something, but you don't always have to share it!

Having you all as part of my journey to ordination both as Deacon and Priest has been a highlight for me and we still have all of the wonderful mementos that we received from you, although they are now in a box, along with a lot of other things that I place value on from my time with you.

Jayne and I enjoy looking at the photographs of her baptism and confirmation, something that she has signalled happened because of the love that you have



shown her as she has grown in her Christian discipleship. One of her favourite endeavours was the fellowship lunch which she began with Carol Robinson they were such joyful occasions and something she prays will continue when the pandemic recedes. (I wonder if you notice anyone who happens to get in the photos more than once when there is food about!!)

I am hopeful that, as our time here at St Botolph comes to an end, we will be able to get together in some way and celebrate the love and joy of Jesus that has always been so evident in our community and beyond. There will be lots more to look forward to in the future both for Jayne and me and for St Botolph's. It will, no doubt, take many more months but by the Grace of God we will all do so as one family in the love of Jesus.

CHRISTIAN AID PANDEMIC INITIATIVE



Have you or your loved ones had your vaccine?

As more of our family, friends, and neighbours receive their COVID vaccinations, we rejoice and are glad that our loved ones are protected. We give thanks for all the NHS staff and key workers who continue to save lives across the UK. But we at Christian Aid invite you give thanks in a practical way by making a donation to help others. For the poorest and most vulnerable communities across the world, there is little hope of a vaccine rollout. These people already face a lack of water, food, and healthcare. Some are homeless. Some are living with underlying health issues such as HIV. Christian Aid is already on the ground, helping keep people safe from coronavirus with practical support but with your gift of thanks we can do more. Please give thanks with a donation to help protect our global neighbours while the vaccine is out of reach.

To donate

Call **020 7523 2046** and speak directly to the Christian Aid regular giving team or visit their website to make an on-line donation

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/give/ways-to-donate>

Update on Nativity figures

Having shared the pictures of our restored nativity figures it was lovely to



receive a letter from Iris Prentice who filled in the details of when they were last painted – thirty-four years ago! When their son, David, was home from University one summer the figures were looking very forlorn, and he took on the task of painting them. Iris and Bob were delighted on their return from their holiday in Switzerland to find the figures beautifully displayed on the kitchen units.

Apparently, the nativity display did have a hard time before the front pews were removed as they got knocked if there happened to be a funeral, the turning of the coffin would send the display crashing. It is hoped that with the safer relocation of the nativity scene to under the alter the pristine figures will last another thirty-four years!

Church Services

Holy Week and Easter Services

Monday 29th March

6pm Lent Art Reflection followed by a service of Compline

Tuesday 30th March

6pm Lent Art Reflection followed by a service of Compline

Wednesday 31st March

6pm Lent Art Reflection followed by a service of Compline

Thursday 1st April

6pm Maundy Thursday Worship Service on zoom followed by a vigil for one hour

Good Friday 2nd April

10am -12 noon Open Private Prayer in church

Easter Day 4th April

6.30am Dawn Service in churchyard

11am Easter Communion in church

6pm Easter Reflections on zoom

(Don't forget to book for the 11am services)

If you wish to join in with the Zoom service, please contact Maria, our Parish Administrator on: **stbquarrinton890@gmail.com**



Signs that Spring is on its way!



Sign of the times!

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

Ecology and the Church by Sarah Andrew



As you know, I'm a member of the PCC and I have been asked to be a leader for the care of the environment. I've been helped by Les and Chris Parker, because it's very new to me so a crash course in the environment was definitely needed! I've put a few ideas on

paper, so please, please help me by putting forward ideas, volunteering, joining in with anything/everything!

What we can easily do at church NOW:

- Collection of shredded paper
 - Milk bottle tops
 - Empty pill packets (we've got loads of them and they're NOT recycle-able!)
 - Used biro's
- (New collection boxes will be in place for these items very soon)

What we could do in the FUTURE:

- Litter pickers, on mass, to come out, have a chat, maybe a coffee and cake (after Lent!). It's good for the community, not just the church.
- What about wildlife?
Butterflies, bees, hedgehogs, squirrels?? A new wildlife garden in church (remembering to give the gardener some warning!!)
- Maybe a Swap Shop?
- Maybe giving up the car and walking to church instead?

What about the Bigger Picture :

- Environmental care:
Let's see if we can do more at home, at work and as well as in church.
- 'Grown in the UK 'groceries.
Leave the Mange Touts on the shelf (they are from Zanzibar or the like!)
Instead, buy fresh produce in the UK, NOT flown in from abroad.
- Church field on the left-hand side of the church:
Allotments, car parks, tree planting, a new park that is sustainable???
- Flying less!!! (Yes, I know we all love our holidays!)

Also, I've joined up with the Eco Church as well. It's an organisation that will help us to get up to speed with the environmental concerns that we have to address in OUR church. Watch this space!



Amazing Grace. John Newton, William Cowper, and The Olney Hymns

Bob Prentice has been researching the lives of two great hymn writers and shares part one with us:

One of the many frustrations of the recent restraints on church worship has been the ban on singing, resulting at best in a subdued humming sound among the congregation, while familiar tunes are played on the organ. This may serve as a salutary reminder of how precious hymns are, perhaps especially to those politely known as the older generation, who have instant recall of a rich legacy of memorable tunes and inspirational words absorbed in their early days.

At a time when sound is muted, there may be some consolation in revisiting the stories behind some of the well-known hymns and their writers. Most people know something of the redemptive experience of John Newton, triumphantly celebrated in the hymn Amazing Grace. Fewer might immediately identify him as the author of How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds and Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken.

Fewer still might be aware of the connecting thread between Newton's hymns and others, by the poet William Cowper, such as Hark my soul! It is the Lord, God Moves in Mysterious ways, and O for a Closer Walk with God. In fact, all these hymns were included in a joint collection by Newton and Cowper under the title The Olney Hymns.

The account of the backgrounds, lives, and experiences of the two men so different in character, temperament and even physique, is punctuated by alternate episodes of extreme physical and mental suffering, spiritual torment euphoria, but ultimately by the triumph of the human spirit.

The story begins with Newton's early days. He was the son of a sea captain and devout mother from whom he learned much in early childhood. Sadly, she died when he was only 7, and his father took him to sea at the age of 11. John hated the experience, and by the age of 17 had rejected all religious belief and became a hardened blasphemer.

He was seized by the press gang and made to serve on a warship from which he tried to desert and, as punishment, was flogged in the presence of the entire crew of 350. Newton was then transferred to a slave ship plying the West Coast of Africa. Still unhappy, he was allowed to take work with a resident English trader, but was brutally abused, humiliated, and enslaved by him.

Eventually, Newton was able to join another ship, the Greyhound, also trading along the African West Coast. Twelve months passed before its cargo was complete, and it set sail for the long journey home. By then, Newton's profanities and blasphemous conduct had become even more extreme, horrifying the ship's captain.

The Greyhound encountered violent storms, many of the crew were lost overboard, much of the cargo jettisoned and the pumps were in constant operation. One day, while at the pumps, Newton cried out "The Lord have mercy upon us". That for him was the moment of his conversion, which he marked annually for the rest of his life.

Eventually the Greyhound limped back home. Newton was able to marry his boyhood sweetheart, Mary Catlett, who had a family relationship to his late mother. His seafaring days were not quite over, and he became captain of another slave trading ship, but managed, at least to his own satisfaction, to reconcile this activity with his rediscovered faith by maintaining strict Christian discipline, forbidding any swearing, and holding compulsory divine service twice every Sunday.

Then, at the age of 30, while at home between voyages, he suffered a seizure, an event which, though he recovered fully, persuaded him to renounce seafaring. He then found a well-paid post with the Liverpool customs service, which might have been something of a sinecure, as he was able to devote time to learning Latin more deeply, together with Greek, Hebrew, and Syriac, and to meeting many prominent Christian figures, including John Wesley and George Whitefield. Eventually after being repeatedly rejected for ordination by two archbishops and other diocesan bishops, Lord Dartmouth, a leading Evangelical and member of the House of Lords, persuaded the Bishop of Lincoln to ordain him. Newton said, "I am one of the most astonishing instances of the forbearance and mercy of God upon the face of the earth". Many years later, Coleridge turned to the story of Newton and his experiences at sea as the inspiration for *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*. *To be continued*

Fundraising for St. Botolph's Church

Rabbits, Toys and Flower Brooch Gifts

Sally-Anne has made some knitted rabbits and flower brooches which you can buy as Easter gifts – or just gifts – to help raise money for our church. There is a selection of colours. These are on sale at

<https://www.etsy.com/uk/shop./StBotolphQFunds>



or you can order them from Sally-Anne on
 07748928553 or email
 sa.caunter@btinternet.com
 Small rabbits are £3, middle size ones are £4.50 and
 larger ones are £5.50
 Flower brooches are £2.50



Margaret Harvey/Jayne have made Easter Egg boxes for sale for church funds. Each box contains four Cadburys Creme Eggs in a knitted animal egg cosy.

Price £6-00 per box.

She also has some shopping bags at £7-50 and Baby Blankets at £5-00 each. All proceeds to church funds.

Please contact Margaret on 07876 291114.



How the Community have been helping our health workers



A number of our congregation and community have dusted down their sewing machines in the past year to make scrubs for our NHS workers.

Jan is modelling her latest creation and the piece of fabric shows that designs do not have to be plain or boring.

The NHS staff who have received the scrubs have been very grateful, so a big THANK YOU to all who have made and continue to make a contribution to this task.



ST. BOTOLPH'S CHURCH
**JOURNEY TO LIFE
EASTER TRAIL**

Starting at
the Rectory
5, Spire View
NG34 7RN



Can you
find the
chocolate
treats?

Follow the trail to find the
eggs and solve the clue!

From 27th March to 11th April 2021



Bring a painted
pebble to put in the
Easter garden at
church where the
trail finishes.



Following the success of our
Christmas trail it was decided to make
one for Easter, see the poster for
details

I have heard that chocolate might be
involved!

Offerings to God

"Now I will write about the collection of money for God's people. Do the same thing that I told the Galatian churches to do: 2 On the first day of every week, each one of you should put aside as much money as you can from what you are blessed with."

1 Corinthians 16:1-2

You can give to the church either by cheque or by BACS to

BANK: HSBC, 26 Market Place, Sleaford NG34 7SB

ACC NAME: St. Botolph's Church, Quarrington.

SORT CODE: 40-42-07.

ACC NUMBER: 21515403



On a lighter note:

