

This Christmas...

GOD IN A MANGER...



Find out more
www.stbots.church

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

5 Dec	4pm	Christingle, St Edmund's
12 Dec	4pm	Carols on the Green
19 Dec	5pm	Carol Service, St Edmund's
19 Dec	5pm & 7pm	Carol Service, St Bots
24 Dec	4:30pm	Christingle, St Bots
24 Dec	11:30pm	Midnight Communion, St Bots
24 Dec	11:30pm	Midnight Communion, St Edmund's
25 Dec	9am	Christmas Celebration, St Edmund's
25 Dec	10am	Christmas Celebration, St Bots
26 Dec	10am	Morning Prayer, St Bots

Come and join us

St Botolph's Church Family News The Fourth Sunday of Advent 19th December 2021



Collect - The Fourth Sunday of Advent

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Important information about changes and arrangements for services in the next few weeks.

Mark has already written a blog about the current restrictions when coming to a service at St Bots it can be found in this CFN and at the St Bots website home page.

<https://stbotsblog.wordpress.com/2021/12/14/plan-b/>

In addition, we will be limiting the numbers to 120 people at each of the Carols by Candle Light services at St Bots his Sunday evening. It will be on a first come first served basis as there is not enough time to set up, implement and advertise to the community, a booking system.

Please Note

- There will be no 8:30am morning service this Sunday.
- There will be no Holy Communion at either the St Botolph's or St Edmund's Midnight services on Christmas Eve, instead they will be an Evening Prayer Celebration.
- On 2nd January there will only be a 10.00am Morning Prayer service at St Botolph's and a 5.00pm Evening Prayer service at St Edmund's.

We have made these changes with careful consideration in light of the current Covid situation.

Please do keep an eye on the St Bots website and social media in case of further Covid related changes. If you use social media or are in contact with people who are out of the 'digital loop' please do pass on this information so we can inform as many in our community as possible.

Thanks so much for your help and support in all of this.

Andy

Christingle Service

St Botolph's Church, Barton Seagrave 24th December at 4.30pm

During the service, each person takes a Christingle and the candles are all lit to create a warm, magical glow symbolising the light of Christ and bringing hope to people living in darkness.

Christingles are made using oranges and a few other bits, as you choose. You light the candle at the end of a service to spread a magical glow around everyone.

Each element of a Christingle has a special meaning and helps to tell the Christian story:

- The orange represents the world
- The red ribbon symbolises the love and blood of Christ
- The sweets and dried fruit represent all of God's creations
- The lit candle represents Jesus's light in the world, bringing hope to people living in darkness.



Carol Singing

Talking about singing... A group of us are planning to go Carol Singing around the Castle Way estate on Tuesday 21st December just for about an hour. We'll meet at Church House at 6:30pm, so if you fancy exercising those vocal chords a little bit more before Christmas then please come and join us - all are welcome!



Christmas
Eve
Worship



**Join us for Praise & Celebration
in Church at 11.30pm
(St Botolph's or St Edmund's)**

*Unto Us
a Child is Born*



Christmas Message from Revd Mark Lucas - Rector St Botolph's & St Edmund's

Did Boris Johnson's announcement last week take you by surprise? Or were you organised, prepared, and ready to implement 'Plan B'? We now go back to compulsory wearing of masks in public places and working from home if we can. Some of us have never stopped wearing masks, others have delighted in exercising the freedom not to. And the prime minister is now facing a backbench rebellion from his libertarian colleagues. If our elected leaders cannot agree what hope do the rest of us have? As Christ's body here, I pray that we have a lot of hope in getting along. We have two laws to guide us:

1. The law of the land. We have ample instruction in the New Testament to obey our secular leaders. Look up Romans 13v1-2, Titus 3v1, 1 Peter 2v13-17, and you will see clear instruction. And remember, when these instructions were given the secular authorities were not democratically elected, benevolent leaders. So, we are under obligation to wear face coverings in church, unless we are exempt. There simply is no room for discussion on this.
2. We are called, as Christ's body, to care for each other. This can be hard at times, because there are many things over which we might disagree. Especially CoV restrictions. At one extreme, there are those who believe the whole thing is overblown, and those who wish to exercise their right to personal freedom (like Boris's backbenchers). At the other extreme there are those who are extremely anxious, and, of course, those who need to be especially careful because of existing health conditions. Most of us are somewhere in between. As God's people we need to respect one another's opinions and actions, unless God has specifically said otherwise. We must care for the weaker brothers and sisters (Romans 14), and we must also be mindful of one another (Philippians 2v1-3).

As a result, and after much discussion, we have decided that, in order for everyone to feel comfortable we will implement the following:

1. The old chancel 'safe' area will be retained for those who need to be careful. There will be more social distancing here than in the nave.
2. With the exception of those leading, face coverings must be worn by everyone in church unless, you have a valid exemption. They may not be removed for singing.
3. We encourage you all to take a *Lateral Flow* test before coming to a service.

Hopefully these measures will help us to be united. Please do respect them, whether you agree with them or not. The aim is to make St Botolph's a comfortable and safe place for everyone. I hope that these precautions enable you to enjoy a worry free and joyous Christmas. In a bleak world, Christmas brings real hope. After Christmas we will be running a short course (only three sessions) entitled 'Hope Explored' to consider what this hope really means. If you might be interested in joining in then send an email to hope@stbots.church and we'll let you know when it's starting.

God bless you this Christmas, and may you be filled with joy at the birth of the saviour.

Mark

M I D W E E K

Worship
MINISTRY

We continue our **MidWeek Ministry in Church during December on Thursday's at 11.00am**
Please join us at this popular midweek service and afterwards for refreshments in Church.

WHO LET THE
DADS
OUT?

More details in CFN early next year

Contact details

Rector:	Revd. Mark Lucas:	Mob: 07788100757	E-mail: rector@stbots.church
Youth:	Revd. Andy Clark	Mob: 07590617738	E-mail: andy@stbots.church
Families:	Helen Tilney	Mob: 07973 164020	E-mail: helen@stbots.church
Wardens:	Peter Jackson:	Tel: 01536 514284	E-mail: peterjackson@stbots.church
	Adrian Keach	Tel: 01536 723008	E-mail: adrian.keach@tiscali.co.uk
Office:		Tel: 01536 414052	E-mail: heatherknighton@stbots.church

(Opening Hours Mon - Thursday 10.00am - 2:30pm.)

Carol Service



There will be three carol service's held in the Benefice on Sunday 19th December, one at St Edmund's Church, Warkton at 5.00pm and two at St Botolph's Church, Barton Seagrave at 5.00pm and again at 7.00pm. The 5.00pm service will be Live-Streamed.

So why not start your Christmas Celebrations by joining friends and neighbours singing a great selection of Carols in Church at either St Botolph's or St Edmund's Christmas Carol services.

What's happening next week?

- **Sunday 19th December**
- 10.00am Morning Service in Church (Live-Streamed)
- 10.00am Promised Land Church House
- 5.00pm Carols by Candlelight (Live-Streamed)
- 5.00pm Carol Service at Warkton
- 7.00pm Carols by Candlelight
- **Monday 20th December**
- 8.00am Morning Prayer on YouTube
- 1.00pm Staff Meeting
- **Tuesday 21st December**
- 8.00am Morning Prayer on YouTube
- 9.30am St Bots Tots in Church House

- **Wednesday 22nd December**
- 8.00am Morning Prayer on YouTube
- **Thursday 23rd December**
- 8.00am Morning Prayer on YouTube
- 11.00am Midweek Worship in Church
- **Friday 24th December**
- 11.30pm Midnight Praise & Celebration (St Bots Church)
- 11.30pm Midnight Praises & Celebration (St Edmund's Church Warton)
- **Saturday 25th December**
- 9.00am Christmas Celebration at Warkton
- 10.00am Christmas Celebration in Church (Live-Streamed)

Hope Explored



Hope Explored is an informal and relaxed three-week course and will start in the New Year. It's for everyone who wants to find hope, peace and purpose in life. It's run by ordinary Christian people local to you and is completely free. You don't need to know anything about the Bible, and you won't be asked to pray or sing. You can ask questions as you like, or you can just sit and listen.

Whoever you are, whatever you're thinking, **Hope Explored** is a place for you to discover the hope of a future that is better than you could ever imagine.

If you are interested in joining in then send an email to hope@stbots.church and we'll let you know when it's starting.

Further Details will be available in the New Year.

Sunday Church Services 19th December

St Botolph's Church Barton Seagrave

- **10.00am Morning Service**
- **5.00pm Carols by Candle Light (will be Live-Streamed)**
- **7.00pm Carols by Candle Light**

St Edmund's Church Warkton

- **5.00pm Carol Service** (Please use the Village Hall Car park in Warkton village.)

We will continue to Live-Stream our Sunday 10.00am and 7.00pm Services as appropriate from St Botolph's Church but please try to join us in Church on Sundays