



# St Botolph's Church, Colchester

4<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Friends,

At last!! We are able to welcome you to worship together in Church again, with the Church seating socially distanced, and hand sanitizers in use; but we may only chat with others (max group of six) when we go outside. The good news is that we will be able to give praise to God within a communion service led by Archdeacon Ruth. Also, whilst we know that we are a week late, we will celebrate and renew the covenant between ourselves and Castle Methodist Church.

Have you been praying for our world, this week we could have included Afghanistan, Belarus, Cambodia, Denmark, Ecuador, France (today Friday) and Ghana, next week we look at the letters H to N.? Whilst praying today for France may we think of those caught up in the street disturbances and killings.

At the Deanery Synod, held on Zoom this week, Bishop Roger gave the Address and informed us of the dire state of our Diocesan finances. Because of a general reduction in all Churches' abilities to pay their Parish Share, Income is insufficient to meet the cost of Stipends and whilst the Diocese are using some of their reserves, Clergy numbers need to reduce over the next few years. Whilst we are uncertain of the future provision for St Botolph's, we should not expect firm action until deanery restructuring is sorted out.

Thank you to those who have made donations towards the CAP Christmas Hampers. We are delighted to be able to send CAP around £300.00, enabling some of those in greatest need to enjoy a little luxury.

Next Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> December our communion service will be led by Cannon Paul Norrington.

Cannon Paul Norrington, who is vicar of Christchurch Church, has invited us to log into the on-line worship at Christchurch. A range of options are available, please have a look at [colchesterchristchurch.org.uk](http://colchesterchristchurch.org.uk)

Castle Methodist Church have also invited us to visit their online worship at <https://www.youtube.com/Colchestermethodists>

*Lord our light,*

Light of truth, light of hope, light of life, light of trust, light of peace, light of life,  
Shine brightly in our lives this week. Amen.

*Collect for 2nd Sunday of Advent*

O Lord, raise up we pray, your power and come among us,  
and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness  
we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us,  
your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honour and glory, now and for ever.

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