

## ST BOTOLPH'S CHURCH, HADSTOCK

### SERVICE TO CELEBRATE THE MILLENNIUM OF THE CONSECRATION OF THE CHURCH



**18 OCTOBER 2020**

*It is a great privilege and pleasure to celebrate the Millennium of the consecration of this historic church building.*

*COVID restrictions sadly prevent us celebrating this milestone in the way it deserves. The fact of the church standing in this village, springing from an even earlier church, is however a symbol of God's presence with us through good times and bad. Those present at the consecration in 1020 would have been amazed to see our present society, with its technology and very different way of life. But they would have understood the impact of plague and disease, and been philosophical about the challenges they themselves faced every day.*

*There will be a retiring collection for the Diocese of Chelmsford's appeal to support Microfinance in the Diocese of Marsabit, Kenya - see [www.fivetalents.org.uk](http://www.fivetalents.org.uk).*

*THANKS to all taking part in this service in any way, and you all for being here.*

*Please join in the words of the hymns, and responses shown in **bold type**.*

*Please stand as the priest and cross and candle-bearers enter.*

*Priest* This is none other than the house of God.

**All And the gate of heaven.**

*We say together the Hymn for St Botolph*

1 Through dangerous lands, on  
storm-tossed seas,  
He followed Jesus' call:  
Down ancient roads, through towns  
and fields  
To spread the faith to all.

3 In chapels built by bridge and  
gate  
The travellers fearing harm  
Would seek his help to keep them  
safe,  
And journey on, with calm.

2 A man of wisdom, insight, grace,  
Revered by all he knew,  
He formed a rule of Christian life  
Where deep devotion grew.

4 Lord, as we here, in Botolph's  
place,  
Recall his saintly fame,  
May we too follow where Christ  
leads  
And praise your holy name.

5 May we, his people, know your peace  
And build on that great store  
Of faith in Christ through age to age  
To love you more and more.

*Priest* Grace, mercy and truth be with you all. **And also with you.**

We gather together today to give thanks to Almighty God for the consecration of this church one thousand years ago; for the turning of conflict into reconciliation; for the work of Botolph, monk and missionary in this land; for Cnut; and for the people of this village who have hallowed this house of prayer with their worship over centuries, and maintained it with the work of their hands. And we gather to commit ourselves to follow the way of Christ; to love God and our neighbour; and to hallow this place afresh in his name for our own and future generations. **Let us give thanks and praise.**

*The candles on the altar are lit.*

May the light of Christ, shining upon us, banish all darkness from our hearts and minds. **Thanks be to God.**

*The priest introduces the Confession*

**Almighty Father, we confess to you our sins and weaknesses; and we hold before you in sorrow the sins of the whole world over centuries and to this day: conflicts and hatred between people and races; envies and struggles for power which stain our world. In this place, built and consecrated for your glory, may we know your healing and reconciliation; and commit ourselves to work for your peace. Amen.**

May the Father forgive you by the death of his Son and strengthen you to live in the power of his Spirit all your days: through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Collect**

Almighty God, to whose glory we celebrate again the consecration of this house of prayer: we praise you for the many blessings you have given to those who have worshipped you here: and we pray that all who seek you in this place may find you, and, being filled with the Holy Spirit, may become a living temple, holy and acceptable unto you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Please be seated*

**First reading: Anglo-Saxon Chronicle** *read by Rick Albrow*

### **The Battle of Assandun, the day of St Luke, 18th October 1016.**

The raiding-army turned back into Essex and travelled to Mercia and did for all that it travelled over. Then, when the king learned that the raiding-army was inland, he assembled the entire English nation for the fifth time and travelled behind them and overtook them in Essex at the hill which is called Assandun, and there resolutely joined battle. Then Ealdorman Eadric did as he so often did before betrayed his royal lord and the whole nation. There Cnut had the victory and won himself all England. There was killed Eadnoth (Bishop of Dorchester), and Abbot Wulfsig (of Ramsay), and Ealdorman Ælfric, and Ealdorman Godwine, Ulfcytel from East Anglia, and all the chief men in the English race.

Then after the fight King Cnut turned inland with his raiding-army to Gloucestershire, where he heard tell that Eadmund the king was. Then

Ealdorman Eadric and the councillors who were there advised that the kings make a pact between them; and they granted hostages between them, and the kings came together at Ola's Island, and there affirmed their friendship, both with pledge and oath, and set the payment for the raiding-army; and with this they parted, and King Eadmund succeeded to Wessex and Cnut to Mercia.

1020 Here King Cnut came back to England, and then at Easter there was a great assembly at Cirencester. And in this year the king went to Assandun, and Earl Thurkill and Archbishop Wulfstan (of York) and other bishops and also abbots and many monks, and consecrated the minster at Assandun there built of stone and mortar for the souls of those men who had been slain there, and gave it to his own priest, whose name was Stigand.

*Verses from Psalm 84 - please join in the verses in **bold***

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!  
My soul has a desire and longing to enter the courts of the Lord;  
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

**The sparrow has found her a house  
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young:  
at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.**

Blessed are they who dwell in your house:  
they will always be praising you.

**For one day in your courts  
is better than a thousand.**

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God  
than dwell in the tents of ungodliness.

**O Lord God of hosts,  
blessed are those who put their trust in you.**

**Second Reading: 1 Chronicles 22:6-16** *read by Tim Boyden*

Then David called for his son Solomon and charged him to build a house for the Lord, the God of Israel. David said to Solomon, 'My son, I had planned to build a house to the name of the Lord my God. But the word of the Lord came to me, saying, "You have shed much blood and have waged great wars; you shall not build a house to my name, because you have shed so much blood in my sight on the earth. See, a son shall be born to you; he shall be a man of peace. I will give him peace from all his enemies on every side; for his name shall be Solomon, and I will give peace and quiet to Israel in his days. He

shall build a house for my name. He shall be a son to me, and I will be a father to him, and I will establish his royal throne in Israel for ever.”

Now, my son, the Lord be with you, so that you may succeed in building the house of the Lord your God, as he has spoken concerning you. Only, may the Lord grant you discretion and understanding, so that when he gives you charge over Israel you may keep the law of the Lord your God. Then you will prosper if you are careful to observe the statutes and the ordinances that the Lord commanded Moses for Israel. Be strong and of good courage. Do not be afraid or dismayed. With great pains I have provided for the house of the Lord one hundred thousand talents of gold, one million talents of silver, and bronze and iron beyond weighing, for there is so much of it; timber and stone too I have provided. To these you must add more. You have an abundance of workers: stonecutters, masons, carpenters, and all kinds of artisans without number, skilled in working gold, silver, bronze, and iron. Now begin the work, and the Lord be with you.’

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Third Reading: St John’s Gospel, Chapter 10 verses 7 -16**

*read by Paula Griffiths. Please stand*

Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you: that I am the door for the sheep. All even as many as came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be safe, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. The thief cometh not, but for to steal and kill, and destroy. I came that they might have life, and have it more abundantly.

I am a good shepherd: a good shepherd giveth his life for his sheep.

An hired servant which is not the shepherd, neither the sheep are his own, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and flyeth: and the wolf catcheth, and scattereth the sheep. The hired servant fleyth because he is an hired servant, and careth not for the sheep. I am that good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.

As my Father knoweth me, even so know I my Father. And I give myself for the sheep, and other sheep I have, which are not of this fold. Them also must I bring, and they shall hear my voice. And there shall be one flock, and one shepherd.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon** *Please be seated*

## **Prayers of Intercession**

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ let us pray to the Father.

For the Church universal, of which this building is a living symbol

**Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.**

*Sue Albrow* For this congregation and community, remembering that where two or three are gathered together you are there in the midst of them

**Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.**

*Moire Jarritt* For this place, that we may be still and know that you are God

**Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.**

*Peter Jarritt* For your blessings in the past, your strength in the present, and a vision for the future

**Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.**

*Robin Betser* For the blessings of our vows and the crowning of our years with your goodness,

**Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.**

*Irene Stapleton* For the faith of those who have gone before us and for grace to persevere like them

**Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.**

*Janice Snell* For the benefactors of this place who have died in the peace of Christ and are at rest

**Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.**

**Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## **Rededication of the church and people**

O Lord our God, who has made all things: all things are yours, and of your own do we give you. We dedicate afresh to you this church building, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

As Christ is the sure foundation, may its foundations remain strong.

As Christ is the door, may this door open to your love.

As Christ is the ground of our being, may its floor uphold all who enter.

As Christ is our strong defence, may its walls hold firm against adversity.

As Christ longed to gather his people under his wings, as a hen gathers her chickens, may its roof shelter your people against the storms of life.

As through baptism we are brought into Christ's new life, may its font be the place where such new lives begin.

As your people feed on Christ in the eucharist, may his table, overflowing with his living bread and wine, be present to us on its altars.

As you looked upon your creation, and saw that it was good, so we offer you the work of human hands over a thousand years, the art and skill making this church a place of beauty, and pray that you will prosper the work of our hands also.

As you give us the gift of speech and language and music, so we offer you the prayer within this place, the playing of the organ and song, the words spoken in love and in friendship and in seeking for your truth.

And as you give us life and breath, soul and body, we offer you ourselves, saying together

**Heavenly Father, who called your faithful servant St Botolph to a ministry of worship and witness in this land, we pray for this church dedicated to St Botolph in Hadstock, that it may continue to be a place where you are worshipped and praised. We pray for all in this village, and all who come to the church as visitors.**

**Lord, we ask that you will help us so that we may commit ourselves to serving you and each other. We pledge ourselves to listen to your call as we seek to discern what your Holy Spirit is saying to us now.**

**Father, we thank you for the blessings of past generations who have loved this church, and we dedicate ourselves in your service, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**The Lord's Prayer** *Let us pray together as Jesus has taught us*

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **Sharing Christ's Peace**

Peace to this house from God our heavenly Father.

Peace to this house from his Son, who is our peace.

Peace to this house from the Holy Spirit, the life-giver.

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

*We turn to each other to share God's peace.*

*We say together the words of the hymn*

1 Christ is made the sure  
foundation,  
Christ the head and cornerstone,  
chosen of the Lord and precious,  
binding all the church in one;  
holy Zion's help forever,  
and her confidence alone.

3 Hear the cry of all your  
servants  
what they ask and hope to gain,  
what they gain from you, for  
ever  
with the blessed to retain,  
and hereafter in your glory  
evermore with you to reign.

2 To this temple, where we call  
you,  
come, O Lord of hosts, today:  
with your promised loving-  
kindness  
hear your people as they pray;  
and your fullest benediction  
shed within its walls alway.

4 Praise and honour to the  
Father,  
praise and honour to the Son,  
praise and honour to the Spirit,  
ever Three and ever One,  
One in might, and One in glory,  
while unending ages run.

## **Blessing and Dismissal**

Christ, whose glory is in the heavens, fill this house and illuminate your hearts; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

As living stones, precious in his sight, go in peace to proclaim the mighty acts of God.

**Thanks be to God.**





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HADSTOCK MILLENNIUM - 18 OCTOBER 2020  
Revd Paula Griffiths Sermon

*May I speak....*

'... He shall be a man of peace, and he shall build me a house.'

'I am the door for the sheep.'

- Imagine 1020. Just four years earlier, a battle changed the future course of the country.
- Quite near here - we think, though there are other theories - many Saxon nobles and people were killed at the Battle of Assandun, so imaginatively portrayed in our banners for our 2016 commemorations.
- Now in 1020 the new foreign king returns - here, we believe, though there are other theories - to build a church for the souls of those who died in the conflict.
- It's an act of reconciliation. Remembering, and seeking to heal, the deaths on both sides.
  
- He does the same at Bury, in this same year - honoring the Saxon saint Edmund, whom the Danes shot with arrows, by building a new Abbey.
  
- Is it coincidence that he comes to *this* spot, where there is already a church building, probably connected with the well-revered Saxon saint Botolph? Does the dedication to St Botolph date from this time? And is it pure coincidence that Botolph is revered in Scandinavia too?
  
- Cnut is Christian: we know that. He wants nothing but the best for his new church. It must be consecrated by an Archbishop. Canterbury is vacant - the Archbishop died in the summer. So it must be the next best - the Archbishop of York. Wulfstan. The wolf.
  
- Here is another coincidence. **Today**, at 4pm, the new Archbishop of York is being enthroned in York Minster - Stephen Cottrell, previously our Bishop of Chelmsford. The ties continue. Hold him in your prayers.
- It's never easy for Archbishops. They must be ready to speak truth to power. Only two years earlier, Wulfstan had fulminated against Cnut - and blamed the English people for bringing disaster upon themselves. Listen to this....
- *The sermon of the Wolf to the English when the Danes persecuted them most, which was in the year 1014 from the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

- *Beloved men, realise what is true: the world is in haste and the end approaches; and therefore in this world things go from bad to worse, and so it must of necessity deteriorate greatly on account of the people's sins before the coming of Antichrist.*
- Now he is one of Cnut's chief councillors.
- How complicated politics is - then and now!
- An C11 church consecration - especially a king's church - was pretty elaborate. Picture this in your minds.
- It probably started outside, with an procession three times around the church, clergy sprinkling holy water over the roof. When they entered, a choir would have sung from Psalm 24:
- *Lift up your heads, O ye gates! And be lifted up, ye everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in!*
- Lighted candles would be carried in. 12 candle-bearers would have spread themselves around the corners of the building.
- The clergy would have processed in and probably prostrated themselves on the floor before proceeding to the altar: where a saint's sacred relics would have been placed to hallow the building.
- The king in his robes; bishops in their mitres; priests and servers in their vestments. Singing; chanting; sound; light; colour. Dignitaries from far and wide. What a contrast to the usual quiet rural landscape.
- Sadly, with COVID restrictions, not least on numbers and singing, trying to replicate all that today would have been completely over the top.
- But let us capture that sense of drama and expectation at a new beginning - and relive that excitement **now** for this church which has stood as a proud focus for this small village, for 1000 years. The focus of that Thousand Years in the Life of a Village which we still aim to celebrate as best we can in future months. It is still special; it excites historians, architects and villagers alike; but especially, as the lovely poems in Maggie's competition showed, it connects people to God and to the deeper meaning of their lives over generations.
- Our readings today embody that continuity of human experience. The Chronicles reading tells how David charged his son Solomon to build a house for God, some 3000 years ago, using precious materials and skilled craftsman to make it special, holy and fitting as a place where God and humanity can meet. That was read from a translation of the Bible dating from the turn of this century.

- Jesus, speaking 2000 years ago, describes himself as **the door**: the door for his sheep, opening the way to a place where they can be safe and find pasture: a place which is not exclusive, but which welcomes all the sheep to join the one flock cared for by the Good Shepherd, who has come that they may have **life**, and have it more abundantly. You heard that from one of the first English translations of the New Testament, William Tyndale's version of 1526: and although I modernised the spelling in your service sheet I hope you felt the vigour of his writing, aiming to bring the Gospels alive to every ploughboy in the land.
- And our reading from the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle - in a C20 translation - explains the context of the event itself 1000 years ago: the messiness of human civilisation, of wars and fighting, of betrayal and peace and new beginnings, working towards reconciliation and looking forward.
- Today - 18 October - is the anniversary of that battle 1004 years ago. On 18 October the church also remembers St Luke, 'the beloved physician' whose Gospel account of Jesus's life includes the most familiar and well-loved parables and healing miracles. The Good Samaritan. The Prodigal Son. The healing of the 10 lepers. God's care for us, and the call for us to care for each other, run through them all. That is the reconciling mission this church was founded for: the mission for us to take into the future, through the door which Christ longs to open to all.
- That mission calls us to support others, and so I commend to you our collection for developing Microfinance in the Kenyan Diocese of Marsabit. That Diocese, like Cnut 1000 years ago, is working to build bridges between warring communities, by using the Church as an instrument of peace to improve people's lives. May God bless their future too.
- Every church building is a symbol: the place where all are welcome, where the good shepherd cares for his sheep of all faiths and none. We are rightly proud of *our* historic door, standing as a point of entry to a world where time and eternity are equally present: where the here and now mingle with the experience of generations who loved and cared for this church. Baptisms, weddings, funerals, and ordinary village life meld with decoration, wall paintings, Victorian chancel, war memorial and changes right up to our own generation: vestment chest, banners and pew cushions and much more. We too have made our mark. We too have repaired and cared for and maintained this building: and what a joy to see it today so light, so clean, in such good condition for this special day. My deepest thanks to Rick and the PCC, and the Friends of St Botolph, and to everyone in the village, for their enthusiasm and commitment to urging this forward and making it happen.

- But please God this is not the end of the story. This is another staging post on the journey of this village, and of our own journeys. A time to give thanks, to look forward in trust, confidence and commitment; and to pray that this church will continue to stand as a place where God is worshipped and praised, as we go forward into God's future. Amen.

## *Music*