

Today's Bible readings

Acts 17: 21 - 31

Now all the Athenians and the foreigners living there would spend their time in nothing but telling or hearing something new.

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, 'Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, "To an unknown god." What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him - though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For "In him we live and move and have our being"; as even some of your own poets have said, "For we too are his offspring."

Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.'

Psalm 66: 7 - end

1 Peter 3: 13 - end

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in

which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you - not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

John 14: 15 - 21

The Promise of the Holy Spirit

'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in^[c] you.

'I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.'



Prayers for our school: This week sees the beginning of the SATS tests for our year 6 pupils. Since the beginning of the Spring Term, the teachers and support staff have been preparing the children for this their first experience of formal testing. To help them perform to the best of their ability, breakfast is provided each day. The well-being of all the children in our school is of paramount importance, and this is just one example of the care and attention given by our dedicated staff. **Dear Lord**, we thank you that you provide us with

the assurance of your presence. Draw near to our Y6 pupils and their teachers during these SATS tests. Remind them of the words of a hymn they know well: 'Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy one is here.' **Amen**

Notices

Today we welcome **Rev Roger Walker** who will be taking our service this morning.

This Thursday 14th May at 11.00 is our Ascension Day service, when we recall Jesus ascending to be with his Father God. It is also the beginning of '**Thy Kingdom Come**' which celebrates the days between Ascension and Pentecost.



24th May at 4.00pm: Taizé reflective prayer and praise for Pentecost

Come and share in music, readings and prayer inspired by the worship of Taizé. Originating in a Community in France, people from every Christian tradition are attracted to the simplicity of candle-lit worship.

Bishop Martin retires at the end of May, and as a diocesan family we are beginning the search for his successor. Have your say in the appointment at tinyurl.com/next-bishop. It will take only a few minutes to complete, and it is open until May 26th. We welcome responses from everyone. Find out more about the process for appointing our next bishop at: www.chichester.anglican.org/vacancy-in-see/

Our APCM will be held on next Sunday, 17th May after our morning Eucharist.

A very advanced date for your diary – Summer Fayre - Saturday 20th June 11am – 2pm.

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<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/2864/>
<https://www.facebook.com/stbotolphschurchheene>

PGS Parish Code 101070134

Music for the Parish Eucharist

Setting: Mass of St. Thomas - Thorne
Psalm: 66: 7 - end
Hymns: **Entrance:** 696 – Jesus, Where'er Thy People Meet
Gradual: 602 – Blest are the Pure in Heart (vs1&4)
Offertory: 487 – Christ is the One Who Calls
Communion: 236 – Breathe On Me Breath of God
Final: 721 – Love Divine All Loves Excelling
Anthem: Blessed Be the God and Father – S.S.Wesley

Next Sunday – The Sunday after Ascension 10am Parish Eucharist

Acts 1: 6 - 14; Psalm 68: 1 - 10, 32 - end; 1 Peter 4: 12 - 14, 5: 6 - 11; John 17: 1 - 11

The Parish Church of St. Botolph, Heene

To know, love and follow Jesus

10th May 2026 The Sixth Sunday of Easter

10am Parish Eucharist

Collect

God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Post Communion Prayer

God our Father, whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life: may we thirst for you, the spring of life and source of goodness, through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

This week at St. Botolph's

Wed	7.30pm – 9.pm	Bellringers practice*
Thur	11am	Ascension Day Service
Fri	10am – 10.30am	Prayer Group - all welcome
	10.30am – 12 noon	Friday Coffee - all welcome
	7.30pm - 9pm	Choir practice*

* if interested, please see Rik (bellringing) or Judith (choir).

Please pray for our Parish

For those with birthdays:

For the sick and those in particular need: Simon Hollis, Ann Wood, Brenda Hayes, Sandy and Paula Freeman Sanderson, Sylvia Hollis, Atticus McVane, Samantha Bond, Shani Howard, Helen Inskip, Jenny Philips, Julie Adams.

For the recently departed: Gwenda Woolgar

For those whose anniversary falls at this time: Bill Hurdman, Lyn Hughes, Doreen Zoers

Music for today – please see back page