

The Botolph Bell



The Magazine for the Parish of Heene
April – May 2026



Worship at St. Botolph's

Regular services each Sunday are at **10.00 am**, including Holy Communion.

All 10.00am services are followed by refreshments.

Other services are as follows:

April

1st: Mid-week said Communion Service 11.00am (Wednesday)

Holy Week Meditation (Compline) 7.00pm

Readings and Prayers from the service of Compline. An opportunity to spend time reflecting on Jesus' final week in Jerusalem.

2nd: Maundy Thursday Service 7.00pm

A service focussing on Jesus' last supper with his disciples, leading to his arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane following his betrayal.

3rd: Good Friday Meditation (the last hour) 2.00pm

A meditation on the last hour of Jesus' Crucifixion, death and burial.

5th: Easter Day Celebration and Egg Hunt 10.00am



Hallelujah, Christ is Risen!

May

6th: Mid-week said Communion Service 11.00am (Wednesday)

14th: Ascension Day Service (Thursday) 11.00am

Remembering Jesus' farewell to his disciples and his return to his Father God

24th: Pentecost Celebration 10.00am



Celebrating when Jesus' disciples receive the gift of God's Holy Spirit which leads to the birth of the Church

June

3rd : Mid-week said Communion Service 11.00am (Wednesday)

Thought for the Month

Why Jesus Folded His Facial Cloth

Why did Jesus fold the linen burial cloth after His resurrection? The Gospel of John (20:7) tells us that the napkin, which was placed over the face of Jesus, was not just thrown aside like the grave clothes. The Bible takes an entire verse to tell us that the napkin was neatly folded and was placed at the head of that stony coffin.

Early Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. She ran and found Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved. She said, 'They have taken the Lord's body out of the tomb, and I don't know where they have put him! Peter and the other disciple ran to the tomb to see.

The other disciple outran Peter and got there first. He stooped and looked in and saw the linen cloth lying there, but he didn't go in. Then Simon Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linen wrappings lying there, while the cloth that had covered Jesus' head was folded up and lying to the side (John 20: 1-7). Is that important? Absolutely! Is it really significant? Yes!

In order to understand the significance of the folded napkin, you have to understand a little bit about Hebrew tradition of that day. The folded napkin had to do with the Master and Servant, and every Jewish boy knew this tradition. When the servant set the dinner table for the master, he made sure that it was exactly the way the master wanted it.

The table was furnished perfectly, and then the servant would wait, just out of sight, until the Master had finished eating, and the servant would not dare touch that table until the master was finished. Now if the master was done eating, he would rise from the table, wipe his fingers and mouth with that napkin and toss it on to the table. The servant would then know to clear the table. For in those days, the wadded napkin meant, 'I'm done.' But if the master got up from the table, and folded his napkin, and laid it beside his plate, the servant knew that the folded napkin meant 'I'm not finished yet.'

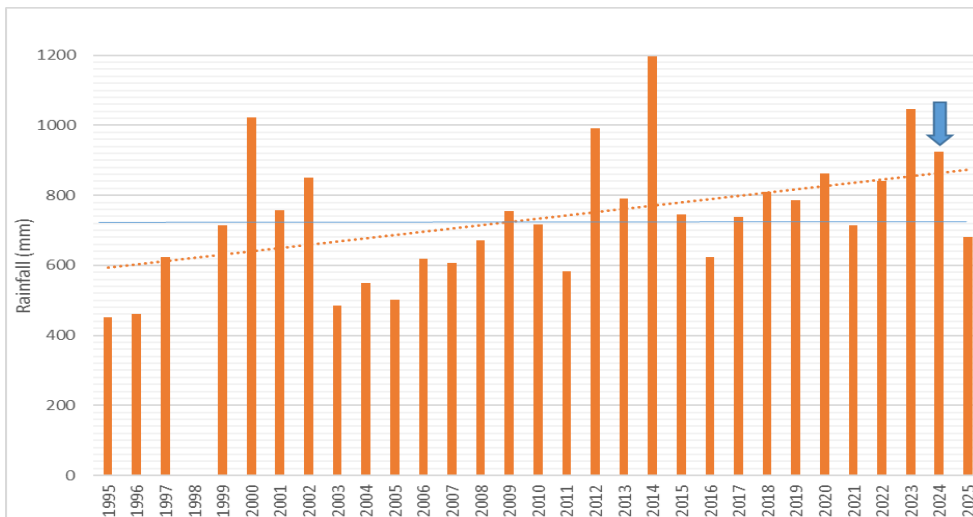
The folded napkin meant 'I'm coming back!'

Source unknown

April - May 2026 131st Edition

Wet, Wet, Wet

2026 has got off to a very wet start, but how does it compare to other years? We have kept a rain gauge in our garden in Durrington since 1995, so have been looking back at our data as the rain poured down. For January the total rainfall was 126mm. This is just over 1 ½ times the average for January (76.4mm) and the 3rd wettest January in our records. The wettest was 2014 with 162mm followed by 2016 at 155mm. For February the total rainfall was 137mm. This is almost 2 ½ times the average for the normally drier February (average = 56.2mm). This is the 2nd wettest February in our records, beaten by 2024 with 164.5mm. So does a wet January and February lead to a wetter year altogether? This graph shows the total rainfall for each year (our records for 1998 were incomplete so are left out).



The horizontal blue line is the average annual rainfall and you can see that two of the years with a very wet January and February (2014 and 2024) did indeed result in a wet year, with 2014 being the wettest that we have recorded so far. However, 2016 went on to be drier than average so we will wait and see how 2026 develops.

The dotted line is a “trendline” and does show a trend towards wetter weather over the last 30 years. However if you apply a statistical test to the data, you get a result showing that it is not getting significantly wetter. So we can file these two wet months as “annoying” but not worrying

Val Clay

April Sudoku

	3	4			1		7	5
9	6				7			1
			8			2		9
1						5		
8		3					4	
				7	3		2	
				6			1	
				4	5	9	8	
				2		3		6

This is classed as a medium sudoku.

Can you complete this sudoku in under five minutes?

Solution in the next edition of the Botolph Bell.

St. Botolph's Messy Church

Heene Church Rooms, 106 Heene Road, Worthing, BN11 4PN



ALL AGES invited for creative activities, celebration, fun and food.

Please see the church website for up-to-date information

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Easter Gardens

It is a tradition to make an Easter garden to have in church during Easter. An Easter garden is a small decorative display that represents the story of Easter- the resurrection of Jesus. The simplest garden would have plants and stones in a flat container (such as a flower pot base, seed tray or take-away food container). More elaborate gardens often include a model of a tomb made from stones or a small pot, with a path leading to it and a stone rolled away to show that the tomb is empty. Moss, soil, grass, flowers, and small crosses are commonly used to decorate the garden. The garden symbolizes new life, hope, and the joy of Jesus rising from the dead on Easter Sunday.



Image from the website St. Peter's C of E Primary School, Rochdale.

We will be having Easter gardens at St. Botolph's. Some of them will be made by members of our congregation and some will be made by pupils at Heene Primary School. Perhaps you would like to make one to bring to church? The church will also be decorated with flowers to symbolize the **resurrection of Jesus Christ, new life, and the triumph of life over death**. A vivid contrast to the run-up to Easter when the altar is stripped bare on Maundy Thursday to symbolize Jesus being stripped of his garments, mocked, and abandoned by his disciples before his crucifixion.

The church is decorated on Easter Saturday (April 4th) and if you would like to come along and help you would be most welcome. Decorating the church will take place between 10am - 12noon. Details of our services being held during the Easter period (and other services) can be found on page two of this edition of the Botolph Bell.

We look forward to welcoming you to St. Botolph's. Wishing you a very happy Easter.

Recent Charitable Giving

During the Advent period, St Botolph's supported two charities. Our local



charity, Link to Hope, collects Christmas shoeboxes filled with items suitable for those living in Eastern Europe. We would like to thank everyone, including those who read about our appeal in a past issue of Botolph Bell, who so generously donated gifts. As a

result, a band of volunteers was able to pack

13 boxes filled to the brim with items suitable for youngsters and the elderly.

The picture shows our car boot laden with the boxes delivered to the Ferring Warehouse. It was wonderful to see thousands of boxes being prepared for their journey.



On Advent Sunday, we held our

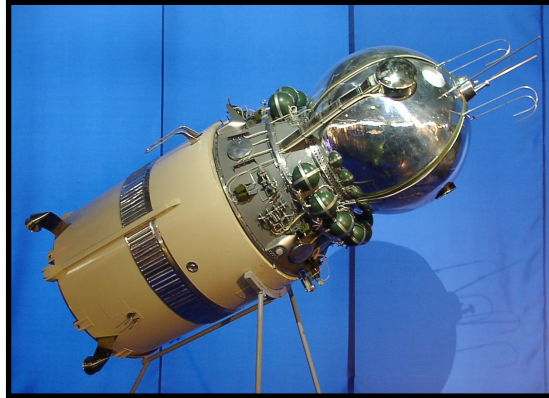
Christingle Celebration in aid of the Children's Society. This Christian charity supports vulnerable young people such as those who have to leave the care system and somehow manage on their own. Everyone received a Christingle orange, symbolising God's love and care, the fruits of the earth and Jesus, the light of the world. As a result of the generosity of those attending, we raised £180 to support the Children's Society's invaluable work. Kathryn and Ben Flenley

Link to Hope update: Photos from the 2025 shoebox delivery:



Back in 1961....

A milestone in human endeavour occurred 65 years ago. On 12th April 1961, the Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin, became the first human to go into space. Born on 9th March 1934, at the age of 25 he undertook a nearly two-hour mission to orbit the earth once in his spacecraft Vostok 1. This was the only space flight he took, although he was trained-up as backup crew for Soyuz 1 – a space mission which ended in disaster with a fatal crash. Soviet officials then banned Gagarin from training for space flights, fearful that something might happen to their national hero. However, Gagarin continued to fly military aircraft. Sadly, a crash while piloting a MIG 15 lead to his death in March 1968 at the age of 34.



The second person to go into space (and the first American to achieve this) was Alan Shepherd who carried out a 15-minute sub-orbital flight in the Mercury spacecraft *Freedom 7*, just 23 days after Gagarin's historic space flight. America then dominated the space race with the Apollo missions, successfully sending astronauts on missions to orbit the moon and finally landing the first humans to walk on the moon on July 20th 1969. The 1970's saw a number of successful missions for both America and the USSR in sending astronauts to the moon.

(The image shows a model of Vostok 1 spacecraft with its upper stage, on display in Frankfurt Airport's "Russia in Space" exhibition . Permission is granted to copy, distribute and/or modify this document under the terms of the GNU Free Documentation License.)

St. Botolph's Website :

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

Heene



*Together in faith,
we love, grow and learn.*

Hello dear reader!

We have been up to many things this past year. This year, we have changed our classroom names to birds so that they link more closely to our parable of choice - the parable of the mustard seed. We think that, just like the kingdom of God, we can all grow and flourish to support those around us. We were even visited by Paula from the RSPB who came in to talk to each of us about our choice of bird name for our class.

We have also been celebrating our Christian school values by creating thoughtful art installations around the school. In each of our class rooms, we have a jar of **hope**. Inside you can find our hopes for our futures and for the world around us.



Primary School

We have also shown our **respect** at St Botolph's on Remembrance Day and made our own poppy display in school. Our most recent addition is our **Kindness Area**, where we have attached our own message of kindness which we think can make the world a better place. I wonder what ripples of kindness you have been making.



As Holy Week approaches, we have been hard at work with unpicking the life of Jesus in Collective Worship. The story of Jesus, filled with sadness and happiness, is one that continues to inspire the world, and we hope our Lent and Easter services express our own reflections and wonderings.

Thank you for everything you do for us as a school and we hope you all have a wonderful Easter!

Friday Coffee

Coffee, cake and chat for all ages
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from 10.30am to 12.00pm

All Welcome



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interiors**

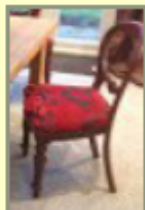
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In Memory of Rob Tomlinson

Rob Tomlinson 1952-2025



Rob Tomlinson was a brilliant writer of articles for the Friends of Heene Cemetery (FOHC). He had a wide range of interests and wrote passionately about wildlife and in particular insects, his favourite being the Hoverfly. His articles can be seen on the FOHC website and in many past copies of the Botolph Bell. Heene Cemetery is a sanctuary for the deceased and a wilderness for wildlife and for Rob therefore a rich source of interest .

He died suddenly in December last year and this tribute is written by Jane his soulmate and loving wife.

Rob wrote several articles for The Botolph Bell and other Worthing publications. These were usually accompanied by one or more of his brilliant photos which illustrated the beauty of nature. He wrote informatively with passion and elegance on many subjects including the importance of protecting the environment and biodiversity. He described equally elegantly individual species, for example, The Many-tufted Sedgesitter, (Botolph Bell magazine July-August 2023). Although Rob saw “the big picture”, his energies and commitment were channelled locally to his role as Environmental Advocate in Heene cemetery. In this role he championed protecting the biodiversity in Heene Cemetery with sensitive management not indiscriminate “tidying”.

He made numerous contributions to Friends of Heene Cemetery. <https://www.heenecemetery.org.uk/blog/rob-tomlinson-environmental-advocate>



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Rob Tomlinson (continued)

Rob was a lifelong teacher and believed strongly in providing information in accessible and engaging forms. He was pleased and proud that the website he created for Friends of Heene Cemetery www.heenecemetery.org.uk is a community resource freely available to all. The nearly 800 species found (so far) in the cemetery are photographed, identified and described. Rob achieved this by liaising and working with specialists at the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre and other environmental groups and experts.

Rob was a polymath who wrote with equal skill on many subjects as his website illustrates. <https://www.rob-tomlinson.com/blog> Literature and the natural world were of particular interest and importance to him.

I'm broken hearted at the death of my husband and soul mate of over 50 years. I am proud of his achievements in Heene Cemetery and with the help of other Friends will endeavour to continue his work and protect his legacy.

Jane Tomlinson

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M: 07399 572826

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Kung Fu Monday 7-8pm

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Contact : shaf@whitecranemartialarts.co.uk

M: 07432 597647

Life Drawing Wednesday 6.30 - 8.30pm

Contact: martinaziewe1@gmail.com

Sundays 3.00pm - 5.00pm monthly Messy Church

Contact: messy5church@outlook.com 07908 069819

**If you would like to hire the Heene Church Rooms, please
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dklemare@outlook.com**



What's on at St. Botolph's



Monday	9.00am—10.00am	Gentle Exercise Class
	10.00am - 11.00am	Gentle Exercise Class
	11.00am - 12 noon	Gentle Exercise Class
Tuesday		
Wednesday	5.30pm - 6.30pm	Pilates
	7.00pm - 8.00pm	Pilates
Thursday	7.00pm - 9.00pm	Spring into Soul Community Gospel Choir
Friday	10.30am - 12.00 noon	A Place of Welcome: Coffee, cakes and a chat for all ages.
Saturday	10.30am - 12.30pm	Monthly U3A Humour Group

Website: <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/2864/>

The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of St. Botolph's Church.

Please remember to mention The Botolph Bell if you use our advertisers.

Who to contact

Priest-in-Charge	Vacant	
Churchwardens	Rik Clay	01903 693587 rv.clay@outlook.com
	Diane Le Mare	01903 241673 dklemare@outlook.com
PCC Secretary	Vacant	
Choir Practice Friday 7.30pm	Judith Ellis, Choir Director	07394 522313 judith.ellis.coco@gmail.com
Bell ringers Practice Wed. 7.30pm	Rik Clay, Tower Captain	01903 693587 rv.clay@outlook.com
Botolph Bell Editorial & Distribution	Rik Clay	01903 693587 rv.clay@outlook.com
Botolph Bell Editorial & Advertising	Nick Le Mare	01903 241673 nidi-lemare@virginmedia.com
A Place of Welcome coffee morning	Cleo Roberts	01903 823811
Prayer meeting	Cleo Roberts	01903 823811
Tai Chi/Kung Fu/ Gentle Exercise and Balance & Posture class	Shafi	07432 597647 shaf@whitecranemartialarts.co.uk
Spring into Soul Community Gospel Choir	Mike, Carol & Vanessa	01903 533402/07906 831291 info@springintosoul.co.uk
Church Room bookings	Diane Le Mare	01903 241673 dklemare@outlook.com
Pilates, Circuit Training	Amalia Montague	07399 572826 amalia@gyre-fit.com
Messy Church	Sally Pritchard	07908 069819 messy5church@outlook.com

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Val Clay 01903 693586 rv.clay@outlook.com

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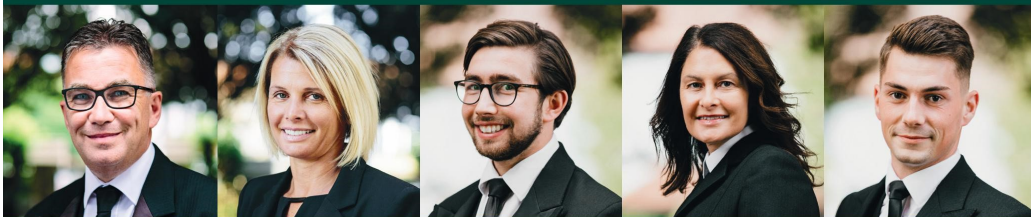
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