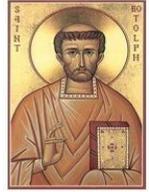




The Botolphian

Newsletter of
The Society of Saint Botolph

www.botolph.info



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Admin: Denis Pepper, 17, Cliffe House, Radnor Cliff, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2TY. Tel: +44 (0)1303 221-777 botolph@virginmedia.com
President: Revd Timothy L'Estrange, Vicar of St.Gabriel's Church, North Acton.

Issue Number: 4

1st July 2013.

Highlights this month

- Hardham Church, West Sussex.
- Icons of Saint Botolph.
- The solution to the Great Eversden Mystery.
- Letters from Allerthorpe and Lincoln.
- Letter from an amateur woodworker and blacksmith in the USA.
- Luncheon 9th October 2013, Cambridge with speaker: Dr Graham Jones.
- Letters from Boston, Massachusetts.

Editorial.

"And why?" you may ask, having read the last line above, "Why from *Boston, Massachusetts*?"

It was my dear old friend and long-suffering sailing partner Pete' who brought this obvious question to my attention. One gets so involved in the intricacies of the life of our saint that one forgets that not everybody is conversant with the finer details. I shall therefore include the following comments in the 'Regular End Notes' for the benefit of new readers.

The fact is that the town of Boston in Lincolnshire (with the largest parish church in England and a 'spire' that glorifies in its name of 'The Stump') owes its name to a contraction of the words '*Botolph's Town*.' There will be more discussions in later issues of these newsletters regarding just *why* the town should have been linked with our saint. Suffice it to say for the moment that our cousins in *Boston-across-the-pond* have also taken Botolph to their bosom as you will read later in this issue.

It has been a busy and exciting month. Dr. Oosthuizen solved the Great Eversden mystery for us and we have made great strides forwards in

the Boston Massachusetts direction, - thanks mainly to the enthusiasm of Peter Van Demark (see Readers' Correspondence on both these topics).

Saint Botolph's Day (17th June) has come and gone. I must admit to having felt tempted to send you all an email wishing you a happy day but in the event I suppressed my enthusiasm and it was only our president Father Tim with whom I exchanged greetings. There was a lot of activity in the Botolph Churches and I would dearly have liked to attend one or two of the functions but I am afraid I was out of the country for all except the very first event on 2nd June.

You will note that from time to time (as in the above paragraph) I drop the title of 'Saint' and simply refer to him by his 'given' name. I hope this does not offend anyone. Having spent so much time writing about him I tend to think of Botolph as an old friend and I assure you that dropping his title does not signify any lack of respect on my part; quite the contrary - so I hope you will bear with me.

From other correspondence, it has become evident that the society needs to keep a database of Botolph icons and the '*result so far*' is our Botolph feature this month. You will notice, from the copyright acknowledgement in the header, that I have tracked down the provenance of the icon we have been using; I have obtained kind permission for its continued use from Father Pachomius of the Holy Transfiguration Monastery.

Hardham

Approach: *If you are on the A29, travelling towards Pulborough, the main road by-passes a lane which leads to **St. Botolph's Church, Hardham, West Sussex**, and if you miss the first*

right hand turning you can take the second one just a few yards further on and approach from the other direction.

Key: The church is usually open.

Contact: Father David Twinley, The Vicarage, Church Lane, Bury.

Tel: 01798 839-057.

vicar@beneficebythearun.com

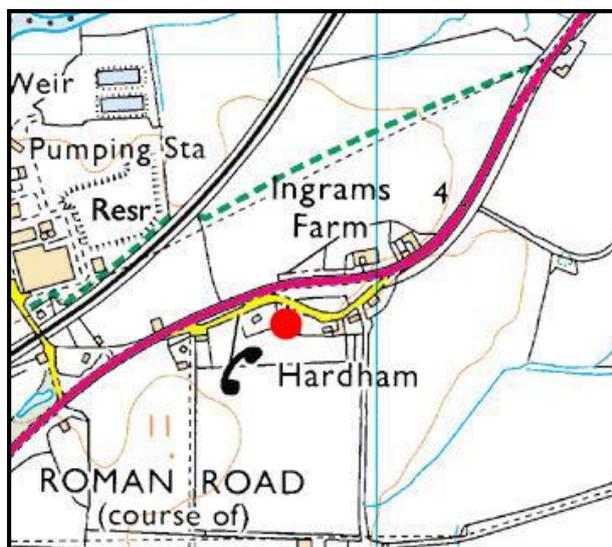
Location: 50.9485, -0.5228, RH20 1LB

Listed Grade: Grade I.

The Ordnance Survey map shows that the countryside is riddled with Roman remains and you will see, from the sign outside the church, that it contains some of the oldest wall paintings in the country.



The map above shows Hardham Church but also the nearby Saint Botolph's churches of Botolphs and Heene.

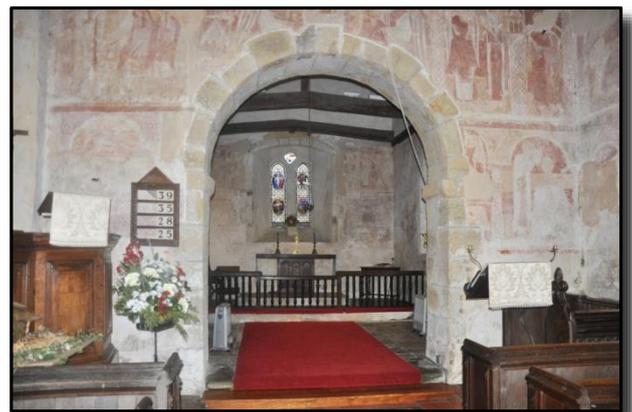


Foundation of the site:

The church is of Saxon origin and was built in c.1050 - possibly on the foundations of an earlier church..

Items of interest within the church:

- 1. The wall paintings date from the early 12th century - are some of the earliest in England and form a nearly complete series. Those in the upper tiers on north, east and south walls depict Christ's nativity and infancy. The scenes of the lower tier are less clear but those on the north wall show St. George at the Battle of Antioch, his trial and the attempt to break him on the wheel. On the west wall can be seen a series of four pictures illustrating the Torments of Hell.*
- 2. The church has two bells, one of which is very early but bears no inscription and the other was cast in 1636.*



Relevance of the church to Botolph's life:

There has been speculation that Saint Botolph was active in this area, - perhaps after he returned from France in 647 and before he founded Icanho Abbey. It could be that he built a wooden field chapel here and that it was on these foundations that today's church was constructed 400 years

later - although we are entering even more deeply into the realms of speculation here.

Like many other Botolph Churches, this one lies close to a major Roman road, - in this case the 56 mile long Stane Street running from Chichester to London Bridge. Once again therefore, like the London churches it could be that, as the first stopping-off point after Chichester, a chapel dedicated to 'St. Botolph-Patron-Saint-of-Travellers,' would be the obvious choice in which to pray for a safe onward journey.

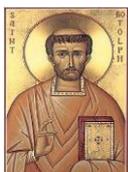
Places of Interest in the vicinity:

Fishbourne Roman Palace is only about 20 miles to the SW and, if you have interests of that persuasion, you may wish to include this in your visit.

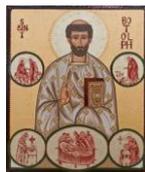
Alternatively, if you are restricting yourself to Botolph Churches, the little village of Botolphs is about the same distance to the SE. I shall be featuring its lovely little Saxon church (which is of course dedicated to our saint) in a later issue. In horrible contrast, the 19th century externally-uninspiring St. Botolph's Church Heene (see map above) is not far away either - but I found this locked church one of the saddest Botolph specimens I have seen and I believe it is now permanently closed (I would be grateful for more information about this).

Icons of Saint Botolph.

As I wrote earlier, I feel compelled to create a database of Saint Botolph Icons and these are the ones I have in the collection so far:-



1



2



3



4



5

The following annotations to the icons are listed in the order: Location, Institution, Year painted, Painter. (MA = Massachusetts, USA).

1. *Brookline MA, Holy Transfiguration Monastery, 1990, [p.unknown].*

2. *London, Church of Saint Botolph-without-Aldgate, [y.unknown], [p.unknown].*

3. *Mettingham (Suffolk), Collegiate Church of the Ikoon of the Mother of God "Joy of All Who Sorrow" (Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia), [y.unknown], Efrem Carrasco.*

4. *Roslindale MA, Russian Orthodox Church of the Holy Epiphany (Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia), [y.unknown], Zoya Schechglou.*

5. *Colchester, St. John's Russian Orthodox Church Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia), [y.unknown], [p.unknown].*

I would be most grateful for any further information (or corrections) regarding these or other icons.

Readers' Letters and Emails

Dr Susan Oosthuizen Phd FSA is from the University of Cambridge where she is the Senior Lecturer in Historic Environment at the Institute of Continuing Education at Madingley Hall and is also active at Wolfson College, in the Cambridge McDonald Institute of Archaeological Research.

You will remember (or not!) that, in the last issue, there was a report that one of our readers had spotted an anomaly at Great Eversden (near Cambridge) where the church was marked as St. Mary's and yet the adjacent farm was called St. Botolph's Rectory Farm. This raised my hopes that the church might have originally been dedicated to St. Botolph.

In reply to my query, Dr. Oosthuizen very quickly deduced that the confusion had arisen because the land in Great Eversden had been purchased by the Rector of St. Botolph's Church Cambridge as an investment in the 'Copolite Industry' that was starting there. Sadly there is no evidence that St. Mary's church Great Eversden was ever dedicated to St. Botolph. On the OS map therefore one should really be able to read 'St. Botolph's (Cambridge) Rectory Farm.'

Charlotte O'Gram wrote from St Botolph's, Allertorpe, East Yorkshire to say that, as is their usual custom, they celebrated St Botolph's day this year with a service in the church with a choir. This was followed by refreshments.

Father Jeremy Cullimore wrote that *St. Botolph by Bargate*, Lincoln held their patronal service on Sunday 16th June at 11.00, but there were no further celebrations of the saint this year

because their church works within the 'Below Hill Federation' (of 5 churches in Lincoln) and it was not Bargate's turn this year – *St Peter at Gowts* had that honour - including the first Mass of their Assistant Curate!

Bob Antia is from Boston USA and he is an amateur woodworker and blacksmith and has the ambition to create an Icon of St. Botolph in wood and iron. For this he needs a high resolution (2000 x 1400 or so) photograph. He first contacted St. Botolph-without-Aldgate who kindly passed his request on to me. This made me realise how little I knew about St. Botolph Icons and started the quest I mentioned above. Bob now has to decide exactly which Icon he is going to use - but if he decides upon one that is in England then I shall be looking for someone to take a high resolution photograph for him.

Peter Van Demark has featured in these columns already and he wrote to tell me of the success of their St. Botolph's Club celebrations this year:-

"As you could gather from my previous e-mail, the St Botolph's Day Club Night at the St Botolph Club in Boston MA on his saint's day, June 17th, went wonderfully. The reception included a punch bowl with St Botolph Town ale from 'Pretty Things Beer and Ale Project,' - a local gypsy brewery. I gave an illustrated talk on "The Life and Legacy of St Botolph." The slides are at <http://peterhvandemark.smugmug.com/Groups/St-Botolph-Club/St-Botolph-Talk-June-2013> and I ended by saving the best for last, the 'St Botolph Town Ale', a Yorkshire dark brown ale that would please a monk, and is what was drunk by the actors.

"Next was a play about the naming of the St Botolph Club, reviving the script by Debra Wise, a Club Fellow, first performed in 2010. She played Anna, Mrs Henry Cabot Lodge; another Club Fellow, and fellow actor and director, Steven Barkhimer was Henry Cabot Lodge, with past-president Buell Hollister as first president, Francis Parkman and Donald Denning as John Boyle O'Reilly making up the committee to choose a name. Tom Carnicelli, professor of English at the University of New Hampshire and conversant in Old English, was St Botolph himself and Henry Cabot Lodge (who studied Anglo Saxon law) translated for him. James Woodman provided the piano interludes, such as when our saint materialized.

"We had an excellent dinner and, with about 45 people in attendance, lots of conversation. The meal was capped by a toast to St Botolph with Benedictine liqueur. In all, an outstanding Club Night."

Peter has kindly offered to let me have a sight of the (very funny) script if the author Debra Wise agrees and I look forward to that possibility.. It was obviously a wonderful evening and there are already plans to have a similar (but different) theme next year.[Ed.]

Gene Kelly is an ex-President of St. Botolph's Club and he has been regaling me with some very interesting information about this prestigious and elegant institution details of which are to be found at www.stbotolphclub.org. As you will see, they are a very active and impressive organisation and organise superb events.

Aaron Friar lives in Boston USA with his wife and two young daughters and he is the first person from 'across the pond' to sign up to join us at our Annual Luncheon in Cambridge on 9th October. Aaron has recently started a brand new tour company which, as he writes, is "under the patronage of our own best beloved Saxon saint. Botolph's Town Tours is a company that gives faith-based tours in Boston, Massachusetts, the new world counterpart to Boston, Lincolnshire." You can read about the project at btowntours.org.

Membership of SOSB

1st May was ... 125

1st June was ... 183

1st July is194 - it is slowing down a little so please forward the newsletters to your friends and encourage them to register on the website: www.botolph.info.

Social Events: Annual Luncheon.

A prestigious event not to be missed.

Wednesday 9th October 2013 at 12.30 for 1pm

I have now confirmed the booking with the *University Arms Hotel in Regent Street, Cambridge, CB2 1AD*. They will be charging us £19 per person which includes a two course lunch with tea and coffee and includes the hire of the room.

I am delighted to announce that Dr Graham Jones, who is Senior Research Associate at the School of Geography of St John's College at the University of Oxford, has kindly agreed to give our after-luncheon talk.

The hotel can only accommodate 30 in this room however so please email me with numbers as soon as possible to reserve your place and avoid disappointment.

For events such as this people often delay their applications and then there is a rush at the last minute. I would urge you not to do this because numbers are coming in nicely and if I know soon enough that more than 30 wish to attend we might be able to arrange a larger room.

Regular Endnotes

If this is your first 'Botolphian' and you have acquired it by circuitous means but would like to receive an email copy each month then just send an email to botolph@virginmedia.com saying 'YES PLEASE.'
If you wish to UNsubscribe then send the message 'NO THANKS.'

You will frequently see the 'twin' towns of *Boston* mentioned in these newsletters, - one in Lincolnshire and the other in Massachusetts USA. The relevance to the Society is that the name 'Boston' is a contraction of '*Botolph's Town*.'

If you have missed any 'Botolphians' and wish to catch up, you will find previous issues and other useful information about the Society at www.botolph.info.

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Folkestone, Kent. 1st May 2013.