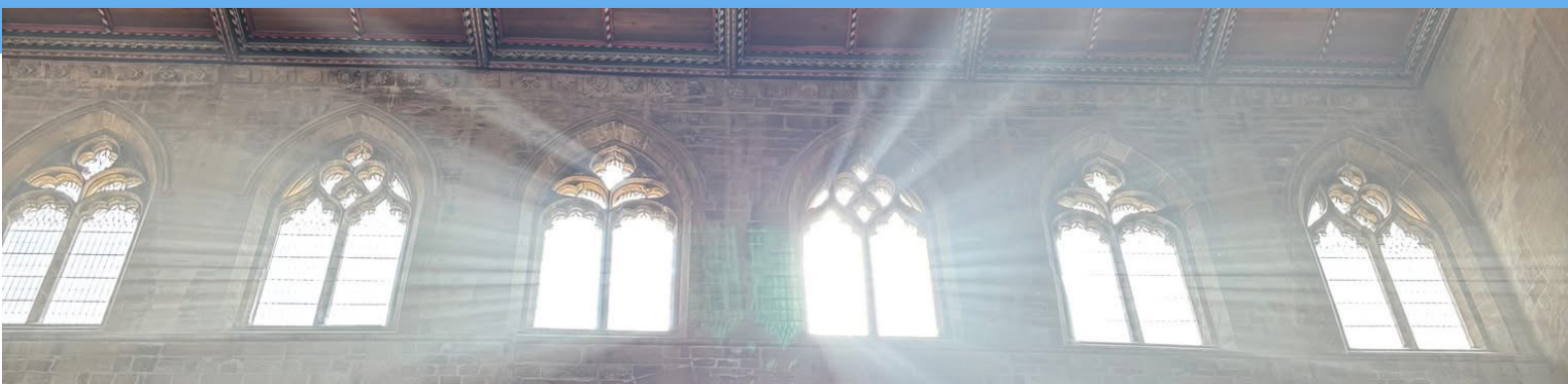


03 May 2026

The Fifth Sunday
of Easter

PILGRIMS PROGRESS

The Parish of Boston: A Place of Hospitality - A Place to Belong + A Place to Believe



COLLECT

Risen Christ, your wounds declare your love for the world and the wonder of your risen life: give us compassion and courage to risk ourselves for those we serve, to the glory of God the Father.

FIRST READING: Acts 7.55-end

Filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2.2-10

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer

spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," and "A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

GOSPEL READING: John 14.1-14

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me

SERVICES

Sunday 03 May

09.30am	Morning Prayer <i>Hymns: 218, 595, 363, 667</i> <i>Voluntary: Purcell, Trumpet Tune</i>	St Thomas' <i>Psalm: 31</i>
11.00am	Eucharist <i>Hymns: 357, 807, 696, 669, 650</i> <i>Setting: Thorne, St Thomas + Elek Mathe Gloria</i> <i>Anthem: Chilcott, An Irish Blessing</i> <i>Voluntary:</i>	St Botolph's/Online
05.00pm	Choral Evensong <i>Hymns: 127, 291</i> <i>Canticles: Moeran in D</i> <i>Anthem: Bairstow, Though I speak with the tongues of Men</i> <i>Voluntary: Mendelssohn, Andante in D</i>	St Botolph's/Online <i>Psalm: 147 (1-12)</i> <i>Responses: Sanders</i>

Tuesday 05 May

09.00am	Morning Prayer	St Botolph's
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Wednesday 06 May

09.00am	Morning Prayer	St Botolph's
10.30am	Said Eucharist	St Botolph's

Thursday 07 May

08.45am	Collective Worship	St Thomas' School
11.00am	Said Eucharist	St Thomas'

Saturday 09 May

09.00am	Morning Prayer	St Thomas'
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does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

POST COMMUNION

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK & SPONSORED WALK: 10TH – 16TH MAY 2026

Christian Aid are raising funds this year to help relieve urban poverty in Kenyan cities by enabling citizens to develop small plots and provide planters for growing food for their families.

A sponsored walk along part of the River Witham has been organised to raise funds. Please join us on the walk on 16th May, starting at the Boston Town FC gateway, starting at 10am. Alternatively, please sponsor a walker. Giving envelopes will also be available in church.

THE PARISH PRAYER LIST

Please let Fr David know if someone is unwell or has gone into hospital. Please let us know names of people who would appreciate being on our prayer list. We will renew all names every two months.

THE LONDON BACH CHOIR

Saturday 27th June 2026, 7.30pm
St Botolph's Church

Tickets are now available on their website. Adults £15 / Children & Students £5. www.thebachchoir.org.uk

BAPTISM & CONFIRMATION: Tuesday 7th July 2026

The Bishop of Grantham will join us for a deanery service at St Botolph's, 6.30pm, for this special service for those in our church family. Collect a sign-up sheet from the back of church with dates of the preparation sessions.

LUNCHTIME CONCERTS ON THURSDAYS @ 1PM

7th May 2026, Boston Community Choir

FREE with retiring collection towards the Music Appeal.

ADVANCE NOTICE OF THE APCM

Sunday 31st May, St Thomas' Church
following the United Parish Eucharist

We have 4 vacancies for Churchwarden and 4 vacancies on the PCC. Nomination forms are now available from the back of church. Please hand them into the Parish Office once they have been completed.

NEXT SUNDAY - The Sixth Sunday of Easter

09.30am	Sung Eucharist	St Thomas'
11.00am	Choral Eucharist	St Botolph's/Online

BOSTON FOODBANK DONATIONS

The Foodbank is looking for donations of the following: Tinned rice pudding, bottles of squash, coffee and UHT milk. Donations continue to remain low, so please help where you can.

ACCESS TO ST BOTOLPH'S DURING THE MAY FAIR

Please note the Market Place will be closed
Thursday 30th April – Saturday 9th May 2026

Access during this time can be made via Bank Street & Wormgate. Please be mindful of the entrance to Goodbarns Yard Pub & the Blenkin Memorial Hall when using Wormgate to access Church Close.

DEMENTIA OUTREACH DAY

Wednesday 20th May, 11am – 3pm, St Botolph's

Join us for a relaxed drop-in event. Come along for a free cuppa, a friendly chat, and helpful advice about dementia, including local support services and ways to reduce risk. Free health checks will also be available.

THE BLACK DYKE BAND

Saturday 16th May 2026, 7pm
St Botolph's Church

Tickets are £20 and are now available via the Stump Gift Shop or online, via their website.

PARISH GIVING SCHEME

Make a one-off gift to the Parish of Boston or set up regular giving online via www.parishgiving.org.uk or scan the QR code.



RECTORY COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 23rd May, 10am – 12Noon
29 Sunflower Way, Boston

Donations of cakes, tombola, and gifts to sell will be gratefully received. Speak to Fr David if you can help.

LET US PRAY *Prayers for an Inclusive Church*

Generous God, whose way is love, whose truth is searching, whose life is freely given in Jesus Christ our Lord: as you have opened for us your house of many rooms, so may we make a place for the rejected and unloved, and share the work of peace; through Jesus Christ, the image of God. Amen.