

20 September 2026

The Sixteenth Sunday
after Trinity
Battle of Britain Sunday

PILGRIMS PROGRESS

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



COLLECT

Lord of creation, whose glory is around and within us: open our eyes to your wonders, that we may serve you with reverence and know your peace at our lives' end, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

FIRST READING: Jonah 3.10 - end of 4

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it. But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, 'O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.' And the Lord said, 'Is it right for you to be angry?' Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, 'It is better for me to die than to live.' But God said to Jonah, 'Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?' And he said, 'Yes, angry enough to die.'

Then the Lord said, 'You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labour and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?'

SECOND READING: Philippians 1.21-end

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to

SERVICES

Sunday 20 September

09.30am	Service of the Word	St Thomas'
	<i>Hymns: 702, 284, 787, 394</i>	
	<i>Psalm: 145.1-8</i>	
09.30am	Said Eucharist	St Botolph's
11.00am	Battle of Britain Service	St Botolph's
	<i>Music: as per Order of Service</i>	
02.30pm	Wedding	St Botolph's
05.00pm	Choral Evensong	St Botolph's/Online
	<i>Hymns: 299, 14</i>	<i>Psalm: 124</i>
	<i>Canticles: Dyson in C minor</i>	<i>Responses: Plainsong</i>
	<i>Anthem: Wiggins, Peace Between Nations</i>	
	<i>Voluntary: Rowley, Prelude on Old 104th</i>	

Monday 21 September

09.00am	Morning Prayer	St Botolph's
01.00pm	Funeral	St Botolph's

Tuesday 22 September

09.00am	Morning Prayer	St Botolph's
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Wednesday 23 September

09.00am	Morning Prayer	St Botolph's
10.30am	Said Eucharist	St Botolph's
06.30pm	Compline	St Botolph's
	<i>Introit: Suscepimus Deus</i>	<i>Preces: Plainsong</i>
	<i>Office hymn: 3</i>	<i>Psalms: 4, 31</i>
	<i>Responsory: In manus tuas (Plainsong)</i>	
	<i>Nunc Dimittis (Plainsong)</i>	
	<i>Marian Antiphon: Salve Regina (Plainsong)</i>	

Thursday 24 September

11.00am	Said Eucharist	St Thomas'
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Saturday 26 September

09.00am	Morning Prayer	St Thomas'
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you again. Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God’s doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 20.1-16

‘For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; and he said to them, “You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.” So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, “Why are you standing here idle all day?” They said to him, “Because no one has hired us.” He said to them, “You also go into the vineyard.” When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, “Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.” When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, “These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.” But he replied to one of them, “Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?” So the last will be first, and the first will be last.’

POST COMMUNION

Almighty God, you have taught us through your Son that love is the fulfilling of the law: grant that we may love you with our whole heart and our neighbours as ourselves; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Sunday 4th October

10.30am	United Eucharist	St Thomas’ Church
11.45am	Drinks in Church	St Thomas’ Church
12.30pm	Parish Lunch	St Thomas’ Hall
05.00pm	Choral Evensong	St Botolph’s/Online

Please remember to bring harvest gifts for auction. Lunch tickets now available from the Parish Office or a Churchwarden, £10 each. Lunch, wine, tea & coffee will be included. Please contact Fr David if you are able to provide desserts.

This year the proceeds from our Harvest Festival will go to Haven Domestic Abuse Service who support Men, Women and Children who are living with or have experienced Domestic Abuse in and around Boston.

PARISH GIVING

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.



VACANCY - ASSISTANT ORGANIST

The Parish of Boston is seeking a talented part-time Assistant Organist to join our music team. For more information, or to have an informal conversation about the role, please speak to John Lyon or email music@parishofboston.co.uk.

NEXT SUNDAY - The Seventeenth Sunday After Trinity

09.30am	Eucharist	St Thomas’
11.00am	Eucharist	St Botolph’s/Online
01.00pm	Baptism	St Botolph’s
02.00pm	Baptism	St Botolph’s

BOSTON FOODBANK DONATIONS

We would be very grateful for the following items: Tinned meat, instant noodles, small tins of fruit & vegetables (with ring pull openings). Donations can be dropped off at St Botolph’s Church or via the Supermarket donation points.

AUTUMN DAYS

Thursday 24th September 2026, 10am – 2pm
St Botolph’s Church

Join us for a BIG Coffee morning and learn about the vast number of community groups in our Borough! In partnership with Boston Borough Council we are delighted to bring Autumn Days to St Botolph’s.

BOOK CLUB

Last Monday of each Month, 1pm
St Botolph’s Refectory

Starting in September we are launching our very own Book Club! Limited to 12 spaces, please contact mick.broadhurst@parishofboston.co.uk or the Parish Office to sign up.

The October Rota is now available. If you are unavailable for a duty on the service rota, please try and swap with someone and inform either a Churchwarden or Adam.

LET US PRAY *Prayers for an Inclusive Church*

Generous God, whose gift defies the balance sheet of ownership and just reward: free our hearts and minds from the envy which enslaves us; shape our lives to show your self-forgetting love; through Jesus Christ, the free gift of grace. Amen.