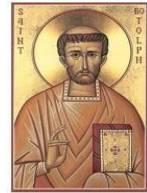




# The Botolphian

Newsletter of  
The Society of Saint Botolph

[www.botolph.info](http://www.botolph.info)



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President: Revd Timothy L'Estrange, Vicar of St.Gabriel's Church, North Acton.

Issue Number: 17

1st August 2014.

## Highlights this month

- St Botolph's Church, Farnborough.
- Letter and photographs from Peter Van Demark and The Saint Botolph's Club, Boston USA.
- Welcome to Tony Connolly, John Burnapp, Frances Melville-Brown and William Hartfall.
- **FOR YOUR DIARIES NOW PLEASE**  
**Tuesday 14th October 2014**  
**at Cambridge City Hotel, Cambridge,**  
**12.30 for 1 p.m.**  
**SOSB Annual Luncheon.**

## Editorial

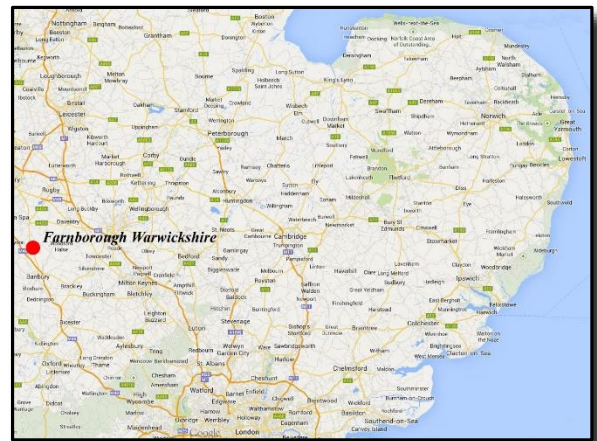
July has been a busy month for Zina and me on the Botolph front. We have at last visited and enjoyed St Botolph's Iken and had the pleasure of meeting Revd David Murdoch, Team Rector of the Wilford Peninsula.

Subsequently we paid our respects to the nearby St Botolph Churches at Burgh and at Culpho, where, at the latter, the churchwarden Mr Hartfall was kind enough to come out at short notice and show us round..

A few days later we visited a church with a non-Botolph dedication - St Mary the Virgin, at Welwyn, which is part of a benefice that regularly holds a series of themed Summer Evensongs. This year the theme is 'Saints and Pilgrims' and, for the first time, I heard a sermon preached (expertly by John Burnapp) on the subject of St Botolph.

## **F**arnborough (Warwickshire)

is a village in the district of Stratford-upon-Avon and is the home of one of the more westerly of the Botolph Churches.



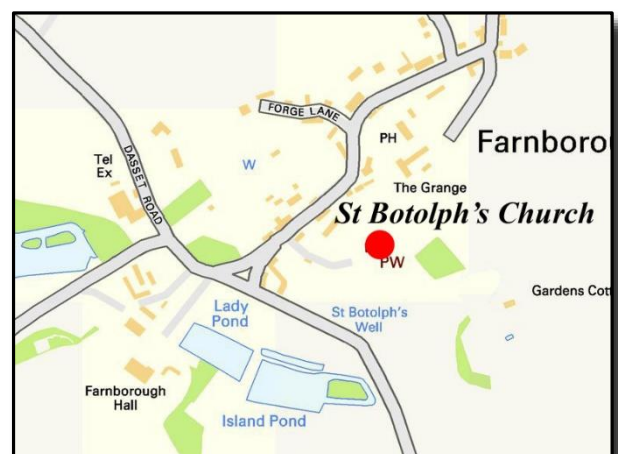
**Approach:-** Coming from the south, approach on the Southam Road A423 until you reach the well-signposted single track road to Farnborough.

**Key:** The church is frequently open but in order to avoid a wasted journey, telephone as below.

**Contacts:** Fiona Russell Perry. Tel: 01295 690-039. Revd Mike Cadwallader, Tel: 01295 770-400.

**Location:** 52.1423, -1.3679. NG34 7JZ.

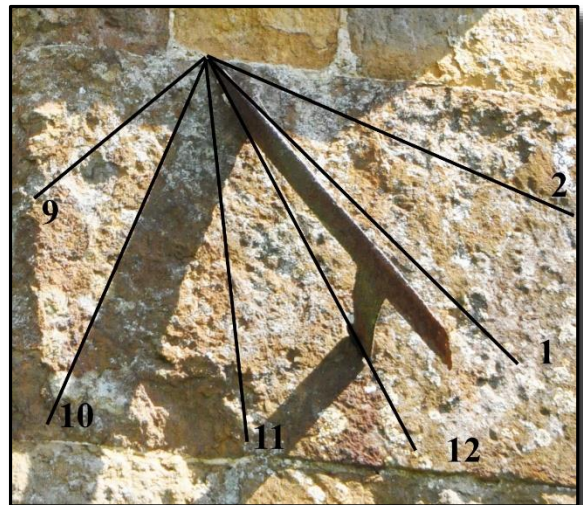
**Listed Grade:** II\*.



Farnborough (anciently called *Ferneberge* meaning Fern Hill) is thought to have been founded in C7. The oldest fabric of the existing church is C12.



The south west buttress sports a sundial. At first I thought this was telling me the wrong time but later analysis revealed that it was still working faultlessly - I had not made allowances for the extra hour of British Summer Time.

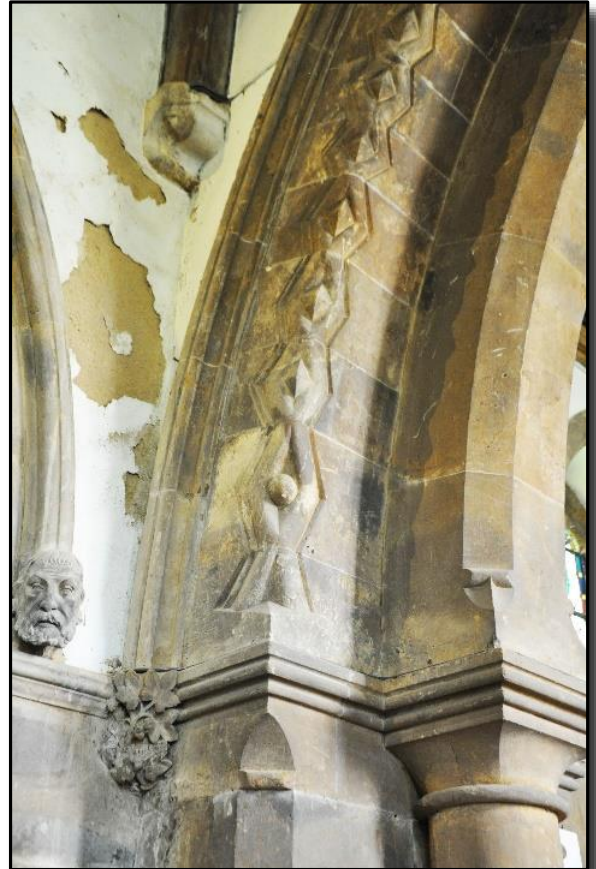


The tower consists of three stages, the base of which appears to be C14 and the middle stage C17. The bell-chamber contains a peal of six bells. The top stage of the tower, the bell-chamber, roof and spire were all part of massive restoration work carried out around 1875 by Sir G.G. Scott at the request of Reverend C.W. Holbech who was a member of the landowning family who lived at Farnborough Hall and were perhaps, the main benefactors of the church. In support of this there are in the church many memorials bearing the family name.

The fabric of the building is made of squared coursed ironstone and the roofs are of stone slate with C19 moulded gable parapets.



Inside the south porch the C12 Romanesque south doorway has alternating small and large edge-roll mouldings and a C12 fish-scale tympanum. (The zigzag-decorated arch is C19).



C12 Norman lozenge-chain moulding has also been cleverly re-used in the C19 chancel arch.



The ironstone fabric gives an unusual 'camouflage' pattern to the pillars. The wide north aisle, seen here, dates from 1875 but its roof has been built from recycled C16 timbers.



In the chancel itself are two iron-doored aumbries - one on each side of the altar. The C14 east window contains stained glass by Wailes (1856).



This C13 Stone head of knight wearing chain-mail was discovered in the churchyard in the 1940s and is now to be found on a cill in the southwest corner near the font.



Just before completing this issue I fell across Stephen Wass's fascinating website concerning the waterways at Farnborough Hall. This contained a photograph of St Botolph's Well but sadly there was insufficient time for me to apply to Stephen for permission to use the picture. I shall have to return to Farnborough one day, (now that I know where the well is to be found) and take my own picture (landowners permitting). In the meantime Stephen's photograph can be seen at <http://www.polyolbion.org.uk/Farnborough/Dissemination/A%20Way%20With%20Water.html>.

#### Summary of items of interest:-

1. C12 Romanesque south doorway with alternating small and large edge-roll mouldings and C12 fish-scale tympanum. (The zigzag arch is C19).
2. C19 Chancel Arch but incorporating an original C12 Norman lozenge-chain moulding.
3. C14 East window.
4. Two aumbries - one on each side of the altar.
5. Piscina.
6. C15 nave window near the pulpit.
7. C14 nave window near the font.
8. Modern font on C14 base.
9. 1875 addition of wide north aisle with roof of recycled C16 timbers.
10. C13 Stone head of knight wearing chain-mail.
11. C17 Oak chest in north aisle.
12. C17 Sundial on the south-west buttress.
13. 'Botolph's Well' - a chalybeate (high iron content) spring (said to be good for curing eye ailments) on the approach road to the village.

#### Thanks.

My thanks to Fiona Russell Perry for opening the church and showing me round.

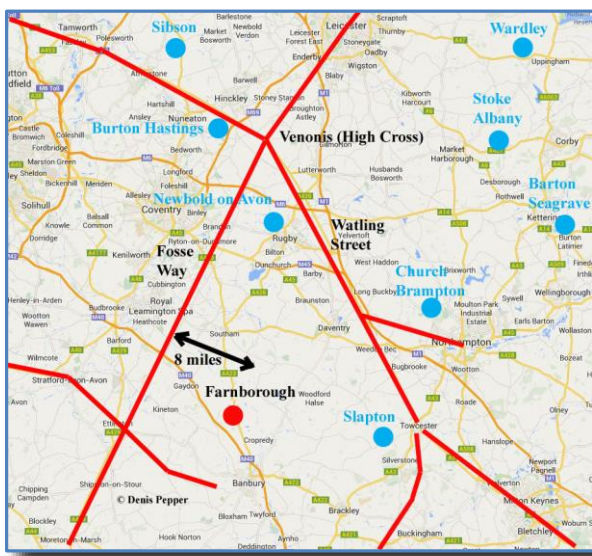


Bearing the same dedication name as the church is Saint Botolph's Well (probably a late-Victorian titling). It is to be found a little way down the approach road but has suffered as a result of alterations to the drainage of the fields. An indication of its location is a bridge crossing a muddy stream but the OS map seems to indicate that the well itself was closer to the car (in the picture above) rather than the bridge.

## Relevance of the church to Botolph's life:

A C12 church founded on a C7 site suggests that the church would have had a predecessor used by the original inhabitants. Once again this is another church which is right on the edge of Botolph's territory but it seems to me that he could easily have had a hand in its foundation.

The nearest Roman road, Fosse Way, (now the B4455) running from Cirencester to Leicester is, at its closest point, only eight miles distant and its important crossing with Watling Street at Venonis is just a few miles further north. The blue dots in the map below show the other Saint Botolph's Churches in the area. Are they randomly scattered or strategically placed?



Farnborough might be an outpost but does it represent the edge of a concentrated attempt by Botolph's acolytes to claim Mercia for Christ?

## Classification

In view of the village's C7 origins and several other factors such as it being an attractive source of good spring water, I would guess that the original church on this site could well have originated as a result of a Botolphian mission and therefore would give it an 'A' classification. But what do *you* think?

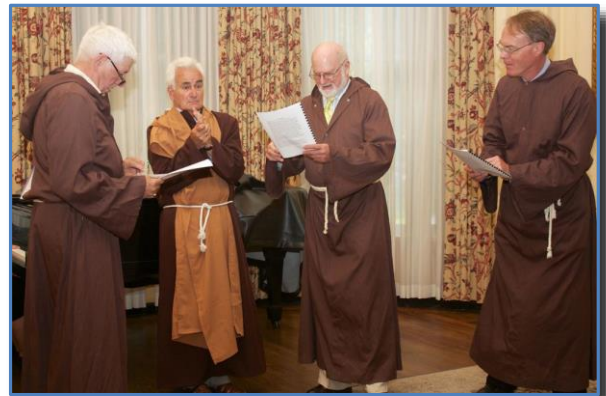
## Domesday Record

I am not too sure about the usefulness of the Domesday Book regarding churches. Indeed most Domesday records that I see do not mention a church in spite of the fact that one is known to have been there. There are, for example, 147 churches noted in Kent whereas from other

sources 400 are known to have existed. If any reader can provide me with information regarding easy access for Domesday records of churches I would be most grateful. In the case of Farnborough, Domesday Online simply tells us that the village consisted of 21 households - which is considered to be quite large.

## Readers' Letters and Emails

1. Peter Van Demark sent me details of the Saint Botolph's Club, Boston, Massachusetts' Saints Day play (held of course on 17th June). Photographs of the *rehearsals* (one of which is shown below) can be seen on <http://peterhvandemark.smugmug.com/Groups/St-Botolph-Club/Club-Night-2014-06-17-Saints/> and of the *performance* (taken by Tom Carnicelli's son-in-law) at <http://peterhvandemark.smugmug.com/Groups/St-Botolph-Club/Club-Night-2014-06-17/>



2. None of our readers managed to come up with any suggestions regarding the identity of the statues at Croxton Kerrial. My own offer is as follows but I would still be glad for your alternative thoughts:-

- A (The man with the scroll): Isaiah?
- B (The bishop with the crozier): Unknown.
- C (The man with the serpent): Moses?
- D (With staff and lamb) St John the Baptist.

## New Members:-

I am delighted to welcome

Tony Connolly (Croxton Kerrial).  
John Burnapp (Welwyn).  
Frances Melville-Brown (Eastbourne).  
William Hartfall (Culpho).

Denis and Zina Pepper

are delighted to invite you to the launch of  
the second volume of the Botolph Trilogy  
"Brother Botolph and The Abbess",  
an Historical Novel by D.S. Pepper.

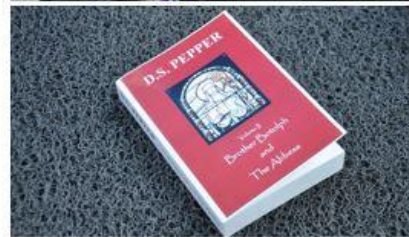
We hope you will join us in the Drawing Room  
of the Grand Hotel, Folkestone at 11 a.m. on

**Saturday 9th August 2014**

for drinks and nibbles.

RSVP 01303 221-777 or [denpepper@virginmedia.com](mailto:denpepper@virginmedia.com)

(N.B. If you wish to make a day of it and stay for lunch at The Grand,  
[at your own expense!] you will need to book immediately on 01303 222-222.)



#### **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](mailto: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 said to be a contraction of '*Botolph's Town*.'

#### **Classification of Botolph Churches:-**

A: C7 churches relevant to Botolph's life.

B: 'Travellers' churches.

Bearing in mind that the Danish invasions started in c.800 and continued for 200 years, it seems logical to sub-divide Type B (and perhaps type C) churches into those which appear to have been founded:-

- (i) before 800
- (ii) between 800 and 1066 and
- (iii) after the Norman Conquest.

C: Neither of the above.

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Folkestone, Kent. 1st May 2013.