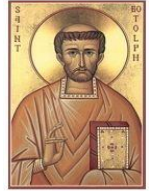




The Botolphian

Newsletter of
The Society of Saint Botolph

www.botolph.info



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

Issue Number: 66

1st October 2018

Highlights this month

- **Church of St Botolph by Bargate, Lincoln.**
- It gives me great pleasure to welcome Revd James Watson from Harrington, Sandra Bierman from Folkestone and Nicola Tolson, also from Folkestone.
- Correspondence from Betty West, Heather Flack and Colin Potter.
- **It is not too late to join us at the society's Annual Luncheon at the Hilton City Hotel in Cambridge at 12.30 for 1 p.m. on Wednesday 24th October 2018. Cost is only £30 per head for a three course meal including tea and coffee and a Welcome-glass of Prosecco.**
- I have received a few gripes that two month's notice is insufficient so please note: **Next year, the luncheon is booked for Wednesday 23rd October 2019.**

Editorial

On 17th May 1908 (exactly a month before St Botolph's Day) my father was born in Kesteven Street Lincoln. I am sure that he had no idea that St Botolph's by Bargate was half a mile down the road nor indeed would he have had any idea who St Botolph was. His grandmother, a remarkable lady by the name of Eliza Broughton, ran a grocery store nearby and that served to bring in much-needed income after her husband's early death.

I have therefore been brought up to have a fondness for Lincoln and the 'yellow-bellies' who live there so it was a particular pleasure to visit this church. It was in contrast to my memory of visits in my younger days when I was let loose in the cathedral and told to go and find the Lincoln Imp.

If you possibly can, please come and join us at the Annual Luncheon (see above).

Church Feature

Lincoln, St Botolph by Bargate.



Approach: From Lincoln Cathedral (which you might be visiting?) - if by car - find Eastgate (just north of the cathedral) and travel 500m east along Langworthgate towards the A15. Turn right here along Wragby Road travelling 400m into Pottergate and then turn right into Lindum Road. After 1.5kms turn right, off the A15, into S Park Avenue. After 1 km at St Catherine's roundabout take the second exit into the High Street and you will find the church 200m up the road on your right.

A less tortuous route would be to leave your car near the cathedral and walk the mile and a half down the hill and along the flat. The walk back up Steep Hill might be a little taxing.

Location: *The Greek Orthodox Church of St Basil the Great & St Paisios, 466B High Street, Lincoln LN5 8JB. Lat / Long: 53.216562, -0.545424. NGR SK972698*

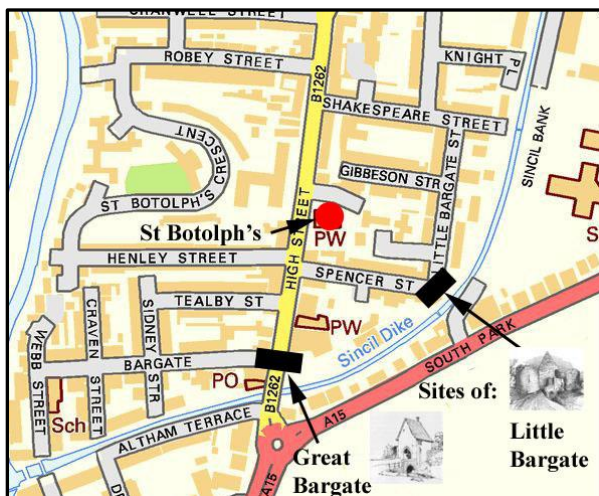
Priest: *Revd Presbyter Panagiotis-Fokas Sakellariou. Tel: 07824 456-805. E-mail: Fr.Panagiotis.Fokas@gmail.com*

Listed Grade: *II*

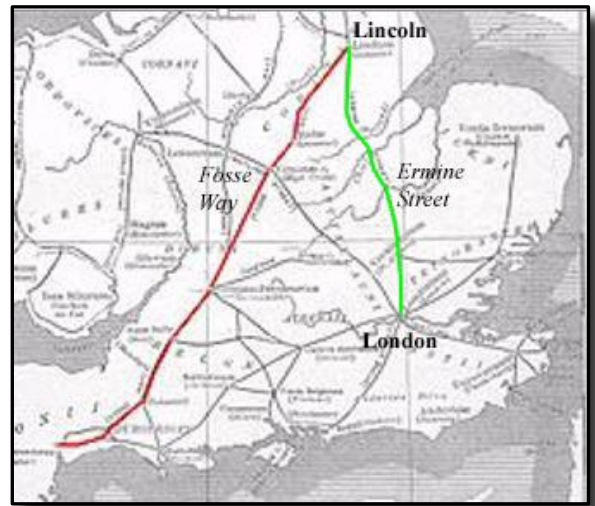
In April I wrote to Father Jeremy Cullimore, rector of St Botolph by Bargate, to make arrangements for the church to be unlocked so that I could photograph its interior.

“What good timing,” he replied. “Within a few months St Botolph by Bargate will be closed for Anglican worship and leased to the Greek Orthodox parish of St Basil the Great.”

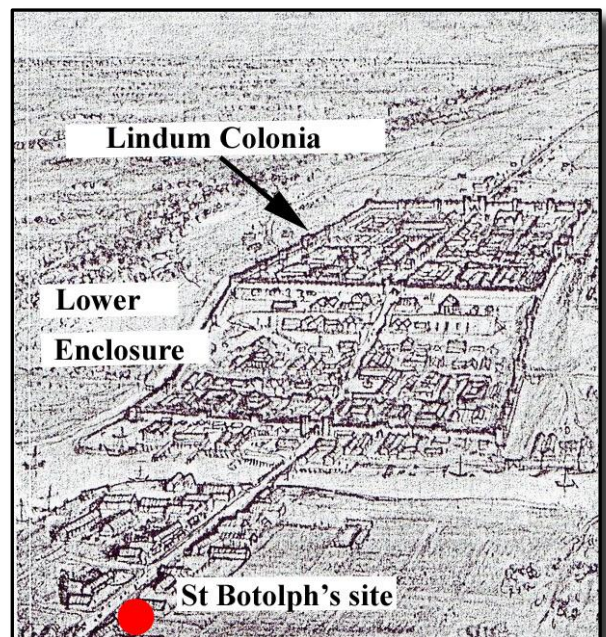
I was rather lost for words at first since I have ‘reported on’ many St Botolph Churches which have changed their dedications over the years but this is the first one where it has actually happened ‘on my watch’ so to speak. Nevertheless we must be grateful that the church is not going to be allowed to decay and crumble away like many of its sisters have done but will continue with a useful existence. Since I was there ‘before the event’ I crave your indulgence as I write about it in its previous form. Its proper title is not, you will note, St Botolph’s-by-Bargate since it contains neither the ‘apostrophe-s’ nor is it hyphenated.



St Botolph by Bargate is to be found in Lincoln's High Street and takes its name from the Great and Little Bargates which marked the entrance to the city. The High Street itself comes with a rich pedigree since it is, in fact, a blend of Fosse Way and Ermine Street.



Fosse Way is a remarkably straight route which connects Lincoln with the southwest and Ermine Street connects Lincoln with London. They meet virtually on the threshold of St Botolph's church. What better place to have a church dedicated to the Patron Saint of Wayfarers?



And yet Lincoln is not quite what it seems. We tend to have a view that the city is that part on top of the hill where the cathedral lies - and so it seems strange to discover that Lincoln's High Street is down on the flatlands on the opposite side of the River Witham. By definition 'Lincoln High Street runs from the south at the *St Catherine's* [remember this because we shall discuss it later] roundabout and ends 1.5 miles further north at The Strait which is in effect a continuation of the High Street.'

Above is a conjectural view (not mine) of how Roman Lincoln (Lindum) would have looked. As you can see, we have to regard it as being in three sections. The 'colonia' on the top of the hill with its fortifications; the 'apron' of the lower

enclosure, and then, across the other side of the River Witham, the town.



Again we must turn to computer relief mapping in order to appreciate the extent of the wide shallow rivers that made up much more of the Roman countryside than they do today . . . but we are here merely painting the scene . . . because by the time St Botolph by Bargate arrived the wide shallow rivers had long since silted up. We shall however refer back to the 'watery situation' later.



Much of the information I am about to share with you comes from a 'Statement of Significance' written under the auspices of Father Jeremy Cullimore.

The statement tells us that there is little doubt that the first church on this site was constructed in late C11 at the southern end of Lower Wigford market. There are references to its Botolphian dedication in both 1196 and 1203.

The cruciform church was of great importance and second only in size and status to the cathedral. It measured 123ft in East/West length; the North/West length of the transept was 73ft and the transept itself was 34ft wide; the width of each side aisle was 14ft and the tower was 22ft square. It was sited a little to the south of the present church.

By the time of the Reformation there were 52 churches in Lincoln but after a concentrated effort this number was reduced to fifteen. It is significant that St Botolph's survived this cull. In 1344 a chantry was added and at a similar time the Tilers' Guild of Corpus Christi took up residence, the tilery being nearby. Then came the Reformation and not only did the church itself survive this but there is no indication that it came under any pressure to adopt a 'Biblical Saint' to bolster its St Botolph patronage.

In 1644 during the Civil War Lincoln was besieged and, apart from the church being damaged, a much more serious effect was that lead was stolen from the roof in order to make musket shot. Two years later as a result of the weather's ingress the roof collapsed.

In 1721 the ruins were pulled down and a new building constructed consisting of a west tower, nave and chancel. Much of the rubble and ashlar from the old building material was re-cycled. In 1861 a vestry and north aisle were added. In 1878 the chancel was rebuilt and a south aisle and chapel annexed.



Fonts are precious items - particularly if regarded with a romantic eye - since they bear with them the history of hundreds of baptisms. This octagonal font would seem to date from the inception of the new church in 1721. There must have been a font in the early church and one wonders why this was not transferred across. Was there a passion for new things even in 1721? I cannot place the type of dark brown stone of which this item is made and if anybody has suggestions I would be pleased to hear from them.



A standard view down the nave to the chancel.



Some structures saved from the original church.



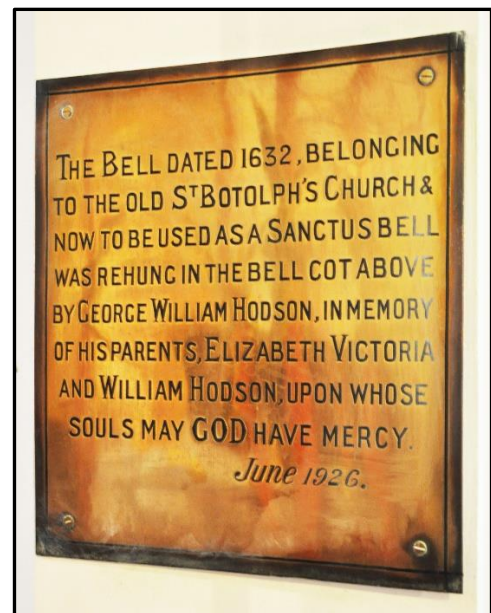
The Lady Chapel is at the end of the south aisle.



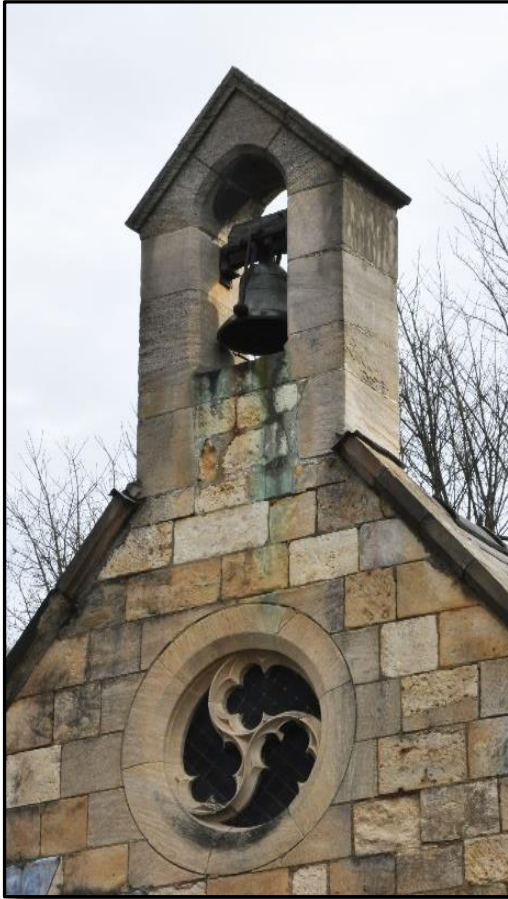
I am not sure where this old chap would have been in the first church but he seems quite bemused to find himself the lone survivor.



This picture is taken *across* the nave from the front of the south aisle looking past the organ console towards the north aisle. The organ pipes are visible on the north side of the chancel.



At least they used the old bell - and here it is . . .



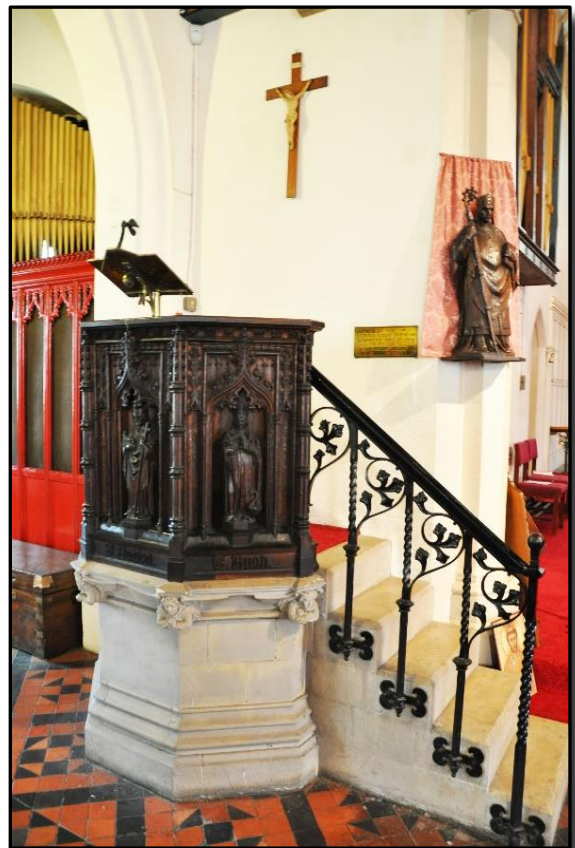
... in its bellcote.



For some reason I could not manage to remove the lid to see inside!



Looking through the Lady Chapel screen towards the chapel's southwest corner one can see here an unusual piscina.



In the British Listed Buildings report of 1953, the pulpit is recorded as dating from 1903 and being octagonal and constructed of stone. This beautifully-carved wooden replacement ...



... with its carving of St Botolph on one of the panels ...



... and the Rood suggests that in the late C20s the church had a benefactor who was a skilled woodworker. There are three other saints carved on the pulpit panels - namely St Catherine, St Paul and St Hugh - the latter having been Bishop of Lincoln from 1186 to 1200.



... together with a free-standing wooden St Botolph figurine nearby ...



If we take a closer look at St Hugh we will notice a swan at his left hand side. He formed a deep and lasting friendship with one such bird which was his constant companion at Lincoln, following him about and guarding him while he slept. It would eat from his hand and yet attack anyone else who came near. There is little doubt that St Hugh

would have had a close relationship with the first St Botolph's church at Bargate since between 1186 and 1200 both the bishop and the church were in their prime. Perhaps he visited it with his swan?



The theme of the carving of St Catherine of Alexandria on another of the pulpit's panels is repeated in the church's east window, the right hand side of which shows St Catherine with her symbol of the wheel. Her connection with this particular church is that the area is known as *St Catherine's* after St Catherine's Priory where Queen Eleanor's body was taken for embalming after her death near Lincoln in 1290. The Queen Eleanor Crosses which were erected by King Edward at places where her body had rested on its journey home to Westminster, are well known and the first was set at nearby Swine's Green opposite the gates of St Catherine's. What a lot of historic events St Botolph by Bargate has seen!



The south side of the sanctuary and chancel is elegantly constructed . . .



. . . with its C18 piscina . . .



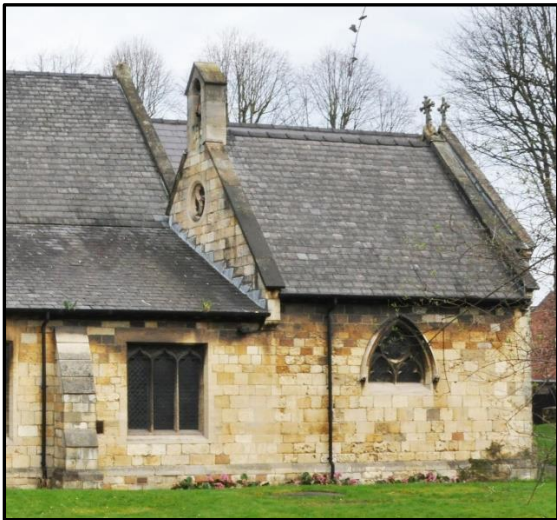
. . . and sedilia.



The reredos is both unusual and magnificent and already bears hints of the Greek Orthodox style with which this church will become associated.



The building is constructed of dressed stone and ashlar and has slate roofs. This view shows the 1721 tower and the 1884 south aisle.



It is unusual to see the addition of a taller chapel as a separate unit at the end of the aisle rather than the chapel simply being incorporated. The small window is unusual but practical as it saves internal wall space. It looks as if it might have been salvaged from the earlier church.



Other windows . . .



. . . showing decorative hood mould endstops.



And this is how St Botolph by Bargate finished its life - proudly announcing that Mass was held every Sunday at 11 a.m.



And now, as we leave this Botolph Church forever, passing from its sanctuary, looking up at the backs of Mary and John on each side of the

crucifix while we walk between the rows of the empty pews to the west door, we must spare a thought for the 800 years of parishioners who have worshipped here and whose faces are perhaps represented by these sculptured heads which will remain to decorate the outside of its walls as the new tenants take over.



We have to be thankful that the church will not fall into redundancy but will continue its life under the capable stewardship of the Greek Orthodox Church and, under its new dedication to Saint Basil the Great and St Paisos it will remain a member of the family of those churches which have at one time in their lives been dedicated to our saint.

The future of the St Botolph's congregation has not been neglected. It is hoped that the parishioners will continue their worship at the nearby church of St Peter at Gowts. This has already adopted parishioners from St Andrew's Church and so will henceforth bear the necessarily cumbersome name of *St Peter at Gowts with St Andrew, and St Botolph by Bargate*.

Classification? St Botolph by Bargate seems to fall quite snugly into the B(iii) category - a Traveller's Church founded after the Norman Conquest.

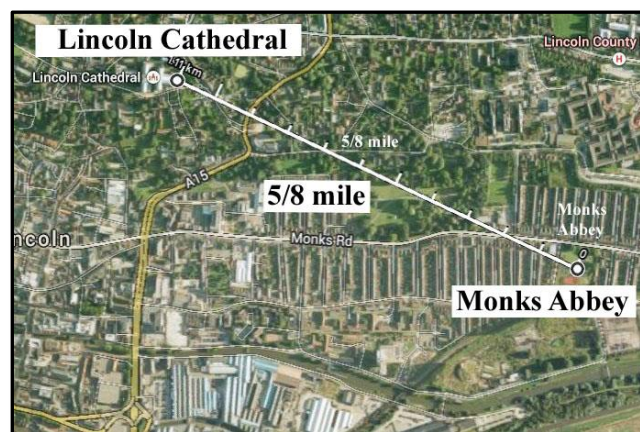
Thanks

My grateful thanks to Father Jeremy Cullimore for opening the church for us and showing us around and also for keeping me updated with news of the church's unfolding history.

A little something extra:

We are not quite finished with Lincoln yet since for many years Lincoln was one of the candidates for the location of St Botolph's abbey. The great traveller and antiquarian John Leyland (1503 - 1552) wrote in volume I of his *Itineraries*:

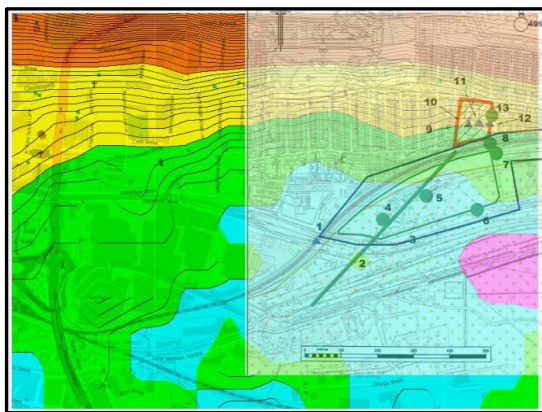
"Sum hold opinion That East of Lincoln were 2 Suburbs, one toward S. Beges, a late a Celle to S. Mari Abbay at York: The which Place I take to be Icanno, wher was a House of Monkes yn S.Botolphes Tyme, and of this spekith Bede, it is scant half a Mile from the Minster."



This is the site that Leland is talking about



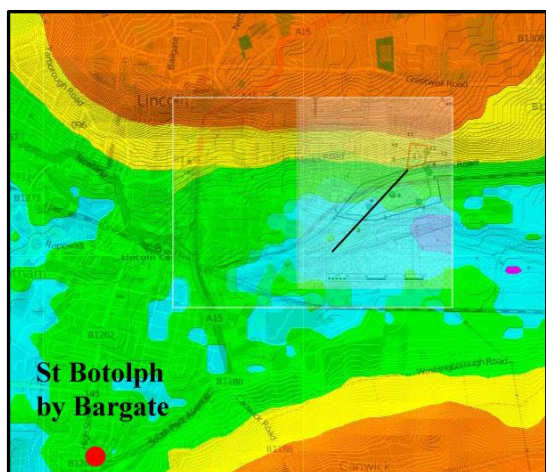
... and this is what it looks like.



In 1987 an archaeological report revealed the presence of a causeway leading across the River Witham. The report writes:

Research has shown that in C10 a substantial barrier was created across the narrow valley floor between the 5m contours 500m east of the walled city - there have been what are thought to be votive finds recovered from the vicinity . . . A monastic cell was founded . . . and it is suggested that its obscure origins may indicate an early church site. Furthermore it seems that the monastery owned a causeway called 'Stampcause.'

Above shows the researchers' diagram imposed on a relief map.



This shows the map extended to cover the opposite bank and is a conjectural view of how the topography would have looked up to C9. I am not attempting to draw any conclusions from this. The causeway points from Monks Abbey towards the St Botolph by Bargate site which, more relevantly perhaps, is also the site of the arrival at Lincoln of Fosse Way and Ermine Street.

Did the causeway stop after 500m? Was its purpose simply to lead to the centre of the already-silting channel so that provisions etc could be on or offloaded from boats?

Or did the causeway extend all the way across the marshy ground to the church/highway site? Most causeways lead at right angles to the shore. Why

did this one run obliquely if not to extend all the way across the river?

Either way Monks Abbey has now been discredited as a potential site for Icanho which most historians now agree was at Iken in Suffolk.

Correspondence

1. Betty West wrote from Harrington to say that when she attended her church's PCC meeting and presented the other members with last month's *Botolphian* (which contained the feature on Harrington church) all expressed their delight with it. The PCC are about to apply for a faculty to rehang the church bells and provide kitchen/toilet facilities in the tower. They requested copies of some of my pictures to support their application and of course I am very happy to do this.

2. Heather Flack wrote to say that she has now launched the third book in her Ironside trilogy - it is called *Margaret and Edgar* and is a story about how Ironside's children survived the Norman Conquest.

3. Colin Potter wrote from Pembrokeshire (where, you might remember there is / was a maverick St Botolph's chapel) alerting me to the following article that he spotted in the Western Telegraph:

"THE discovery of a box of photographs have prompted a search for information by one family. St Botolphs in Milford Haven has sat empty for several years, on land near the former Murco refinery site. Now derelict, the Grade II-listed mansion was run as a hotel in the 1970s, before being split up into flats. Sheila McKnight, who lives in Merseyside, is looking to find out more about the building's past, after discovering family photographs taken there.

The pictures, found in an old 'memory tin' show her husband's grandmother and great-great grandmother standing outside. "My husband can remember his grandmother talking about it," said Sheila. "We travelled to Milford Haven last year and found the property, which has just been left "It's a crying shame when you see what it was."

Sheila is looking for more pictures of the building, and any pieces of information about her family connection. "We want to piece together why they were there," she said. "It seems to be a part of our family history."

Sheila also discovered an 1880 marriage certificate, and says Francis Beaumont - later Brown - may also help jog someone's memory.

If you know anything about St Botolphs, or have links with the Browns or Beaumonts of Milford Haven, email: jsa@westerntelegraph.co.uk."

Graham Jones was the first to spot the exist of this St Botolph link and it was with his help and that of Colin Potter (who lives in the area) and of Justin

Scale who owns the land, that I was able to piece the connections together and include them in *The Botolphians* of December 2015 and January 2016.

In short, the mansion was built on the foundations of an old chapel dedicated to a Welsh saint who rejoiced in the name of St Buttock. It seems however that Catherine Barlow, the lady owner of the land, did not much care for that name so she changed it to the more genteel-sounding St Botolph's. The family had close associations with London and my guess is that this influenced her choice. And that is the bottom line.

REGULAR END-NOTES

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 said to be a contraction of '*Botolph's Town*.'

Classification of Botolph Church sites:-

- A: **C7 church sites** relevant to Botolph's life.
(i) Founded by radiation from Botolph centres.
(ii) Founded along the course of Botolph's journeys.
- B: **Travellers' churches.**
(i) Founded before AD 800
(ii) Founded between 800 and 1066
(iii) Founded after the Norman Conquest.
- C: **Hanseatic churches** founded as a result of commercial enterprise.
- D: None of the above.

Typical Characteristics of Early St Botolph Churches.

1. Nearly all are in the eastern half of England
2. Most have Saxon foundations.
3. Many lie with 3 miles of a Roman road or well-used waterway.
4. Most are situated close to the bottom of an escarpment but well clear of water levels.
5. Many are strategically placed in areas which represent the beginnings, middles and ends of long journeys.

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