# CHURCH NEWSLETTER JUNE 2017



### Church of St. Peter & St. Paul King's Sutton

Contacts:

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|----------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
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Last month we had the opportunity to elect to the District and County Councils, and on the 8<sup>th</sup> June there is the General Election. Needless to say,

I would not dream of suggesting how you might vote!! But I do encourage you to do so. The right to vote was hard won and our parliamentary democracy is built on it. Each and every one of us being 18 or over (leaving aside the Members of the House of Lords) has a right, and, I think, a duty to vote.

Elections are times when we might ponder more about what kind of society we want, and what kind of influence we see our country having in the wider world.



The Church certainly has a vision that has been

very influential in the creation of the society in which we live. It is built up around the Jewish-Christian notion that we should love God and one another – loving our neighbour as ourselves. At a personal level we should be living life with consideration and kindness, bringing joy rather than pain, tolerance (but not of evil), respecting others whatever their situation.

Of course, these are things which play out on a wider field too. We work for a society which is fair and just, in which the "poor" are treated with compassion, the sick are cared for, our children, and indeed all of us, find opportunities for

education, for enjoying the things which bring delight and happiness. People need work and leisure. We need a society in which the criminal can find a positive way forward and, therefore, prisons that work. We need to care for the disabled and the elderly, recognizing the ultimate value of every person. But we also need to create wealth so that all these common goods can be afforded.

I see these things too on an international scale: peace, justice, development which is sustainable for all, helping peoples to find freedom, to care for the planet, to ensure the rights and responsibilities of all.

One of the extraordinary things about the world – and it is not at all new – but becomes more extraordinary with modern communications and ease of travel, is the lack of mutual understanding between nations. Problems can be solved through conversation, a willingness to compromise and to find ways of living together, which is what we have learnt to do in Europe through the European Union – with all its faults, and this is something we need to encourage in the wider world.

There are, of course, competing visions for our world and for our own society. These are the things we debate and discuss, things we make decisions about when we vote and I suppose, even we don't.

And a final word, prayer: in our parish cycle we pray for parish, district and county councillors on the 17<sup>th</sup> and our MP on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

Fr Roger

#### **Celebration of Light**

Since the last newsletter, the floodlighting has been sponsored to remember:

- April 30<sup>th</sup> Peter Heafield
- June 30<sup>th</sup> Margaret Nutt
- June 30<sup>th</sup> Josie Marsden

If you would like to sponsor the floodlights of the church to remember an anniversary or other significant event in your family, please either contact Stephen Allday (811473) or take a form from the ledge just inside the church.

#### CONFIRMATION

On 4<sup>th</sup> June 2017 we welcome Bishop Norman Banks, Bishop of Richborough to the parish to lead a service of Confirmation at 11.00 am in the Parish Church. This Confirmation will be part of the morning Mass service and will be an opportunity for everyone to witness the confirmation and also to meet Bishop Norman afterwards.



King's Sutton is one of many parishes that Bishop Norman has oversight of and has always supported Father Roger over the years, and more especially so now as Father Roger undergoes his latest challenge. His addresses are always very informative and good humoured, so do come along, support the confirmation candidates and meet with Bishop Norman.

#### ORDINATIONS

Two members of our congregation have been training to be priests. They are both to be made Deacons on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Shahriar and Adam will travel to Blackburn and Lichfield Cathedrals respectively, so if you can, please pray for them and the parishes in which they will serve.



#### NEW VESTMENT – presented to Fr. Roger for his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday



I thought it might be helpful to write something about the new vestment. It was made to my design by Croft Design Associates of Much Wenlock in Shropshire.

It is white which is the colour that we wear for festivals - Christmas, Easter, and Saints who were not martyrs – and for these the design is specifically for King's Sutton.

The front is plain and the "design" is on the back. This is because here, on the whole, we face east the whole people of God turning to the east, the place of the altar and beyond the rising sun, symbolic of the Risen Christ and the new life He

brings. Christ among us but reaching out to the transcendence of God.

The back has a cross shape design with the Crown of Thorns at the centre reminding us that the Cross is at the heart of our faith. Around this the arms have symbols of saints and you will notice that these copy other symbols in the church. At the top the 'MR' for the Blessed Virgin: this is on a roof boss in the Lady Chapel and on the High Altar Reredos – 'Maria Regina' – 'Mary Queen' (Queen of heaven is a long standing title for the Virgin). Then we have 'R' for S Rumbold, born here in 662 and his life telling of the importance of Baptism. This is also on a boss in the south aisle. To the left S Thomas Becket, who might

have prayed here in 1160 and to whom the north aisle chapel is dedicated. The birds, Cornish choughs, were his symbol and they also appear in the roof and on John Child's altar frontal in that chapel.

Finally, SS Peter and Paul: keys and sword. These also appear on the High Altar Reredos and by the High Altar as part of the Ball Statues. I plan to wear this



for some major festivals including those of Our Lady, Peter and Paul, Rumbold and All Saints. When I leave, most of my personal vestments will stay with the church. So in future this will be a reminder of me (you might want to forget me, but I hope not!) as well as of the lives of saints whose lives, like ours, are centred on Christ.

May I say a big 'thank you' to all of you who have given this to me. Fr Roger

#### **Corpus Christi and the Sacred Heart**

These two feasts come on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday, and then the following Friday - 15<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> June this year.

#### The Sacred Heart

"You only see properly with your heart", says the Little Prince in the book by Antoine de Saint-Exupery. This underlines the idea that our senses and emotions are as important to us as our minds. We need to be balanced people but love, of both heart and mind, is the vital part of being human. A 13<sup>th</sup> century monk, S Richard of St Victor wrote, "Love is the eye and to love is to see." (Amor oculus est et amare videre est.)

When Jesus died on the cross, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear and at once blood and water came out. (John 19.34) This has always been interpreted as representing the sacraments of Eucharist and Baptism, drawing out from the pierced heart of Jesus.

At the beginning of John's Gospel, John speaks of the Son of God 'who is close to the Father's heart' who has made him known. And there is a parallel with the beloved disciple (probably John himself) who is close to Jesus' heart at the Last Supper and who stands below the dying Christ together with Mary.

The Sacred Heart then, is a devotion to the heart of Jesus. It is a reminder that the mercy of God, his compassion and love, are at the very heart (forgive the pun!) of the nature of God. And if we meditate on God's mercy, then it should drive us ourselves to be more merciful and compassionate. It is when our eyes are opened by love that we can see what things most need our attention.

The Feast of the Sacred Heart comes this year on June 23rd - it is the second Friday after Trinity Sunday, and I hope to be well enough to celebrate Mass that day at 12 noon.

Fr. Roger

"Elections belong to the people. It's their decision. If they decide to turn their back on the fire and burn their behinds, then they will just have to sit on their blisters."

Abraham Lincoln

#### **Children and families**

**PARENT AND TODDLER WORSHIP** is at 9.30am every Friday **during term time**. We are in church for a short simple service and then play and chat in the Church Room.

**FAMILY SERVICE:** this is normally held in the chancel of the church in the choir stalls. This month the service will be held on June 25<sup>th</sup> at 10.00 am.



#### Services at Newbottle in June at 9.30am:

June4thJune11thJune18th

June

4<sup>th</sup> Day of Pentecost
11<sup>th</sup> Trinity Sunday
18<sup>th</sup> Trinity 1
25<sup>th</sup> Trinity 2

Sung Eucharist Matins Sung Eucharist Matins

The Catholic Congregation meets for Mass at 9am each Sunday in the Parish Church. Fr James Evans is the parish priest: 01295 660592 www.sacredheart.btck.co.uk

## Calendar of Services for June 2017 If in any doubt please ring 01295 810967.

| Thurs | 1  | <i>S Justin:</i> Vespers 5.30pm                               |  |
|-------|----|---|--|
| Fri   | 2  | Mass 12 noon; The Rosary – Mysteries of Light 6pm             |  |
| Sat   | 3  | MM of Uganda: Mass 10am                                       |  |
| Sun   | 4  | Day of Pentecost: Sung Mass & Confirmation 11am; Evensong 6pm |  |
| Mon   | 5  | S Boniface  |  |
| Tues  | 6  | MM of Melanesia: Mass 9.30am                                  |  |
| Weds  | 7  |   |  |
| Thurs | 8  | Thomas Ken  |  |
| Fri   | 9  | S Columba: Parent & Toddlers' Worship 9.30am                  |  |
| Sat   | 10 |   |  |
| Sun   | 11 | Trinity Sunday: Mass 8am; Sung Mass 11am;                     |  |
|       |    | Evensong for S Barnabas 6pm                                   |  |
| Mon   | 12 |   |  |
| Tues  | 13 | Mass 9.30am   |  |
| Weds  | 14 | Eve of Corpus Christi: Mass 7pm                               |  |
| Thurs | 15 | Corpus Christi  |  |
| Fri   | 16 | Richard of Chichester: Parent & Toddlers' Worship 9.30am;     |  |
|       |    | Mass 12 noon  |  |
| Sat   | 17 |   |  |
| Sun   | 18 | Trinity 1:Sung Mass 11am; Evensong 6pm                        |  |
| Mon   | 19 |   |  |
| Tues  | 20 | Mass 9.30am   |  |
| Weds  | 21 |   |  |
| Thurs | 22 | S Alban   |  |
| Fri   | 23 | S Etheldreda and The Sacred Heart: Parent & Toddlers' Worship |  |
|       |    | 9.30am  |  |
| Sat   | 24 | Nativity of John the Baptist: Mass SOLW 10am                  |  |
| Sun   | 25 | Trinity 2: Mass 8am; Family Worship 10am; Sung Mass 11am;     |  |
|       |    | Evensong 6pm  |  |
| Mon   | 26 |   |  |
| Tues  | 27 | S Cyril: Mass 9.30am  |  |
| Weds  | 28 | S Irenaeus  |  |
| Thurs | 29 | SS Peter & Paul: Sung Mass 7.30pm                             |  |
| Fri   | 30 | Parent & Toddlers' Worship 9.30am                             |  |