

PARISH CHURCH NEWSLETTER

May 2019

*A message from our new vicar,
Fr. Matthew Robinson*



Together with my family, I send my warmest wishes to you. It's a great privilege to be invited to become your new parish priest, and my family and I are excited at the prospect of moving to the Benefice and making our home in King's Sutton. We have a strong sense of God's call, and are looking forward to meeting you. I look forward to serving the parish and working with you to bear witness to the faith.

At present we live in Kent where I am the Assistant Curate in the parish of St John the Baptist, Sevenoaks and a safeguarding trainer for the Diocese of Rochester. However, I was born and brought up in Northamptonshire and am an enthusiastic supporter of the county cricket team. I am married to Caroline, who hails from Warwickshire. She is an early years teacher. We have a daughter, Felicity, who is 7 years old.

I studied for the priesthood at St Stephen's House in Oxford. Prior to my ordination I practised law at the Bar for 18 years. In my spare time I am an avid reader and a keen walker.

Please pray for us as we prepare to move, and do be assured of our prayers for you.

Fr. Matthew



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 12th - 18th May

With your copy of this Newsletter there will be a Christian Aid envelope. (If you are reading this on the website and don't have a hard copy, then there will be spare envelopes in church.) Please return envelopes to these addresses:

2 Marlborough Close
26 Glebe Rise – or bring to any service at church.

Across Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America and the Caribbean, Christian Aid works with local partners to bring lasting change for people living in poverty, regardless of their faith, gender or race. The money raised during Christian Aid week helps fund vital work to transform the lives of people around the world.

Christian Aid Week 2019: 'All mums should live'

Sierra Leone is the world's most dangerous place to become a mum. Every day 10 women die from giving birth. In Sawula district, the community struggle with a clinic which has no electricity and only two delivery beds.

Jebbeh is heavily pregnant but as her baby grows, it's not joy that fills her heart, but fear. When Jebbeh's sister Fatmata went in to labour, there were so few ambulances that Fatmata had no choice but to walk for three hours under the baking sun, to the nearest hospital. The journey was long and Fatmata struggled to keep walking. Jebbeh told us: 'My sister was crying out with hunger. She died on the side of the road. She never gave birth.'



This Christian Aid Week, together, through gifts and prayers, we can help give the world's poorest mothers a chance to live.

If our church raised £300, it could help provide a new delivery bed so that more mothers like Jebbeh can deliver their babies safely.

Jebbeh is heavily pregnant. 'I'm afraid. I pray, when that day comes, God will help me to deliver safely, so that I can have a bouncing baby and I'll be healthy.'
(With the help of a community nurse funded by Christian Aid, Jebbeh has given birth to a healthy boy).

From the Registers

Weddings / Wedding blessings:

March 30th Alexandra Elizabeth Sherry and Matthew James Johnson
April 6th Rebecca Jade French and Daniel James Harrison

Funerals:

April 12th Donald William Tustain

Celebration of light

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

March 31st Joy McCarthy

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.

They came – and dined with us in March.



A delicious two-course meal was served in the Memorial Hall – with a choice of a chicken dish, or a beef casserole followed by either trifle or apple pie. Coffee, a raffle and entertainment followed....



The true meaning of Easter



We tend to make more of Christmas in the church's year – and in society at large – than we do of Easter, but in fact Easter is the more important festival. It is at the core of the Christian faith, that Jesus was crucified, died on a cross and then rose again to new life. It is at the climax of the Christian year and demands our full attention.

I was recently in Israel staying with Jewish friends and hearing about preparations for the Passover. This is a family time, rather like our Christmas. There is much feasting and celebration of God's release of the Hebrew slaves from Egypt at the time of the Exodus. Of course, it was the Passover meal that Jesus was celebrating at his last meal – the last supper. As is Jewish custom at Passover, Jesus took unleavened bread and broke it. But he gave it a special meaning – 'this bread is my body; this wine is my blood' – in order to convey the events that were to come of his death, his offering of himself as a sacrifice for sin and to stress the importance of these actions for remembrance of him in the future.

Like Christmas, Easter has become commercialized nowadays – eggs and bunnies grace the supermarket shelves and we are all encouraged to feast on chocolate on the big day. But Easter is about so much more than chocolate! The feasting on Easter day is a tradition that grew up to celebrate the end of over a month's fasting in Lent (a tradition that few observe seriously these days). After the dark days of the end of Lent, particularly Good Friday, on which day traditionally no meat, only fish (and hot cross buns) was eaten, on which the ordeal of Christ's passion, the brutality of the crucifixion and Jesus's pain and torment is remembered ('My god, my god, why hast thou forsaken me?' he cries from the cross, citing Psalm 22:1), the relief of Easter is felt.

On Easter Saturday Jesus is symbolically still in the tomb, but on Easter Sunday morning the first women at the tomb witnessed to the fact that Jesus had risen from the dead. On that first Easter day, Mary Magdalen met Jesus face to face, mistaking him for a gardener. This was Jesus transformed, the only man to have ever conquered death, pointing the way to the promise of new life after death. That is the wonder of resurrection – death is no longer the end, rather the promise of new life beckons. New life is also represented in baby rabbits, or young chicks, or in the blossom of the trees, or fresh spring flowers. Easter is often celebrated with a leg of lamb, new potatoes, and simnel cake, as well as with chocolate eggs and bunnies. But it is barely adequate to express the enormity of the events celebrated at this festival – Christ is risen, Christ has saved us from our sins, Christ has conquered death and promised new life. As has been pronounced in churches up and down the land – and in our churches in King’s Sutton - *Christ is risen; He is risen indeed, Alleluia!*

Katharine Hamilton-Dell



NEWS IN BRIEF

Art Weeks: 18th – 26th May 11.30-6.00pm daily, with late opening Thursday till 8pm. Sundays 12.30 – 5.30pm.

A variety of painting styles will be found in the Church. All decorative and affordable. Some more traditional than others. Through the week there will always be some artists present. There is a lovely atmosphere and delicious cakes and tea/coffee in aid of church funds. There are other artists exhibiting nearby. Three of our artists are also showing at www.churchlanegallery.com in Banbury during Artweeks. There will be live music at the weekends and on our Thursday late opening.

Website: <https://allthekingsartists.weebly.com>

Come and join us

ASCENSION DAY



Detail from the top right hand side of the East window in church, depicting the Ascension, and Christ's appearance to the disciples.

This day in the church calendar is when we remember the day of our Lord's ascension into heaven. There will be a Sung Mass in the Parish Church at **7.30pm** on **Thursday May 30th**.

Ascension Day is celebrated 40 days after Easter, because, for forty days after his resurrection on Easter Sunday, the Bible relates that Jesus travelled and preached with his apostles, preparing them for his departure. It marks the moment Jesus ascended into heaven to the great astonishment of his disciples, at the village of Bethany, near Jerusalem. The Acts of the Apostles provides the longest account of Christ's farewell to his disciples. (Acts 1: 1 – 14).

The tradition persists in some sections of Europe, where, preceded by candles and cross, the faithful walk with prayer and song through fields and pastures, and the priest blesses each lot of ground. In the UK, the tradition of 'Beating the bounds' still occurs in several cities. In former times when maps were rare, it was knowledge of the limits of each

parish which needed to be handed down, so that such matters as liability to contribute to the repair of the church, and the right to be buried within the churchyard were not disputed. The priest of the parish with the wardens and the parochial officials headed a crowd of boys who, armed with green boughs, usually birch or willow, beat the parish boundary markers with them. The object of taking boys along is supposed to have ensured that witnesses to the boundaries should survive as long as possible! Priests would pray for its protection in the forthcoming year.

The ceremony had an important practical purpose. Checking the boundaries was a way of preventing encroachment by neighbours; sometimes boundary markers would be moved, or lines obscured, and a folk memory of the true extent of the parish was necessary to maintain integrity of borders by embedding the knowledge in oral traditions.

To think about.....

“Several times I have danced in hiking boots on the top of a Scottish hill on a misty Easter morning and seen the assembled company gasp as the mist parted and the sun shone through. In the northern hemisphere, resurrection day coincides with the new life of nature after the darkness of winter. But wherever you are, it is a symbolic reminder of resurrection bringing light and hope into the darkest areas of life.”

(Olive M. Fleming Drane in 'Spirituality to Go')

Children and families

FAMILY WORSHIP: takes place this month on Sunday 26th at 10am.



Parent and Toddler Church Group meets every Friday during term time at 9.30am in the church and afterwards in the church room for coffee. All are welcome.

Services at Newbottle: Contact David Morgan (811404 for confirmation)

May	5 th	Easter 3	Sung Eucharist	9.30 am
May	12 th	Easter 4	Matins	9.30 am
May	19 th	Easter 5	Sung Eucharist	9.30 am
May	26 th	Easter 6	Matins	9.30 am
May	30 th	Ascension Day	Communion	10 am

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

Proposed Calendar of Services for May 2019

Please check with notice board in church or contact the Warden

Weds	1	
Thurs	2	
Fri	3	Parent & Toddlers' Worship 9.30am
Sat	4	
Sun	5	Easter 3: Sung Mass 11am; Evensong 6pm
Mon	6	
Tues	7	Mass 9.30am
Weds	8	
Thurs	9	
Fri	10	Parent & Toddlers' Worship 9.30am
Sat	11	
Sun	12	Easter 4: Mass 8am; Sung Mass and Baptism 11am; Baptism 2pm; Evensong 6pm
Mon	13	
Tues	14	<i>S Matthias:</i> Mass 9.30am
Weds	15	
Thurs	16	
Fri	17	Parent & Toddlers' Worship 9.30am
Sat	18	
Sun	19	Easter 5: Sung Mass 11am; Christian Aid service 6pm
Mon	20	
Tues	21	Mass 9.30am
Weds	22	
Thurs	23	
Fri	24	<i>John & Charles Wesley:</i> Parent & Toddlers' Worship 9.30am
Sat	25	
Sun	26	Easter 6: Mass 8am; Family Worship 10am; Sung Mass 11am; Evensong 6pm
Mon	27	
Tues	28	Mass 9.30am
Weds	29	
Thurs	30	Ascension Day: Sung Mass 7.30pm
Fri	31	

Contact:	Churchwarden Dee Thobourne - 811961
Website:	http://kingssuttonchurch.weebly.com