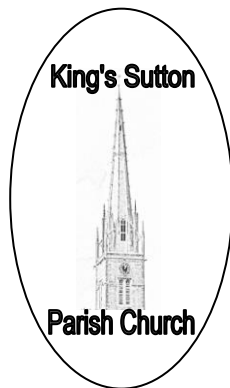


CHURCH NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2014



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

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The Christian world celebrates the birth of a boy in Bethlehem over two thousand years ago. Indeed we number our years from his birth. He lived a simple life, mainly in a remote village in an unimportant part of the Roman Empire. He worked as a carpenter and then spent three years of nomadic ministry: teaching people about God and talking with people about how they might have lives full of joy and peace. He had devoted followers but also earned the hatred of religious leaders, and at the age of about 33 was put to death by crucifixion under the Roman Governor, Pontius Pilate. That was a Friday. On the following Sunday some women among his followers found his tomb to be empty, and they, together with the apostles, encountered him alive. He had not merely returned to life, as if his death had not happened, but he was resurrected: it was a new kind of life.

So at Christmas we are not celebrating a long gone hero, but a living Saviour. The early Christians pondered hard on who this man really was. They used the Hebrew Scriptures and their own experience of the Risen Lord, and so came to believe that Jesus was the Messiah, the Anointed One, who was not only a man, born of Mary, but also the eternal Word of God, made a man. (Incarnate is the technical term.) So New Testament writers speak of him as “the image of the invisible God, in him all the fullness of God was pleased to

dwell.” (*Colossians 1.15 and 19*). God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself. (*2 Corinthians 5.19*) S John in the opening chapter of his Gospel says: “In the beginning was the Word and the Word was God. All things came into being through him... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us and we have seen his glory.” (*John 1.1, 3 and 14*) S Paul describes the Christian community as “the body of Christ” (*1 Corinthians 12.27*) and in Colossians “he is the head of the church” (*1.18*)

This truth about Jesus Christ is often revealed in the works of great artists. We see his mother caring for him with lowly devotion. We see shepherds and wise men kneeling before him. Not because he is a baby and they need to get to his level, as it were, but kneeling in adoration. The shepherds were told that the child they would find was the Saviour and so they tell everyone they see and return to their sheep glorifying and praising God. The wise men come to offer worship and the gifts they bring show what kind of child this is: gold for a king, incense for worship, myrrh for his sacrificial death.

There are many opportunities to join in worship at Christmas. Details below - we shall be delighted to see you.

This birth was to the people of his time a Gospel - good tidings bringing great joy – and he remains so for us today. As you read this it will still be early December, but I pray that you will all have a blessed and happy Christmas.

Fr. Roger

Christmas Services

<i>Sunday 21st December</i>	<i>3.30pm</i>	<i>Tree & Crib Service</i>
<i>Monday 22nd December</i>	<i>7pm</i>	<i>Service of 9 Lessons & Carols</i>
<i>Wednesday 24th December</i>	<i>11.30pm</i>	<i>First Mass of Christmas</i>
<i>Thursday 25th December</i>	<i>11am</i>	<i>Sung Mass for everyone</i>

From the Registers:

Baptisms

November 1st Siena Amelie Moggridge
November 1st Harrison Paul Chew

Celebration of Light The floodlighting has been sponsored to remember:

November 11 th	Irene Mitchell; Joyce Townsend
November 16 th	Clive Ward
November 17 th	Gwyneth Wood
November 17 th - 22 nd	Isabelle Deards' six grandchildren
November 22 nd	Carole Hawkins
December 16 th	Roger Stillman
December 23 rd	R. F. d'Erlanger
December 25 th	Nick Nice



During Advent Fr. Roger will be running a House Group at 7.45pm on Wednesdays 3rd, 10th and 17th December.

These informal discussion groups will take place at 22 Sandringham Road. The theme of the meetings will be 'O Come all you faithful' – which will reflect on themes of Faith, Hope and Love.

'La Nativité du Seigneur' (The birth of the Lord) is the title of the last in a series of talks that Fr. Roger has been giving during the Autumn. It will be about the music of Olivier Messiaen, the 20th century composer who wrote a series of meditations on the theme of Christmas. The talk will explore the theology behind the music, and recordings of the music will be played. This will be on Tuesday, December 2nd at 7.30pm in the Church Room.



Children and families



Our activities for children and families continue: if you haven't given them a try, come along and you will be most welcome.

APPLE SERVICE PLUS!

This will take place on December 6th starting at 3pm. It is a service for everyone – old and young alike. Do come and hear about Adam and Eve and how the Angel came to Mary. We will need to make an apple, a serpent, a sword, a rose and a bird!!

The event will be in three parts:

- Learning a song, seeing some pictures and doing some craft;
- A service with the placing of lighted candles on apples in a spiral on the church floor;
- Tea and cakes in the church room.

SUNDAY SCHOOL will be held on Sunday December 14th at 11am.

PARENT AND TODDLER WORSHIP December 5th and 19th at 9.30am in church for a short simple service and then play and chat in the Church Room.

KING'S KIDS made a wonderful Advent Calendar, and there is a tremendous picture of Jesus stilling the storm in the children's corner in church – on the north side, left as you are facing the altar. There are also books there for children to look at.

FAMILY WORSHIP: This month will be on a Sunday afternoon, when we will be holding a Tree and Crib Service at 3.30pm on Sunday 21st December.

ADVANCE NOTICE: A CHRISTINGLE SERVICE WILL BE HELD ON JANUARY 4TH.
We celebrate the Light of Christ revealed to the Wise Men.

Finally! Everyone is welcome at all services.

Fr. Roger



An Advent Calendar with a difference!

(extracts from: 'Do nothing, Christmas is coming' – Bishop Stephen Cottrell)

People who know about computers tell me that they need to be defragged on a regular basis. I don't really know what 'defragged' means – I am to computer technology what King Herod was to child-minding – but it is something to do with reversing the fragmentation that takes place when computers store different bits of a document in different places on the hard drive. Every time the file is accessed the computer has to search the hard drive to gather all the pieces together. This causes computers to slow down and crash. It's a bit like cutting up a written document and storing different bits of it in different drawers in the filing cabinet, and then having to search through the whole thing to piece it back together every time you want to retrieve the document.

Defragging the computer prevents this problem by rearranging the broken up parts of a file and putting them close together on the hard drive, thus increasing the speed and performance. Once you've finished defragging you can reboot and start afresh.

What's all this got to do with Christmas, I hear you say? Well, life needs defragmenting. Life needs rebooting. And Christmas is the time when you are most likely to notice the problem. There are so many programmes running at once. So many plates spinning. The different bits of our life pull in different and conflicting directions. We are running up the down escalator of the 24/7 culture and can't help feeling that there must be another way.

Christmas is one of the most joyful times of the year. It is also one of the most stressful. It can easily be the time of year when all the conflicting demands and expectations that we experience every day in our dispersed and fragmented lives seem at their worst. It might be the season of good will, but it feels like the last straw on an already overburdened camel. Wise men would not ride this one.

There must be an up escalator – another way of inhabiting the world where the fragments of our lives are gathered together and we live in a more holistic way. There must be another way of celebrating Christmas, where its joys and promises can help put life back together.

Some suggestions from the book, as an Advent Calendar:

1	Write a Christmas wish list: not things you want to consume or purchase, but things to believe in, things to hope for.
2	Do you know anyone who might be alone this Christmas?
3	Buy what you need.
4	Take yourself less seriously.
5	Instead of spending a fortune at the shops, make everyone a jar of marmalade or pickle some onions.
6	Bring back mealtimes! Start a new regime where dinner is on the table at a certain time and you all sit together.
7	Listen to a piece of music, or read a poem, or just dare to be silent.
8	Try to spend a few moments each day thinking and praying for your family.
9	Do I know my next door neighbour's name?
10	Say thank you.
11	Make the most of the time you have now – after all, it is the only time you possess with any certainty.
12	Take some child-like delight in what is happening around you today.
13	Prepare for the feast with the simplicity of the fast.
14	Treat yourself to a few minutes of stillness today.
15	Say hello to the people you pass in the street, smile a bit more.
16	When it comes to generosity and kindness, you will reap what you sow.
17	Say sorry a bit more.
18	Get out the mistletoe. Who do you want to kiss?
19	Receive the Christmas story as a child.
20	Plan some things to do together with your family.
21	Look again at what your heart longs for and what it believes.
22	What things bring you the greatest joy?
23	The feast is sweeter when it follows the fast.
24	Be still. Get inside the Christmas story. Sit down. Make yourself smaller. In your imagination go to Bethlehem. Bend beneath the lintel of the door of the stable and come in.
25	Raise your glass and drink a toast to the God of Christmas who visits you today.



The last 'Sounds Good' concert for the year is detailed below – look out for more next year!

King's Sutton Parish Church

Sing-a-long for Christmas!

Come and get in the festive spirit

with

Bill Tustain at the keyboard etc.,

The Larks (Community Singers)

&

Hilary Fryer (solos)

*Rudolph, Silent Night, Jingle Bells and
many more of your favourites.*

Sunday 14th December

3pm

Entry Free, Donations invited

Calendar of Services for December 2014

Mon	1	
Tues	2	<i>S Andrew (transferred from 30.11.):</i> Mass 9.30am
Weds	3	<i>S Francis Xavier:</i> Mass 7pm
Thurs	4	<i>S John of Damascus:</i> Carrdus School Carol Service 6pm
Fri	5	Parent & Toddlers' Worship 9.30am; Mass 12 noon
Sat	6	<i>S Nicholas:</i> Mass 10am
Sun	7	Advent 2: Mass 8am; Sung Mass 11am; Baptism 2.15pm; Evensong 6pm
Mon	8	
Tues	9	<i>Conception of the BVM (tr. from 8th):</i> Mass 9.30am
Weds	10	Mass 7pm
Thurs	11	District Schools' Carol Service 6.30pm
Fri	12	Mass 12 noon
Sat	13	<i>S Lucy:</i> Mass 10am
Sun	14	Advent 3: Mass 8am; Sung Mass 11am; Evensong 6pm
Mon	15	
Tues	16	Mass 9.30am
Weds	17	Mass 7pm
Thurs	18	
Fri	19	King's Sutton Primary Academy Service 11am
Sat	20	Mass 10am SOLW
Sun	21	Advent 4: Mass 8am; Sung Mass 11am; Crib & Tree Service 3.30pm
Mon	22	Service of 9 Lessons & carols: 7pm
Tues	23	Mass 9.30am
Weds	24	Christmas Eve: First Mass of Christmas 11.30pm
Thurs	25	Christmas Day: Sung Mass for everyone 11am
Fri	26	<i>S Stephen:</i> Mass 12 noon
Sat	27	<i>S John the Evangelist:</i> Mass 10am
Sun	28	The Holy Innocents: Mass 8am; Sung Mass 11am;
Mon	29	
Tues	30	<i>S Thomas Becket (tr. from 29th):</i> Mass 9.30am
Weds	31	<i>S Sylvester/ Eve of the Naming of Jesus:</i> Mass 7pm

Please check with the latest Sword & Keys for updates on these services.