

**CHURCH
NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 2016**



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

Contacts:

Vicar: Fr. Roger

Churchwardens: Peter Allen 810967
Dee Thobourne 811961

Website <http://kingsuttonchurch.weebly.com>



Before all else, there was God, the Holy Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In Greece for many centuries, at a wedding, two or three dancers have begun a circle dance. At first it is slow and then the tempo increases, and at the climax the dancers are in such a blur to the observer that they seem like one. Someone watching this thought that is actually an image of God, the Trinity. The word 'perichoresis' (which means to dance around) became a theological word to describe as a kind of metaphor for the activity of God. Fundamentally, it says that although we attribute various divine activities to each of the Persons of the Trinity, in truth they always act together.

We can see this in the Christmas story. The Father wishes to put right the mess that humans have made through the misuse of their free will, and he decides that the Word of God, his Son, shall come into a human life of perfect self-offering which will redeem humanity. And, indeed, through him all will be made well. As Julian of Norwich put it: 'all shall be well and all manner of things shall be well.'

The Holy Spirit's energetic power is the means by which the Father's will, with the Son's complete obedience, can happen. In the Gospels we read how the Holy Spirit overshadows the Virgin Mary so that she conceives in her womb Jesus, who is both a human being of her flesh, and the eternal Word of God,

begotten of the Father before all time. Perhaps it is also through the Holy Spirit that dreams come to Joseph putting his mind at rest about this child his soon-to-be-wife is bearing. Mary then hastens off to visit her cousin Elizabeth who is also pregnant. S Luke tells us that Elizabeth was 'filled with the Holy Spirit' and exclaims that Mary is blessed among women. Then Mary responds with the hymn we know as the Magnificat - the opening word in Latin - 'My soul magnifies the Lord', and surely she is also inspired by the Holy Spirit. And so in due course, Jesus is born.

To many it would have seemed just the joyful beginnings of family life for this couple from Nazareth. But the shepherds, humble



and rather looked-down-upon people, had received the message of the angels which told them that this child was the Saviour, the Christ. They become the first evangelists, because having found the baby they tell anyone who will listen about this child.

And now over two thousand years later we have the same task. Jesus, whose birth we celebrate, is the Christ, the Word of God made flesh and we join our voices with those of the shepherds and S John in the prologue of his Gospel to say: here God is at work. 'The Word became flesh and dwelt among us and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.' God's only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, has made him known.

Fr. Roger

Health: my last cycle was postponed twice and I hope by the time you are reading this I will have had the follow up CT scan and I am due to get the results of that in early December. Fr R

From the Registers:

Funerals:

October 21st Yvonne Anne Wise

October 26th Alma Harpley

Celebration of Light

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

October 25th Roger Stillman
November 16th Clive Ward
December 8th Gwyneth Cartwright
December 16th Roger Stillman
December 23rd R. F. d'Erlanger

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.

Updates and new ideas

The Wardens and Fr. Roger meet regularly, and out of these meetings are ideas that are approved by the PCC. So here are the latest updates on these:

- Fr. Roger is to introduce a time of prayer and meditation on Wednesday evenings, starting on Wednesday 30th November. This will take place in church starting at 7pm. These times will often be filled with silence for private prayer, and everyone is welcome. When there is a Mass on the Wednesday, the prayer time will start afterwards.
- A course is in preparation, which will be entitled "An invitation to Christianity", and this will start in the New Year and further details will follow.

Advance notice:

The Christmas Carol Service will be on Thursday 22nd December at 7.30pm. This will be a traditional service of readings and carols, followed by light refreshments in church.



The Spire – Garry O'Connor

A spire, a spire, they said, we must have a spire,
A spire of beauty is a joy forever. The thirteen-eighties,
Prebend Henry Beaufort, later Cardinal of Lincoln, illegitimate son
Of John of Gaunt and Katherine Swinford, saw it rise.
The tower its base, weak King Richard its king, King of Sutton,
His uncle's son its mentor, out of black, Black Death century.

How much treachery, how many dead masons, who its master-builder,
How many women gave birth below waiting for husbands to return,
How many fell from ladders? – Who decided when to stop? -
Was 198 feet tall enough? – Was it the natural reach
Ordained in heaven? But no, no grids,
Hardly an architectural drawing, a model maybe,
No local council application approval –

Merely labour from Lent to Lent, several seasons, ropes, buckets of mortar,
Scaffolding, a sighting instrument, many accidents, many lost hands.
And so it grew and grew, a testament to planking and manoeuvring keystones,
And gentle tracery, and the miraculous suspension of weight.
Most of all it was built by faith, by the impulse to rise above
Darkness, death, the gallows, sweat in the furrow, drunk men in gutters,
Privies, cows and pigs, blood of childbirth, brothels.

The mast of the ark, unthinkably high, it raised itself,
Tapering octagon upon octagon
On the pillars of the tower: wouldn't it fall in?
If men have faith a new thing comes, unreal, unreasonable,
A spire is an unreasonable, unreal diagram of faith,
A frozen piece of music – unsigned, no autographs,
Unknown its celebrities...
Yet still these frozen monuments of adulation play their tune.
How *did* they solve the mystery of its creation?

God's secret.

(Many thanks to Garry for letting us reproduce this here. He read this at the service of Celebration for the completion of the work on the spire.)

Care and Maintenance of the church

The spire is now safe, and as you will all have seen repaired to a very high standard by very gifted craftsmen.

The next big project will be the repair of the chancel roof on the south side. Prior to this work starting, we are required to undertake a roof timber survey and a bat survey. The timber survey has already taken place, and unfortunately an early discussion with the expert indicates that there is evidence of death watch beetle, but it was not possible to determine how recently they have been active. It is likely that treatment to the timber will be necessary, incurring extra costs. The bat survey has yet to take place.



Kitted out with harnesses.....
and being trained (below)



As a postscript to the work on the spire, the two intrepid churchwardens had to have some special safety tuition, called 'Fall Safe' instruction. This involved harness training, and a trip up to the parapet....not for those without a 'head for heights'!



Emerging onto the
parapet...



Last minute checks.....

Of course, you don't
know what you might
meet up there!
(A very well-hidden
carving.)





Come along to a fun-filled festive event

Dickensian Evening

Friday December 2nd
7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

at King's Sutton Parish Church

Traditional stalls of cakes, preserves, books, tombola, Christmas gifts, good as new, handmade stocking fillers, raffle and games.

Enjoy mulled wine and hot mince pies while listening to live seasonal music and making your Christmas purchases.

To think about.....

“Christmas is the spirit of giving without a thought of getting. It is happiness because we see joy in people. It is forgetting self and finding time for others. It is discarding the meaningless and stressing the true values.”

Thomas S. Monson

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. The last service this term is on Friday 16th December.

FAMILY SERVICES: There will be the Apple Service on Sunday 4th at 4pm, a tree and crib service on Sunday 18th December at 4pm, and then a Sung Eucharist for all on Christmas Day at 11 am.



Services at Newbottle in December:

December	4 th	Advent 2	9.30 am	Sung Eucharist
December	11 th	Advent 3	9.30 am	Matins
December	18 th	Advent 4	9.30 am	Sung Eucharist
December	21 st	Carol Service	6.00 pm	(t.b.c)
December	24 th	Christmas Eve	10.00 pm	Sung Eucharist
December	25 th	Christmas Day	9.30 am	Sung Eucharist

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 December 2016
PLEASE CHECK FOR UPDATES. If in any doubt please ring 01295 810967.

		KING'S SUTTON
Thurs	1	
Fri	2	Parent & Toddlers' Worship 9.30am
Sat	3	
Sun	4	Advent 2: Sung Mass 11am; Apple Service 4pm
Mon	5	
Tues	6	<i>S Nicholas of Myra:</i> Mass 9.30am
Weds	7	Prayer and meditation 7pm
Thurs	8	
Fri	9	Parent & Toddlers' Worship 9.30am
Sat	10	
Sun	11	Advent 3: Mass 8am; Sung Mass 11am; Evensong 6pm
Mon	12	
Tues	13	<i>S Lucy:</i> Mass 9.30am
Weds	14	Prayer and meditation 7pm
Thurs	15	
Fri	16	Parent & Toddlers' Worship 9.30am
Sat	17	
Sun	18	Advent 4: Sung Mass 11am; Tree and Crib Service 4pm
Mon	19	
Tues	20	Mass 9.30am
Weds	21	<i>S Thomas:</i> Mass 7pm; Prayer and meditation follows
Thurs	22	Carol Service 7.30pm
Fri	23	
Sat	24	Christmas Eve: First Mass of Christmas 11.30pm
Sun	25	Christmas Day: Sung Mass 11am
Mon	26	
Tues	27	
Weds	28	
Thurs	29	
Fri	30	
Sat	31	<i>John Wyclif:</i> Mass 10am SOLW