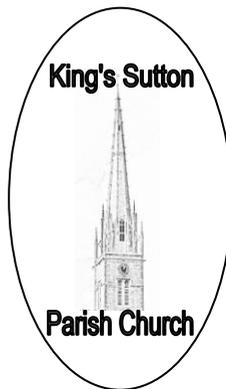


CHURCH NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2016



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

Contacts:

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Let me teach you a couple of words of Greek! ***Kyrie eleison***. It means 'Lord, have mercy' and it is one of the oldest phrases in church services: it reminds us that before Latin became **the** church language, Greek was used.

Now, what do we mean when we ask the Lord to have mercy on us? According to dictionaries its primary meaning has to do with compassion or forbearance shown to enemies or offenders. But it also has to do with pity and thanks, for the French *merci* is connected too. In theological terms mercy is of the nature of God. His actions are always merciful: he is full of compassion and love, always ready to forgive and help us to amend our lives by his grace. The biblical story that shows that most fully is the one often known as the Prodigal Son. But the story is really about the Father, who stands on tip toe waiting and searching for his returning son, and when he sees him, runs and embraces him, smothering the boy's confession and ordering a party to celebrate. You can read this in S Luke's Gospel chapter 15.

But if God is merciful so must we be. One of the beatitudes says, 'Blessed are the merciful for they will receive mercy.' It is rather like forgiveness, in that I think we learn to be merciful by having been shown mercy. We are to have compassion and pity for those around us - and those beyond our immediate circle who are in need of any kind. Our hearts need to be both merciful and thankful for the mercy we receive.

In order to encourage us all, and not least the structures of the Church, to be more rooted in mercy, Pope Francis has called a Year of Mercy - it began on December 8th - and we are keeping this Year too, just as we did with the Year of Faith, some three years ago.

I end with a Prayer issued by Bishop Norman for us all to use. I commend it to you.

Heavenly Father your Son Jesus Christ has taught us to be merciful, even as you are merciful.

Shine the light of your countenance upon us and we shall be saved.

Send us your Holy Spirit to consecrate this jubilee as a year of mercy and grace.

Give to your Church renewed enthusiasm, that she may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and to restore sight to the blind.

We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

Fr Roger

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

December	3 rd	John McCarthy
December	6 th	Moira Holcombe

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.



2016 – A Year of Mercy

Extracts from a letter from the Bishop of Richborough.

Three years ago we embarked on a series of gatherings to mark a Year of Faith. The events that took place that year helped to shape us into what I'm now proud to call the 'Richborough Family'.

Family is important. It is the context *in which* we learn to relate to those around us and *through which* we extend welcome and friendship towards others. The family is where we first experience love, and learn the need for compassion and forgiveness. As God's family, the Church has a divine mandate to extend his compassion and forgiveness to all people, and to actively seek out those who feel estranged from him and abandoned by their fellow human beings.

In response to this 'Gospel imperative' the Church Universal has inaugurated a 'Year of Mercy'. Over the next year we will seek a new outpouring of the grace of Holy Spirit so that peoples the *world over* may discover afresh the inexhaustible love of God in his Son Jesus Christ.

In proclaiming this Year of Mercy, Pope Francis has been inspired and moved by the parable of the Good Samaritan; for in rescuing the man who fell among thieves, in binding his wounds and providing for his care, he *became* the 'one who showed mercy', unlike the Priest and the Levite who ignored him. As members of the Richborough Family, we too are called to "go and do likewise." We must *ensure* that God's mercy is made manifest within our Parishes, our places of work, our homes and beyond!

The prophet Baruch proclaims the 'light and joy' with which God *guides* his people cannot be separated from his 'mercy and integrity' (5: 9). Amidst the 'light and joy' of our worship, fellowship and time spent with family and friends, can we also make room for 'mercy and integrity'? Will we hear the prayer of Saint Paul that our "love for each other may increase more and more"? (Philippians 1.9) Can we perform those outward works of love and mercy so that "All mankind shall see the salvation of God"? (Luke 3.6)

I encourage you to make use of the 'Year of Mercy' prayer each day. (*see Fr. Roger's letter*).

I have every confidence that, together, we will support this initiative and that our Churches will experience genuine renewal in obedience to this special call; to know, to value and to share the love and mercy of God.

May God bless you and all those whom you love.

.....And after Christmas.....the Epiphany....

Just as people are returning to work after a Christmas break – perhaps feeling a little flat after all the celebrations, the church has another feast to enjoy! The Epiphany (January 6th) comes hot on the heels of the new year. It is also the twelfth day after Christmas – and at one



time was known as Old Christmas Day. The Epiphany comes from the Greek word meaning ‘to reveal’, and it is when Jesus is revealed to the Gentiles (non-Jewish people) as represented by the Magi who visit the baby. (Matthew 2: 1 – 12). This emphasizes that the Good News of Jesus Christ is for all: Jew and Gentile, the wise and the simple, male and female. Nothing in the Greek text of the Gospels indicates that the Magi were all male or even three in number, and the idea that they were kings is a much later, non-scriptural tradition. The Magi have been given various names down the ages, but the ones we are familiar with are: Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar.

Legends abound – for example, if you live in Germany or Austria you would put up the initials ‘C’, ‘M’ and ‘B’ on the main door or your house to ward off evil and to confer blessings on the coming year. This is often performed by children carrying a star. French and Belgian customs involve the baking of a cake containing a bean: whoever finds the bean should be crowned king for the day. One of the relics of the twelve days is a superstitious belief that either before or just after Christmas, one must eat twelve mince-pies to secure luck for the coming twelve months. Mince pies were originally made square to represent the manger in which the child Jesus was placed. The colour of the crust and the contents of the pies symbolised the gold, frankincense and myrrh offered by the Magi. The Bible does not tell us of any significance to these three gifts; however, there is a deeper meaning for each of the three.

Gold is a symbol of divinity and is mentioned throughout the Bible. Pagan idols were often made from gold and the Ark of the Covenant was overlaid with gold (Exodus 25:10-17). The gift of gold to the Christ child was symbolic of His divinity.

Frankincense is a white resin or gum obtained by making incisions in the bark of a tree and allowing the gum to flow out. It is highly fragrant when burned and was therefore used in worship, where it was burned as a pleasant offering to God (Exodus 30:34). Frankincense is a symbol of holiness and righteousness.

Myrrh was also a product of Arabia, and was obtained in the same manner as frankincense. It was a spice used in embalming. It was also sometimes mingled with wine to form a drink. Such a drink was given to our Saviour when He was about to be crucified, as a stupefying potion (Mark 15:23). Matthew 27:34 refers to it as “gall.” Myrrh symbolizes bitterness, suffering, and affliction and the gift anticipates the crucifixion.

Please come to the Church’s first feast of the new calendar year: an Epiphany Sung Eucharist service at 7.00pm on 6th January 2016. Refreshments will follow but there is no guarantee of ‘square’ mince-pies, and no pies like the one below! And any camels will most certainly not be welcome.

ONE GIGANTIC PIE

In a publication of facts and figures published early this century, there is a description of huge meat pies that were once made on Twelfth Night.... A pie baked for a nobleman in 1770 ‘where the chroniclers differ but all agree that it was nine feet in circumference and weighed 165 pounds’. It was served from a cart built for the purpose. It contained approximately:

2 bushels of flour
20 pounds of butter
4 geese
2 rabbits
2 woodcocks
6 snipes
4 partridges
2 meat’s tongues
6 pigeons
7 blackbirds

There was, however no mention of how long it took to cook!



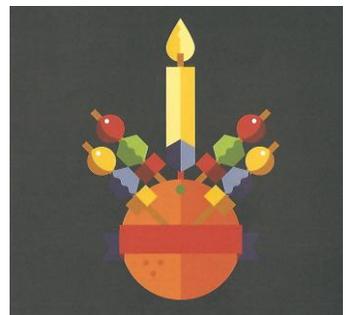
Children and families

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. Why not join us!

FAMILY SERVICE: this is held in the chancel of the church in the choir stalls. The next Family Service will be on January 24th 2016 at 10am.

CHRISTINGLE: This service is held here at Candlemas time – this year on **31st January at 4pm**. This is the day 50 days on from Christmas when Jesus was taken by Mary and Joseph to the Temple in Jerusalem. All first-born sons were offered by parents to the Lord in this way as an acknowledgement that their sons were a gift from God. Whilst they were in the Temple they met an old man, Simeon, who said of Jesus that he was a light to lighten the Gentiles. And so the service is all about light.

Christingle itself is a tradition from Moravia in central Europe. An orange represents the world, around it there is a red ribbon, representing Christ's blood, by which we find redemption. There are four sets of fruits - the fruits of the earth and the four corners of the world, in other words, the things of creation are for everyone. And on the top a candle: Christ the light of the world.



The collection at the service is for the Children's Society working with disadvantaged young people in the UK.

New Year Resolutions – do you make them?

The idea of 'starting anew' goes way back in time. For instance, Babylonians made promises to their gods at the start of each year that they would return borrowed objects and pay their debts; the Romans began each year by making promises to the god Janus, for whom the month of January is named. In the Medieval era, the knights took the "peacock vow" each year to re-affirm their commitment to chivalry. The concept of a new start or new resolution, regardless of creed, is to reflect upon self-improvement annually.

The top resolutions in 2015 were:

- Smile more
- Fit in more fitness time
- Enjoy life more
- Don't commit to things you can't do
- Learn something new
- Give up smoking
- Drink less
- Help others more
- Get more organised
- Spend more time with family and friends

What could you do?

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

Services at Newbottle Church in January at 9.30am

Sunday	3rd	Christmas 2: Sung Eucharist
Sunday	10 th	Epiphany 1: Matins and Holy Communion
Sunday	17 th	Epiphany 2: Holy Communion
Sunday	24 th	Epiphany 3: Matins
Sunday	31 st	Candlemas: Matins and Holy Communion

Calendar of Services in King's Sutton for January 2016

Fri	1	<i>The Circumcision</i> : Mass 12 noon
Sat	2	<i>S Basil</i> : Mass 10am
Sun	3	Christmas 2 : Mass 8am; Sung Mass 11am; Evensong 6pm
Mon	4	
Tues	5	Mass 9.30am
Weds	6	The Epiphany : Sung Mass 7pm
Thurs	7	
Fri	8	Parents & Toddlers' Worship 9.30am; Mass 12 noon
Sat	9	Mass 10am
Sun	10	Epiphany 1 / Baptism of Christ : Mass 8am; Sung Mass 11am; Evensong 6pm
Mon	11	
Tues	12	Mass 9.30am
Weds	13	Mass 7pm
Thurs	14	
Fri	15	Parents & Toddlers' Worship 9.30am; Mass 12 noon
Sat	16	Mass 10am
Sun	17	Epiphany 2 : Mass 8am; Sung Mass 11am; Evensong 6pm
Mon	18	
Tues	19	Mass 9.30am
Weds	20	Mass 7pm
Thurs	21	
Fri	22	Parents & Toddlers' Worship 9.30am; Mass 12 noon
Sat	23	Mass 10am
Sun	24	Epiphany 3 : Mass 8am; Family Worship 10am; Sung Mass 11am; Service for Christian Unity 6pm
Mon	25	
Tues	26	<i>Conversion of S. Paul</i> : Mass 9.30am
Weds	27	Mass 7pm
Thurs	28	
Fri	29	Parents & Toddlers' Worship 9.30am; Mass 12 noon
Sat	30	<i>Charles, King and martyr</i> : Mass 10am SOLW
Sun	31	Epiphany 3 : Mass 8am; Sung Mass 11am; Christingle 4pm

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