



**CHURCH OF ST. PETER & ST. PAUL
KING'S SUTTON**

A VARIETY OF WORSHIP

**AN EXPLANATION OF THE VARIOUS SERVICES HELD
IN THE PARISH CHURCH**

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Vicar

50p.

The Mass

The principal service is the **Mass**.

There are several names for this service:

- Holy Communion
- The Lord's Supper
- The Eucharist

The basic structure has two main parts with an introduction and a conclusion. I often think of it as a house with two main rooms with linking doors: and a porch on either side.

In the introduction we acknowledge our shortcomings and confess them. We hear the words of forgiveness and then have the Collect: a prayer for the day.

The first main section has two readings from the Bible and our response in prayers of intercession. In these we pray for:

- the Church
- the world
- the local community
- those who are sick or in any kind of trouble
- those who have died
- the bereaved



The linking door is the Peace: we are offered Christ's peace and may share it among us.

The second section is the great prayer of thanksgiving for the works of God in creation and our redemption through the death and resurrection of Jesus. We hear Jesus' words at the Last Supper, and, by the Holy Spirit, bread and wine offered to God become for us the Body and Blood of Christ.

We say the Lord's Prayer and then receive the Consecrated Bread and Wine in Holy Communion.

The ending is a prayer of thanksgiving and a blessing.

On **Sundays** the Mass is offered simply at 8.00 a.m. and lasts about 30 minutes.

At 11.00 a.m. the Mass is sung with hymns and other music sung by the choir. There is a sermon, we sing the Nicene Creed (a basic statement of Christian belief), and there is more ceremony including incense. The service lasts about an hour.



Coffee is served after this service on the last Sunday in the month: it is an opportunity to meet and get to know other members of the Church.



There are Masses on several **weekdays**: these are simple, said services lasting about 30 minutes:

- Tuesday 9.30 a.m. in St. Thomas Chapel
- Wednesday 7.00 p.m. around a simple altar in the nave
- Friday at 12 noon in St. Thomas Chapel
- Saturday 10.00 a.m. in the Lady Chapel

These are in contemporary language



EVENSONG

This is a service from the Book of Common Prayer, led by the choir. It has:

- hymns
- a psalm
- canticles (these are biblical songs from the New Testament)
- an anthem
- two Bible readings
- a short sermon
- prayers



It is held at 6.00 p.m. most Sundays and lasts about 40 minutes.

On a number of occasions we have a service together with the Baptist Church either in our church or theirs:

- Easter Day
- Christian Aid week in May
- The Feast of Christ the King in November

These replace Evensong.

There are also occasions when Evensong has a slightly different format. The most frequent of these is with prayer for healing.



TAIZE PRAYER

A quiet, reflective service, this uses the style of worship developed in the French ecumenical community at Taizé in Burgundy. We gather around some lit candles in the chancel. We sing repetitive chants. There is a Bible reading. We keep silence so that we can reflect on the words we have heard. Then there are prayers which lead to a final chant or hymn. The service lasts about 25 minutes.



PARENTS AND TODDLERS' WORSHIP

This is a very informal occasion. We meet in the Church. It is designed for parents and small children – babies come!

- We sing songs, often with actions
- We hear stories
- We look at things, pictures, things used in church
- We say simple prayers

At the beginning we light some candles, and at the end the children blow them out! This lasts about 15 – 20 minutes.



Tea, biscuits and play then happens in the Church Room.

It is a good way of introducing small children to Church and what Christians believe and do. This service is on Fridays at 9.30 a.m. during school terms.



FAMILY WORSHIP

Every month on the fourth Sunday at 10 a.m. there is Family Worship. These are informal services, with percussion, songs, lighting and blowing out candles, stories and prayers. Four times a year this service is a simple Mass with experimental Eucharistic Prayers for use with children. These services last about 30 minutes and are followed by refreshments in the Church Room.

There is all-age worship at 11 a.m. on Christmas Day, Easter Day, Harvest and some other occasions.



A CELEBRATION OF HEALING AND WHOLENESS

This is an opportunity to pray for healing, so is most suitable for people who are ill in some way, facing some difficulty in their lives or for those who want to pray for others.

We gather in the chancel and sing a hymn. The priest introduces the service and we hear a reading from the Bible. This is followed by:

- a short address
- prayers of penitence in which we ask for God's mercy
- prayers for those in need

Then follow three actions: sprinkling, laying on of hands and anointing.

In **sprinkling**, we are given a sip of water to drink. The Sign of the Cross is made on the forehead, and water is poured into our cupped hands.



Laying on of hands is done by the priest. He places his hands on the person's head and prays silently for them.

Anointing is making the Sign of the Cross in holy oil on the forehead and palms of the hands.

We end with a hymn.

The service has a calm, reflective atmosphere and people go away refreshed and renewed. God really does bring healing and this is a real opportunity here in the village to receive this. Please ask Fr. Roger to come and talk with you about this if that would be helpful.

The service is for anyone who wants to come. You do not have to be a regular, Confirmed, or whatever: simply have a need and believe that God can help you.

The service lasts about 30 minutes and takes place on a weekday evening about 3 times a year.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS, ROSARY, BENEDICTION

These are 'catholic' devotions, i.e. usually found in Roman Catholic Churches.



Stations of the Cross is a meditation on Jesus' last journey from his condemnation by Pilate to the tomb. We move around the "stations" which are low relief sculptures on the walls of the church. It is a way of being with Jesus in his Passion and praying for those who endure suffering today.

The Rosary is prayer using beads. Each bead marks a saying of the Hail Mary. There are four cycles of the Rosary:

- Joyful – about the birth of Jesus
- Sorrowful – about the Passion
- Glorious – resurrection and future glory
- Light – inaugurated by Pope John Paul II



The Rosary is a way of meditating on these great themes of the faith in company with Mary.

Benediction is a service, usually combined with Evensong, focussing on the Consecrated Bread of the Eucharist. This is brought to the Altar and placed in a Monstrance so that the Bread can be seen, and there are times of silence, prayers and other devotions. The culmination is a blessing (benediction) in which the priest makes the Sign of the Cross over the people with the Consecrated Bread.



The service of Stations of the Cross lasts about 30 minutes, the Rosary about 15, and Benediction with Evensong about 45.



SEASONAL WORSHIP

Throughout the year there are special services in addition to the regular ones:

- **Advent** – there is a special service at 4 p.m. on Advent Sunday to mark the beginning of the season.
- **Carol Services**
- **Midnight Mass for Christmas** beginning at 11.30 p.m. on December 24th. This is a formal service rich in music.
- **Christmas Morning Service** is a Mass with carols designed for people of all ages.
- **Christingle Service** – a service for the Children's Society which with its candles in the darkness is very moving. 
- **Lent** – begins with a sung mass in which many people may receive ashing: a small cross on the forehead made with ash from burnt palm crosses as a sign of our penitence and God's forgiveness. There are usually some extra services during the six weeks of Lent, especially Stations of the Cross.
- **Holy Week** begins with Palm Sunday. The 11 a.m. Mass includes a procession with palm crosses commemorating Jesus' ride into Jerusalem on a donkey. 
- **Maundy Thursday** commemorates the Last Supper and Jesus' prayer in the garden of Gethsemane before his arrest. There is a Mass at 8pm and this is followed by a Vigil from about 9 p.m. until midnight.
- **Good Friday** is marked by a service for families in the morning and the Liturgy at 3.15 p.m.

- **Easter** celebrations begin with a Vigil, Lighting of the Easter Candle and the First Mass at 9 p.m. on the Saturday. The only Mass on Easter Day is at 11 a.m. and we join with other Christians on Easter Day evening.
- **Ascension Day** falls on a Thursday, 40 days after Easter and we have a sung Mass in the evening.
- **Pentecost** and **Trinity** Sundays follow and then, the next Thursday is **Corpus Christi**, a day of thanksgiving for Holy Communion. We usually celebrate this on the Eve at 7 p.m.
- Similarly we celebrate **SS Peter and St. Paul's Day** June 29th.
- **Harvest Festival** is usually the last Sunday in September.
- November brings **All Saints Day** on the 1st and **All Souls** on the 2nd. There is a Requiem Mass on that day to pray for all the departed.
- On November 11th at 11 am there is a short service at the War Memorial. On **Remembrance Sunday** we gather with members of other churches at the War Memorial at 10.55 am, and after an Act of Remembrance and Wreath Laying, we come into the church for a short service of hymns, readings and prayers. In the evening, a Requiem Mass for those who die in war is held at 6pm.
- The Church Year comes to a conclusion at the end of November with the **Feast of Christ the King**. We usually have a Songs of Praise at 6 p.m. on that day.



You are welcome to all services.

Finally, the Church is open every day from early morning until dusk. Everyone is welcome to use its space and silence for prayer.

You may like to light a candle. There is a prayer request board, and in the St. Thomas Chapel (in the north aisle) the Blessed Sacrament is kept and you may like to pray there.