

CHURCH NEWSLETTER APRIL 2016



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

Contacts:

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RELATIONSHIPS.....

Our society's attitudes in matters of sexuality and sex have changed enormously in the past half century, but the Church is seen by many not to have shifted at all. You will hear of Christians insisting that marriage can only be between people of the opposite sex, and sex to find its rightful place within marriage, and this is certainly the Church of England's official view. The widespread acceptance of civil partnerships and now marriage for people of the same sex, let alone issues of transgender, are either outwardly rejected or at best there is a mealy-mouthed, reluctant acceptance. "But not for us", is added! And yet, of course, there are Christians among these people.

I want to say something of how I see these things.

First, I believe that we are made for relationships. For the vast majority of people there will be one intimate relationship, in which people offer mutual love and commitment. A relationship which will enable both people to flourish, a place from which life is faced not alone, but in a faithful partnership. I fail to see that it makes any difference whether the two people are of opposite sexes or the same. It is clear that society as a whole needs institutions to support and encourage people in these relationships, hence traditional marriage ceremonies, whether religious or not. Gay people ought to be able to expect society to support and encourage them as well. And if people are



people of faith they ought to be able to express their love and commitment within a religious ceremony.



Then, secondly, I think we must recognize the wide gamut of sexual orientation and the issues faced by people whose gender is unclear or at worst, for them, simply wrong. God means us all to flourish and it seems to me only just and merciful to allow people to find their own way, without the imposition of particular ideas.

Currently, the Church of England is legally excluded from the marriage of same sex couples, and priests are inhibited by the House of Bishops from blessing such unions. I can see that it would cause enormous difficulties for the Church if these were not legally excluded, for there would be legal challenges if we refused. It is just one of those examples where faith communities as a whole find themselves at odds with the secular society and its laws. So I don't really expect any change there, but to bless couples would seem to me a good and holy thing to do. No one has ever asked me to, but despite the House of Bishops, I might be tempted to say, 'Yes'.

Contraception was a real change maker, for sexual relations were no longer entirely procreative – well they never had been! But they could now become relational – helping to grow and develop as human beings, expressing their love for one another – a healing, transforming experience. My view is that the degree of intimacy between people should reflect the degree of love and commitment. So I am not in favour of promiscuous relations, nor of adultery, but I think to say sex is limited to within marriage is at best naïve and at worst damaging and guilt inducing.

The Bible is remarkably reticent about sex. but in recent decades sex has become an obsession in western societies, but what the Bible is very clear about is that we are to love another, to show mercy and forgiveness, and to grow into the full stature of the children of God, and that for most people will include family life, a sexual relationship, for many, children. And in these contexts we are to learn to love. Sex, like almost everything, may be abused, but essentially it is good and can be an important element in the expression and development of love.



Fr Roger

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

March	7 th	Barbara Hone
March	8 th	Lilian Tustain
March	28 th	Dennis Tustain
April	7 th	Joan Leycester
April	30 th	Les Nutt

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.

From the Registers:

Funerals:

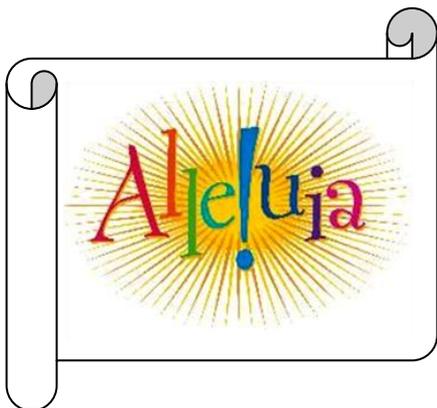
February	16 th	Isobel Beasley (Kettle)
March	2 nd	Andrew Robert Harris

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 normally held in the chancel of the church in the choir stalls. This will be on April 24th at 10am this month.





THE ALLELUIA FESTIVAL

Alleluia is the Easter word. We do not use it in Lent, but then as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, we use it all the time. So during Eastertide we are holding various events to mark the Resurrection.

Saturday April 2nd from 2pm Church and Church Room:

an opportunity for people of all ages to come together to create banners and other art work around the Alleluia theme. Margot Bell and Carole Hill will lead this. Materials will be provided: what we need is your talent and skill in art, calligraphy and any other art or craft medium.

Sunday 10th April 6pm in Church:

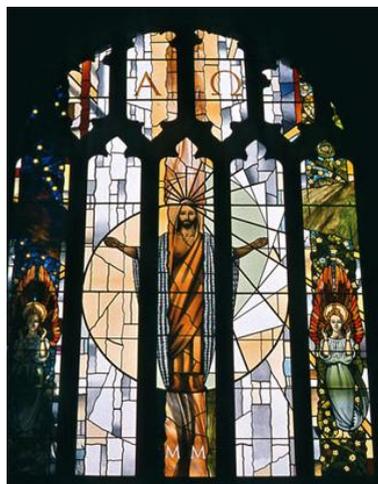
Stations of the Resurrection. Rather like Stations of the Cross, the journey of Jesus from his condemnation by Pilate to his burial, these stations mark each of the Risen Christ's appearances in the days of Eastertide. There will be hymns, readings and prayers.

"I am the Resurrection" is a Bible study course over three weeks.

Each week will be self contained. We will look at the narratives of the Resurrection in the Gospels; there will be discussion and brief prayer. On Tuesday mornings these will be in the Church Room after the 9.30am Mass, on Wednesdays at 5 Green Lane, Charlton at 7.45pm.

Quiet Day 16th April at S Lawrence Church, Rowington

This church is to the west of Warwick about 40 minutes drive from King's Sutton. We will meet at 10.30am and finish by 4pm. There will be talks, silence, the Mass,





and prayer. Drinks will be provided. You need to bring a picnic lunch. Again the theme is Resurrection. The church contains an impressive west window designed by Graeme Wilson in 2003 which we shall use.

Illustrated Talk: Images of the Resurrection on Thursday 21st April 7 30pm in the Church Room.

Fr. Roger will guide us through a series of paintings and sculptures dating from the 14th to the 20th centuries. The New Testament doesn't actually describe the event but that didn't stop the painters!

The picture to the left is from our East window, the one on previous page from S Lawrence Church, Rowington

DID YOU KNOW?

As with any organisation the Church holds an Annual Meeting. In fact it is not just one meeting but two, which usually follows on one after the other. This year these meetings will take place on 17th **April** in the Church Room following the 11.00 am Service, (so should start shortly after midday).

The first meeting is the:

Annual Parish Meeting: This is open for anyone in the parish to attend, to make any comment they feel is relevant and to take part in any voting that takes place. Even if you are not a churchgoer, if you live in the parish, you still have the right to attend this meeting and make comments. The normal business is:

- **Election of Churchwardens (2).** The role and responsibilities of churchwardens have not differed much over the years. They are the officers of the bishop and it is their duty to submit an annual report to him, informing him of any irregularities that are found to be going

on in the parish. The churchwardens work very closely with the Vicar. The Churchwardens, together with the Parochial Church Council members are responsible for 'running' the parish.

- **Any particular Parish matter.**

The second meeting is the:

Annual Parochial Church Meeting: This meeting is only for those persons that are registered on the Church Electoral Roll. Other people are allowed to remain at the meeting but will not be able to vote on issues that are raised, or have a say in the election of members to key roles within the Church. A report will be presented saying what church activities have taken place throughout 2015 and inviting comments as appropriate.

The main part of the annual report is the financial accounts and discussion on whether we could manage our resources better, managing to live within our means; not an easy task with a Church building the size it is and due to its age ongoing repairs and maintenance are essential.

Once all that is done the meeting will then elect:

- **Election of Deanery Synod representatives (1).** These reps are elected every three years and their role is to put forward the views of the parish at regional meetings. Although there are normally three representatives, there is just one vacancy this year, the other two places having been filled.
- **Parochial Church Council representatives (3).** These are the people that the Church membership want as their representatives for the next three years, people that they think will represent them well and to ensure that the general wish of the 'people in the pews' is aired and is given due consideration at Parochial Church Council meetings. There are normally nine PCC representatives and each year three are elected to serve for three years.

The Church membership will then have an opportunity to comment on any aspect of church life in 2015.



THE SPIRE

Contractors are now working on site. The work is expected to last approximately ten weeks. Please take extra care using the path through the churchyard whilst the repair work is carried out. A special 'thank you' goes to all those who have given donations for the spire, which is the first phase of the restoration programme.

To think about.....

"I think what I need to learn is an almost infinite tolerance and compassion because negative thought gets nowhere. I am beginning to think that in our time we will correct almost nothing, and get almost nowhere: but if we can just prepare a compassionate and receptive soil for the future, we will have done a great work. I feel at least that this is the turn my own life ought to take."

(Thomas Merton – A book of hours. Merton was a Trappist monk in Kentucky.)

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 in April:

April 3 rd	Easter 2	Sung Eucharist 9.30am
April 10 th	Easter 3	Matins & Holy Communion 9.30am, followed by the Annual Parish Church Meeting
April 17 th	Easter 4	Sung Eucharist 9.30am
April 24 th	Easter 5	Matins

Proposed calendar of Services for April 2016

KING'S SUTTON		
Fri	1	Mass 12 noon
Sat	2	Mass 10am
Sun	3	Easter 2: Mass 8am; Sung Mass 11am; Evensong 6pm
Mon	4	
Tues	5	Mass 9.30am
Weds	6	Mass 7pm
Thurs	7	
Fri	8	Mass 12 noon
Sat	9	<i>Dietrich Bonhoeffer:</i> Mass 10am
Sun	10	Easter 3: 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	Quiet Day: S Lawrence, Rowington
Sun	17	Easter 4: Mass 8am; Sung Mass 11am followed by the Annual Parish Meeting; Evensong 6pm
Mon	18	
Tues	19	<i>S Alphege:</i> Mass 9.30am
Weds	20	Mass 7pm
Thurs	21	
Fri	22	Parents & Toddlers' Worship 9.30am; Mass 12 noon
Sat	23	<i>S George:</i> Mass 10am
Sun	24	Easter 5: Mass 8am; Family Worship 10am; Sung Mass 11am; Evensong 6pm
Mon	25	
Tues	26	Mass 9.30am
Weds	27	Mass 7pm
Thurs	28	
Fri	29	Parents & Toddlers' Worship 9.30am; Mass 12 noon
Sat	30	Mass 10am SOLW

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