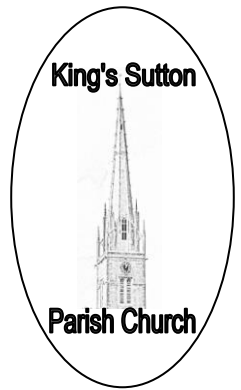


CHURCH NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2013/JANUARY 2014



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

Contacts:

Vicar:	Fr. Roger	811364	rogerbellamy@hotmail.co.uk
Churchwardens:	Sue Ashdown	738444	
	Peter Allen	810967	



In one of the books I read whilst on sabbatical, Peter Brown the distinguished historian, uses the phrase 'Let's linger on...'. I have been doing that during my time away.

Lingering gives us the opportunity to pay proper attention to things. The opposite, I suppose, is to hurry, and although the adverts

often encourage us to hurry, actually we should linger more than we probably do.

Being on sabbatical gave me the opportunity to linger – in reading, in thinking and praying, but also in time with friends, experiencing the being in places in Italy and Spain.

Advent and Christmas are seasons which invite us all to linger. Advent is the period of preparation for Christmas, and yes, it is about cards and present-buying and all that, but it is also to ready ourselves for celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. Despite the fact that almost everyone celebrates on December 25th, those celebrations are less than they might be, unless they find a focus in Jesus.

Linger then on what Christmas is about. God becomes man. The eternal, transcendent God, maker of heaven and earth, comes to dwell among us. St. John's 'word' means something like pitching a tent. God comes to share our human life and to show us what God is truly like. When we gaze into the face of Jesus, a face of compassion and love, of mercy and joy, we are gazing on the face of God.

This "God among us" (Emmanuel) challenges us. First, to recognise his presence among us. God is not far and distant, but close and deep within us. Second, to respond to that presence with love and devotion. We come, like the shepherds and magi to worship the child in the manger, but also, thirdly, to follow his way of justice and peace. Our reverence at the crib leads us to the reverence of all who are in need. Christmas brings us to Bethlehem, but sends us out in our communities to share the good news, but to make a difference to those around us, near and far, by the way we live.

I hope you might linger in worship this Christmas and perhaps just come into church when it is quiet to pray at the Crib. To linger there and give thanks that God became man at Christmas.

Fr Roger

From the Registers:

Baptisms:

24th November Ellie Childs

Celebration of Light : The floodlighting has been sponsored to remember

23 rd	September	Fred Hone
7 th	November	Jill and Neil Hunter
17 th	November	Gwyneth Wood
22 nd	November	Carole Hawkins
27 th	November	Sophie Hamilton
6 th	December	Moira Holcombe
16 th	December	Roger Stillman
19 th	December	John McCarthy

The Twelve Days of Christmas

'On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me....' goes the popular secular Christmas song.

However, some people believe (although there is no firm evidence to confirm this), that it was written as a mnemonic for English Catholics to teach the faith to their children, at a time when Catholicism was illegal in England. The symbolism is thought to go something like this:

<i>My true love</i>	God
<i>Me</i>	A believer of the faith
<i>A partridge in a pear tree</i>	Jesus Christ on the Cross
<i>Two turtledoves</i>	The Old and New Testaments of the Bible
<i>Three French hens</i>	Three Theological Virtues: faith, hope and charity
<i>Four calling birds</i>	The four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John
<i>Five gold rings</i>	The Pentateuch, the first five books of the Old Testament
<i>Six geese a-laying</i>	The six days of creation (Genesis 1)
<i>Seven swans a-swimming</i>	The Seven Sacraments (<i>Baptism, the Eucharist, Confirmation, Absolution, Ordination, Marriage, Holy Unction</i>)
<i>Eight maids a-milking</i>	The Eight Beatitudes (Matt. 5:3-11)
<i>Nine ladies dancing</i>	The nine fruits of the Holy Spirit: (Gal. 5: 22)
<i>Ten lords a-leaping</i>	The ten Commandments (Exodus 20)
<i>Eleven pipers piping</i>	The eleven faithful Apostles of Jesus Christ: (Matt.10: 1 – 4)
<i>Twelve drummers drumming</i>	Twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed



Children's Church News



Father Roger is now back with us! I am sure that he will tell us of the wonderful places he has seen when we meet.

King's Kids Thursday 5th December 3.30 – 5.00pm

This month we will be concentrating all our activities on the story of the birth of Jesus and all that means to us. We will be reading and talking about this special time, and also making something to give to others or keep for our home. After that we will be acting out the Christmas story with narration and lots of fun singing.

Our next meeting will be on the 16th January.

Parent & Toddlers' Service 6th December 9.30am

A big thank you must go to Mayleng who has stood in for Fr. Roger for the last three months. We all enjoyed our time with her, and hope she will continue to join us sometimes. Many of our children have now started playgroup so are unable to come. Fortunately the next generation are still with us, or on the way! Do come and join us for our short service with stories and singing. Then over to the Church Room for refreshments and chat while the children play.

Family Service 22nd December 10.00am

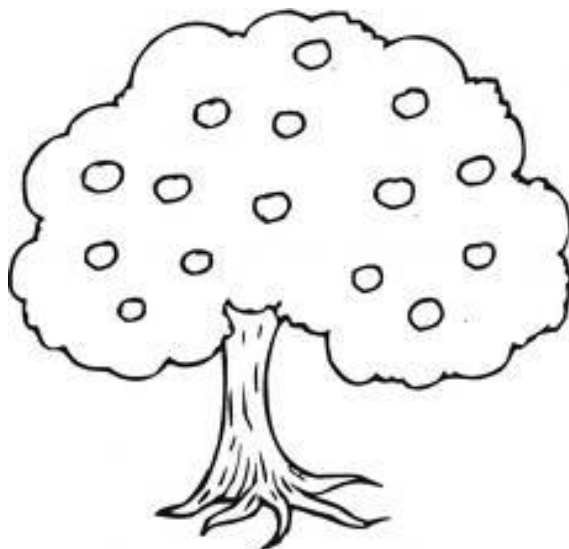
This will include dressing the crib and tree as well as our usual service and the playing of wonderful noisy instruments. There may be something special to do, but we will have to wait and see. After that we will all as usual go to Father Roger's house for refreshments.





Apple Service 8th December 4.00pm

This is a service for all the family. In readings and music we discover how many times the apple comes into the Bible. Everyone receives an apple with a candle in it which is placed in a spiral on the floor and we all gather round and sing. After this we will have a party for the children in the Church Room. Maybe you would like to colour in the picture below.



DATES IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY

King's Kids (After School)	December 5 th	3.30pm
Parents & Toddlers	December 6 th	9.30am
Apple Service	December 8 th	4.00pm
Family Worship	December 22 nd	10.00am
Parents & Toddlers	January 10 th	9.30am
King's Kids (After School)	January 16 th	3.30pm
Parents & Toddlers	January 24 th	9.30am
Family Worship	January 26 th	10.00am



Often we hear adverse comments about the 'youth of today'. Anyone that has attended one of the recent musical events held in the Parish Church will be able to challenge those remarks and correct them. In September the *majority* of the excellent Sheffield Barbershop Chorus was under 25, In October *all* of the quite amazing Brackley Junior Brass Band were under 15 and in November *very few* of the outstanding Peterborough Cathedral Choir were over 25. With such musical talent as this around we can look forward with amazement and admiration to the future of music being produced at our concerts.



The Brackley band played (amongst others) the theme tunes to Indiana Jones, the Muppets, Jurassic Park, Dr Who, Joe 90 and also compositions by John Williams and the Beatles, whilst the Cathedral choir sang choral favourites of a mainly classical nature; choral works by Taverner, Tallis, Byrd, Brahms, Wesley and MacMillan.

The final 2013 musical event is on **December 14th at 7pm** when members of the wonderful Adderbury Ensemble will demonstrate their expertise by playing well known Christmas classical pieces. It promises to be a real treat, so come along, relax and enjoy the music.

Plans for **2014** are already well advanced and include:

- Come and Play and Come and Sing events
- A weekend with the Adderbury Ensemble which will involve watching them rehearse, a masterclass and a concert (or two!)
- A recital given by the soloists of the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment
- Concerts by local youth groups including Stowe School
- Father Roger's travels (with music) on Sabbatical.

Something for everyone to enjoy...don't miss out!.

Calendar of Services for December 2013

Sun	1	Advent Sunday: Mass 8am; Sung Mass 11am; WI Carol Service 2pm; Advent Procession 6pm
Mon	2	
Tues	3	<i>S Francis Xavier:</i> Mass 9.30am
Weds	4	<i>Nicholas Ferrar:</i> District Schools' Carol Service pm.
Thurs	5	Carrdus School Carol Service 6pm
Fri	6	<i>S Nicholas:</i> Parents and Toddlers' Worship 9.30am; Mass 12 noon
Sat	7	<i>S Ambrose:</i> Mass 10am
Sun	8	Advent II / Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary: Mass 8am; Sung Mass 11am; Apple Service 4pm
Mon	9	
Tues	10	Mass 9.30am
Weds	11	Mass 7pm
Thurs	12	
Fri	13	<i>S Lucy:</i> Mass 12 noon
Sat	14	<i>S Juan de Cruz:</i> Mass 10am; Wedding blessing 5pm
Sun	15	Advent III: Mass 8am; Sung Mass 11am; Evensong 6pm
Mon	16	
Tues	17	Mass 9.30am
Weds	18	Mass 7pm
Thurs	19	
Fri	20	Mass 12 noon
Sat	21	Mass 10am SOLW
Sun	22	Advent IV: Mass 8am; Family Worship, Blessing of Tree and Crib 10am; Sung Mass 11am; Carol Service 6pm
Mon	23	
Tues	24	Christmas Eve: First Mass of Christmas 11.30pm
Weds	25	Christmas Day: Sung Mass for all 11am
Thurs	26	<i>S Stephen:</i> Mass 10am
Fri	27	<i>S John:</i> Mass 12 noon
Sat	28	<i>The Holy Innocents:</i> Mass 10am; Wedding 4.30pm
Sun	29	Christmas I/St. Thomas Becket: Mass 8am; Sung Mass 11am;
Mon	30	
Tues	31	<i>S Sylvester:</i> Mass 9.30am

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

Calendar of Services for January 2014

Weds	1	<i>Circumcision and Naming of Jesus: Mass 7pm</i>
Thurs	2	
Fri	3	Mass 12 noon
Sat	4	Mass 10am
Sun	5	The Epiphany: Mass 8am; Sung Mass 11am; Vespers & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 6pm
Mon	6	
Tues	7	Mass 9.30am
Weds	8	Mass 7pm
Thurs	9	
Fri	10	<i>William Laud:</i> Parents and Toddlers' Worship 9.30am; Mass 12 noon
Sat	11	Mass 10am
Sun	12	Epiphany I / Baptism of Christ: Mass 8am; Sung Mass 11am; Evensong 6pm
Mon	13	
Tues	14	Mass 9.30am
Weds	15	Mass 7pm
Thurs	16	
Fri	17	<i>S Anthony of Egypt:</i> Mass 12 noon
Sat	18	<i>Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins:</i> Mass 10am
Sun	19	Epiphany II: Mass 8am; Sung Mass 11am; United Service 6pm
Mon	20	
Tues	21	<i>S Agnes:</i> Mass 9.30am
Weds	22	<i>S Vincent:</i> Mass 7pm
Thurs	23	
Fri	24	<i>S Francis de Sales:</i> Parents and Toddlers' Worship 9.30am; Mass 12 noon
Sat	25	<i>Conversion of S Paul:</i> Mass 10am SOLW
Sun	26	Epiphany III: Mass 8am; Family Worship 10am: Sung Mass 11am; Evensong 6pm
Mon	27	
Tues	28	<i>S Thomas Aquinas:</i> Mass 9.30am
Weds	29	Mass 7pm
Thurs	30	
Fri	31	Mass 12 noon

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