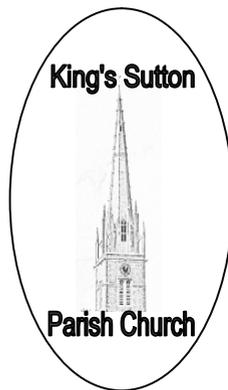


CHURCH NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2014



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

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The Bee, and the irksome things of life.....

I expect that you, like me, find that life is a great mixture of things: some are wonderful, delightful, bringing joy and pleasure. It is easy to give thanks for them, and to see in them the hand of God. But there are other times when life is difficult, we face problems that seem intractable, other people seem unhelpful, we are tired, with our sense of hope fading, and we feel downcast. And where, we ask, is God in this, and why is there no love? Perhaps we are not often at these extremes, but they do occur from time to time.

The Bee of my title is from some words of S John of the Cross. He was a Spanish friar, theologian and poet, who lived from 1542 to 1591. One of his greatest poems is called 'The Spiritual Canticle' and it is a love song between Christ and the Soul. He wrote a long commentary on the poem, and for one of the stanzas (27) he writes of how the soul finds God in everything:

"Like the bee that sucks honey from all wildflowers and will not use them for anything else, the soul easily extracts the sweetness of love from all things that happen to her; that she loves God in them." (*Complete Works p.583*)

In other words, whatever happens, the delightful and easy or the difficult and irksome, love is to be found there. When I was reading that recently I was reminded of another of his sayings, this time from a letter written in that last

summer of 1591. He was addressing the Prioress of the Carmel in Segovia, and he writes:

“..think of nothing else but that God ordains all, and where there is no love, put love, and you will draw out love.”

It is not so much that God wills everything to happen to us that does happen, but that all is within his providential care and if we are loving in every situation that we find ourselves in, then we will find love.

So I hope you might take from this the idea of yourself as a bee sucking the honey from every situation, and when times seem hard and love seems to be absent, go on loving and you will find love.

Fr Roger

From the Registers:

Weddings:

28th December Matthew Phillip Scott and Joulianne Rose Wilson

Funerals:

20th December Gwyneth Cartwright

Celebration of Light : The floodlighting has been sponsored to remember

26 th	November	Ronnie White
25 th	December	Nick Nice
8 th	January	Betty Reid
18 th	January	Sara Charles-Jones



If you have a smart-phone, try scanning this QR code....it will give you more information about the church.



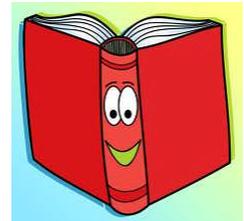
Plans for the 2014 season of **'Sounds Good'** concerts are well under way. The dates for the Spring / Summer season are given below. The Autumn / Winter programme is shaping up nicely as well – more of that in later editions!

The 'Come and Play' is open to all ages – if you want to air your talent as a soloist or in a group, do contact us on 01295 810967 to book a slot in the concert. It will be an informal afternoon!

Sunday April 6 th	3pm	Come and Play / Come and hear
Saturday April 26 th	7pm	MOSTLY MOZART WEEKEND with the Adderbury Ensemble
Sunday April 27 th	3pm	Eine Kleine Nachtmusik and more Kegelstat Trio, and music by Bruch
Sunday May 11 th	3pm	Music from the Med....Fr. Roger's sabbatical in words and music
Sunday June 15 th	3pm	Soloists from the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment: Schubert's 'Trout' quintet.
Saturday July 12 th	7pm	Bandstand Bonanza with Brackley Band

PAPERBACK BOOK SALE for church funds

Advance notice is given that a second-hand paperback book sale will be held in the Memorial Hall on Saturday 22nd March from 1 – 4pm. All the books will be priced at 50p! Do come along and have a browse – you never know what you might find....and it's a great place to get your summer reading.



Church Flowers

In order to maintain the present number of floral arrangements in church, the flower arranging team would welcome anyone willing to lend a hand. Please contact Diane Kennerley - 811678





Children's Church News



We wish you a very Happy New Year, and look forward to continuing to find many ways of enjoying our time with the families in the village.

King's Kids

We decided that the New Year was a time to look at the creation of the world as written in the Bible. By the time you read this, we will have already started on our journey with lots of singing and craft. Singing was obviously a big hit with the children over the Christmas period with them dressing up and singing songs at the Family Crib Service. If you would like more information about the group please contact Carole on 01295 811134.

Parent and Toddlers' Service

Our first service of the New Year started with us welcoming two very new babies. It will be a while before they will be able to blow out the candles at the end of the service, but with a little help from Mum it will not be long!

Family Service

The Service before Christmas was a very happy occasion. Fr. Roger told the story of Christmas with some of the children dressed as Mary, Joseph and angels. We all then walked in procession to the tree where the children put on some decorations and then to the Crib. After the service everyone went to the Vicarage for mince pies and other goodies and the children coloured in Christmas cards. It was a very full house!

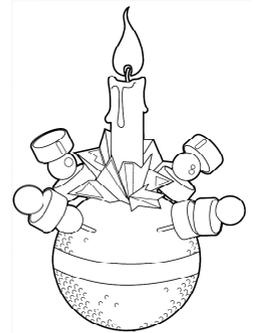




CHRISTINGLE

This service is held here at Candlemas - around and this year on, 2nd February. 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.

DATES IN FEBRUARY

Christingle	2 nd	February	4.00 pm
King's Kids (After School)	6 th	February	3.30pm
Parents & Toddlers	7 th	February	9.30am
Family Worship	23 rd	February	10.00am
Parents & Toddlers	28 th	February	9.30am



HYMNS

We sing a lot of hymns in church and the book tells you the name of the author, and if you have a music copy, something about the tune – composer, or arranger, and its name. But what do we know about these people? And why do we sing particular hymns on particular occasions?



To answer some of these sorts of questions I am “preaching” on hymns seven times during the next seven months. I am starting on March 2nd at the 11am Mass with some ancient hymns from the 4 – 6th centuries. Then there will be a group of mediaeval ones. I am pairing Greek and Celtic. I will then look at some from the Reformation period – largely German. Two revivals: evangelical in the late 18th century and catholic in the 19th century, and finally traditional hymns from the 20th century complete the series.

Fr Roger

GEORGE HERBERT

On 27th February, the priest and poet and George Herbert is remembered in the Church of England calendar. He lived from 1593 – 1633 and in his short life wrote prolifically.

One of ten children, he was born into the aristocracy and after attending school was admitted to Cambridge University on a scholarship, eventually becoming a Fellow of Trinity College. At the age of 25 he was elected to the post of University Orator, whose duties would be served by his poetic skill; and in 1624 he became an MP, representing Montgomery.

Despite seeming to be destined for a life at court, to everyone’s surprise, he decided to be ordained. He served for a time at Little Gidding, and was given the care of souls in Bemerton, a rural parish in Wiltshire in 1630. Here he preached and wrote poetry, and devoted himself to the care of his parishioners, also helping to rebuild the church out of his own funds.

Herbert’s chief prose work was ‘A Priest to the Temple’, which was described by one of his contemporaries as containing ‘plain, prudent, useful rules for the country parson, set forth with fervent piety’. A complete collection of his prose did not appear in print until 1874.

His verse is almost entirely included in a collection called 'The Temple', which was completed shortly before he died. Some of his poems are pattern poems in which the lines form the shape of the subject. (If you look up Herbert's 'Easter Wings', you will find that it is one of these pattern poems, often printed sideways in books to suggest flying wings).

Suffering from poor health, Herbert died of tuberculosis only three years after taking holy orders. On his deathbed, he reportedly told a friend to publish his poems if he thought they might "turn to the advantage of any dejected poor soul", and otherwise, to burn them.

Fortunately his poetry has survived! Here at the Parish Church, we regularly sing four that have been set to music, appearing in the New English Hymnal:

- No. 77 The God of love my Shepherd is (a version of Psalm 23)
- No. 391 King of glory, King of peace
- No. 394 Let all the world in every corner sing
- No. 456 Teach me my God and King

George Herbert encouraged his parishioners to attend his recitation of the daily office, and this is reflected in the words of this hymn:

King of glory, King of peace, I will love thee; And that love may never cease, I will move thee. Thou hast granted my request, Thou hast heard me; Thou didst note my working breast, Thou hast spared me.	Wherefore with my utmost art I will sing thee, And the cream of all my heart I will bring thee. Though my sins against me cried, Thou didst clear me; And alone, when they replied, Thou didst hear me
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Seven whole days, not one in seven,
I will praise thee;
In my heart, though not in heaven,
I can raise thee.
Small it is, in this poor sort
To enrol thee:
E'en eternity's too short
To extol thee.

Calendar of Services for February 2014

Sat	1	Mass 10am
Sun	2	Candlemas: Mass 8am; Sung Mass 11am; Christingle 4pm
Mon	3	
Tues	4	<i>S Gilbert of Sempringham:</i> Mass 9.30am
Weds	5	
Thurs	6	
Fri	7	Parents and Toddlers' Worship 9.30am
Sat	8	Mass 10am
Sun	9	4th Before Lent: Mass 8am; Sung Mass 11am; Evensong with prayer for healing 6pm.
Mon	10	
Tues	11	Mass 9.30am
Weds	12	Mass 7pm
Thurs	13	
Fri	14	<i>SS Cyril and Methodius:</i> Mass 12 noon
Sat	15	Mass 10am
Sun	16	3rd Before Lent: Mass 8am; Sung Mass 11am; Evensong 6pm
Mon	17	
Tues	18	Mass 9.30am
Weds	19	Mass 7pm
Thurs	20	
Fri	21	Mass 12 noon
Sat	22	Mass 10am SOLW
Sun	23	2nd Before Lent: Mass 8am; Family Worship 10am; Sung Mass 11am; Evensong 6pm
Mon	24	
Tues	25	Mass 9.30am
Weds	26	Mass 7pm
Thurs	27	
Fri	28	Parents and Toddlers' Worship 9.30am; Mass 12 noon

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