

CHURCH NEWSLETTER MARCH 2015

King's Sutton



Parish Church

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

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CHRISTIANS IN IRAQ

Mesopotamia (between the rivers) has a history going back at least 10,000 years, but its modern history, when the country we know as Iraq was created, dates



from just after the First World War. Out of the Ottoman Empire the British and French created various countries, among them the kingdom of Iraq in 1932. In 1958 a revolution overthrew the monarchy, but the subsequent republic had several coups and eventually Saddam Hussein came to power. The more recent history witnessed the invasion of 2003, and now the emergence of ISIS spilling over from the civil war in Syria.

The majority of the population is Muslim, but in 2003 5% was Christian. They are the Chaldean Catholics, one of the most ancient of all churches and in communion with Rome since the 16th century. At the time of the invasion there were 1½ million of them. Some estimates now put that figure as low as 200,000. Many of them lived in cities like Mosul, Arbil and Kirkuk in the north which has been occupied by the Islamic extremists. Others lived in Baghdad and Basra.

The Archdeacon of the Gulf, the Venerable Bill Schwartz has written: "Iraqi people need our prayers. Iraqi Christians need our prayers. Many have had to flee and are seeking to migrate. However, among the few Iraqi Christians who have passports, even fewer are in a position to obtain visas or have the financial and logistical resources to leave." US, the Anglican missionary organisation is sending funds to help to support relief work. The immediate need is for food, then accommodation for those sleeping in schools or on the streets. And we are urged to pray for an end to the violence, the fear and the humanitarian crisis.

If you would like to give you can do so through the local church. Just contact Fr Roger.

Fr Roger

From the Registers:

Funerals and services at the Crematorium

January	20 th	Irene Burnham
January	21 st	Michael Varney
February	6 th	Robert French

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

January	27 th	Jan Lester
February	8 th	Alec Lovell
February	22 nd	John & Winifred Burne
March	12 th	Miriam Thorne
March	24 th	Jill Hunter

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.

Looking ahead to Easter Services:

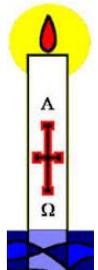
<i>Thursday 2nd April</i>	Maundy Thursday	<i>Sung Mass and Vigil 8pm</i>
<i>Friday 3rd April</i>	Good Friday	<i>Family Worship 10am The Liturgy 3.15pm</i>
<i>Saturday 4th April</i>	Easter Eve	<i>Vigil and Mass 9pm</i>
<i>Sunday 5th April</i>	Easter Day	<i>Sung Mass 11am Celebration of the Resurrection 6pm</i>

What should I expect at these services?

Maundy Thursday is when the betrayal of Christ is remembered. After the Sung Mass at 8pm, the church is open until midnight for private prayer and meditation. St. Thomas' altar will have flowers and candles on it to recall the Garden of Gethsemane; the Vigil reminds us of Christ's admonition of Peter: 'Could you not keep awake one hour?' (Mark 14.37). The altars are stripped and crucifixes covered: everything seems bare and empty.

Good Friday was the day on which Jesus was crucified and buried in a garden tomb. At the Family Worship at 10am, an Easter Garden will be created, complete with crosses and tomb. The service at 3.15pm includes a reading of the Passion of Jesus, prayers, reverence of the Cross and Holy Communion.

Easter Eve The service at 9pm starts in darkness, and then the Easter candle is lit. On it is drawn a cross and the Greek letters Alpha (A) and Omega (Ω), the beginning and the end (Revelation 22:13). The year is inscribed on the candle and small nails inserted into the wax to represent the five wounds of Christ. Everyone processes into the church with lit candles and then there are readings with the theme of light, baptismal vows are renewed and the Eucharist is celebrated.



Easter Day celebrates the day that Christ rose from the dead. It has a Sung Mass at 11am, and then a joyful Celebration at 6pm with hymns and readings.



Children and families



SUNDAY SCHOOL meets in the Church Room on the second Sunday of the month during the 11am Mass. This month it will be held on Sunday 8th March.

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.

FAMILY WORSHIP takes place on the fourth Sunday of the month at 10am: this month on Sunday 22nd March. There will also be Family Worship on Good Friday – 3rd April at 10am.

KINGS KIDS is usually held in the Church Room one Thursday a month after school, and is on 12th March this month.

Fr. Roger

*Prayer written by an 11 year old suitable for Mothering Sunday
(Lion book of prayers)*

Lord, I pray for my mum today –
That you'd give her the strength to get through the day.
Please help me to look after my mum.



Women's World Day of Prayer – Friday March 6th, service at 10.30am



This year's service has been written by the Christian women of the Bahamas. Although called the Women's World Day of Prayer (WWDP), all are invited. Increasingly men and children are participating. Over a period of 36 hours, 170 countries will have taken part. In the UK, over 5,000 services will be held, focusing on the theme of 'Jesus said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you?"'

The logo was designed to show arrows converging from the four points of the compass, four figures kneeling in prayer, the Celtic cross and a circle representing the world and unity through diversity.

A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY, with a few key dates

The origins of the WWDP date back to the 19th century when Christian women in the USA and Canada initiated a variety of activities in support of women's involvement in mission at home and abroad. Women of six denominations formed a joint committee for a united day of prayer for home missions in **1897**. In **1908** the Council of Women for Home Missions was founded and that took responsibility for work with immigrants and other social issues and for preparation of the joint day of prayer.

Between **1910** and **1911**, 50 years of women's missionary activity was celebrated by a series of talks across the USA that provided a powerful experience of local and global ecumenical cooperation, prayer and biblical reflection. Efforts for unity continued and in **1922** two separate united days of prayer, one in Canada and one in the USA, came together with a common date, the first Friday of Lent. Late in **1926** the women of North America distributed the worship service to many countries and partners in mission. The response worldwide was enthusiastic and WWDP came into being.

It was in **1928**, at an international missionary conference in Jerusalem, that a Scotswoman, Grace Forgan, first learned of the world day of prayer and brought it to the UK. The first services in England were held in **1932**. In **1941** the WWDP office in London was bombed and all property and records destroyed. There was no loss of life and minutes recovered from members enabled the bare bones of the first 9 years to be preserved. Often the planning committee in London met in an air-raid shelter but every year Orders of Service were produced and supplied to the rest of the country. This is now part of the work of the National Committee.

The Spire

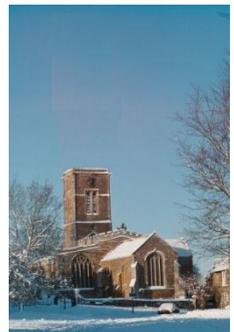


There are a great many “faces” for the Church in our village, but the most obvious are: 1. The Spire and 2. The Vicar! More about him next month, but this month we need your help for the Spire.

We all know that it stands high above the village and landscape, visible for miles around, including the canal, railway and M40. It has been here with its delicate stonework and its wonderful design for over 700 years. When we see it we know we are near home, and for us who are Christians it speaks eloquently of God’s presence in our midst. King’s Sutton wouldn’t quite be King’s Sutton without it.

If you have lived in the village for a while, you may have seen the damage that a single pinnacle can cause when it falls – one came down through the church roof in a storm in 1990, and broke two thick oak roof beams, damaging a significant number of pews and the floor. Yet another fallen pinnacle caused extensive damage some 10 years later.

A recent report indicates that we need to spend about £90,000+ on urgent repairs: a lot of the stone is eroding and we need to ensure the stability of the pinnacles and the frieze at the top of the tower. This amount was included in an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund which we reported in the July 2014 Newsletter. Because there were so many applications and not enough money to distribute, we were unsuccessful. We will be making applications for grants to various organisations but we also need your support. Whoever we apply to we have to show that the spire (and the Church) *matters* to our community; so we are inviting you to write to Fr. Roger to tell him why the spire is important to you. Perhaps that ought to include something about the importance of having a church in the village, not just for the worshipping community and marking life events, but for concerts, exhibitions, community events and so on. Having the Church open every day during daylight hours is a sign that the whole community is welcome to their building. Without community support any grant applications will surely fail, and if that happens the worst case scenario is that the spire will become unsafe and be removed -see photo (right)! Is that what you want for *your* Church?





MUSIC EVENTS



Tuesday, March 31st at 7pm
THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF OUR SAVIOUR ON THE CROSS

BY JOSEPH HAYDN

**Played by members of the Adderbury Ensemble
with
Readings and poetry**

Entry: £15 / £10, children free

One of the great devotional works for Holy Week, originally commissioned for the Good Friday service at the Oratorio de la Santa Cueva in Cadiz. This is the 1787 adaptation Haydn made for string quartet.

Future dates for your diary:

Saturday, April 11 th	7pm	'Cool 'n' Blue' Jazz Entry free, Donations invited
Sunday, April 12 th	3pm	Sam Heywood (piano) Entry £15 / £10 children free

Calendar of Services for March 2015

Sun	1	Lent 2: Mass 8am; Sung Mass 11am; Evensong 6pm
Mon	2	<i>Chad</i>
Tues	3	Mass 9.30am
Weds	4	Mass 7pm
Thurs	5	
Fri	6	Parents & Toddlers' Worship 9.30am; Women's World Day of Prayer Service 10.30am; Mass 12 noon
Sat	7	<i>S Perpetua:</i> Mass 10 am
Sun	8	Lent 3: Mass 8am; Sung Mass 11am; Evensong 6pm
Mon	9	
Tues	10	Mass 9.30am
Weds	11	Mass 7pm
Thurs	12	
Fri	13	Parents & Toddlers' Worship 9.30am; Mass 12 noon
Sat	14	Mass 10 am
Sun	15	Lent 4 Mothering Sunday: Mass 8am; Sung Mass 11am; Evensong 6pm
Mon	16	
Tues	17	<i>S Patrick:</i> Mass 9.30am
Weds	18	<i>Eve of S Joseph:</i> Mass 7pm
Thurs	19	
Fri	20	<i>S Cuthbert:</i> Parents & Toddlers' Worship 9.30am; Mass 12 noon
Sat	21	<i>Thomas Cranmer:</i> Mass 10 am
Sun	22	Lent 5 Passiontide begins: Mass 8am; Family Worship 10am; Sung Mass 11am; Evensong 6pm
Mon	23	
Tues	24	<i>Oscar Romero:</i> Mass 9.30am
Weds	25	<i>The Annunciation:</i> Mass 7pm
Thurs	26	
Fri	27	Parents & Toddlers' Worship 9.30am; Mass 12 noon
Sat	28	Mass SOLW 10 am; Wedding 1pm
Sun	29	PALM SUNDAY: Mass 8am; Sung Mass with procession 11am; Stations of the Cross 6pm
Mon	30	
Tues	31	Mass 9.30am

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