

saints

Kettering All Saints
Monthly Update

Alive!

**“The Church in the Park – Growing
in Faith, Hope and Love”**



DECEMBER 2023

kettallsaintschurch@gmail.com

CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER

1 st Dec	7.30pm	Happy Together Ukulele Band £6
2 nd	10am	Wreath Making Session (Booking required)
3 rd Dec	10.30am	Advent 1 – Toy service (Please bring an unwrapped toy for a child of any age to donate to Home-Start)
4 th	7.30-8pm	Holy Eucharist
7 th	11am	Home Communion at Avery Court
8 th	7.00-9.00pm	Pizza Bingo Evening. Please book via Angela. £4 per person
Sun 10 th	10.30am	Parish Eucharist – Advent 2
	4pm	Memorial Tree Service. Tea/coffee after.
11 th	7.30-8pm	Holy Eucharist
14 th	11am	Home Communion at Ashley Court
15 th	7.30pm	Fun Quiz
16 th	10.30-12.30	Listening to God at All Saints
	2.30-4.30pm	Tea Dance £3.50 per person
Sun 17 th	10.30am	Parish Eucharist – Advent 3
18 th	7.30-8pm	Holy Eucharist with Healing & Wholeness
23 rd	9-1pm	Church cleaning
Sun 24 th	10.30am	Parish Eucharist – Advent 4
	4pm	Christingle service
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass – with incense
Sun 25 th	9.30am	Christmas Day Mass with Holy Eucharist
Sun 31 st	10.30am	Parish Eucharist – Christmas 1
1 st Jan	No Service	Happy 2024 – everyone!

Listening to God



Christian meditation group meeting
at All Saints Church 16th Dec 10.30 – 12.30

Ring Jennie Loasby on 07990 588135



A MESSAGE FROM ANGIE MILNE

Dear Friends,

Once again this year has flown past and by the time you read this, we will be stepping into the season of Advent, watching for the arrival of the 'John Lewis' Christmas advert with anticipation, and the preparations for Christmas will well and truly have begun, exciting for both me and my family our first Christmas here in Kettering.

I am conscious that for many people Christmas may well be difficult this year, as the economic crisis continues. The food banks report that more people than ever are having to use them and that includes families where both parents are working but are unable to make ends meet, a situation that I'm sure many of us never expected to experience.

As I have been reflecting on that, it seems to me that perhaps this year it is more important than ever for us to think about the true meaning of Christmas. Yes, I do mean the coming of the Christ child, but I also mean really thinking about the gifts that we are giving to people, perhaps gifts that give something of ourselves as well. As our children are older, we have decided to do token gifts by way of a secret Santa limiting the money spent, and each of us only buying for one other person. What we will be sharing is time together during advent, preparing handmade gifts, cards, door wreaths and table decorations, biscuits, and sweets to share with each other and our wider family.

Advent is a season of waiting and preparing, an opportune time to spend with those we love creating memories in this stillness before Christmas arrives. Giving the gift of memories, giving the gift of a small part of ourselves is something that we can all do, and it is what God has done for us in the giving of His son, a gift that is freely given to each of us and that God longs for us to receive.

With my love and prayers for a truly blessed Christmas and New Year.
Angie.

The Christian Chronicle

How Clear is the Future?

A 1994 UK mobile phone ad said, “the future’s bright, the future’s Orange”. Well, the Orange brand’s disappeared from the UK and there’s a question as to how bright the future is. This’ll be the last Christian Chronicle report, at least for some time, because my time-travelling app won’t let me move any further forward than I am now. We’re approaching the end of 2023; based on the level of change over past centuries, I’m sure there’ll be more to come. The what, when and how are not clear and are buried in the foggy murk of the future, so it’s useful to assess where things currently stand in a number of areas.

The single Christian Church tried to find uniformity of approach and understanding in the Great Ecumenical Councils of the 4th - 7th centuries, however differences of opinions, not least about the relationship of the Holy Spirit to the Father and the Son within the Trinity, resulted in an East/West schism that has lasted officially for nearly 1,000 years and effectively much longer. Division still exist between the Eastern Orthodox and the Western Catholic/Protestant Churches, there’s regular dialogue, but global unification doesn’t appear to be on the horizon.

The mainstay of the Western church is Roman Catholicism. To call it ‘western’ is somewhat of a misnomer. Made up of 24 separate autonomous churches known as “Sui Iuris”, the largest being the Latin Church, the various eastern or oriental Catholic churches mean it’s spread worldwide. Altogether, about 3500 dioceses serve 1.3 billion baptised Catholic members (nearly 1/6th of the world’s population). Much of the church’s teaching has changed little over the centuries but both this status quo and the change that has occurred has been the source of considerable conflict.

In the 16th century some approaches of the Catholic church caused many to take a different direction – what’s become known as the Reformation. Two particular theological leaders emerged among the Protestants – Martin Luther and Johnn Calvin. Whether following one or other main theology and

approach, or indeed, a blend of the two, the Protestant church has also continued to grow and spread worldwide, representing nearly 1 billion Christians altogether. However, this is across multiple separate churches and denominations. Anglicanism is the term applied to those churches that follow the pattern of the Church of England, however, the Church of England itself is just one part of the whole Anglican community that accounts for approximately 110 million people across the world.

So, there's the Roman Catholic church with one leader, the Pope (currently Pope Francis), the Orthodox Churches that work closely together but have 5 separate Patriarchs and the Protestants of which the Church of England is the largest with a spiritual head in the Archbishop of Canterbury, currently Justin Welby. Altogether there are about 2.5 billion Christians within a world population that's just recently (November 2022) exceeded 8 billion.

The church always sits in a social and political context: whilst Christian faith focuses on things of heaven it cannot be blind to worldly events around it. The propagation, or oppression, of the church is often determined by war and conflict; Christians are tempted and challenged by the world's social context and opinion; Advances in technology, in particular, over the last 50 years have brought significant impact to society and, in turn, to the church.

Over the last 50 years or so, many social attitudes and socially acceptable norms have changed and whilst that change is greater in some parts of the world than others, there's been significant change throughout the world. Differences in skin colour are more accepted, this doesn't mean there's equality for all, irrespective of skin colour; nor does it mean that the diversity of cultures that accompany these differences is appreciated and accepted, but the situation is improving. Bigotry and racism still exist and there's more work to be done to fully respect our neighbours in the world.

Tension also exists between different religious beliefs. This is particularly so between Islamic groups, Christians and Judaism. Again, not all elements of these religious cultures engage in this animosity, but the term fundamentalist is often applied to those factions that can only see one perspective and for whom compromise and constructive engagement with others is only possible on their own specific terms. A recent example is the country of Afghanistan that is now controlled by the Islamic Taliban regime.

After a period of engaging with western attitudes, there'd been educational opportunity for women in particular; now, there's an imposition of strict Islamic Sharia law with education for women essentially discontinued.

Elsewhere, Russia has invaded the country of Ukraine and continue to control parts of the south of the country despite defiant response and retaliation from Ukrainians. This conflict is having significant impact beyond the immediate region. Whilst Ukraine is not a member of NATO or the European Union, it has signalled intent and had commenced discussions to join both. The conflict is therefore seen to be 'Cold War-esque' as a conflict between Soviet and western ideology. The war has had a major impact on gas and oil supplies, particularly to mainland Europe, and as a result global fuel costs have risen sharply. The situation has prompted nearby Finland to become a member of NATO, ending decades of formal neutrality.

In the Holy Land, there's long standing tension between Palestinians, who are mainly Muslim Arabs, and Jews that form the country of Israel. This has been an ongoing political situation for decades: Palestinians generally inhabit two areas of the region – a small coastal area known as the Gaza Strip and a larger area, known as the West Bank, that covers approximately 2, 180 square miles and includes many significant towns relevant to both Jewish and Christian history. Despite these designated areas, the Israeli government has actively supported Jewish settlement especially in the West Bank areas. There have been various flash points over the years and the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip have turned to the radical Hamas group for its leadership. Hamas is considered responsible for numerous terrorist attacks and most recently initiated an incursion into Israel that resulted in a massacre and the taking of hostages. The resulting war has significantly challenged many governments around the world because of the overall humanitarian impact. Christians around the world are praying for peace, humanitarianism, and respect in all of these places that have also included the areas of Sudan, Yemen and Myanmar in recent years.

For centuries, interpersonal relationships have existed far beyond lifelong marriage between men and women, this area of life has seen significant change in social perspective. In society-at-large in the western world, cohabitation without marriage is common, as is divorce and remarriage. As

a result, families are often complicated, with half-siblings and step-siblings. In many parts of the world marriage is no longer just a legal entity between a man and woman, but also exists between same sex couples. Some areas of the church, most notably the Roman Catholic church, only consider lifelong marriage between a man and a woman to be a suitable Christian union. Previous divorcees that have re-married are accepted in many churches, with some allowing remarriage in church rather than just a civil setting. The Church of England is renowned for being a “broad church” in terms of theology and tradition verses liberalism; as a result, remarriage in church of previously divorced individuals is a matter for individual churches and priests.

The situation regarding same sex relationships is far more complicated. The Church of England and other churches around the world mostly welcome homosexual members and, subject to certain conditions, do allow homosexual priests and even bishops. Whilst same sex marriage is accepted as a civil legality and blessings in church may be given after civil ceremony, actual Christian marriage is not currently accepted in the Church of England although has been accepted in some denominations such as in America. Opinion within the Anglican community is divided on this matter. Whilst the current Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has expressed his support for same sex marriage, there’s a “Global Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans” that takes the opposite perspective and has formally rejected the leadership of the Archbishop as head of the global Anglicanism.

Since the Church of England has considered ordaining women as priests, it has moved relatively quickly to establish women as bishops. The position of the Bishop of London is the third most senior post within the Church of England after the Archbishops of Canterbury and York; that post has been held by Dame Sarah Mullally since 2018. Senior diocesan bishops sit as “Lords Spiritual” in the House of Lords as part of the British Parliament; the Bishop of Peterborough is one such position and one piece of future news that I am able to bring is that Debbie Sellin is due to be installed as the new Bishop of Peterborough early in 2024 - no date has been announced yet.

The world has been significantly challenged over the last 4 years by a world pandemic. First identified towards the end of 2019, this coronavirus, known

also as Covid-19, is now believed to have originated in China but has spread throughout the world. In the first year alone, it's believed to have infected at least 81 million people worldwide, then almost 3 times that number the following year and almost doubling again in 2022. Scientists raced to develop vaccines, but it was nearly 12 months before these could be put in use and another year before the programme had been rolled out sufficiently become effective; in total, approximately 8 million have died worldwide. Whilst the World Health Organisation has now downgraded Covid-19 from being a 'global health emergency', the virus continues to mutate, and infections continue amongst the unvaccinated and other vulnerable conditions and circumstances. Without the initial ability to vaccinate and due to the severity of infections many countries, including the UK, initiated economic lockdown that enforced home isolation for all except the most essential services. As a result, church services were suspended for long periods and in many cases nearly 18 months. Unable to gather together in person, churches used technology to run services online. The challenge going forward is that church attendance has reduced significantly, in some cases to only about 50% of the pre-pandemic levels; the opportunity for the church is that the situation has forced the church to engage through modern technology more than ever before and this may become an increasing part of church activity going forward.

Despite the many challenges the Christian Church has continued to grow and evolve over the centuries. The main challenges for the church are its relationships with other faiths; its relationships within the various denominations that constitute the Christian faith and the conflicts of faith and theology that exist as a result; and, finally but perhaps most importantly, the challenges of relationships between members of the churches that make up the Christian faith. Jesus was asked "who is my neighbour", his response to that question, and across his teachings, is that the Christian faith, and throughout, the Kingdom of Heaven is available to all, irrespective of circumcision and irrespective of skin colour or sex. The church, through prayer, must address aspects of gender and sexual orientation following the guidance that our dear Lord left with us in his teachings and example. The world, including the church, must also contemplate the challenge presented through scientific advancement in the

field of genetics as the possibility of genetic modification and even human cloning become ever closer.

The time travelling app that has allowed me to gradually step forward in time, reviewing developments in the world and the church, cannot take me into the future. History has taught us that there will be change and there will be challenge, but Christianity has grown and will continue to grow, that Christian faith is as strong as ever and the promise of the Kingdom of Heaven remains for all. It has been an honour to guide you through this journey in history, let us all now learn from that history, engage with the present and embrace the future.

LIFE'S WINTER VIEW

When poppies fade, we long to see,
bright lights on the Christmas tree,
as out with the old and in with the new,
we brighten up life's winter view.

When pumpkins perish in the cold,
we long for silver bells and gold,
when Winter Solstice bells ring true,
to brighten up life's winter view.

When soldiers march by on parade,
when all the poppy wreaths are laid,
when autumn's masquerade is through,
we brighten up life's winter view.

The last of autumn leaves they fall,
'fore Santa pays a Christmas call,
and when the sky turns frosty blue,
we brighten up life's winter view.

With love to share we dream anew,
of Peace on Earth for me and you,
with hopes and dreams we pray come true,
we brighten up life's winter view.



The little things that matter most,
the Christmas cards we love to post,
with diamond stars that shine anew,
we brighten up life's winter view.

May war torn faces etched with pain,
learn to smile and laugh again,
with childish joy and laughter too,
we brighten up life's winter view.

May broken hearts no longer ache,
when winter brings the first snowflake,
with hopes and dreams that do come true,
we brighten up life's winter view.

All rights reserved – **Steve Howkins (silver award winner at Kettering Festival of Literature 2023)**

NOVEMBER 2023 PCC MEETING - Items of note discussed:

Parish Priest's Items – Leading your Church into Growth - Four members of the PCC (David Walsh, Angie Milne, Alan Ridley, and Richard Peaden attended this nationally arranged initiative and the prayer used at the conference was used as the PCC opening prayer and will continue to be used in this way and at the Sunday Eucharist. To further develop our way forward. It was agreed to form a sub-committee to report back to the PCC and an open meeting will be arranged to move this forward. David assured the PCC that we are not alone in our plight as many other attendees were in similar positions and, in fact, we were probably better placed than some, particularly in respect of our presence in the Parish community.

Christmas Services – Christingle collections will go as usual to the Children's Society and general Christmas collections to "Médecins Sans Frontières / Doctors Without Borders" working out in Gaza.

Link with Church in South Korea – More people are becoming involved and exchange visits are being discussed and the Mothers' Union connection is being developed. It was noted from David Walsh that a lot of British soldiers are buried in South Korea.

Community Garden Project – It was noted that there was a move in the group to concentrate on the replacement shed and general maintenance.

Church Development 'To Do List' – Remains the same.

All Saints' Community Events – Continue as planned.

Finance and Stewardship – Accounts to the end of October were received together with Fundraising report to date. Marie reported that our finances were marginally better than this time last year but we are still not paying our full Parish Share.

Safeguarding – The Garden Community are being asked to adopt our Safeguarding training plans.

Health and Safety – Policy updates are in progress.

Correspondence – The Dean had emailed and thanked us for our welcome and the hospitality at our Patronal celebration. He was impressed by the Bug Church and he is hoping to develop a Bug Cathedral.

Hall Matters – Jubilee Room carpet has been cleaned.

Fabric – More new lights on the North side have been placed. Fire blankets are in place. One quote received to replace kitchen and toilet floors and further quotes are being sought.

Date of Next Meeting – Monday 8th January 2024 at 8pm in the Jubilee Room.
Jane B.

THE GARDEN STORY GROWING!



Christmas Garden Jokes!

How did the bauble get addicted to Christmas? He was hooked on trees his whole life!

Why did the Vicar ask people not to eat sprouts on Christmas Day? They want to give peas a chance!

HISTORY OF SOME CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

Mince Pies were originally filled with meat, such as lamb, rather than the dried fruits and spices mix as they are today. They were also first made in an oval shape to represent the manger that Jesus slept in as a baby, with the top representing his swaddling clothes. Sometimes they even had a 'pastry baby Jesus' on the top!

During the Stuart and Georgian times, in the UK, mince pies were a status symbol at Christmas. Very rich people liked to show off at their Christmas parties by having pies made in different shapes (like stars, crescents, hearts, tears, & flowers); the fancy shaped pies could often fit together a bit like a jigsaw! They also had pies which looked like the 'knot gardens' that were popular during those periods. Having pies like this meant you were rich and could afford to employ the best, and most expensive, pastry cooks. Nowadays they are normally made in a round shape and are eaten hot or cold.

A custom from the Middle Ages says that if you eat a mince pie on every day from Christmas to Twelfth Night (evening of the 5th January) you will have happiness for the next 12 months!

The History of Christmas Cocktails

Eggnog: It is believed that the drink originated in East Anglia. Another theory is that it is a derivative of the Posset, another milk-based cocktail. It was popular amongst the rich, who were the only ones who could get hold of milk and eggs at the time, before making its way to the British colonies in America in the 18th century. It became associated with Christmas thanks to the eggnog riots at the United States Military Academy in 1826. Some of the cadets smuggled the ingredients into the barracks to make a special cocktail for Christmas Day. The act resulted in disciplinary action for many of the soldiers.

Mulled Wine: This delicious mixture of red wine and mulled spices has the ultimate scent of Christmas. It is possible that this drink dates as far back as

the 2nd century, where wine was warmed up in Rome. However, it is in the UK where it is most popular, and has been since Victorian times. It is popular around Christmas time thanks to its ability to warm people up on a cold, snowy day.

Snowball: Advocaat and lemonade with a dash of lime make up this popular yuletide drink. Created in the UK in the 40s, it really took off in the 70s. Then its reputation declined somewhat, as the sweetness of the drink fell out of favour. However, in 2006, chef Nigella Lawson was responsible for a 40% rise in sales of Advocaat, and the snowball was revived. Meanwhile, in America, the snowball has always been looked at with suspicion. There is something about the combination of egg and lemonade that seems to put people off.

(taken from: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-25419506>)

TONGUE TWISTERS JUST FOR YOU!

Santa stuffs six stripy socks.
Tiny Tim trims the tall tree with tinsel.
Santa's sleigh glides in the sky.
Seven Santa's sang silly songs.
Santa's Short Suit Shrunk.

Recycling stamps for Charities



Jane Bouchier collects used English or foreign stamps for charities. Please leave half inch of paper all around the stamp. There is a shoe box near the north door by our statue of Mary or give to Jane.

Be Prepared for Christmas with

Scoutpost



<http://glendonscouts.org.uk/scoutpost>

Scouts deliver your local cards

**Post your cards from December 1st
to December 13th**

Cost 40p per card

**Look out for our collection boxes
(see website for locations)**

We can deliver to

Barton Seagrave	Desborough	Little Oakley	Pytchley
Braybrooke	Geddington	Little Stanion	Rockingham
Broughton	Grafton Underwood	Loddington	Rothwell
Brigstock	Great Oakley	Mawsley	Rushton
Burton Latimer	Gretton	Newton	Stanion
Corby	Isham	Orlningbury	Thrapston
Cranford	Kettering	Orton	Warkton
Cransley	Little Cransley	Pipewell	Weekley
			Weldon

Please do not post cards for other places as we will be unable to deliver them. We DO NOT deliver to Finedon or Wellingborough



**Address
cards:**

**Recipients name
House number / road name
Town
Postcode (if known)**

Our collection bucket is in the Jubilee Room.

Church Cleaning 23rd December

Many hands make light work!

If you have any spare time between 9-1pm please come along,
we can supply cloths, dusters, gloves etc.

Tea/coffee available.

MEANINGFUL THOUGHTS

What does God want for Christmas: Look in the mirror.

We don't have an Advent Calendar, but the church doors are open.

Tweet others as you would like to be Tweeted.

Remember: Christmas is all about his presence, not your presents!

It's Christmas not Xmas, don't X him out.

Wise men bow not only at the manger but also at the cross.

It's hard to get in shape spiritually if you only workout on a Sunday.

When life isn't a bed of rose, remember who wore the crown of thorns.

If Christ never existed, then why is there a Christmas?

The key to heaven was hung on a nail.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

From December 3rd our Memorial tree will be up. We think of all our Christmases past. You may write a message on a tag and place it on the memorial tree and place a donation in the box if you so wish.

Sunday 10th December Memorial Tree service 4pm. Tea/coffee afterwards.	Sunday 24th December Morning Eucharist service at 10.30am
Sunday 24th December Christingle service at 4pm - collection in aid of The Childrens Society Sunday 24th December Midnight Mass 11.30pm with incense.	Monday 25th December Christmas Day Mass at 9.30am.

Community Highlights for January for Your Diaries!

19th – Fun Quiz evening £2.50
each includes tea/coffee. Max 4
in a team. Bring your own drink
and nibbles. Raffle. 7.30pm.

We have 522 people checking our events page on:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Ketteringallsaintsevents>

Email: kettallsaintschurch@gmail.com

**Website Address: <https://kettallsaintschurch.chessck.co.uk/>
<https://www.facebook.com/allsaintsparishchurchkettering/>**

COPY - Please send in your snippets, news, prayers etc to Angela. The deadline for the January edition of Saints Alive! is **28th December**. The new year edition will be available on Sunday 31st December.

FROM RICHARD & KAY LEWIS

Richard and Kay have sent a couple of photographs of two lovely statues of St Mary and St Francis that they saw whilst on holiday in Sorrento.



CHURCHES AROUND OUR AREA THIS MONTH

(Photographs by permission of Caroline Bantock-Brown of churches, porches, spires, grotesques, stained-glass windows etc.)

All Saints Church, Polebrook.

Its 12th century origins were built on a former wooden building. It began simply as a Nave and a Chancel, now a medieval mismatch of another Chancel and a North Transept. Now it houses the USAF 351st Heavy Bombardment Memorial Chapel.



Early 12th century Norman Archway



Highly decorated double arched
Piscina with fluted bowls



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS



Angela and Richard wish everyone a most joyful and peaceful Christmas and a happy and prosperous 2024.

*A very merry Christmas to everyone at All Saints.
Thank you all for your ongoing support through 2023.
Marie Morrison.*

Phil & Mary Mason send Christmas Greetings and Best Wishes for the year ahead to everyone at ALL SAINTS.

Pam Chandler wishes everyone at All Saints a peaceful and Happy Christmas and all Gods blessings for 2024.

Linda and Bryan wish you all seasons' greetings, and good health and happiness. All our prayers are for peace throughout the world.

Pat and Derrick Smith wish everyone peace and joy at Christmas and a very happy and healthy New year.

All the blessings of this Holy Season and every good wish for a healthy & happy New Year to all at All Saints from Madeleine.

Anne and John Sockett would like to wish their friends at All Saints a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful and Healthy New Year.

Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year — Wendy Woolley and family.

Happy Christmas to all from Lyn & Alan Ridley, also Federica and Anna.

*To everyone at All Saints wishing you all a happy Christmas.
May our prayers echo goodwill and peace of the season,
remembering those who cannot celebrate in freedom.
May the world recognise the birth of Jesus as a sign of
Hope. All best wishes for 2024. Love Ruth Inyon.*



We remember in this month's magazine:

**Anne Wall, missed and always remembered with love by
Nina, her Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren xx**

