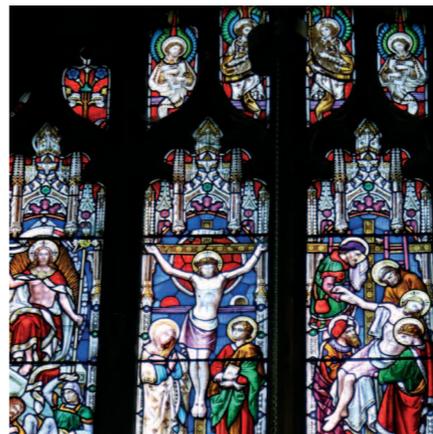




Benefice of King's Sutton with Newbottle and Charlton

Our Benefice is looking for a vicar who can provide empathetic and enabling leadership for two rural parishes each with different needs, who has the ability to relate to the local community and provide clear Christian teaching and leadership.



Where You Can Find Us



St James's Church – Newbottle



St Peter & St Paul Church – King's Sutton

About the Benefice

The benefice consists of two parishes in south Northamptonshire, bordering on to north Oxfordshire. They are part of South Northamptonshire District Council and both have Parish Councils. The M40 runs just to the west providing easy access to London and Birmingham and via the A34 to Oxford and the south coast. Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwick and Leamington Spa are about thirty minutes away with the M1 about 20 miles to the east. There is a railway station in Kings Sutton with daily services to Oxford, Banbury and London Marylebone.

The Vicarage

The Vicarage is in King's Sutton, next door to the church. It was built about 50 years ago and is a very pleasant stone-faced detached building at the end of a little lane. There is a study, near the front door, a kitchen, a utility room, dining and sitting rooms. Upstairs there are 4 bedrooms – two being doubles, a separate toilet and bathroom. A small back porch leads into the garden which is moderately large with many mature shrubs and some trees. The back of the house faces west and is not overlooked. There is a large gravelled area with a double garage at the front.

What Kind of Priest is the Benefice Looking For?

- A person who shows loving kindness to the members of his congregations and to the wider community.
- An outgoing personality eager to initiate new ways of spreading the gospel in the wider community and of attracting people of all ages into the church.
- A man of prayer who nurtures the faith and devotion of his parishioners by his example, his ministry and his preaching.
- Somebody who will foster good relationships between the two parishes whilst appreciating the differences in churchmanship.

- A priest with excellent pastoral skills who is prepared to make visits to those in need.
- A person who can work in a collaborative spirit both within the benefice and in the diocese.
- Somebody who is sympathetic to existing forms of worship and is willing to try fresh ideas.

What Kind of Parish is King's Sutton?

Communications from King's Sutton are good because of our geographical position and despite our nearness to the town of Banbury we have preserved the typical village feel. King's Sutton village was part of the royal estates from Saxon times and is mentioned in the Domesday Book in 1086. From 1660 to 1777 it was famous as a spa. Throughout the years the church of St Peter and St Paul has been at the centre of the village. This parish is in the Deanery of Brackley and the Archdeaconry of Northampton in the Diocese of Peterborough. Episcopal oversight is provided by



the Bishop of Richborough as King's Sutton has passed a resolution under the House of Bishops' Declaration, which has recently been re-affirmed and is a Society Parish.

King's Sutton is a large village of around 3000 people. It has a large social housing estate and several new housing projects have brought more people into the parish. It is a rural community with many of the aspects of a suburb, a mixed community with commuters, many of whom travel as far as London, Oxford or Bicester every day, people working from home, and several farms. There are two shops, one of which also acts as a Post Office, a café, a hairdresser's, a garage and two pubs, one of which has a good reputation in the area as a restaurant. The railway station offers trains running between Marylebone and Birmingham, also to Oxford and the southwest.

The local village school is an Academy with some 200 pupils. For secondary education many of the pupils travel to Chenderit School around 4 miles in distance, in the village of Middleton Cheney.

The Millennium Memorial Hall is much used for various community activities. There is a recreation ground with superb play equipment for children. There are also playing fields and a tennis club. The PCC publishes a monthly Newsletter and the Parish Council sponsors the *King's Sutton Times* which is issued quarterly.

It is a lively village with many activities and a friendly atmosphere.



The Form of Worship at King's Sutton

The principal service is the Sung Mass on Sundays at 11am. There is also a Mass at 8am and Evensong at 6pm. The choir sings at both 11am and 6pm. These are Common Worship Order 1 traditional services. The 11am Mass usually has incense and other ceremonies. We use NEH and occasionally other hymns. The settings of the Mass are usually congregational, but the choir sings Latin settings sometimes and always a motet or anthem.

There are weekday masses on Tuesdays at 9.30am followed by coffee, Wednesdays at 7pm, Fridays at 12 noon and Saturdays at 10 am. These are all Common Worship Order 1 modern language. Parents and Toddlers Worship is at 9.30am on Friday mornings with up to a dozen or so children. Family Worship is held at 10am on the 4th Sunday of each month, and an All-Age Worship on Easter, Harvest and Christmas Days. The churchmanship is traditional Anglo-Catholic and as such attracts several people from outside the parish, but at the same time it is not narrow or restrictive and diverse styles of worship are welcome. Pew sheets are distributed each week which give details of the services and other information. A newsletter is also produced every month.

The ASA is 61. However, the number of people who worship throughout the year and particularly at major festivals is around 150. Although the main congregation consists mainly of middle aged and older people, we have good connections with some families which have young children. We do need to attract

more teenagers and young adults. Occasional offices vary a great deal. In the year 2017 we had 26 baptisms, 1 wedding and 6 funerals. From the start of 2018 so far, we have had 10 weddings, 4 baptisms and 14 funerals.

There are request boards in the church which are much used. Holy Communion is taken to the sick and housebound. The church is always open during daylight hours and it frequently hosts concerts, exhibitions and other events, for instance, Oxfordshire Arts Weeks. There are bible study meetings often attended by non-Anglicans. We support missionaries in Burma through CMS and several charities, such as Christian Aid, The Children's Society and several local ones, including the Banbury Young Homeless Project. We also support Maggie's Centre and the Primary Bereavement Service and run Friday Lent lunches in support of various charities.

An important aspect of the church in King's Sutton is our link with the local Roman Catholic and Baptist congregations. The Catholics hold their Mass in our church at 9.00am each Sunday and the priest, Fr James Evans, is much involved in joint activities such as the Lenten Lunches. The Baptist Church has been in the village since the late 18th century. The three clergy meet regularly. There are two retired priests living in the village who help by taking services.

About Finances

We must work to find enough money each year to pay the parish share and meet the costs of upkeep. We encourage regular giving but with the church fete, which recently raised over £2000, and with sales of cakes and other money raising events we raise considerable sums. Over the past 16 years we have spent some £500,000 on the fabric.





The Church of St Peter and Paul

Travelling by train or motorway towards Banbury the notable towering spire of King's Sutton church is a memorable landmark and an inducement to visit the church. Set in the village square with charming cottages to one side and the Jacobean Manor on the other it is one of the country's most iconic churches with a tower and spire (1400) rising to a height of nearly 200 feet. The Chancel dates from the Norman period and the nave and wide aisles which clasp the tower were constructed between the 12th and 14th centuries. The tower houses a peal of 8 bells and there is a group of dedicated bell-ringers. We have a moderately large organ. The High Altar is used facing east, as are those in the two chapels: in the south aisle, Our Lady of Victories and St Rumbold, and in the north, St Thomas Beckett. There is also a small nave altar which is sometimes used. There is an area for small children with books and toys. The font is of special interest being associated with the local saint, Rumbold. The Blessed Sacrament is reserved on the St Thomas altar and there are Stations of the Cross situated around the church.



The overall condition of the fabric is good. The roofs of the aisles, porches and chancel have all been renewed and much work has been done on the spire and pointing of stonework. Many of the stained windows have recently been cleaned and restored. The PA system has been upgraded. The QI was done in August 2018.

In the south west corner of the churchyard is the Church Room, a small meeting room with a kitchen and toilets, including one for the disabled. The room is available for hire and various groups use it regularly, and the Parish Council Meetings are held here.



Our Social Life

It would be impossible to separate all our activities from village activities since the two are closely linked.

Annually we stage a well-attended fete with lots of stalls. There are lucky dips, home-made fare, books, bric a brac, and all the usual attractions. Teas are served at Bell House and the Morris dancers entertain us. Our annual Art Week with exhibitions in the church of the work of local artists is accompanied by the opening of studios in their houses around the village. There is every kind of creative work on show, art on canvas, screen printing, jewellery, cards and ceramics. Items are available for sale. Every Christmas we have a festive market in the church.



More frequently we have a popular event called Dee's Delights where people come to enjoy cakes and tea and meet and talk to friends.

Throughout the year there are concerts featuring excellent performers such as the Stowe School Musicians, the Adderbury Ensemble, and Barbershop Quartets. Recently the church hosted a production of 'Midsummer Night's Dreams' on behalf of Save the Children.

The Church Room hosts a sewing group, a reading group and even a didgeridoo group. The Millennium Memorial Hall hosts coffee mornings twice a week and on Fridays a group meets there to go on walks in the surrounding countryside. On the first Monday each month the coffee group hosts the village library.

What Are We Looking For in King's Sutton

- A person who appreciates music and who will cherish our musical tradition.
- Someone who is happy to carry on the long-standing catholic traditions of King's Sutton church and at the same time accommodate different styles of worship within the benefice.
- Someone who values and is willing to promote the good relationship we already have with other Christians in King's Sutton, such as the Roman Catholics and the Baptists.
- A peace maker who can handle with sensitivity the diverse relationships within the congregation.

What We Can Offer in King's Sutton

- Dedicated PCC and Churchwardens.
- Support with day to day running of a well-maintained church.

- Help with leading services from lay people and an enthusiastic organist and choir.
- Fellowship in a welcoming, and friendly community.
- Our prayerful support.

About Newbottle and Charlton

Newbottle is a manor and a church without a village; a mile away, Charlton is a village of about 500 people without a church or a manor. The village is a mixed community with some social housing, some new building and several 17th century stone houses. There is a village shop and post office and a couple of farms have buildings converted as business units (www.charltonandnewbottle.com).

There is a good sense of community here in the village of Charlton. The Rose and Crown pub does decent pub food at a reasonable price. The memorial hall is well used and looked after by its trustees. There is a thriving pre-school (formerly known as the playgroup) which is OFSTED inspected and works closely with the school. The Charlton Panto Players put on a pantomime every other year which involves about 100 people altogether including lots of children. There are Guides, Rainbows and Brownies based in the memorial hall. The playing field is used by football and cricket clubs and the playing field committee have embarked on a fund-raising effort to build a new pavilion. There is a successful WI.



About the School

Newbottle and Charlton School is a C of E Voluntary Aided school with 103 currently on roll. In 2018 it was rated 'good' by OFSTED and 'outstanding' by SIAMS inspections. Collective worship is an important part of the day and the school hopes to have regular weekly incumbent visits. The whole school walks the 1 mile to the church several times a year for worship. The church- school partnership is important as it is the most effective way of enabling our children to experience the Gospel and it is essential that this continues. The school's catchment area is Charlton and the neighbouring village of Aynho, but many children come from other villages around the area. (www.newbottleandcharlton.co.uk) Members of the church serve as Foundation Governors of the school and the incumbent is a governor *ex officio*.



About St James's Church

St James' Church is a medieval building with a west tower, a nave with three narrow aisles and a chancel. The building is in good condition and the 2018 Quinquennial Inspection found only minor repairs such as pointing and gutter clearing and realignment. There are pews, a 16th C wooden pulpit and a screen. The vestry is in the tower. There is one bell and an unusual carillon of six tubular bells. The two manual organ is small but in good condition and regularly tuned. The building is Grade 2* listed. The altar has been moved away from the east wall, so the Eucharist is celebrated facing west. The churchyard is closed but the PCC owns and administers the Cemetery in Charlton.



About Church Life

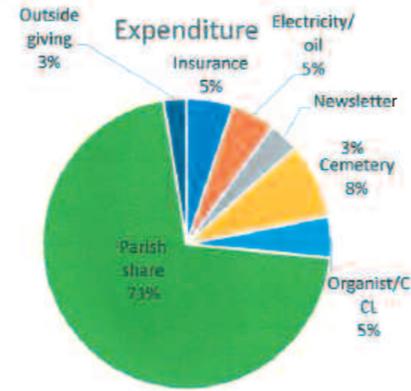
For many years there has been a service every Sunday at 9.30am. This has been a Sung Eucharist on 1st and 3rd Sundays; Matins and Holy Communion on the 2nd and Matins on the 4th. The services are Common Worship Order 1, traditional language; Matins is BCP. For hymns we use A & M(R) and we have produced our own collection called Songs of Worship which also include more modern material. The services are congregational with good speaking and singing, several readers for the lessons and some who lead prayers. The churchmanship is traditional Anglican. There is a regular House Communion at the home of one of the churchwardens in Charlton. There are some special services during the year such as Harvest Festival, Carol Service and a Palm Sunday procession from Charlton to Newbottle every year. We are fortunate to have a Reader who is also organist and churchwarden. There is a keen team of flower ladies who ensure the church is beautifully decorated for major festivals and throughout the year and a team of volunteer cleaners who keep the interior looking good and well cared for. The PCC consists of 2 churchwardens, 1 deanery synod representative and 7 other members. The ASA is 16.5, a small congregation but a committed one with a number of people coming from surrounding villages. Occasional offices are small averaging 3 baptisms, 2 weddings and 3 funerals per year. The church is open every day throughout the year.



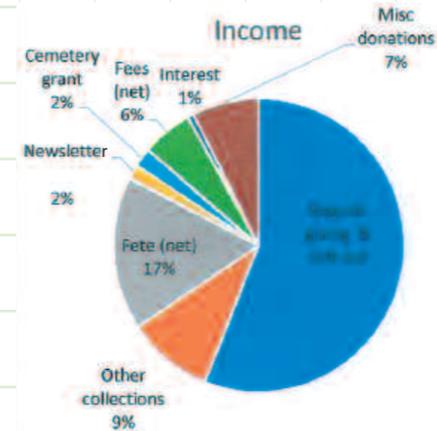
About Finances

Newbottle manages to pay our Parish Share of £16,000. The annual Village Fete is held in aid of the church and raises about £4000 and there are other occasional fund-raising events.

We support Children's Society, Christian Aid, Royal British Legion and Brackley Food Bank. For several years, we had a link with a parish in the Diocese of Bungoma in Kenya, but this came to an end when the Diocesan link was wound up.



Total Expenditure 2017 £22,680



Total Income 2017 £24,215

What We Are Looking For in Newbottle

- Somebody who is willing to engage with the wider community and has good pastoral skills.
- Somebody who will continue to nurture the relationship between school and church.
- Somebody who is sympathetic to existing forms of worship while also willing to try fresh Ideas.
- Somebody who will foster good relationships between the two parishes whilst appreciating the differences in churchmanship.



What We Can Offer in Newbottle

- Dedicated PCC and Churchwardens.
- Support with day to day running of a well-maintained church.
- Help with leading services from a Reader and lay people.
- Fellowship in a welcoming, and friendly community.
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St James' Newbottle



The Wider Benefice Context

Both parishes play a full role in the deanery and beyond. Members regularly serve on the Diocesan Synod and we would expect our next priest to be actively involved in the deanery and the diocese. Our last priest served as Rural Dean for 7 years and latterly as Chapter Clerk at Peterborough Cathedral. We would encourage his successor to have outside interests as we believe this would enrich his ministry among us.

King's Sutton has had a resolution in place since 1992, reaffirmed with the changes made more recently, in 2016, and again recently, after a review carried out by the PCC. The parish is under the pastoral and sacramental care of the Bishop of Richborough, but we have a good relationship with the diocese of Peterborough and both bishops and the Archdeacon visit us. Newbottle and Charlton have not passed any resolutions and the diocesan bishop ministers there.

Patrons

The two parishes' patrons work together to appoint priests. Newbottle's patron is Mr John Townsend, who lives in the parish and is currently one of the Wardens. King's Sutton's patron is the Society for the Maintenance of the Faith. Both parishes will work together to appoint the new priest.

Our Purpose

To glorify God and to proclaim the good news of Christ's Kingdom through worship, liturgy, prayer and pastoral outreach to the community.

