

## The Week ahead

### Monday 26th March

4.30pm - 5.30pm Going Bananas  
7.30pm - 9.00pm Bellringing in Church

### Tuesday 27th March

9.30am - 11.00am Make & Play  
4.30pm - 5.30pm Going Bananas

### Wednesday 28th March

6.15pm - 7.45pm Brownies  
7.30pm Music Practice in Church  
7.30pm - 9.30pm Link at Lazer Maze

### Thursday 29th March

7.30pm - 9.00pm Engage (Post-Alpha)  
7.30pm - 9.00pm Grid

### Saturday 31st March

10.00am - 12.00noon Table top sale in Church House

### Services for Sunday 1st April - Palm Sunday

9.15am & 11.00am Holy Communion  
6.30pm Evening Service with Lent Course

### Contact details

**Rector:** Revd. Mark Lucas: Tel. no. 01536 628501  
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Kate Curnock: Tel: 01536 484555  
**Office:** Opening hours Mon - Thurs 9.00am - 1.00pm  
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**Home Groups:** Paul Moulin: Please contact Church Office



## St Botolph's Church Family News

March 25th 2012  
Fifth Sunday of Lent



Welcome to all visitors and regular members of our congregation.



Drinks are served in Church House after the 9.15am service - do come and join us.

"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it."



**Psalm 24 v 1**

### Services today

**9.15am & 11.00am**

#### Morning service

"Praying with Nehemiah"

Nehemiah 1 v 4 - 11 p 485

**6.30pm**

#### Evening Service with Lent Course

"The secret of true happiness"

Psalm 24 p 555

### Easter Morning Breakfast



Please sign the list at the back of the church if you wish to come to the breakfast after the 6.15 service on Easter morning. Thank you.



### Office Hours

Please note the office will be closed for this week. It will re-open on Monday 2nd April



# Marriage and its present reappraisal

## Electoral Roll - Deadline today

Today is the last day for handing in forms to be placed on the electoral roll. We invite anyone whose name is not already on the roll, who is baptised, over the age of 16, and has regularly worshipped at St Botolph's for the past 6 months to join. Forms are available on the table at the back of the church and on completion should be handed in to one of the sidespersons, Geoff Fawkes, the Electoral Roll Officer or Tina Noble.

## Annual Meeting - Sunday 22nd April 11.00am

After seven years of tireless service Phil will be standing down as church warden at the annual meeting in April. Please pray for the appointment of his successor as church warden, a very important role in the life of the church. We also hope to appoint two deputy wardens this year, please remember this in your prayers too.

We are very grateful to Ron Eyre, Steve Frost, Victoria Hitchinson, Nick Johnson, Jim Rouse and Penny Wright who have completed their time on the PCC. If you would like to nominate them for a further term of office then please do so before the APCM.

Nomination Forms for Church Wardens, Deputy Wardens and PCC Members are available at the back of church. Please complete them and hand them in to the Church Office or put them in the Office pigeon hole in Church House.

## Church Decoration



We will be decorating the church for Easter in the traditional colours of yellow and white on Saturday 7th April between 9.00am and 11.00am if you would like to help or contribute greenery or flowers. Please contact Sandy Frost on 725993.

## Fellowship directory changes

A sheet with updates is available at the back of the church. Please take one.

## 9.15am Sidespersons

New rotas are ready for collection in your pigeon holes.

## Kings Singles

Sunday 1st April

Meet at The Trading Post 2.00pm for our regular Sunday lunch.

Please let Fay, Helen or Pete know if you are coming.

kings.singles@gmail.com

## Celebrations!

Michael Farrer, one of our former Rectors, will be celebrating his 90th birthday in the summer and we would like to send him special greetings from the people he knows at St Botolph's. If you would like to be involved please contact Neville and Beryl Read.

You will all be aware, I know, that the government has recently proposed redefining marriage in such a way that it could be extended to include homosexual couples. In the eyes of some the question is simply one of equality and justice and should therefore trump any 'religious' views on the matter. I cannot agree with this because marriage is God's invention and not merely a social convention that we are at liberty to define and redefine as we choose. To mess with marriage is to shake the very foundations of our culture.

In the Bible we first read about marriage right at the start, in Genesis 2 (indeed it is even hinted at in Gen 1 as we'll see). This is before Christianity, before Judaism, before any 'religion'. In fact marriage is introduced by God when there are only two human beings around. It is a foundational, 'creation' principle on which human society is to build.

In Genesis 2v20 we read that in the whole of creation God could find no companion for the man He'd made. So (v22) God made, not another man, but a woman to complement the man. The relationship between the man and the woman was to be special. In v24 of the same chapter we read of this special relationship that ... *a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.* There are three things happening here:

- **Leaving.** The man's first loyalty from this time forward is to his wife rather than his parents.
- **Uniting.** There is a special deep union of passion and permanence between husband and wife.

## Dates for your diary

### Table-top Sale



**Next Saturday 31st March  
10.00am - 12.00noon In Church House**



- £5 per table
- Sell anything - toys, books, crafts etc
- Proceeds from your table can be donated or kept
- Refreshments will be available

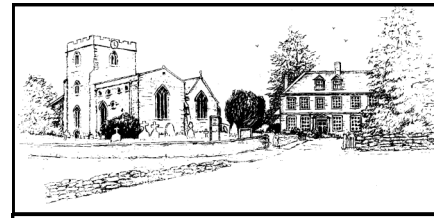
Proceeds will be split between repairs to our church roof and our twin church in Sarajevo.  
Invite all your friends and neighbours.

### *Come along to a Vintage Tea Party*

*At Church House on Saturday 21st April from 2.45pm - 5pm*

Tea will be served on vintage china with tiers of scrummy cakes, pots of tea and whilst you're chatting with friends we invite you to make simple but fabulously pretty things to take home. Bring friends, sisters, daughters, mothers and have a fabulous afternoon.

Tickets £5 from the Church Office (414052)  
(Ticket includes all craft materials etc)



As springtime approaches we are grateful to the army of volunteers who help maintain our church and Church House grounds. It's a great witness to have grounds that are so well cared for.

### Prayer Corner

Please remember the following people in your prayers this week:-

- The family and friends of Ron Adams
- Helen Ganney's Family
- David and Mathilde Goodlad
- Paul and Rachel Samways
- Geoff and Gloria Smith
- Margaret Shocklidge
- Ron and Christine Eyre
- Michael Wolf
- Norman Harrison



### Thank you

We would like to thank Jim Tomlinson who has provided the new collect books you see alongside the hymn books and service books. Jim produced these and has donated them to the church. Thank you Jim!

### Easter Walk for everyone !

Bring all your friends and family to join us on our annual Easter walk on **Easter Monday 9th April**.



Meet at Church House at 10.30am with a packed lunch.

We will be walking to Warkton church (and back for those who wish to)



### Good Friday Walk of Witness

The usual Walk of Witness through Kettering town centre on Good Friday is on Friday 6th April starting at 11.00am from the Parish Church.

An opportunity for all the churches in Kettering to make a united public statement about the reality of the Easter message.

The more people attend, the greater the impact!



- **One flesh.** Husband and wife are united at the level of their very being and identity.

In light of these verses John Stott concludes, very helpfully, that *marriage is an exclusive heterosexual union between one man and one woman, ordained and sealed by God, preceded by a public leaving of parents, consummating in sexual union, issuing in a permanent mutually supportive partnership, and normally crowned by the gift of children.*

But even in Genesis 1 there is a hint about the kind of union a marriage is to be. In Genesis 1v27 we read *God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.* Humanity has a special role and dignity within the creation of God. Humankind is God's *image bearer* to the rest of creation. But that image is best expressed not by man *or* woman alone, but by man *and* woman together as this verse makes clear. You see, within God Himself there is relationship of the closest and most intimate kind between Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It is a relationship of equality (all three are God) and difference (each is not identical to the other). It is to this relationship, within God Himself, that marriage as defined in Genesis 2:24 bears witness. This is vital to our understanding of marriage as invented by God. A relationship between two women or two men can *never* bear the image of God in this way. In fact we could even say it is to make a new version of God. And that is idolatry!

**Please will you sign the petition at the back of the church building asking the government to take seriously the understanding of marriage we have had since the very dawn of time.**

## Easter Services at St Botolph's Church

### Maundy Thursday – April 5th

7.00pm Informal Service of Holy Communion in Church House

### Good Friday – April 6th

9.15am Family Service followed by a Procession of Witness in Kettering starting at St Peter and St Paul at 11.00am

2.00pm An hour at the cross – St Edmund's Church, Warkton

### Easter Day – April 8th

6.15am Sunrise Service of Holy Communion on the cricket field behind the church, followed by breakfast in Church House

9.15am Easter Family Celebration

11.00am Easter Holy Communion (Prayer Book)

6.30pm Informal Service of Holy Communion in Church

### New Appointment - Lee Gatiss

The Council of Church Society has announced today that the Revd Lee Gatiss has agreed to become the Society's new Director with effect from 1st January 2013. Lee is presently completing a PhD on Seventeenth Century biblical interpretation at Peterhouse, Cambridge. When he takes up the role of Church Society Director, he will remain in Cambridge, enabling the Society to develop its profile and work within the Cambridge churches, theological colleges, and other networks.