

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2017

Welcome to the first occasional letter intended to keep you abreast of what's happening in our branch and to encourage us, as individuals and as parishes, to keep looking outwards and nurture each other's ministries as we strive to show forth the life of Christ in our lives and our liturgy and to encourage the spread of the Catholic faith through the Society. Comments and suggestions and news are welcome should be sent to me at nra1710@gmail.com

A NEW COMMITTEE

The AGM in Wellingborough last November saw the election of a new Committee to take our branch forward into a new era where FiF has ceased to be a campaigning organisation and exists principally to take forward the work of the Society of St Wilfrid & St Hilda which is not a membership organisation. Enormous thanks are due to the outgoing officers Ken Briers, and Paula Owen for running the Committee for over two decades and for keeping our diocesan branch in existence when others have folded or faltered. It's splendid that they continue in their membership. The new Committee consists of six members. Clergy chair is Fr Robert Farmer, a veteran of the conflicts of the last twenty years, and a hugely experienced parish priest, respected well beyond this diocese and our constituency. Lay Chair is Nigel Aston, a senior historian at the University of Leicester, Rutland resident, and on the books at SMs, Kettering, and as a [Catholic Group] member of the General Synod, well-positioned to report on what's happening in the 'parliament' of the Church of England. John Chilver, a qualified accountant, has kindly offered his services as Treasurer, and it's great that SS Peter & Paul, King's Sutton, is represented through him. A vital presence is Martin Jackson of Higham Ferrers (who refused to bow the knee when that parish went soft on apostolic order) and SMs, Wellingborough. Martin is responsible with managing our web site and we all know that such a task is critical to our health and vitality. Thanks to Martin. Sarah

Mowbray, a national council member and a board member of the Guild of All Souls, is a huge asset to the Committee. Last but not least, the newly arrived Fr Oliver Coss who represents our key All Saints, Northampton, parish, and has bags of FiF experience as a former Clergy Chair of the Birmingham diocese branch. All our contact details (and a lot more) are on the web site.

A NEW WEBSITE

For we do indeed have one and, with Martin in charge, there is no question – it will be kept up-to-date and we will ensure that news of events is posted regularly and new links added. have a look, see what you think, let Martin know at martinjackson9@virginmedia.com. Suggestions welcome for features, layout, and anything else that occurs to you. Please make it one of your ‘Favourites’ and encourage others to visit it. <http://www.forwardinfaithpeterborough.org>

NEXT MEETING

You may have seen on our website details of our next two events and it’s important to encourage our parishes to support each other and, indeed, bring along non-members whenever opportunity offers. The first, on 11 March, at SMs, Wellingborough, sees the Ven. Luke Miller, SSC, Archdeacon of London, conducting a Lent Study Day. Fr Luke is a gifted communicator whose own career shows brilliantly that one can be a committed Catholic Anglican and work constructively with those who aren’t. On a personal note, I shall not forget his inspired analogy in his sermon to the National assembly of FiF in 2015 when he described our constituency as ‘the raspeberry ripple in the Church of England’. Terrific! After Easter, there will be May Devotions at SMs, Kettering, with Mass, a decent lunch, and Benediction. Fr Mowbray may even do a barbecue for us if the weather is fair on the 13th, who knows?

BEYOND THAT: PLANS FOR LATER IN 2017

As we seek to live out the Catholic faith and publicise the Society in our diocese it’s important to remember the richness of our patrimony. With that in mind, an event is planned (hopefully in King’s Cliffe parish church) in September to celebrate the life of

William Law (1683-1761), deacon, controversialist, and mystic, 300 years since he made his first major contribution in writing to the high church cause. He still has much to say to the Church. We are hopeful of inviting a guest preacher and it should be a really interesting session. If you want to know more check out Alan Gregory, *Quenching Hell: The Mystical Theology of William Law*. And we hope to run a coach so that everyone has a chance of getting to/from King's Cliffe on the day for minimal cost. Equally urgent is reaching out to young people, particularly the recently confirmed, and for the late autumn, an event sponsored by the Society. With 2 SSC priest holding educational posts in the diocese we should be able to move forward in this vital area of our witness to the faith, one absolutely crucial to our long-term future. Watch this space. All of our events are open to everyone and there will every chance for socialising.

NEW MEMBERS

It should be a priority for all us to recruit new members and we need to address realistically how we are going to go about it. 3 people have joined already for 2017 and a warm welcome to Fr Glen Brooks and Ian and Jenny Harrison. new clergy
Similarly, we need to be reaching out to be people beyond our parishes – how do we do that best?

Finally, we need to remember that local membership doesn't entitle anyone to vote at branch meetings. It's NATIONAL membership of FiF that counts.