

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2018

A very Happy Easter to all our members, friends, and well-wishers!

The Peterborough branch is in good shape and spirits with a membership that, considered numerically, compares well with the national average, and possesses a healthy bank balance to boot. And it has been a great pleasure, as part of the national remodelling of the FiF branches, to welcome the clergy and people from the North Bucks area who, of course, are from the Oxford diocese and the Ebbsfleet jurisdiction. We are the strong for their presence. Thus we have many blessings for which to thank the Risen Lord.



I do want to raise as Lay Chair, two immediate concerns:

First, as I have said more than once said, **we need to increase our numbers** – not least because of our age profile – and all it takes, as Colin Podmore never tires of stating, is for us each to bring along a guest to one of our events. Who knows, that guest might consider signing up and joining us? That is, stated quite simply, the missional challenge that none of us can ignore with an easy conscience. The Catholic faith as the Church of England has received it was transmitted to us and we have to do the same in our generation. To quote Hector in Alan Bennett's *The History Boys*, "pass it on, pass it on".

Second, and stemming from the first point, **let us be pro-active in publicising and supporting events held at our different churches and elsewhere**. Make them a priority, offer lifts to your friends, come and make new friends for ourselves and for the Society.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

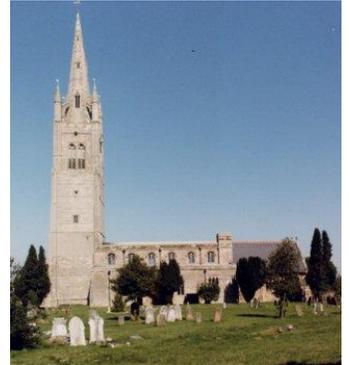
There are currently four of us: myself, Fr Oliver Coss (Clergy Chair); Martin Jackson (Web Site Manager); John Chilver (Treasurer). Sadly, Sarah Mowbray had to resign because of other commitments, but we hope she will be replaced by a person from a parish in the North Bucks deanery.

SOCIETY EVENTS

Please make a note of the following dates and come and swell the numbers. Tell non-members in your parishes what's on, get these events put on your notices and church web site, encourage people to attend, bring them with you.

First up, **Saturday, 12 May, 12 Noon. May Devotions at St Mary's church, Kettering.** Yes, that's just over FOUR weeks away. There will be a Mass, sermon and guest preacher (tba), lunch with barbecue (weather permitting), and Benediction. It should be another great festival day in honour of our Blessed Mother.

Please note: there will also be May Devotions & Benediction at St James, Hanslope church at 6 pm on Sunday, 13th May.



Saturday, 30 June, summer festival at St Peter & St Paul, King's Sutton.



Come and support our Catholic friends at the south-west end of the diocese in Fr Roger Bellamy's parishes. We have a great day planned with Mass at Kings Sutton at 11 am (preacher tba), then afternoon visits to the neighbouring churches of Adderbury and Bloxham which, with Kings Sutton, are renowned for their medieval beauty. We plan to hire a coach calling at Kettering, Wellingborough, and Northampton, for an

absolutely nominal cost.

September/October (date to be confirmed). Mass, AGM, and lunch. A very social occasion is planned. Details to follow.

Saturday, 8 December, Advent Quiet Day at Pusey House, Oxford.

This event was always heavily subscribed when the branch ran it several years ago. We are indeed fortunate that Fr George Westhaver, the Principal of Pusey House, has agreed to lead our day. Details will follow later in the year. We plan to hire a coach calling at Kettering, Wellingborough, and Northampton.

I will update everyone progressively as the planning for the events this year and into 2019 takes shape. Meanwhile, every blessing.

Nigel Aston
Lay Chair