

ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



CHURCH OF ST GUTHLAC

Holbrook Rd, Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

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David Hunt
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2 February 2014

All Age Worship

***Candlemas: Recognising Jesus
as the Light of the World***

WELCOME TO ANYONE VISITING US FOR THE FIRST TIME!

Please announce yourself to one of our welcomers and sign in the welcome book so that we get to know you by name! Also, please introduce yourself to Revd Richard or one of the Churchwardens. St Guthlac's is YOUR local church. We feel part of the local community and we hope that you will feel part of the church community. **We have a welcome sheet:** please ask for one if it is not handed to you on arrival.

Newsletter No 89

FORTHCOMING SERVICES AND MEETINGS

Tuesday 4 February 7.30 pm	PCC meeting
Wednesday 5 February 7.30 pm	Choir Practice
Thursday 6 February 9.30 am	Holy Communion
Thursday 30 January 6.45 pm	Knighton Players Rehearsal

For more information about St Guthlac's, **please consult the notice board** or our website <http://www.stguthlac-knighton.co.uk/>

BUILDING BEYOND 2012 – WELCOME AREA (EXTENSION) FOR ST GUTHLAC'S.

Many thanks for your kind generosity in helping us meet our target! This is a great blessing. We are still receiving donations to ensure that we can complete the project in terms of any extra needs such as fixtures and fittings or any unforeseen costs.

REVITALISATION OF HOLBROOK MEMORIAL HALL. The full bid was submitted for the Biffa Award Scheme by the deadline of 30 August 2013.

Our thanks to Steve Bowyer for preparing the bid and for the community group in helping to obtain letters of support. Please hold the aim of improving our facilities in your prayers.

PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL. We have been asked to keep **Liz Singleton** and **Janet Hubbard** in our prayers. Please also pray for the souls of **Joan Ingle** and **Freda Neal** who have died recently. For other prayer requests, please speak to the Revd Richard.

LEGACIES. We welcome all legacies, however large or small, and we promise to use your gift to make a difference in our parish. Please consider leaving a proportion of your estate as a gift in your Will to our parish. For confidential advice to anyone at St Guthlac's, please contact Mark Wyatt [REDACTED]
<http://www.parishresources.org.uk/legacies/resources-on-legacies/>

VOCATIONS DAY 2014. The Revd Richard will be asking some members of the congregation if they would consider accompanying him to this event. Details so far announced are: **Vocations Day Saturday 22nd March 2014, 10am - 3:30pm at St Martins House.** For all those sensing God's calling and considering how to respond. The day will include key note addresses as well as workshops looking at authorised ministries including Ordination, Reader, Pastoral Assistant, Evangelist, Youth & Children's Work, Pioneer Ministry and more. With Guest Speaker The Rt Revd Andrew Watson, Bishop of Aston. Andrew previously led a small church in Redditch, a middle-sized church in Notting Hill and a very large church in Twickenham.

Cover image: <http://st-takla.org/Gallery/Saint-Mary/03-The-Presentation-to-the-Temple/Saint-Mary-Presentation-of-Jesus-in-Temple-11.html>

THE REVD RICHARD WRITES Today we have a faith lunch in Church after our service. We're having it for reasons of fellowship and **hospitality** and also to encourage families to stay on after the service so that we can consult over future arrangements concerning Bubbles. But a faith lunch for ourselves is not the same as offering hospitality for others, as the Sikhs do on a daily basis in their *langar* (kitchen / canteen) attached to the *gurdwara*. The New Testament Greek word *philoxenia* (φιλόξενος) translated as 'hospitality' (as in Romans 12:13 and in Hebrews 13:2) literally means 'love of strangers'. Hospitality is a virtue that is both commanded and commended throughout Scripture. In the Old Testament, it was specifically commanded by God: 'When an alien lives with you in your land, do not mistreat him. The alien living with you must be treated as one of your native-born. Love him as yourself, for you were aliens in Egypt' (Leviticus 19:33-34). The writer of Hebrews reminds us not to forget to 'entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it' (Hebrews 13:2). This alludes to Abraham's hospitality to three strangers, depicted in the famous Rublev Trinity, in which he found out afterwards that he had indeed entertained angels (Genesis 18:1-8).

During His public ministry, Jesus and His disciples depended entirely on the hospitality of others as they ministered from town to town (Matthew 10:9-10). Likewise, the early Christians also depended on, and received, hospitality from others (Acts 2:44-45; 28:7). This generous provision to strangers also included opening one's home for church services. As followers of Christ, we emulate His love and compassion when we show hospitality, not only to fellow Christians, but even more so to strangers and those less fortunate than ourselves. Jesus' 'radical hospitality' took the form of a command to us to 'invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed' (Luke 14:13).

Two things are particularly noteworthy about Jesus' radical hospitality. The first is in the nature of his calling to public ministry. This is described succinctly in John 3:16. But the very next verse clarifies what his mission was not: 'For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.' So though Jesus did indeed call people to 'repent' and believe the gospel (good news), he was not primarily concerned with the concerns of the Jewish leaders of the day: judging others rather than themselves. When the woman caught in the act of adultery was brought by her accusers before Jesus, he told them: 'let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!' After they all left, he 'stood up again and said to the woman, "Where are your accusers? Didn't even one of them condemn you?" "No, Lord," she said. And Jesus said, "Neither do I. Go and sin no more"' (John 8: 7, 10-11).

A second thing that is particularly noteworthy about Jesus' 'radical hospitality' is that it's about welcoming and serving another even when doing so threatens his own standing in his community. Jesus welcomes and serves the leper even though doing so put him outside the community. We need to remember that Jesus touched the man to heal him. By touching the leper Jesus was making himself ritually unclean – he was putting himself outside the community. But this did not stop him.

FAITH LUNCH & BUBBLES CONSULTATION TODAY After the All Age Worship today there will be a faith lunch in the hall. There will be no coffee and the faith lunch will start at **12 noon**. There will be a discussion group for Bubbles parents and another for the children starting at about 12.45pm for an hour leaving the afternoon free. People not involved in the consultation are welcome to stay and chat after lunch.

PARISH WALK. Please join us for a walk **TODAY** starting from St Mary's church at **2pm**. We plan to do a walk of 3-4 miles and the route will depend on the weather. New walkers always welcome, so come and give us a try. Mary Britton

TASTE OF FAITH: JUDAISM AND CHRISTIANITY, Tuesday 25 Feb., 7.30 pm in the Welcome Area at St Guthlac's. Please book your place or places with Revd Richard because of catering implications.

BEETLE DRIVE Saturday 8th March 5-7.30pm. Tickets available from Ann Swanson (); adults £4, family £12, to include sandwiches, cake and drink.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING This will take place at **12 noon** on **Sunday 27th April**. Please make a note in your diaries!

DIARY DATE: May Fayre Monday 5th May

ST. GUTHLAC'S WEBSITE The website is now online and will be populated with content over the coming weeks. It can be found at <http://www.stguthlac-knighton.co.uk/>. The articles in the series 'the Revd Richard writes' are now published on the website in the section 'our minister writes'. The diary of church events and the weekly newsletters are also reproduced.

MALLORCA HOLIDAY HOME Sheela Bonarjee (Shali's mum) has a house in Mallorca and has kindly offered it as a holiday let at a reduced rate for members of the congregation. In addition, she has offered to donate £50 from any church booking to a good cause such as the memory cafe. Flights are relatively cheap, typically between £50-100 return. If anyone would like further information about the house, there are some leaflets at the back of church, and Shali/Chris would be happy to tell you more about it.

INFORMATION FOR THE NEWSLETTER Please contact us at the latest by 9 am Friday for material to be included in the next weekly newsletter. administrator@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk