

ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



CHURCH OF ST GUTHLAC

Holbrook Rd, Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

Minister: Revd Richard Bonney 2125677
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Churchwardens:

David Hunt

Tina Jarvis

***2 March 2014
All Age Worship
Fair Trade Fortnight***

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 93

FORTHCOMING SERVICES AND MEETINGS

TODAY Sunday 2 March 6.30 pm

SEMP Songs of Praise at St Andrew's Aylestone. All Welcome.

Wednesday 5 March 7.30 pm

Holy Communion for Ash Wednesday

Thursday 6 March 9.30 am

Holy Communion

Thursday 6 March 6.45 pm

Knighon Players Rehearsal

Friday 7 March 8.00 am

Ecumenical morning prayers at

Clarendon Park Congregational Church

Friday 7 March:

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

2.00pm

Christchurch

7.30pm

St James the Greater

For more information about St Guthlac's, **please consult the notice board** or our website <http://www.stguthlac-knighon.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 or any unforeseen costs.

REVITALISATION OF HOLBROOK MEMORIAL HALL. Our thanks to Steve Bowyer for preparing the bid and for the community group in helping to obtain letters of support. BIFFA has awarded us a grant of over £50,000 for the work which we hope to complete this year.

PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL. We have been asked to keep **Liz Singleton** and **Janet Hubbard** in our prayers. 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.

TO ALL INTERCESSORS Please remember to keep a watch on the rota for your turn to prepare intercessions. If you swap with someone else, please let Jane and the Revd Richard know by email to avoid any possible confusion. Thank you.

Cover image: <http://foncho.fairtrade.org.uk/about/>

THE REVD RICHARD WRITES A warm welcome to the Revd Keith Magee who will be presiding today at our All Age Worship service focussing on Fair Trade. I am at St Christopher's, presiding at a service of the word and preaching. The congregation divides up into small groups after the sermon and then asks the preacher questions. We'll see what insights this approach produces... The readings are Exodus 24:12-end and Matthew 17:1-9. And my questions are as follows:

Question 1

Why is the mountain top associated in many people's minds with deep spiritual experiences? Have you had any experience of this type?

Question 2

Why did the American Civil Rights movement draw spiritual inspiration from the events of the lives of Moses and Joshua (the escape from Egypt, the mountain top experience, the crossing of the river Jordan and the entry into the promised land)? e.g. Martin Luther King: 'I just want to do God's will. And He's allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I've looked over. And I've seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the Promised Land.'

Question 3:

Why after the Transfiguration did Jesus order his disciples to maintain secrecy about what they had witnessed on the mountain ('the messianic secret', the idea that Jesus as the promised Messiah, the Christ, should only be proclaimed by the disciples after his death and resurrection)?

There are no right and wrong answers, but here are some thoughts:

Question 1 invites a discussion of spiritual places and places where we as individuals best feel the awe-inspiring greatness (transcendence) of God. Luke 9:28 states that Jesus and the disciples 'went up on the mountain to pray'. The Celtic Christians talked of 'thin places' to experience God.

Question 2 refers to the fact that the Exodus story is about liberation of the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt. Black African Americans, as slaves, adopted the Exodus story as their own in the belief and trust in eventual freedom and full participation in civil life. The Civil Rights movement was the culmination of this struggle and Martin Luther King its greatest orator.

Question 3 is a tricky one. Mark's gospel is the one where there is greatest emphasis on the messianic secret, although it is clearly in Matthew's gospel as well (much less so in Luke, where there is no requirement on the disciples to keep the Transfiguration experience a secret, though they choose to do so). The answer centres on the special role of the disciples and whether any human being could truly understand the role of the Messiah before the crucifixion and resurrection.

LENT READING SCHEME AT ST GUTHLAC'S Copies of the two books for which people have expressed a preference have been ordered and will be distributed shortly. We will hold a discussion evening on a date and time to be announced later.

PARISH WALK Today, 2nd March, meeting at **St Guthlac's Church at 2:00pm**. The plan is a few miles around Aylestone Meadows. Be warned it is likely to be very muddy. Probable stop at the local and then if stopping on in Aylestone for the SEMP evening service at St Andrew's Church at 6:30pm. Lifts back to St Guthlac's for people not wanting to attend the SEMP service can be arranged.

THE WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER Friday 7th March, will be held at 2pm Christchurch, and at 7.30pm St James the Greater. All are welcome.

LENT LUNCH Saturday March 8th, 12.30-2.15. in Knighton Parish Centre, Brinsmead Road. A simple lunch of home made soup and bread, followed by cheese and biscuits. Tickets £5 from Cora Paul (██████), and Judi Stone (██████). All proceeds will go to the Behala Children's Home.

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

KNIGHTON PLAYERS will be performing Dick Whittington on **Friday 21st March 7.30pm and Saturday 22nd March 2.30pm and 7.30pm** in the Parish Centre. Tickets (adults £6, children £4) are available from Jane Wright (██████) (St. Guthlac's), Tanya Willis (██████) (St. Mary's), or knightonplayers@ntlworld.com.

LENT GROUP BIBLE DISCUSSION MEETINGS The South Leicester Christian Partnership is organising a series of five meetings during Lent on the broad theme of the engagement of the Christian faith with the modern world. **These will be held in the Church Rooms of St Thomas More Church, 75 Knighton Road LE2 3HN, at 7.30 pm** on 13 March, 20 March, 27 March, 3 April and 10 April. **Please join us.** The theme is: **Church and Culture, Church in Culture, Church through Culture.** 13 March: Celebrating the goodness of creation (with Brenda Lee). 20 March: Jesus who transforms and makes new. 27 March: The kingdom of heaven has come near. 3 April: Following Jesus with faithfulness and service. 10 April: Living authentic Christian lives in modern times. **There is also a Thursday daytime course starting at 10.30am. We are invited to join a group at Christchurch, Clarendon Park Road, LE2 3AH.**

ONLINE REFLECTIONS FOR LENT AT THE HENRI NOUWEN SOCIETY WEBSITE
A blog at http://wp.henrinouwen.org/rgroup_blog/ begins on 5 March for anyone who prefers to follow a Lent course of reflections in their personal time. You can read the entries or post comments and join an online discussion.

SPECIAL PASSIONTIDE SERVICE Sun 6 April 4.30 pm 'The Cross of Christ'.
A service of music, readings and prayers for Lent and especially Passiontide. Choir rehearsals are on Wed. 26 March & 2 April, both at 7.30 pm.

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

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