

ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



CHURCH OF ST GUTHLAC

Holbrook Rd, Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

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Churchwardens:

David Hunt
Tina Jarvis



5 January 2014
Epiphany All Age Worship

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 85

FORTHCOMING SERVICES AND MEETINGS

Tuesday 7 January 7.30 pm	PCC meeting
Wednesday 8 January 7.30 pm	Choir Practice
Thursday 9 January 9.30 am	Holy Communion
Thursday 9 January 6.45 pm	Knighton Players Rehearsal
Friday 10 January 8 am	SLCP Morning Prayers at St Thomas More
Friday 10 January 11.00 am	Holbrook Memory Café
Sunday 12 January 10.30 am	Communion for All
Sunday 12 January 3.30 pm	Holy Baptism

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

Holy Communion at 9.30 am on Thursdays will resume on Thursday 9 January.

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, Janet Hubbard** and **Alf Comer** in our prayers. Please also pray for the soul of **Freda Neal** who died recently. For other prayer requests, please speak to the Revd Richard.

Freda's funeral will be held at St. Mary's church on **Friday 10th Jan at 2.15pm.**

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]
[REDACTED]

<http://www.parishresources.org.uk/legacies/resources-on-legacies/>

Cover image: <http://www.wikipaintings.org/en/james-tissot/journey-of-the-magi>

THE REVD RICHARD WRITES The start of a new year gives us cause for reflection on the year that is past as well as on our hopes for the year to come. By any reckoning, 2013 was a good year for our Church. Firstly, we managed collectively to achieve something which had been longed for, but which had seemed almost impossible until the final fundraising drive in 2012: the new welcome area for our church has exceeded most of our expectations. The new space was needed; but a thing of beauty has also been created that will demonstrate its additional value with the passage of time.

The Archdeacon of Leicester presided at our inauguration service to give thanks for the completion of the extension on Advent Sunday to a good-sized congregation. But by definition this was a unique service, and comparison with other services of this kind are difficult. Comparison of the 2013 figures with those for the previous year suggests an encouraging trend. Nine Lessons and Carols 2012: 86; 2013: 115. Crib Service 2012: 56; 2013: 81. First Eucharist of Christmas 2012: 57; 2013: 70. One swallow – or even three – does not make a summer. But we have been praying for signs of growth for some time, and here is one encouraging result. Let us continue our prayers with even more fervour in 2014!

There will be challenges ahead. The most important of these will be the review of the Conventional District. We do not know what the outcome of this review will be, but two things are certain. We need to remain united in our objective of achieving a vibrant church at St Guthlac's with its own style of worship and caring community. We also need to be prayerful and continue to seek God's guidance in all our deliberations on the future and especially in the work of the new Worship Committee.

CREDIT UNIONS TO COMBAT THE EXPLOITATIVE PAY DAY LOAN INDUSTRY. The Archbishop of Canterbury has written to clergy individually reminding them of the damaging consequences of payday loans which carry excessive interest charges. **What can churches do?** Churches (and their members) can get involved in several ways that suit their range of resources and skills. The simplest place to start is to do some fact-finding: is there a credit union that covers your parish? Credit unions have fairly low recognition, so raising awareness of their presence in the community is key to encouraging more people to join. Individuals and corporate bodies (including churches) can invest money as savings. A local credit union may benefit from using your church premises as an access point for people in the community. Members in the congregation may have useful professional skills to offer, such as financial management or IT. A new Churches' Mutual Credit Union will be launched in the near future. **If any member of the congregation has any experience or expertise in this area please contact the Revd Richard.**

PARISH WALKS. Are you suffering from cabin fever or possibly have over done the Christmas pudding? Why not join us for our monthly parish walk. Meeting at St Guthlac's church **TODAY, Sunday 5th January 2014 at 2pm**, for a round trip to Brock Hill Country Park (approx 4 -5 miles). Might be muddy. Look forward to seeing you there.

DIARY DATE After the All Age Worship on **2nd Feb** there will be a **Faith Lunch** in the hall. All welcome. After lunch there will be a follow up session for Bubbles families to build on the recent consultation. Details to follow.

SYRIA APPEAL. The retiring collection at the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols raised £195.15 and at the 1st Eucharist of Christmas £148.92; a total of **£344.07** for the Syria appeal.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE. Thank you to everyone who worked hard to make this event a success and to all who supported it. The sum of **£993** has been raised so far for Church funds; there are still some items available to buy at the back of church. In addition, **£188** was raised for Fair Trade.

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/>

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

IS THIS WHAT GUIDED THE MAGI? A modern planispheric astrolabe. The first astrolabe is thought to have been invented c. 150 BC.

