

# 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

***12 January 2014***

***Communion for All: First Sunday after  
Epiphany***

### **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**

|                              |                                                                               |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wednesday 15 January 7.30 pm | Choir Practice                                                                |
| Thursday 16 January 9.30 am  | Holy Communion                                                                |
| Thursday 9 January 6.45 pm   | Knighton Players Rehearsal                                                    |
| Thursday 9 January 7.30 pm   | SLCP Forum Meeting at St Mary Magdalen                                        |
| Sunday 19 January 10.30 am   | Matins                                                                        |
| Sunday 19 January 6.30 pm    | South Leicester Christian Partnership<br>Unity Service at Stoneygate Baptists |

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

## **SOUTH LEICESTER CHRISTIAN PARTNERSHIP PILGRIMAGE FOR THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY**

|                               |                                                    |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Monday 20 January 12 noon     | St Guthlac's                                       |
| Tuesday 21 January 12 noon    | St Thomas More                                     |
| Wednesday 22 January 12.30 pm | Society of Friends (Quakers Mtg Hse, Queen's Road) |
| Thursday 23 January 12 noon   | St John's                                          |
| Friday 24 January 12 noon     | St Mary Magdalen                                   |

**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.

Cover image: <http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/7f/Baptistery.Arians06.jpg>

**THE REVD RICHARD WRITES** The Baptism of Christ is a good event to celebrate on the first Sunday of Epiphany, and thus reasonably close to the New Year. Jesus made his choice to be baptized as an adult. Although in several of the mainstream Christian churches there is an assumption that baptism primarily concerns children, any time is a good time to become baptized. On one's own birthday, and the feast of the Baptism

of Christ, it can't get much better. So it is particularly appropriate that we have an adult baptism today and we are sure that this will be an important occasion both for our Church and for the individual who has chosen this path.

At Christmas I was given a copy of what may prove to be Billy Graham's last book, entitled *Nearing Home. Life, Faith and Finishing Well*. 'I never thought I would live to be this old', he writes (now at the age of 93, with significant hearing and vision loss). 'All my life I was taught how to die as a Christian, but no one ever taught me how I ought to live in the years before I die.' 'When granted many years of life, growing old in age is natural, but growing old with grace is a choice', he argues. 'Growing older with grace is possible for all who will set their hearts and minds on the Giver of grace, the Lord Jesus Christ.'

This shortish book might be depressing for some, but it's the greatest issue facing each and every one of us. 'It is never too late to begin building your life on the foundation of Jesus Christ and His will for your life...', Graham reminds us. Have you committed your life to Him? 'The most important decision you will ever make is to give your life to Christ and become His follower. Don't wait until life's storms begin to batter you; then it may be too late. Open your heart and life to him now. "Now is the time of God's favour, now is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2).'

'If you have never invited Jesus Christ to come into your life, of if you are unsure of your salvation, I invite you to pause right now and ask Him to come into your life, to forgive you, and to save you – and He will. To help you make this commitment, I urge you to pray the following prayer right now (or something similar in your own words):

'O God, I know I am a sinner. I am sorry for my sins, and I want to turn from them. I trust Jesus Christ as my Saviour, I confess him as my Lord, and invite Him to come into my life today. From this moment on, I want to make Him the foundation of my life and to serve Him and follow Him in the fellowship of His church. In Christ's name I pray. Amen.'

That's also a great prayer of commitment for the one who is to be baptized. Billy Graham concludes *Nearing Home* with the words that 'it has been a great privilege for me to be an evangelist; my greatest joy has come from seeing people all over the world respond to the life-changing message of Jesus Christ.' 'Heaven is our hope, Heaven is our future, and Heaven is our home! I look forward to being home at last, and I pray you do also... When your hopes and dreams fall apart or people disappoint you or turn against you, turn your heart towards your Heavenly home. And when the infirmities and struggles of old age threaten to overwhelm you, turn your heart towards your Heavenly home...'

'Some reading this book may say, "But I rejected Christ my whole life. It's too late for me." I say to you, my friend, that was *then*... this is *now*. The Bible's promises were true then, they are true now, and they will be true forever. "Behold, *now* is the accepted time; behold, *now* is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2 NKJV, emphasis added)... Right *now* you can be certain that you are *nearing home*.'

**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/>

**CHURCH URBAN FUND.** Anyone still wishing to make a donation in lieu of Christmas cards is asked to do so **today** so that we can forward the donations to CUF. Thank you.

**SATURDAY BAKEHOUSE.** Saturday, **February 1st, 10.00 a.m.**, at the Parish Centre. A demonstration and talk on home bread baking will be given by a local Artisan Baker. To be followed by a lunch of freshly baked breads served with homemade soup, puddings of the day, tea and coffee. Quiz, raffle and mystery prize. Tickets £8, to include lunch, available from: Cora Paul [REDACTED], Judi Stone [REDACTED], Lorna Pollard [REDACTED] and Margarete Booton, [REDACTED].

**FAITH LUNCH** 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

**CHRISTINGLE SERVICE £336.89** was raised for the **Children's Society** at our service in December. It is not too late to contribute to this excellent cause. Please give any filled candles or envelopes you may still have at home to Lesley. Thank you to everyone involved in the service as well as to those who donated.

**SYRIA APPEAL.** The retiring collection at the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols raised £195.15 and at the 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

**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/>

**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](mailto:administrator@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk)