

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

3 August 2014

Seventh Sunday after Trinity

10.30 am All Age Communion

WELCOME TO ANY OF YOU 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 115

FORTHCOMING SERVICES AND MEETINGS

Thursday 7 August, 9.30 am	Holy Communion
Thursday 7 August, 6 pm	Wedding Rehearsal
Friday 8 August, 11 am to 1 pm	Memory Cafe
Saturday 9 August, 1 pm	Wedding

REVITALISATION OF HOLBROOK MEMORIAL HALL. Phases 1 & 2 of the work on the internal refurbishment, which were funded by BIFFA, are complete. Replacement of the main hall floor began on August 2nd. This will cost about £13,000 and will give us a new floor made of similar timber to the current floor, which will hopefully last another 100 years. There will be some fund raising events to help pay for this. **We have been successful in obtaining a grant of £3,500 from Leicester City Council, Knighton Ward.** We are planning a “Grand Opening” on Remembrance Sunday 9 November when all the work is completed (Bishop Christopher and the City Mayor Peter Soulsby are coming). There’s a lot going on! Our thanks to Steve Bowyer, Gary Ogg and the team working on the project.

PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL. We have been asked to keep **Rev’d Jane Curtis, Julia Burns, Rachel Stevens, Liz Singleton, Janet Hubbard, Ray Wood, and Jean Abbott** in our prayers. Please also pray for the souls of **Sam Stoker, Dorothy Berridge and Jean Wagstaff** who have died recently.

For other prayer requests, please speak to the Revd Richard.

Please hold Aidan, Calum and Edwin in your prayers on their journey of faith after admission to Holy Communion.

Cover image:

http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/7a/Courtyard_of_the_Church_of_the_Multiplication_in_Tabgha_by_David_Shankbone.jpg

THE REVD RICHARD WRITES The cover illustration is of the courtyard at the front of the Church of the Multiplication at Tabgha where many Christians believe the miracle of the feeding of the 5,000 took place. In this newsletter Margaret is giving me a rest and takes over the conversation, talking about the choice of hymns made over the recent months.

HYMNS: something old, something new

Following on from Richard’s sermon last Sunday, when he was urging us not to jettison everything old in favour of everything new, but rather to take the best of the old and combine it with the best of the new, it set me thinking about hymn choices we make week by week.

As you may know, the hymns we sing each Sunday are chosen by several different people drawn from the choir and from the congregation. This means we’re drawing on a variety of different tastes and traditions in music, and I’ve found this very helpful – I’ve learned new hymns and worship songs as a result of these choices. We do get a bit of guidance through the Royal School of Church Music’s suggestions for hymns – these are based around the Bible readings for

the day and the appointed psalms – but we can choose to use them or to ignore them. There are no ‘rules’ for choosing hymns, but what we try to make sure is that there are some which the older members of our congregation will know well, and some which the younger ones will recognise or pick up easily.

So the ‘something old, something new’ theme of Richard’s sermon can be applied to music as to every other part of church life – variety gives us more spice!

But how well, I wondered, are we doing on variety – in other words, are we picking the same favourites month in, month out, or are we using the richness of our hymnbooks to the full? So I used our recent holiday time to do something really nerdish – an analysis of the hymns we’ve chosen over the last 2 years to see which have been the most popular and how repetitive we’ve been. The results surprised me in one way – we’ve selected more widely than I thought – but there are big swathes of our hymns which never get a look in. Now you may say that there are very good reasons for this – an awful tune, some hard words, out-of-date concepts etc. However, perhaps we should challenge ourselves to be a bit bolder with choices, and even to teach ourselves ones which are unfamiliar once in a while so that worship doesn’t get stale. What do you think? I know that music choices are very personal and often very emotional for people, so I expect to hear some strong views from the pews!

But back to the results of the ‘your favourite hymns’ choices.

Aug 2013 to end July 2014: the leader in the field was no 289, chosen no less than 4 times – not an obvious choice, but a great hymn to end the service, written by Brian Wren: ‘I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved and free’, which goes on ‘As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud division ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends.’ The last verse is all about our mission in the world: ‘Together met, together bound by all that God has done, we’ll go with joy, to give the world the love that makes us one.’ I can’t think of a better message to take out from church on Sunday.

These hymns were chosen 3 times during the period: 40, 97, 102, 175, 196, 401, 418, 557, 600, 652, 668 – look them up in OCOFOL to see if your favourites are here, and you might have some surprises! What I would say is that we sing ‘modern’ worship songs more regularly these days than the more traditional hymns, which had an airing at best once or twice during the year.

Aug 2012 to end July 2013: no 300 was chosen 5 times! This ‘traditional’ hymn, ‘I heard the voice of Jesus say’ was perhaps more unexpected as a leading choice for the year, but the tune, based on a folk melody by Vaughan Williams, is beautiful, haunting and unusual in that it goes from the minor key to the major in the course of each verse. The following were chosen 4 times during the year: 175, 310, 435, 445 and these had 3 outings: 34, 54, 59, 60, 92, 141, 170, 401, 428, 474, 550, 692 – you’ll see some overlap between the 2 years, but not as many as expected.

It only remains for me to thank my ‘hymn selectors’ who have laboured long and hard over their choices during the past years. And to encourage anyone else out there in the pew who would like to have a go at it to let me know. It would be great to add you to the team.

PARISH WALK The walk **TODAY** (3rd August) will be about 3.5 miles through gentle undulating countryside in the Burton Overy area but good footwear advisable. Meet at St Mary's for a 2pm departure or outside the Bell Inn in the centre of Burton Overy for a 2.30pm departure. (The Bell Inn promises to be open all afternoon and has outside seating!) No need to book and lifts available from St Mary's. Contact Simon Britton.

GARDENERS NEEDED to tend the church garden. Please will you sign the plan at the back of church indicating which part of the garden you would be willing to take responsibility for. Thank you

RIDE AND STRIDE 13 Sept 2014 - a date for your diaries. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Leicestershire Historic Churches Trust and the 25th anniversary of Ride and Stride in Leicestershire. It's a great opportunity to get out and explore the churches of the city and county on bike and foot. It's fun for the whole family - a truly all age event. If that's too energetic for you then why not take a turn during the day to welcome visitors to our church which will also be open on the day between 10:00 and 18:00. Details of churches open on the day and sponsorship forms (whether you are planning to walk, cycle or welcome) are available from Fiona Wingate. A list for volunteers to welcome visitors to St Guthlac's will be available at the back of church in a few weeks' time.

HOMEMADE JAMS & CHUTNEY will be needed to sell at the Christmas Fayre on December 6th. If you can make any for church it will be gratefully appreciated. If you require jars please speak to Lesley, Jane or Ann Swanson. Thank you.

BUBBLES COMPETITION. Two competitions will be held for Bubbles children and friends, at the barn dance on Saturday 20th September. There will be prizes for the best harvest collage (maximum paper size A3) and the best garden constructed on a dinner plate. Entries should be completed at home and brought along to the barn dance for judging. Further information from Lesley or Jane.

OLD WOODEN 'BUBBLES' TABLES are to be disposed of. If anyone would like them please contact Jane Wright on administrator@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk or Mark & Steph on kpcbookings@btinternet.com as soon as possible. Thank you

LEICESTER MERCURY VOUCHERS South Knighton Community Events have been awarded £273.39 in respect of the vouchers they collected. Many thanks to all who collected vouchers.

For more information about St Guthlac's, **please consult the notice board** or our website <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