

ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



CHURCH OF ST GUTHLAC

Holbrook Rd, Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

Minister: Revd Richard Bonney 2125677

rjbonney@gmail.com

Churchwardens:

David Hunt

Tina Jarvis

31 August 2014

Eleventh 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 119

FORTHCOMING SERVICES AND MEETINGS

Monday 1 September, 7 pm

Worship Committee (Church, Welcome Area – Councillor Grant Surgery)

Wednesday 3 September, 7.30 pm

Choir Practice

Thursday 4 September, 9.30 am

Holy Communion

Sunday 7 September, 10.30 am

All Age Communion

REVITALISATION OF HOLBROOK MEMORIAL HALL. Phases 1 & 2 of the work on the internal refurbishment, which were funded by **BIFFA**, are complete. **THE NEW FLOOR FOR THE MAIN HALL HAS NOW ALSO BEEN COMPLETED**, with a grant of £3,500 from Leicester City Council, Knighton Ward towards the overall cost of the floor of about £13000. The “Grand Opening” will take place on Remembrance Sunday 9 November. See WW1 diary dates on the noticeboard for further information.

Our thanks to Steve Bowyer, Gary Ogg and the team working on the project.

PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL We have been asked to keep **Romayne Brown Victoria Maduma, Revd Jane Curtis and Julia Burns**, in our prayers. Please also pray for the souls of **Helen Birtwhistle, Liz Singleton, Barbara Joyce Whitehead and Revd Ian Phelps**, 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.**

DISASTERS EMERGENCY COMMITTEE APPEAL FOR GAZA. (Christian Aid is a member of the Committee.) The escalation in the conflict between Israel and Hamas has caused the humanitarian situation in Gaza to reach crisis point. Hundreds of thousands of people have fled their homes and are in desperate need of food, water and shelter. All 1.8 million people living in Gaza are without adequate access to medical care because the health system is on the brink of collapse. Safe water is limited, with 1.4 million Gazans with no or very limited access to water sanitation. 65,000 people have seen their homes damaged or destroyed and 24 hospitals and clinics have also been damaged. DEC members, made up of some of the UK's leading aid agencies, are supplying clean water, food and household items, emergency shelter and medical supplies. They are also helping children and other vulnerable people to cope with the psychological effects of the conflict. But they urgently need your help because the humanitarian need is so great. That is why we have launched the DEC Gaza Crisis Appeal. Just £25 can buy 150 bandages for the injured. £50 can feed five families for a day and £100 can provide an emergency shelter kit and blankets for one family. There are Christian Aid envelopes available in Church. Please gift aid if possible.

COVER IMAGE community.harlequin.com

THE REVD RICHARD WRITES Harvest is almost in, both in Leicestershire and Lincolnshire. **So it's time to be thinking about the harvest of souls.** 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few' (Matthew 9:37). 'Do you not say, "There are yet four months, then comes the harvest"? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest' (John 4:35). From our point of view, as a welcoming Church, the harvest of souls is measured by our success in welcoming new worshippers among us. To 'harvest' them, however, we have first to welcome them. And in order to welcome them we have first to invite them.

So this is our theme for the first two Sundays of September: **changing our culture as worshippers from a culture of passivity to a culture of welcome.** This is not easily achieved. That's why we've been thinking carefully about it and why we need to explain what it means to our congregation and to gain support for this collective enterprise as something of the greatest importance for our future.

In the report entitled *From Anecdote to Evidence. Findings from the Church Growth Research Programme, 2011-2013* we read (p. 13):

The most direct route to growth comes from members inviting and welcoming family, friends and acquaintances.

It all sounds so easy, doesn't it? So why hasn't it been happening and what can we do about it, reversing the trend and seeing a steady growth in numbers of worshippers? That's what the first two Sundays of September are all about. Please make every effort to attend these services.

Saviour Christ, in whose way of love lies the secret of all life and the hope of all people, we pray for quiet courage to match this hour. We did not choose to be born or to live in such an age; but let its problems challenge us, its discoveries exhilarate us, its injustices anger us, its possibilities inspire us and its vigour renew us for your kingdom's sake. Amen
(Anglican Cycle of Prayer 1998)

Knighton remembers World War I – dates for your diaries: please see the noticeboard outside the church.

We still need stories!

We are still looking for people who live in Knighton now and have stories, photographs or mementoes from their forebears about World War I. These stories may be about people who lived in Knighton during WWI and served either in the forces or on the Home Front. But we're also interested to hear from people who live in Knighton now, and may have WWI stories in their family histories. These will appear as part of the exhibition. Contact Margaret Bonney mmbonney@gmail.com 0116 2125677 or Yolanda Courtney Yolanda.courtney@ntlworld.com

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.

DECORATING CHURCH FOR HARVEST Please sign up on the planner at the back of church if you can offer to decorate a windowsill for Harvest. This will be done on Saturday 20th Sept in the morning starting at 9.30. Please bring flowers and foliage if you can, but there are always extra available if required. Contact Cheryl or Lesley if you would like more information.

HARVEST BARN DANCE Saturday 20th September 7-10.30pm in Holbrook Hall. Suitable for all ages, come and join in the fun. **Two competitions** will be held for Bubbles children and friends, at the barn dance. 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. Tickets available from Ann Swanson, Adults £6, Children £3, Family £15.

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.

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