

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

20 July 2014

Fifth Sunday after Trinity

10.30 am Matins

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 113

FORTHCOMING SERVICES AND MEETINGS

Wednesday 23 July, 7.30 pm

Choir Practice & summer party

Thursday 24 July, 9.30 am

No service; Revd Richard is away

Sunday 27 July, 10.30 am

All Age Communion

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

REVITALISATION OF HOLBROOK MEMORIAL HALL. The first phase of work on the internal refurbishment is complete. Phase 2, which includes rewiring and replacing the ceiling tiles in the main hall, began on Monday 14th July. This will be followed by replacement of the main hall floor at a cost of 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. Finally, 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 **Julia Burns, Rachel Stevens, Liz Singleton, Janet Hubbard, Ray Wood, Mona Cufflin** and **Jean Abbott** in our prayers. 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.

THE REVD RICHARD WRITES In the last newsletter, as part of a series looking at the challenges to the faith in World War I, a war between Christian nations, we looked at the views of the Church hierarchy. Later on, in 1917, Randall Davidson, the archbishop of Canterbury, declared himself convinced of 'the rightness, the inevitableness' of entering the war three years earlier. Wilfred Owen wrote in a letter to his mother that he would like to send a Bible to the archbishop with only one verse 'Ye have heard that it hath been said: An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: But I say that ye resist not evil but whosoever shall smite thee on the right cheek, turn to him the other also' (Matthew 5: 38-39, i.e. two verses). Owen continues, 'And if his reply be "Most unsuitable for the present distressing moment..." 'then there is only one possible conclusion, that there are no more Christians at the present moment than there were at the end of the first century.' Owen felt that the duty of the Christian church lay with the swift ending of the carnage and his poetry reflected these themes more and more as the war progressed.

Most of the leaders of the various churches probably concurred with the archbishop of Canterbury, who insisted in September 1914 that the position of a

'combatant in our army is incompatible with the position of one who has sought holy Orders'. Priests or ministers should be army chaplains, not members of the actual fighting force. M. S. Evers, was regarded as 'an ideal chaplain' who lived with his regiment (the 9th Battalion, Royal North Lancashire Regiment), went over the top with them in order to bring back wounded troops, and was spiritually rewarded by drawing about two hundred soldiers to his services of Holy Communion. (The norm for ordinary services seems to have been more in the order of twenty attending.) The consensus of effective chaplains, Anglican, Roman Catholic, or Nonconformist, agreed with Evers that 'the Army Authority was completely stupid. They said that the proper place for chaplains was behind the line... I lived with the Regiment.'

By the end of the war, over 170 padres had died,¹ hundreds of others had been decorated for meritorious service, and chaplains had ministered to British troops in every theatre of war. Four chaplains were awarded the Victoria Cross, the highest honour for military service. Of those four, three were chaplains from the Church of England. These men ignored, or received dispensation to ignore, the order forbidding chaplains to go into the front lines and their courageous acts all involved bringing several wounded out of harm's way while under heavy enemy fire. Two of the three survived the war, while the third (Theodore Hardy) died of his wounds and received the Victoria Cross posthumously. Nevertheless, Robert Graves, in *Goodbye to All That: An Autobiography* (1929), penned a scathing denunciation of the Anglican chaplains: 'If Anglican regimental chaplains had shown one-tenth the courage, endurance and other human qualities that the regimental doctors showed, we agreed the British Expeditionary Force might well have started a religious revival.' Rather, Graves found them to be to be 'remarkably out of touch with their troops'. He did concede, however, that 'the Roman Catholic chaplains were not only permitted to visit posts of danger, but definitely enjoined to be wherever fighting was, so that they could give extreme unction to the dying. And we never have heard of one who failed to do all that was expected of him and more.'

The Leicestershire Regiment's account of the Revd Cyril Bernard Wilson Buck, who served with them in 1916-18, belies Graves's description of Anglican chaplains. At Lens at the end of April 1917 'we began to realize what a magnificent man was Padre Buck. Nothing worried him, and even Cooper trench formed part of his parish, to be visited each night. In St. Pierre he held a service every evening in one of the cellars, undeterred although on one occasion a shell burst in the doorway, scattering its bits inside, but doing no damage.' On the afternoon of 29 September 1918, the Leicestershire Regiment's tanks were under heavy attack from the German artillery near the St Quentin canal: 'one of them, disabled and on fire, was a mark for several German batteries. Some of the crew managed to escape, but others, too badly wounded, were left inside; one crawled to our Aid Post. Padre Buck heard of this and at once went off to the rescue. The

¹ <http://www.theygavetheirtoday.com/army-chaplains-ww1.html>

shelling was very heavy, and he was hit almost at once and wounded in many places. He was carried back to the Aid Post, but died soon afterwards, conscious to the last, but not in great pain. **The Padre had been with us two years, and during all that time, there was never a trench or outpost that he had not visited, no matter how dangerous or exposed.** In addition to his Chaplain's duties, he had been O.C. Games, Recreation Room and often Mess President – a thorough sportsman and a brave soldier, **we felt his loss keenly.**' The Revd Buck, who is buried in grave V C 6 at Busigny Communal Cemetery Extension, was 38 when he was killed and was posthumously awarded the Military Cross.

MOTHERS UNION Festival Service and Strawberry Tea - a reminder that the Service takes place on **Tuesday, 22nd July**, at 2.30 p.m. in St. Mary's, followed by tea in the Parish Centre. There is not a charge, but we do welcome contributions on the day. Anne Squires (Hon. Secretary)

KNIGHTON ROWED THE BOAT ASHORE On Sunday 6th July at 2.30pm, the parish walk visited Knighton Spinney, which opens from Knighton Park. We posed for a photo in the outdoor "Knighton classroom". The spinney was planted by Squire Hartopp Cradock in 1840 to grow oaks for warships and he grew ash trees between so that the oaks would grow tall. Oaks take a while to grow, and many are still there. By the 1870s steel ships were in production so it seems unlikely



that much if any of the oaks in Knighton Spinney were used for ships. It takes 5000 oaks to build a flagship like HMS Victory and 2000 oaks to build a standard 74-gun ship-of-the-line. 5000 oaks are about the size of a Winnie-the-Pooh hundred acre wood. Ian Fraser discovered that the Spinney is 5.7 acres according to the OS map or 8.6 acres via the metric system according to the internet. Enough for a rowboat?

PIANO in Holbrook Hall and 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

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

Cover image: <http://pietistschoolman.files.wordpress.com/2013/04/wwi-worship-service-at-airfield.jpg>