

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

10 August 2014

Eighth 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 116

FORTHCOMING SERVICES AND MEETINGS

Wednesday 13 August, 7.30pm World War I meeting

Thursday 14 August, 9.30 am Holy Communion

NOTE: There will be no 9.30 am service on Thursday 21 August

Sunday 17 August, 10.30 am All Age Communion

Revd Richard will be in Church on 17 August but otherwise on holiday from 11 am on Thursday 14 August until Tuesday 26 August.

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 and Ray Wood** in our prayers. Please also pray for the souls of **Rev’d Ian Phelps, 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.

THE REVD RICHARD WRITES The services of commemoration of the outbreak of World War I held this week give one pause to consider the immensity of the human losses in this catastrophe: an estimated 1,118,760 service men and women from the Commonwealth (approx. 888,246 from the UK alone) lost their lives.

The great Edwin Lutyens memorial to the Missing of the Somme at Thiepval, names 72,195 individuals with no known grave. It is virtually impossible to find the name you want among so many without knowing the column and pier on which the name appears. It has been the work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to maintain such records, as well as the sites of commemoration, since its establishment. In the old days you had to write to the Commission for details on a particular name. Now you can find the name online since all the records have been digitized and can be found on the internet.

What did a young war widow receive by way of notification of the loss of her husband? The first thing was the certificate of death. My grandmother received the following:

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH
SYDNEY RICHARD BONNEY

Certified that it appears from the records of this Office that Temporary Second Lieutenant SYDNEY RICHARD BONNEY, 12th (Reserve) Battalion, attached 10th (Service) Battalion, Essex Regiment, was killed on the 26th day of September 1916.

For the Secretary, War Office

Dated, at the War Office, London, this 21st day of October 1916.

[Note: the phrase ‘it appears from the records of this Office’ may allude to the fact that no actual body had been recovered.]

This was no war with instant telecommunications: almost a month’s delay occurred between the date of death and the issuing of the death certificate. Everyone on the home front dreaded the arrival of the delivery of such a notification and some families had suffered several of them.

Later the widow would receive the medals and any other items recovered from the deceased. Finally there would be a death medal (‘He died for freedom and honour’) and a death scroll. This read: ‘He whom this scroll commemorates was numbered among those who, at the call of King and Country, left all that was dear to them, endured hardness, faced danger, and finally passed out of the sight of men by the path of duty and self-sacrifice, giving up their own lives that others might live in freedom. Let those who come after see to it that his name be not forgotten.’

Finally, there was the widow’s pension. ‘The widow of a soldier who is killed while in the performance of Military duty, or dies as a result of wounds or injuries received, or dies of disease due to or aggravated by active service, within seven years of his removal from duty on account of such disease or injuries, may be granted a minimum pension at the following rates weekly in shillings and pence.’

Warrant Officer, Class I	21/ 3
Warrant Officer, Class II, or Non-Commissioned Officer, Class I	18/ 9
Non-Commissioned Officer, Class II	17/ 6
Non-Commissioned Officer, Class III	16/ 3
Non-Commissioned Officer, Class IV	15/-
Private, etc. (Class V)	13/ 9

There is now some comfort in knowing that the few remaining images and memorabilia from his life are held on the Thiepval Memorial Database and that his portrait is one of the 600 representatives of the missing there. He is not forgotten. But being lost in war and with no known grave means that there is very little left with which to remember him.

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

Cover image: Image of 600 representatives of the missing from the visitor centre at the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing. Opened on 31 July 1932 by the Prince of Wales, the Thiepval Memorial was and remains the largest British war memorial in the world. It contains the names of 72,195 British and South African men who have no known grave and who fell at the Somme between July 1916 and 20 March 1918. 150ft high and dominating the surrounding area, the memorial was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens.