

ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS

A Season of Invitation



CHURCH OF ST GUTHLAC

Holbrook Rd, Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

Minister: Revd Richard Bonney 2125677

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Churchwardens:

David Hunt

Tina Jarvis

7 September 2014

Twelfth 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 120

FORTHCOMING SERVICES AND MEETINGS

Wednesday 10 September, 7.30 pm	Choir Practice
Thursday 11 September, 9.30 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 14 September, 10.30 am	Communion for All

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 below and 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 **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 <http://seasonofinvitation.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/Sol-Header-and-Logo.jpg>

THE REVD RICHARD WRITES One of the reasons we may be reluctant to invite others to our Church events may be a fear of rejection. We need to think carefully about this fear and overcome it so that we are freed up to become effective servants of God who can welcome others to our Church in confidence.

It is true that the fear of rejection is one of our deepest human fears. We fear being seen in a critical way. We're anxious about the prospect of being cut off, demeaned, or isolated. Being human, we long to be accepted and wanted. It hurts to be rejected. We need to cultivate an inner resilience by acknowledging and even welcoming whatever we're experiencing.

'What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else? Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one – for God himself has given us right standing with himself. Who then will condemn us? No one – for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honour at God's right hand, pleading for us' (Romans 8:31-34).

If we learn to deal with rejection properly, we will learn that our identity and strength lies in Christ and not in others. The acceptance of others is important, but it is secondary. The foundational revelation a person must receive is the unconditional love of God as described above by St Paul. 'Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love' (1 John 4:18). If there is fear in our lives, perfect love can cast it out. Perfect love can only come from God.

Our theme for the first two Sundays of September is **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.

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.

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)

PARISH WALK: Today Sunday 7th Sept. Meet at St Guthlac's Church for 2:00pm or at All Saints Church, Keyham at 2:15. The walk will take us on a circular route from Keyham via Ingarsby, about 4 miles (unreconnoitred). Good footwear is recommended. Lifts are available. All welcome. Fiona Wingate.

RIDE & STRIDE: Saturday 13th September. St Guthlac's Church will be open from 10:00 through to 18:00. We are looking for volunteers to take their turn to welcome visitors to the church. If you're able to offer an hour or so of your time it would be greatly appreciated. A list is available at the back of church. If you're interested in taking part and visiting churches, then lists of churches and sponsorship forms are available at the back of church as well. If you would like more details please see me. Fiona Wingate.

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