

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

14 September 2014

Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity:

10.30 am Communion for All

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 121

FORTHCOMING SERVICES AND MEETINGS

Wednesday 17 September, 7.30 pm	Choir Practice
Thursday 18 September, 9.30 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 21 September, 10.30 am	Harvest: All Age Worship

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. Our theme for the first two Sundays of September is **changing our culture as worshippers from a culture of passivity to a culture of invitation and 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.**

'The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, "Behold the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, "What are you seeking?" And they said to him, "Rabbi (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and you will see." So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour [4 pm]' (John 1:35-39).

'Come' is the loving invitation, here used as a word of response. These men had been captivated by the radical difference of Jesus. They clearly desired to know more about him, to understand what made him who he was. The Lord's hospitality didn't start in a vacuum. It started with the integrity of his life making an impression on their souls. Clear and public attention to Jesus created the possibility for Jesus to ask them the first question, 'What are you seeking?'

'Come and see' is the preparation to help our friends hope for a glimpse of the glory. 'Stay' is the loving call to identification. As important as it is for people to come and see, the ultimate test of a relationship with God through Jesus Christ is staying. They came in, they saw, they stayed and it changed their lives forever.

We need to follow our Lord in his 'come, see and stay' love for the stranger. There are strangers to Christ all around us and he calls us to care about their eternal homelessness. Welcoming the stranger into Christ's home begins with: (1) Asking them what they are seeking; (2) Sharing with them the home we have in the worship of God in the church; and (3) Staying with them for as long as it takes for them to stay in Christ's love. Hospitality is the path that loves the stranger into God's home. And that path needs to run right through our lives.

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 or Yolanda Courtney.

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.

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.

KNIGHTON MOTHERS UNION After a summer break during August, our meetings recommence on **Tuesday 23rd September**, at 7.30 in the Parish Centre, and this will be our Harvest Bring and Buy, followed by a selection of Readings by members. Please support this event and bring good as new products, cakes, etc. for the sales table if you can. We look forward to meeting up again. Friends are also welcome.

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