

ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



CHURCH OF ST GUTHLAC

Holbrook Rd, Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF
<http://www.stguthlac-knighton.co.uk/>

Minister: Revd Richard Bonney 2125677
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Churchwardens:

David Hunt

Tina Jarvis

30 November 2014 Advent Sunday

10.30 Communion for All

6.30 (joint @ St Mary Magdalen): 'Come, Lord, come'

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 132

FORTHCOMING SERVICES AND MEETINGS

Wednesday 3 December, 7.30 pm	Choir Practice
Thursday 4 December, 9.30 am	Holy Communion
Friday 5 December, 8am	SLCP Ecumenical Morning Prayers
Saturday 6 December, 10 am	Christmas Fayre
Sunday 7 December, 10.30 am	Advent 2: Communion for All

PLEASE NOTE THERE IS NO SERVICE ON SUNDAY 28TH DEC AT ST GUTHLAC'S BUT THERE WILL BE A 10 AM EUCHARIST AT ST MARY'S THAT DAY.

PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL We have been asked to keep **John Norman, Kath Wadd, Rebecca Magee, Rhiannon Jones, Baby William Broadbent** and **Jean Abbott** in our prayers. Please also pray for the souls of **Kathleen Stringer, Vi Silcock** and **Lee Parry** who have died recently and keep **June Parry** in your 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.**

EBOLA CRISIS APPEAL (DISASTERS EMERGENCY COMMITTEE AND CHRISTIAN AID) Christian Aid envelopes are in the pews for you to support this appeal. The explosive spread of Ebola in West Africa is not just killing the infected but ripping apart health services, devastating communities, and destroying people's ability to support themselves. More than 4500 people have died and over 10,000 have been infected by the Ebola virus. The outbreak is not only a health crisis, but also a humanitarian crisis with global dimensions.

SEASON OF INVITATION For the rest of this year we are focusing on inviting family, friends and acquaintances to join us for the many services and events which will be on offer; each of us has been challenged to make personal invitations to people we know. There is plenty of time for you to consider who you might be called to invite to the Christmas season events. There is a range of invitation cards at the back for you to select from and Christmas ones will be available soon. The Christmas leaflet has been produced. Let's make the Season of Invitation a success!

LEGACIES We welcome all legacies, however large or small, and we promise to use your gift to make a difference in our parish. Please consider leaving a proportion of your estate as a gift in your Will to our parish. For confidential advice to anyone at St Guthlac's, please contact Mark Wyatt
<http://www.parishresources.org.uk/legacies/resources-on-legacies/>

Cover image:

http://4.bp.blogspot.com/_xwrQQ0ynbhM/TPFoAAAdKd2I/AAAAAAAAAFs/F4Oa0aY4_JU/s1600/Star.jpg

THE REVD RICHARD WRITES

Thanks to David Hunt for putting the images of the exhibition panels for Knighton Remembers World War I on our website: <http://www.stguthlac-knighton.co.uk/>

The exhibition was moved on Friday of the previous week to the Town Hall and erected on Monday outside the Lord Mayor's parlour as you go into the Council Chamber. Although the exhibition is behind security doors, a fair number of people have visited the area to see the panels.

Last week I briefly introduced the new feedback form that we will be using from now on to learn more about your reactions to our services. The Worship Committee will consider comments received at each of its meetings and will try to provide some response on occasions when this seems to be necessary. Our aim is to work consistently at ways to improve our worship.

Advent is here and with it the new Church Year (Year B in the Lectionary readings). It is uncertain as to when exactly the celebration of Advent was first introduced in the Christian church. Some sources say that Advent began on 11 November (St Martin's Day) at some time in the fifth century in the form of a six-week fast leading to Christmas. Advent was reduced to its current length at some stage in the sixth century and the fasting was later no longer observed. Advent is originally a time to reflect and prepare for Christmas similarly to how Lent is in preparation for Easter. Advent has sometimes been referred to as the Winter Lent. In recent times the restrictions that Advent brings to Christians have become more relaxed: necessarily so, these days, when 'Christmas' advertising begins in late October!

Purple is historically the main colour used for Advent because it reflects penitence, fasting, and the colour of royalty to welcome the Advent of the king (Jesus Christ). The focus of the entire season is the celebration of the birth of Jesus the Christ in his first Advent, and the anticipation of the return of Christ the King in his second Advent.

What makes the difference for me is the Advent hymnal (not to be confused with the Seventh Day Adventist hymnal!). Few times of the year can come close to matching the majesty, solemnity but excitement of Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus; Hills of the North, rejoice; O Come O Come Emmanuel; On Jordan's Banks The Baptist's Cry and other great Advent hymns. But, then, each of us is different and hymn choices are one of the few things which are really controversial in Church!

MAKE YOUR CHRISTMAS GREETINGS GO FURTHER. The PCC would like to suggest that members of the congregation make a donation to the **Church Urban Fund** instead of exchanging cards with one another. If you would like to do this then CUF envelopes will be available at the back of church from the beginning of December together with a collection box and a large card for everyone to sign. If you wish to gift aid your donation please fill in your details on the envelope. Thank you.

TODAY Evening Service at 6.30pm at St Mary Magdalen Church. 'Come, Lord, Come': Advent readings, music and prayers in expectation of the coming of Jesus, the Son of God. With the choirs of St. Guthlac's, St. Mary's and friends.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE Please support your Christmas fayre on **Saturday December 6th 10-1pm** in St. Guthlac's Church. **Preserves, cakes** (preferable not fruitcake as we will be selling our mini Christmas cakes) and **buns** for the cake stall and **bottles** of anything for the tombola are needed. Volunteers to help on the day will be most welcome! Thank you.

CHRISTMAS WREATHS Cheryl will be making Christmas holly wreaths for the fayre. If you are able to pre-order one it would be very helpful to her. Costs are £8 small, £12 large, with additional decoration £15. Please phone to order. Thank you

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL "CAKES & BAKES" A demonstration on preparation and presentation of festive treats will be given by local artisan baker, Christine Taylor, on Saturday, 13th December, 2014 at 2.00 p.m. in St. Mary's Parish Centre. To be followed by afternoon tea. There will be a quiz, raffle and mystery prize. Tickets are £8.00 (to include afternoon tea) and are available now from Cora Paul, Judi Stone, Lorna Pollard and Margarete Booton.

FOOD DONATIONS FOR THE NATIVITY GIFT SERVICE Sun 21st December. Open Hands have let us know that the following 4 food items would be particularly welcome: Cereal, long life milk 500ml, small bottles of cooking oil and tinned meat items. These items are for individuals and families so please note the pack sizes requested and add to your shopping list! The food will be delivered after Christmas.

WARNING OF TELEPHONE SCAM Parcel Delivery Service. Royal Mail and the Trading Standards office are making people aware of the following scam: A card is posted through your door from a company called PDS (Parcel Delivery Service) suggesting that they were unable to deliver a parcel and that you need to contact them on 0906 66119** (a premium rate number, partially censored). If you call the number and you start to hear a recorded message you will already have been billed £315 for the phone call. If you do receive a card with these details, then please contact Royal Mail Fraud on 020 7239 6655. For more information, see the Crime Stoppers website (external). Please be aware that the premium rate number may change but nevertheless please do not call any number stated on a card from PDS. Please make sure your colleagues, family, friends and neighbours are aware of the above.

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