

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

21 December 2014 Fourth Sunday of Advent
10.30 am Nativity and Gift Service
(@ Holbrook Memorial Hall)

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 135

FORTHCOMING SERVICES AND MEETINGS

Sunday 21 December, 6.30 pm	9 Lessons and Carols @ St MM
Wednesday 24 December, 4 pm	Crib Service
Wednesday 24 December, 8 pm	First Eucharist of Christmas
Thursday 25 December, 10.30 am	All Age Communion for Christmas
Sunday 4 January 2015, 10.30 am	All Age Worship: Epiphany

PLEASE NOTE THERE IS NO SERVICE ON SUNDAY 28TH DEC AT ST GUTHLAC'S. THERE WILL BE A 10 AM EUCHARIST AT ST MARY'S THAT DAY AND 10.30 AM SERVICES AT STONEYGATE BAPTIST CHURCH, 315 LONDON ROAD AND CLARENDON PARK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, SPRINGFIELD ROAD.

PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL We have been asked to keep **John Norman, Grace Mason, and Jeanine** in our prayers. Please also pray for the souls of **Kath Wadd, James Mason, David Hogg, Malcolm Richardson, 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/>

THE REVD RICHARD WRITES How many of us feel happy about sitting down to a Christmas roast when there are people suffering from genuine hunger in this country? The report of the All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Hunger in the United Kingdom entitled *Feeding Britain. A Strategy for Zero Hunger in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland*, a report funded by the Archbishop of Canterbury's Charitable Trust, found genuine hunger to be the case. 'Our findings are ... about a call to voters and above all the voluntary movement to begin thinking through the terrifying idea that hunger is here to stay unless all of us take our responses on to a new and totally different level.' 'We believe it is indefensible that huge numbers of people are going hungry in a country which wastes such vast quantities of food that is fit for consumption. Whilst we acknowledge that a certain amount of food waste is unavoidable, and that not all surplus food can be redistributed, we urge the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) to set food retailers and manufacturers a target of doubling the proportion of surplus food they redistribute to food assistance providers and other voluntary organisations and to agree this target, and the timescale over which it will be achieved, with Feeding Britain.'

'You yourselves must give them something to eat.' (Matthew 14: 16).

'Bread for myself,' wrote a great Russian thinker [Nikolai Berdyaev (1874-1948)] 'is a physical question; bread for my neighbour is a spiritual question.' My neighbour's lack of bread, my neighbour's struggle for the means of life, is spiritually speaking my question. I am not being fed if my neighbour is struggling, nor is my neighbour fed when I am hungry. – *Dr Rowan Williams, Chair of Christian Aid and Master of Magdalene College, Cambridge.*

'Lord, **when did we see thee hungry, and fed thee**; thirsty, and gave thee drink? And when did we see thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and covered thee? Or when did we see thee sick or in prison, and came to thee? And the king answering, shall say to them: Amen I say to you, **as long as you did it to one of these my least brethren, you did it to me**' (Matthew 25:37-40).

I have asked for a number of copies of Chris Howson's article to be placed on the table at the back of the Church. In this he describes in more detail the EARS model, which could be of considerable interest and potential importance in developing and shaping the future ministry of St Guthlac's. Please take a copy and reflect on it, as well as making suggestions about possible changes for our consideration. The slips and pencils are also on the table at the back of the Church for your suggestions.

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.

SING CHRISTMAS 2014 Monday 22nd December 7pm–8pm at The Old Horse
London Road. Join in with this live BBC Radio Leicester interactive sing-along
carol concert. Carol sheets can be downloaded at
<http://www.singchristmas.org.uk/resource-downloads/>

CHRISTMAS FAYRE Thank you to everyone who helped or supported this event. We have raised in excess of £950 so far for church funds and there are still a few items left for sale at the back of church.

CHRISTINGLE A total of £420 has been raised so far. Please return any outstanding envelopes or money candles as soon as possible. Thank you.

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION thanks St Guthlac's for the sum of £145.88 collected (including the leaving gift at the Remembrance Sunday service).

THE RED CROSS received £50 from the Nursing and the Red Cross during World War I event. We are waiting to hear from the Royal British Legion how much was collected in their tin that night.

KNIGHTON REMEMBERS WORLD WAR I EXHIBITION for further information see <http://www.leicester.anglican.org/blogs/details/knighton-remembers-exhibition>

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.

THERE WILL BE NO NEWSLETTER W/C SUNDAY 28TH DECEMBER.

Information to be included in the following newsletter must be received by 31st December. Thank you. administrator@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk

We wish all our readers a very Happy Christmas and New Year. If you are travelling, then please travel safely!