

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

10 January 2016

**10.30 am Baptism of the Lord
& Baptism of Rory Benjamin Smith**

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 188

FORTHCOMING SERVICES AND MEETINGS

TODAY, 4pm

Monday 11 January, 7pm

Tuesday 12 January, 7pm

Wednesday 14 January, 7.30pm

Thursday 14 January, 9.30 am

Thursday 14 January, 6.45pm

Sunday 17 January, 10.30 am

Sunday 24 January, 10.30am

Advent book discussion

Memory café meeting

Worship Committee meeting

Choir Practice

Holy Communion

Knighton Players meeting

Matins

Morning Prayer

PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL We have been asked to keep **Freddie Measures, Sibylle Schroll, Daisy Reynolds, Terry Cocks, Dermot Heffernan, David Pallot, Ann Spring, Dorothy Wollaston, Flo McVey** and **Saty French** in our prayers. Please also pray for the souls of **Margaret Sharpe, John McVey** and **David Lafford** who have died recently. For other prayer requests, please speak to the Revd Richard.

THE REVD RICHARD WRITES: The Church of England has firmly turned its back on the old adage that there are only 'lies, damned lies and statistics'. Now, in the search for 'new' worshippers, all churches via their Churchwardens are encouraged to provide statistics annually, with a look back at what happened previously.

However, to get a clear idea of what is happening to a specific church in terms of services at a particular time of year, we really need a longer timescale against which to measure the status quo, progress or decline. Here are some selected Christmas-associated services, with a look back at the five previous years. I hope that you will agree with me that attendance numbers look reasonably encouraging.

Christingle, 5 pm. Advent 3. Verdict: stable numbers

2015: 32 + 17 (the first number is that of adults; the second number is that of youngsters); 2014: 35 + 12; 2013: 25 + 20; 2012: 26 + 22; 2011: 44 + 17; 2010: 31 + 14

Nativity Gift Service, 10.30 am. Advent 4. Verdict: stable numbers

2015: 51 + 15; 2014: 53 + 19; 2013: 54 + 16; 2012: 60 + 17; 2011: 52 + 16; 2010: 44 + 18

Nine Lessons and Carols 7.30 pm. Christmas Week. Verdict: some fluctuation, but broadly stable numbers

2015: 100 + 5; 2014: 105 + 5; 2013: 110 + 5; 2012: 81 + 5; 2011: 113 + 2; 2010: 92.

Crib Service, 4 pm. Christmas Eve. Verdict: growth

2015: 70 + 33; 2014: 50 + 20; 2013: 55 + 26; 2012: 34 + 22; 2011: 46 + 30; 2010: 34 + 19.

First Eucharist of Christmas. Christmas Eve, 8 pm. Verdict: some fluctuation, but broadly stable numbers

2015: 65 + 1; 2014: 66 + 2; 2013: 70 + 3; 2012: 56 + 1; 2011: 87 + 5; 2010: 67 + 3

Christmas Day. All Age Communion, 10.30 am Verdict: some signs of decline?

2015: 22 + 6; 2014: 25 + 8; 2013: 26 + 8; 2012: 27 + 3; 2011: 60 + 10; 2010: 24 + 4

One possible interpretation of the statistics. In all cases except for the Crib Service and the Nativity Gift Service, the year 2011 (which was the first-part year of the Conventional District) saw higher figures than before or since. Was this because, in the first stage of our newly autonomous existence, we all tried a little harder to recruit people to attend our services?

DEPARTURE OF THE REVD KEITH MAGEE The Acting Bishop announces that the Revd Keith Magee, Vicar of the Benefice of Knighton, has been appointed as Vicar for the Parish of St Peter Braunstone Park, Leicester. The date of Keith's licensing will be announced in due course. His last service in the parish will be on 14 February.

SKY DIVE THANKS A huge thank you to all who sponsored me so generously. £1600 was raised for the Samaritans. A film of my jump will be shown at a coffee evening in the New Year. Members of the Samaritans will be present to explain how the money raised is spent. Everyone welcome, details to follow. Molly Clarke.

AFTERNOON TEA at the parish centre raised £355 for Rainbows. Thanks to all who supported this event.

FOR THE NEWSLETTER Please contact us at the latest by **10pm Thursday** for material to be included in the next weekly newsletter. administrator@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk

CHRISTINGLE The total raised for the Children's Society this year amounted to £371.62. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE The final total raised for church funds was **£1096.76** with an additional **£168** raised from the raffle which has been sent to Bishop Christopher to help fund a monthly visit of a mobile health clinic to Mfula and Chamalala in Northern Malawi.

CHURCH CHRISTMAS CARD £109.70 has been raised for Bishop Christopher's charity, in lieu of sending Christmas cards. Thank you.

MUSIC BY FOREBEARS.



As part of the plan to organise a matins service with music by our forebears, I searched for an image of my great uncle, Walter K. Stanton, who was a leading choral composer so Wikipedia tells me. I think we could use some of his hymns in our Matins. I knew that there was a newspaper image from 1951 when he was part of the ceremony to award Ralph Vaughan Williams an honorary doctorate; but was told the photographer had been focussing on Vaughan Williams and missed my uncle's head off. So imagine my surprise when I found an image which showed Vaughan Williams bowing to Sir Winston Churchill who was the Chancellor of Bristol University at the time. My great uncle, including his head, appears behind the composer's shoulder and there is what looks suspiciously like a choir in the background.

Thanks to the University of Bristol Library Special Collections.