

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

rjbonney@gmail.com

Churchwardens:

David Hunt

Tina Jarvis

17 January 2016

10.30 am Matins

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 189

FORTHCOMING SERVICES AND MEETINGS

Tuesday 19 January, 7.30 pm	SEMP PMAG meeting
Wednesday 20 January, 7.30 pm	Choir Practice
Thursday 21 January, 9.30 am	Holy Communion
Thursday 21 January, 6.45 pm	Knighton Players rehearsal
Sunday 24 January, 10.30 am	Morning Prayer led by Mark Wyatt

Cover image. The wedding at Cana in Galilee by Paolo Veronese

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/e/e0/Paolo_Veronese_008.jpg

PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL We have been asked to keep **Freddie Measures, Sibylle Schroll, Sheila 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.

SOUTH LEICESTER CHRISTIAN PARTNERSHIP (SLCP): WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Pilgrimage Prayers and Reflection at NOON

Mon 18th January - Christchurch, Clarendon Park Rd, LE2 3AH

Tue 19th January - St Thomas More Church, Knighton Rd, LE2 3HN

Wed 20th January - Quaker Meeting House, Queen's Rd, LE2 1WP

(Refreshments from Noon and Meeting for Worship at 12.30pm)

Thurs 21st January - Stoneygate Baptist Church, London Rd, LE2 3ND

Fri 22nd January - St Mary Magdalen Church, Knighton, LE2 3WG

United Service for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Sunday 24 Jan. at 6.30 pm St John the Baptist Church, Clarendon Park Rd, LE2 3AD

THE REVD RICHARD WRITES: We all know that Easter is a 'moveable feast'. It is the date which is calculated first in the church's year, to which all other dates except Christmas Day (not a moveable feast) relate. We know that Easter this year (27 March) is very early. But it is not the earliest possible date for Easter. This is 22 March. The last time it occurred was 1818 and the next time will be 2285. The latest possible date for Easter is 25 April. The last time this occurred was in 1943 and the next time will be in 2038.

There have been a number of suggested reforms for the Easter date. For example, in 1997 the World Council of Churches proposed a reform of the Easter calculation to replace an equation-based method of calculating Easter with direct astronomical observation. This would have solved the Easter date difference between churches that observe the Gregorian calendar and those that observe the Julian calendar. The reform was to be implemented in 2001, but it has not yet been adopted. Another example of a proposed reform occurred in the United Kingdom, where the Easter Act 1928 was established to allow the Easter date to

be fixed as the first Sunday after the second Saturday in April. However, this law was not implemented, although it remains on the UK Statute Law Database.

Christian Declaration on Caring for Refugees: An (American) Evangelical Response On December 17, a number of evangelical leaders gathered together to meet about how churches might engage the refugee crisis in a Christlike way. At this meeting, they drafted and signed the following statement: Impacting nearly 60 million people, the global refugee emergency is a humanitarian crisis of unprecedented size. Never have so many people been recorded as being displaced, put in danger and sent on the move. In Syria alone, more than 13 million children and their parents need humanitarian aid. Nearly 4.4 million have been forced to flee to neighbouring countries for safety. Moments like these are when Christians cannot remain silent and still. In light of this crisis, we commit ourselves and our churches to actively care for and minister to global refugees with mercy and compassion, both here and abroad, based on God's compelling concern for all people in need and especially refugees. In light of these concerns, we affirm the following: Refugees possess the image of God and, as such, are infinitely valuable to God and to us. We are commanded to love our neighbour, and it is our privilege to love refugees. As Christians, we must care sacrificially for the refugee, the foreigner and the stranger. We will motivate and prepare our churches and movements to care for refugees. We will not be motivated by fear but by love for God and others. Christians are called to grace-filled and humble speech about this issue. In light of these Christian principles, we cannot allow voices of fear to dominate. Instead, we commit to actions of love and compassion for refugees who have been admitted into our nation(s) in refugee status. We acknowledge that there are genuine security concerns and encourage governments to be stewards of safety, but we also observe that choosing to come to North America as refugees would be among the least effective ways for those who intend to do us harm. So, as governments oversee matters of security, we will care for the hurting, calling Christians to embrace refugees through their denomination, congregation or other nonprofits by providing for immediate and long-term needs, such as housing, food, clothing, employment, English language classes and schooling for children. We distinguish that the refugees fleeing this violence are not our enemies; they are victims. We call for Christians to support ministries showing the love of Jesus to the most vulnerable, those in desperate need and the hurting. This is what Jesus did; He came to the hurting and brought peace to those in despair. Critical moments like these are opportunities for us to be like Jesus, showing and sharing His love to the hurting and the vulnerable in the midst of this global crisis. Thus we declare that we care, we are responding because our allegiance is to Jesus, and we seek to be more like Him, emulating His compassionate care for the most vulnerable.

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

MOTHERS' UNION Sheila Wiggins will be our Speaker on 'People and Places' at our next meeting, which is on **Tuesday, 26th January**, at 2.30 p.m. in the Parish Centre, Brinsmead Road, and friends would be very welcome. Members please note that our **AGM is on 23rd February**, when subs of £16 for this year are due.

MESSY CHURCH at Stoneygate Baptist Church on **Friday 29th January** 3.30pm-5.45pm, with the theme Good Friends. Especially for primary aged children and their parents or carers. The session is free, but donations are welcome to cover the cost of the food. Please book a place if possible to help with catering and to notify us of any special dietary requirements. (Contact Rita 0116 2704270 or rita.h.shepherd@btinternet.com)

FAREWELL LUNCH FOR REVD KEITH MAGEE

A farewell lunch for Keith will be held in Knighton Parish Centre on **Sunday, 14 February** at 12 noon (cost courtesy of the Parish of St Mary Magdalen). Since numbers for catering purposes are needed in advance, please arrange to add your name to the list on the table at the back of the church. The list will close after the 10.30am service on Sunday, 7 February. Please also add any dietary requirements.

KNIGHTON PLAYERS will be performing Ali Baba & the forty thieves on **Friday 18th March 7.30pm and Saturday 19th March 2.30pm and & 7.30pm** in the Parish Centre. Tickets (adults £6, children £4) are available from Jane Wright (St. Guthlac's), Tanya Willis 210 (St. Mary's), or knightonplayers@ntlworld.com.

RAFFLE Could you provide a **raffle prize**? If so, please contact Jane Wright or Judi and Bernard Stone. Thank you

SEMP EDGE PROJECT YOUTH CAFÉ We have seen 74 different young people come through our Youth Café since we started back up after the summer holidays. We are now averaging 21 young people per week, and seeing at least new face every week. Although we currently have 5 young leaders working on a rota system, we really need more adult support for the sessions. If you are interested in helping out in any way, please get in touch! We really value your prayers, and would ask you to pray for us over the coming weeks. Please continue to pray for adult volunteers for the Youth Café, that relationships with the young people strengthen and grow deeper, and new opportunities for conversations about the Gospel.

Many thanks, Ali Simpson-Smith, Pioneer Youth Minister & Project Manager for The Edge Project, 0754 552 9104, alikay1204@hotmail.co.uk

Please continue to hold the progress of this project in your prayers.

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