

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

24 January 2016

10.30 am Morning Prayer

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 190

FORTHCOMING SERVICES AND MEETINGS

Tuesday 26 January, 7.30 pm	PCC meeting
Wednesday 26 January, 7.30 pm	Choir Practice
Thursday 28 January, 9.30 am	Holy Communion
Thursday 28 January, 6.45 pm	Knighton Players rehearsal
Sunday 31 January, 10.30 am	All Age Communion: Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Note: this year the Ash Wednesday service will be a joint service held at St Mary Magdalen on 10 February at 7.30 pm. Revd Keith will officiate and the Revd Richard will preach.

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. 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: One of the more interesting things about the Church of England is how slowly it brings about small-scale changes to its parish arrangements. Following upon the receipt of documents on 15 January, we are now asked to consider a draft scheme for the establishment of a parish of St Guthlac within the benefice of St Mary Magdalen, Knighton. A successor to the Revd Keith Magee will in due course become Vicar of St Mary Magdalen as well as of St Guthlac, Knighton. I shall be asked to resign as Chairman of the Conventional District as well as Minister and will be licensed instead as Minister in Charge to serve in the benefice of St Mary Magdalen, Knighton with specific responsibility for St Guthlac, Knighton. The change has been requested by the PCC of St Mary Magdalen, Knighton 'in order to enhance the mission and ministry of both churches as well as formalise current practice'.

The scheme does not alter the existing status of the church of Saint Mary Magdalen, Knighton. **It makes provision for Saint Guthlac to become the parish church of the new parish of St Guthlac, Knighton.** A new PCC will have to be formed for the new parish. Notice of these proposed changes is to be posted in both churches on Sunday 24 January, with provision that anyone may make representations for or against part or parts of the scheme provided that they do so

by Tuesday 1 March 2016.

We are asked to remind members of the congregation at services that this draft scheme exists so that people may inform themselves of what is proposed. Thereafter what happens depends on whether there are representations against the proposed scheme. If there are, there will be further consultations and delay. If not, the draft scheme will become 'the scheme', which will come into effect as soon as practicable.

No good news from the statistics. As a proportion of the population living within the dioceses of the Church of England (not including the Diocese in Europe), 1.8% attended a Church of England church each week in October 2014, and 4.3% attended at Christmas. As a proportion of the Christian population (estimated according to the 2011 census), 3.0% attended a Church of England church each week in October 2014 and 7.3% attended at Christmas. Note that the Statistics for Mission return gives no information about Christians who attend services offered by denominations other than the Church of England. In 2014, the Church of England carried out 130,000 baptisms and thanksgivings; 50,000 marriages and services of prayer and dedication after civil marriages; and 146,000 funeral services in churches and at crematoria/cemeteries. The trend over recent years shows a steeper decline in marriages and funerals than in church attendance. Since 2004, baptisms have decreased by 12%, marriages by 19%, and funerals by 29%. 12% of births during 2014 were marked by a Church of England infant baptism or thanksgiving service; 31% of deaths were marked by a Church of England funeral.

Christmas and Easter attendance trends fit the general picture, albeit with more variation year on year. Despite the decline, large numbers of people continue to attend church for these festivals: 1.3 million at Easter and 2.4 million at Christmas in 2014. Additionally, 2.2 million people attended special Advent services for the congregation and local community, and 2.6 million attended special Advent services for civic organisations and schools. Since 2012, the Statistics for Mission return has asked churches to report the size (and age distribution) of their worshipping community – those people who would be counted as regular worshippers. In 2014, the worshipping community of the Church of England was 1.1 million people, of whom 20% were aged under 18 and 29% over 70.

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
'Ali, The Edge Project's Pioneer Minister and Project Manager, will be off work for the next few weeks following an operation. Can you please pray for Ali, for her quick recovery, and also pray for Ruth and our stand in leaders who will be running the sessions until her return,'

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)

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL CHOIR invites children aged 7 to 10 who love singing and their families to come and be a Chorister for an afternoon on **Sunday, 31 January**, from 1.00-4.00pm. Children will have the opportunity to meet current Choristers and their parents, find out about the radio and television appearances, CD recordings and choir, visit the Tomb of King Richard III and rehearse with the Cathedral Choristers and sing the afternoon service at 3.00pm. There is no charge for participation and no previous experience of singing in a choir needed. For more information contact Chris Ouvry-Johns on 0116 261 5374 or chris.ouvry-johns@leccofe.org. Or just turn up at the Cathedral on the day!

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 (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

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