

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

31 January 2016

10.30 am Communion for All: Presentation of Christ

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 191

FORTHCOMING SERVICES AND MEETINGS

Wednesday 3 February, 7.30 pm Choir Practice
Thursday 4 February, 9.30 am Holy Communion
Thursday 4 February, 6.45 pm Knighton Players rehearsal
Sunday 7 February, 10.30 am All Age Worship

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. Simeon and Anna recognize the Lord in Jesus
https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/1/12/Rembrandt_-_Simeon_and_Anna_Recognize_the_Lord_in_Jesus_-_WGA19102.jpg

PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL We have been asked to keep **Sibylle Schroll, Sheila Reynolds, Terry Cocks, Dermot Heffernan, David Pallot, Ann Spring, Dorothy Wollaston, Flo McVey and Saty French** in our prayers. For other prayer requests, please speak to the Revd Richard.

THE REVD RICHARD WRITES: **At first sight, degree congregations held by Universities and church services do not have much in common.** The first are usually very large occasions; the second usually no more than small to medium events. The degree congregations are formal occasions, with invitations and elaborate lists of the graduands receiving degrees. It's important that individuals don't get muddled up, and somebody doesn't end up receiving someone else's degree. Having been to five different degree ceremonies over relatively recent times, apart from some of those at Leicester, **I am struck by one really important thing which degree congregations and church services (here I am thinking of baptisms and weddings in particular) do have in common: the need for a good welcome.** Welcome can come in different forms, but when you arrive at a place with which you are not familiar, you need to know a number of things more or less at the same time. Where are the 'facilities'? What happens (what am I to expect)? About how long will things take (especially important for babies and young toddlers)? We probably do not need to improve our signposting very much (although it is surprising how many people go to the hall first), although this is an absolute 'must' for universities. What we still tend to forget is just how few 'outsiders' now have much, or indeed any, experience of 'church'. Our language therefore may need to include lots of explanations on the way. Why are things done this way (and, just as important, not the other way)? And how best do we convey things spiritual and 'other' without the service sounding like some magical rite of initiation? There is no magic formula, no single way of doing it correctly. Much depends on the personalities involved in a baptism or wedding service. But continually reviewing and refreshing how we do things must be our guide. Did we feel the Holy Spirit moving in the Church on this occasion? Did the Holy Spirit infuse our welcome so that it was heartfelt and not just following the guidance notes for *Leading your church into growth*? Sometimes we receive very

kind cards or notes of appreciation after baptismal and wedding services. These are a great blessing but must inspire us to be watchful that we do not rest on our laurels on the next occasion. Careful preparation is not just the preserve of the degree ceremony, but also a requirement for a successful church service.

PROPOSED PARISH OF ST GUTHLAC, KNIGHTON 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.

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.'

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 to 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

DIARY DATES

Sunday 24th April 12 noon

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Monday 2nd May

May Fayre

CELEBRATING THE QUEEN'S 90TH BIRTHDAY With the approval and agreement of the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, the Church Buildings Council is encouraging every parish church in England to organise a festival on the weekend of **10-12 June 2016** to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday and her role as head of the Church of England. This will coincide with official celebrations taking place in London. It is hoped that, wherever possible, every church will take part. In addition we hope that every church will be able to organise an exhibition of the life of its parish over the previous 90 years. Such exhibitions should, by charting the changes in the lives of our communities since 1926, highlight the ways in which parish churches have been and remain the focus of those communities, and be a celebration both of our churches and of the people that they serve. We hope that most parishes will be able to find photographs, artworks and oral history connected with their church and the local area. Though the onus will be on parishes to arrange their events, the Church Buildings Council will act as a hub for ideas and as a central co-ordination point. We will soon be sending out guidance on the organisation of these events, and all relevant guidance will be available on www.churchcare.co.uk

Details of events will appear on www.churchdays.co.uk

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