

ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS

Winner! £50,000

Stepping Stones

Leicester City of Sanctuary

The group wants to develop its befriending service for asylum seekers by facilitating member led skills classes, delivering information programmes to increase understanding in the community and improving IT systems to increase efficiency. This will help to increase prospects for beneficiaries, whilst improving community cohesion. Volunteer opportunities allow asylum seekers to give back to their new host country and helps them to build CVs they will need for employment opportunities if they remain.

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

20 March 2016

10.30 am Palm Sunday Communion for All

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.

FORTHCOMING SERVICES AND MEETINGS

Wednesday 23 March, 7.30 pm	Choir practice
Thursday 24 March, 9.30 am	Holy Communion for Maundy Thursday
Thursday 24 March, 7.30 pm	Communion for All for Maundy Thursday
Friday 25 March, 10.30 am	All Age Worship for Good Friday
Sunday 27 March, 10.30 am	Easter Day All Age Communion

PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL We have been asked to keep **Terry Cocks, 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: Well done to City of Sanctuary in winning £50,000 for its Stepping Stones initiative! And particularly well done to our own Shali Bullough, who was instrumental in coordinating the bid. It is particularly encouraging that the money was won by popular support for a project which helps refugees and asylum seekers improve their life skills. St Guthlac's will wish to continue support to the City of Sanctuary project in whatever ways it can. <https://leicester.cityofsanctuary.org/>

And well done Leicester for winning this year all three prizes in the competition entitled the Peoples' Projects.

Pentecost, the celebration of the birth of the Church with the descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples, this year is celebrated on 15 May. Jesus Christ calls every person to follow him. As Christians it's our duty and joy to share that invitation. That's why the Archbishops of Canterbury and York are inviting every church in England to join a week of prayer this Pentecost, from 8-15 May – let's pray for every Christian to receive new confidence and joy in sharing this life-transforming faith. 'At the heart of our prayers will be words that Jesus himself taught us – "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done." It is impossible to overstate the life-transforming power of the Lord's Prayer. It is a prayer that is reassuring enough to be on the lips of the dying and yet dangerous enough to be banned in cinemas. It is famous enough to be spoken each day by billions in hundreds of languages and yet intimate enough to draw us ever closer into friendship with Jesus Christ. It is simple enough to be memorised by small children and yet profound enough to sustain a whole lifetime of prayer. When we pray it with sincerity and with joy, there is no imagining the new ways in which God can use us to his glory.'

<http://thykingdom.co.uk/prayer-outline>

SUPPORTING OPEN HANDS THIS LENT Open Hands works with disadvantaged people in the Highfields area of the city and they have been extremely grateful for the food donations we collect for them each Christmas and Harvest. This Lent we are hoping to build on the support we usually give by collecting items for New Home Hampers which are given to referred people/families who have just been given accommodation and are in need of cleaning and toiletry basics. Please consider donating an item from the list below

each week during Lent, or as often as you are able. A collecting box will be made available.

Washing up liquid	Dish cloths
Disposable cloths (blue and white)	Scouring sponges
Tea towels	Antibacterial spray
Washing liquid (for clothes)	Toilet rolls
Black Bags	Light bulbs (energy saving)

Thank you very much for your support of people in need in our city.

EDGE PROJECT YOUTH CAFÉ The Edge Project has been running a 'drop in' Youth Café once a week for over 4 years. It started out as a joint initiative with Leicester City Council, which unfortunately, has had to pull their staff out due to recent cuts within their youth work budget. This has put strain on The Edge Project's staffing and volunteers team, which in turn has had implications on how the sessions are run. However a positive note to come from this: because the Youth Café is now only managed and delivered by us (the project) we are now able to provide a stronger Christian presence during the sessions.

We regularly have approximately 27 young people attend the café each week, with almost 70 young people on our books. We provide a safe space for young people to come and hang out with their friends, play on the X-box, listen to music, engage with craft activities, purchase hot food, drinks & tuck, get involved in activities or just chill out and chat. There are always qualified staff members available to talk through any issues/ support the young people, or refer them to additional services should we need to.

In the past we have run additional optional sessions and games for the young people to engage with should they choose to, but due to staff shortages we haven't been able to offer these over the last term. Unfortunately, because of these staff shortages and availability to additional resources we are having to evaluate the way that the Youth Café operates. This may highlight a need to change the structure of the session. However, whatever the necessary changes, the Youth Café will continue to run each week because we believe that having this space available to the young people makes a difference to them and our abilities to support them.

If you would like to know more about The Edge Project and what we do across other areas of the project, please get in touch for a coffee & a chat!

Ali Simpson-Smith, 0754 552 9104, alikay1204@hotmail.co.uk

ELECTORAL ROLL. If you are not currently on the electoral roll and would like to be entered on it, please complete a form which can be found on the PCC noticeboard at the back of church. Completed forms must be returned to Jane Wright by **March 27th** if you wish to be entitled to vote at the APCM. Thank you.

MOTHERS UNION Our meeting on **Tues 22nd March** is a Bring & Buy sale to raise funds for the Branch. Friends and visitors are very welcome, at the Parish Centre Lounge, 2.30pm. Anne Squires (Hon Secretary).

EASTER FLOWERS Please sign up on the planner if you would like to decorate a windowsill for Easter on Easter **Saturday 26th March** starting at 9.30 am. New helpers are needed and you don't have to be an expert. The usual colour scheme is yellow and white. Please bring your own flowers and foliage if you are able, but there are always some available if you can't. For those who would like to donate towards Easter lilies, a collection container will be available. Thank you.

SENIORS' SATURDAY SOUP AND SANDWICHES 9th April at 12.15: Following the success of the last lunch gathering you are invited for lunch and conversation in the welcome area. Cost £4 to include soup, sandwiches, dessert and hot drinks. Lifts available. Please sign up on the list at the back of church if you would like to come.

KEEP YOUR DIARY CLEAR: ST GUTHLAC'S PATRONAL FESTIVAL, Monday 11 April at 7.30 pm. More news to follow.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING is on **Sunday 24th April 12 noon.**

MAY FAYRE Monday 2nd May. Does anyone have a large **gas BBQ** which could be used at the fayre? Does anyone know of a **music group** who would be willing to play at the fayre for a nominal sum? If so please speak to Ann, Anne, Lesley or Jane. If you have any contacts who would like to have a stall at the fayre, please speak to Yolanda. Thank you.

ST GUTHLAC'S & ST MARY'S YOUTH GROUP: HELPERS NEEDED.

It is proposed to set up a youth group for secondary aged young people which would meet on a Thursday evening 6.30 – 8.30. It is hoped to run the Group for a trial period from April – July. The group will meet approximately fortnightly. A core group of teenagers has already met and is prepared to plan and fund the group for themselves but need adult guidance and help to collect / source materials.

Mike Kelly the Diocesan Youth Officer will help to lead the group, but we need another adult present each evening. This does not need to be the same person each time. There will be a meeting for possible helpers, without commitment, on Tuesday 22nd March at 7.30 to meet Mike to discuss the project. The meeting will be in St Guthlac's Welcome Area.

If you think you might be able to help, please let Tina Jarvis at St Guthlac's or Ros Matthew at St Mary's know.

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**