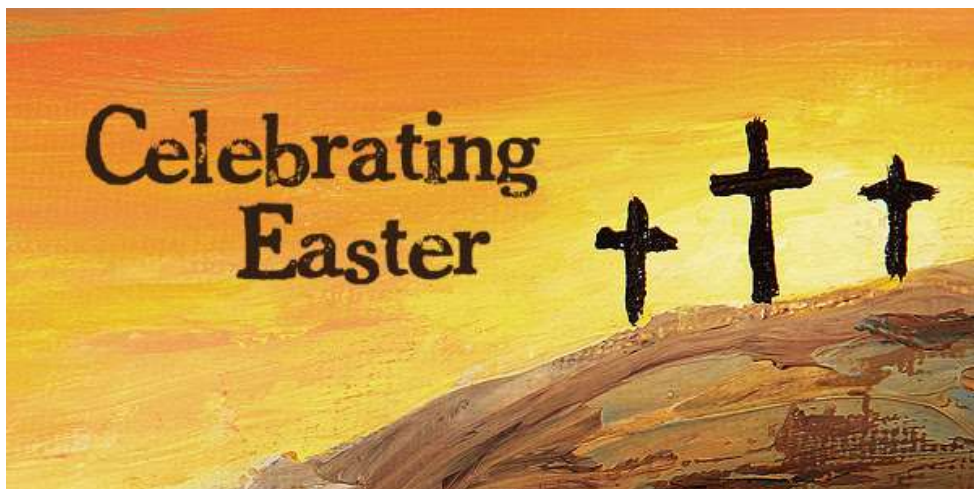


ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



CHURCH OF ST GUTHLAC

Holbrook Rd, Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

<http://www.stguthlac-knighton.co.uk/>

Minister: Revd Richard Bonney 07595536338

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Churchwardens:

David Hunt

Tina Jarvis

3 April 2016

10.30 am Easter 1: All Age Communion

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

Monday 4 April, 7.30 pm	Parish Profile Meeting (Parish Centre)
Tuesday 5 April, 7.00 pm	Worship Committee (Welcome Area)
Wednesday 6 April, 7.30 pm	Choir Practice
Thursday 7 April, 9.30 am	Holy Communion
Friday 8 April, 1.30 pm	Memory Café
Sunday 10 April, 10.30 am	Easter 2 (3 rd Sunday of Easter): Communion for All
Monday 11 April, 7.30 pm	Patronal Festival, Relicensing and Consecration of St Guthlac's (please confirm attendance in advance by Tuesday 5 April)

Cover image: hopetogether.org.uk

PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL With sadness we note the decease of **Margaret Asher**, who for many years was heavily involved in the musical life of the parish. 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: I have received this report from Bishop Christopher, which I reproduce *in extenso* because the situation is now so serious as a result of the effects of famine on women and young children: **St Guthlac's donation to the mobile clinic in the Diocese of Northern Malawi has been its single largest donation this year. With other donations, over the last three months, it means the clinic's ministry will continue uninterrupted to at least the end of the year and very possibly beyond. This on-going support and encouragement is very much appreciated and timely.**

Malawi Famine – worst in a decade. Malawi currently is facing its worst food crisis in a decade and the clinic is trying to assist. **The Background** Since last November through to April the World Food Programme is saying about 20% of the population, i.e. 3 million, - a population three times the size of Leicester City and County - will be suffering hunger. The government gave greatly subsidized fertilizers to help people produce a better harvest but it may have come too late and was too little. It was compounded cruelly with sporadic rainfall and drought – for the second year running – a consequence of the El Nino. Although the severe weather conditions are expected to last until mid-2016 the knock-on effects mean the food crisis will continue well into 2017. **Country Profile** Malawi is one of the world's most densely-populated, yet least-developed countries. A small, landlocked country bordered by Mozambique, Zambia, and Tanzania, Malawi has remained below the United Nation's average human development index score of sub-Saharan Africa countries due to a combination of slow economic development, poor infrastructure, the catastrophic public health effects of HIV/AIDS, and chronic child malnutrition. The 2008 UNDP Human Development Report ranked the country 164th out of 177 countries in factors such as average life expectancy (46.3 years), adult literacy (64 percent), GDP per capita (US\$667), and percentage of underweight children under five years (22 percent). The country suffered a series of severe droughts over the last decade that led to widespread famine during 2002 – Bishop Christopher was present during this and

ran an 18-month diocesan programme for famine relief – and 2006. It is estimated that 13 percent of children in Malawi die before the age of five, and that at least one-third of these deaths are related to acute malnutrition. Over half of all children suffer from stunting (52.5 percent) and 18.4 percent of children under five years old are underweight for their age. **The Poverty Trap** The price of maize is high. Last year in August a 50kg bag cost £7.27. Today the cost of a 50kg bag has nearly tripled to £20.60. Salaries do not keep pace with these increases and many only have a subsistence existence. Most families in remote areas are eating boiled mangoes. Some go to grinding mills to collect dirty maize husks or flour from the ground. Some go to the hills to dig edible roots which they cook like cassava. And yet the majority sleep on an empty stomach. Canon Chifisi who runs the clinic has told Bishop Christopher of the increasing problems with food. He is not normally a very emotional man but recently his email seemed shot through with deep emotion for the plight of the villagers in Mfula. He wrote on 5 March:

My Bishop, the attendance was just too much, too high: over 250 people. It was possibly so because of hunger to get food Likuni... There is hunger and Mfula is one of the places affected. Because of the large number of people antenatal and under five, the church elders, chiefs and myself have agreed that we should register those who surround Manjondo area and be supplied with this Phala whenever it will be possible. Women and children are many in Manjondo area and we have suggested to register 102 people – 90 children and 12 women and these should be supplied when you have funds and not a monthly program, I know the difficulties of funds, my Bishop. I sympathized with those who returned back home without any Phala, they looked weak, and tired and miserable, I was touched my Bishop. I have even suggested that I go back any time – even soon to supply these other people, my Bishop there is hunger and Mfula is one of the places. Hunger – Some Consequences.

A side effect of prolonged hunger especially in children is malnutrition: often called the silent killer. In many cases this leads to a poor school performance and behavioural problems; more seriously permanent physical and mental damage at a vulnerable time of rapid growth. Christian Aid Malawi has participated in planning processes for a national food deficit response, working alongside the World Food Programme and the government has appealed for funds to give food aid and cash vouchers to the most vulnerable households. **The Work of the Clinic** The mobile clinic has been making its monthly visits. Through it we have been trying to send increasing quantities of Likuni Phala as funds permit. Food is a health need as much as medicine. Likuni Phala is a vitamin and iron enriched maize flour given to pregnant women and the under fives who are at particular risk and most seriously affected in times of famine. A 25kg bag costs £15.65 and feeds about 8 persons in this vulnerable category, about £1.96 per head. 3kg of Likuni Phala, which is what each receives, does not last very long. The next trip of the clinic is on 6 April. **From an unexpected donation of £100 that came in over Easter we are able to send 6 bags of Likuni Phala, which will feed about half of the 102 mothers and under 5s registered at Mfula. To send 12 bags to feed all 102 registered at Mfula would be £187.80.**

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.

OPEN EVENING AT THE EDGE PROJECT, WEDNESDAY 20 April. If you would like to find out more about what the Edge Project seeks to achieve please come to this evening. It will be organized in two sessions, 6-7 pm and 7-8 pm. The event will conclude by 8 pm. For more information, please contact Ali Simpson-Smith Pioneer Youth Minister and Project Manager for ***The Edge Project*** on 0754 552 9104 or alikay1204@hotmail.co.uk

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

MAY FAYRE Monday 2nd May. We would be pleased to receive donations of **tombola prizes and toys**, which can be left at the back of church; plants and cakes can be donated nearer the time. If you are able to **help on the day**, even for a short time, please sign up on the list in the welcome area. We also need help setting up the church and hall on **Sunday 1st May at 3pm & Monday at 9am**. 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. 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.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY. SAINTS ALIVE! By Roger Jones. ST GUTHLAC'S CHURCH, SUNDAY 8 MAY 5 PM. An opportunity to come along and just listen to our two choirs perform this work. In addition, if you are in touch with any of our singer-friends please let them know that they would be most welcome to join the choirs in the rehearsals and performance.

THANK YOU to everyone who provided raffle prizes for the recent Knighton Players production of Ali Baba. The raffle raised £270 for charity.

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**