

ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



Parish Church of St Guthlac
Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

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

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Churchwardens:

David Hunt

Tina Jarvis

Sunday 8 May 2016

10.30 am Easter 6: 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 205

FORTHCOMING SERVICES AND MEETINGS

Sunday 8 May, 10.30 am	Matins (note: not in the usual sequence)
Sunday 8 May, 5 pm	Saints Alive! by Roger Jones. Joint choir and guests at St Guthlac's
Tuesday 10 May, 7.30 pm	First meeting of new PCC
Wednesday 11 May, 7.30 pm	Choir Practice
Thursday 12 May, 9.30 am	Holy Communion
Friday 13 May, 1.30 pm	Memory Café

PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL We have been asked to keep **David Pallot, Ann Spring, Dorothy Wollaston, Flo McVey** and **Saty French** in our prayers. We hold **Michael Fisher**, who died recently, his family and friends in our prayers. Until his last illness Michael worshipped with us when visiting Leicester. For other prayer requests, please speak to the Revd Richard.

THE REVD RICHARD WRITES: Our recent All Age Worship on 'The Bible: our Treasure' reminded me of a question that we used to ask quite frequently. How many Bibles have you got in your house? We used to ask it regularly because it reminded us to look out older Bibles that we may have and to make comparisons. Do we actually know how many we have and their background? Some of the stories can be quite interesting.

Again, once upon a time there used to be 'the' family Bible, which would be the largest one in the house. It would often have notes of the family's genealogy written in at the front, and the dates of birth and death of each member of the family. Then there might be Bibles or New Testaments which we acquired at different stages of our lives. The gifts of a Bible or Prayer Book at baptism would be the first stage of our life when the Word of God might enter our consciousness. Then perhaps a Bible was awarded at Sunday School, confirmation class or, in my case, Crusader class (the Crusaders, founded in 1906, were the predecessors of what are now called the Urban Saints: <http://www.urbansaints.org/about>). As one gets older, a Bible from a previous generation might be presented as a precious memory. My father gave me his father's Bible around 1993. Like my father, my grandfather had been a Sunday School teacher and the Bible was dated 1908 and marked 'birthday, mission, Sunday School Teacher'. The Biblical passages in the frontispiece were 'I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me' (Philippians 4:13) and 'be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life' (Revelation 2:10).

The twentieth century saw a profusion of new translations in a drive towards greater accuracy of the translated text and also to distinguish between translations which were intended for private study and others which were meant to be read aloud. At my ordination to the priesthood on 28 June 1997, I received a New Jerusalem Bible which was very practical because it was capable of being zipped up and would fit in a jacket pocket. The only problem for me was that the print was too small when I first received it, and the eyesight has worsened since. We now live in age with large print Bibles for those who need them (though the font remains too small for some of us) or the Bibles on the internet which can be printed out on any font size required. How did our predecessors manage with tiny font sizes, especially in the age before electricity? We

can only guess whether they read with the magnifying glass or had very strong lenses in their spectacles; or whether they damaged their eyesight as a result of their commitment to the faith.

Two developments in the production of Bibles in more recent times are likely to leave less of a record in families. The first is the more 'young person specific' Bible which may be discarded when no longer appropriate. Not quite in this category was the Good News Bible with its simple images of people who looked like stick men and women. The Youth Bible with its 'sidelight' comments in boxes giving advice to young people on how to live their lives is a case in point: useful in the early teens, the Bible may seem an embarrassment as one enters one's twenties.

The other development is the interactive computer Bible with a digital presence but no printed copy at all. These are very useful for helping to answer questions about text and context and they can be updated to include the latest research and imagery. They can facilitate a rapid perusal of texts and comparisons between translations that can rarely be done better or faster in printed Bibles (though two of the best printed examples are the *Precise Parallel New Testament* and the *NASB-NIV Parallel New Testament in Greek and English* with interlinear translation by Alfred Marshall).

With all these tools available to us, it might be thought that we would know the Bible as well as our predecessors. Unfortunately, this is rarely the case. Earlier generations certainly could recite important passages of scripture verbatim. Perhaps this was no more than rote learning. But how else was it that phrases from scripture entered the language on such a scale? For this, see Jennifer Speake (ed.), *A Treasury of Biblical Quotations* (1982). Now most of this enormously rich treasury of allusion to scripture is lost because people no longer have the feel for the English language in its range and depth and they possess even less knowledge of scripture. Our culture is in danger of becoming greatly impoverished as a result. And this is the view of someone who is a firm believer in the value and importance of new translations!

BISHOP JOHN'S SERMON on 11 April 2015 is available for consultation (see sheets at back of the Church).

ORGAN STUDENTSHIP The Parish of St. Guthlac's, Knighton, Leicester is offering a two-year organ studentship for the academic years 2016/17 and 2017/18 covering organ tuition fees and agreed expenses. Applicants will need keyboard skills at the level of Grade 4 or above and will be expected to play at St. Guthlac's services. For further details and an application form please contact Yolanda Courtney (yolanda.courtney@ntlworld.com or 0116 2120271). The closing date is 1st July 2016; interviews are planned for the week commencing 11th July 2016.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR MEMORY CAFÉ! Each year we have to raise money to keep our valuable cafe going. It's much needed and valued by those who attend each month. **Please consider sponsoring Margaret as she walks the Coleridge Way** – all 67 miles of it! – this May with the joint parish walking group. Every sponsor will be helping to keep the cafe in existence. Sponsorship forms will be in church from now – your support will be most gratefully received.

MAY FAYRE Thank you to all those who made this such a successful occasion!

SAINTS ALIVE! By Roger Jones. St Guthlac's Church, TODAY, 8 May 5 pm. Come along and listen to our two choirs and friends perform this work.

MEMORIAL SERVICE TO CELEBRATE THE LIFE OF MARGARET ASHER

This will be held at St. Mary's on **Saturday 14 May at 2pm** and afterwards at Ramada Leicester Stage (formerly Wigston Stage). All welcome.

QUIZ NIGHT AND MEAL at Christchurch on **21st May 6pm** to raise funds for Christian Aid. Entry £5/£3 on the door. Please book your place with your food choice (Chicken or Vegetable Fajitas or Jacket Potatoes) by emailing andrewcurry@ntlworld.com by Wednesday 18th May.

KNIGHTON OPEN GARDENS Sat 11 June. The local community are holding an open garden event to coincide with the celebrations for the Queen's 90th birthday. As the church is being used to serve refreshments it has been suggested that we **decorate the church with flowers. Naturally to do this we need volunteers!** If you are interested, keen and available please let me know. I intend to hold a small informal meeting to discuss ideas etc. in the next couple of weeks.
Thank you,

GREGORIAN CHANT WORKSHOP Sat 9th July 10am - 4.30pm at St. Mary's.

Led by John Rowlands-Pritchard of Opus Anglicanum. £10 per person to include music and drinks. Please bring a packed lunch. Further details from Yolanda or see leaflet at back of church.

RSCM DIOCESAN FESTIVAL Sunday 25th September 2016 will take place at Leicester Cathedral, and will be conducted by James Lancelot, Director of Music, Durham Cathedral. Area Practices for this event will take place in July and early September, dates and venues to be announced. Please speak to Margaret if you wish to take part.

KNIGHTON PLAYERS have raised **£800** from their recent production of '**Ali Baba and the forty thieves**'. This has been split between two charities, Rainbows Hospice and Leicester Children's Holiday Centre (Mablethorpe). Many thanks to everyone who supported this event.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CHARLOTTE FOR COMPLETING THE LONDON MARATHON IN 5 HOURS 18 MINUTES! Charlotte and her brother have been running in aid of Trinity Hospice (Clapham) and raised £5,300. If you would like to donate, the site is: www.justgiving.com/running_for_trinity

FOR THE NEWSLETTER Please contact us by **10pm Thursday** for material to be included in the next newsletter. administrator@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk

COVER IMAGE. Taken by Fiona Wingate, 28 April 2016