

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
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Sunday 4 September 2016

All Age Worship: St Paul

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 216

FORTHCOMING SERVICES AND MEETINGS

Tuesday 6 September, 7.30 pm	PCC meeting
Wednesday 7 September, 7.30pm	Choir Practice
Thursday 8 September, 9.30 am	Holy Communion
Friday 9 September, 1.30 pm	Memory Café
Saturday 10 September, 10 am-6 pm	Ride and Stride
Sunday 11 September, 10.30 am	Communion for All: St Paul and the gospel of love
Tuesday 13 September, 10.45 onwards	Visit of candidates for the post of Vicar of Knighton to St Guthlac's & Holbrook Hall

PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL We have been asked to keep **Jean Cooper, Darryl Varley, David Pallot, Ann Spring, Dorothy Wollaston, Derek Atkinson** and **Saty French** in our prayers. For other prayer requests, please speak to the Revd Richard. Please hold the discernment process for a new Vicar of Knighton in your prayers.

COVER IMAGE. Pope Francis meets faith leaders in Jerusalem on his visit to Israel in 2014:
http://cdn.i24news.tv/upload/cache/front_content_header/upload/image/afp-65c104842921ef368555a487ede303eb5e342801.jpg

THE REVD RICHARD WRITES: Today we begin three related services on St Paul. As soon as we consider the relationship of Saul / Paul to the Jewish leaders of the day, we enter a world of contention and division which has still not been reconciled in the present time. This is why an obscure statement published on 3 December 2015 by a number of Orthodox Jewish rabbis is of such importance. For the first time since the Second Vatican Council changed Christian teachings toward Judaism and the Jewish people 50 years ago, a group of Orthodox rabbis have issued a public statement advocating partnership with Christians and appreciating the religious value of Christianity.

The statement cites traditional opinions by past rabbinic authorities to justify partnership with Christians and religious appreciation of Christianity. "We understand that there is room in traditional Judaism to see Christianity as part of God's covenantal plan for humanity, as a development out of Judaism that was willed by God," said Rabbi Irving Greenberg, perhaps the most active Orthodox theologian in Jewish-Christian dialogue and covenantal theology. Another of the statement's initiators, Jerusalem's Rabbi David Rosen, International Director of Interreligious Affairs of the American Jewish Committee, added, "We need to work together to meet our common challenges: the assault of radical secularism, religious extremism and moral relativism on the heritage and dignity of humankind."

To Do the Will of Our Father in Heaven: Toward a Partnership between Jews and Christians

After nearly two millennia of mutual hostility and alienation, we Orthodox Rabbis who lead communities, institutions and seminaries in Israel, the United States and Europe recognize the historic opportunity now before us. We seek to do the will of our Father in Heaven by accepting the hand offered to us by our Christian brothers and sisters. Jews and Christians must work together as partners to address the moral challenges of our era.

1. The Shoah (Holocaust) ended 70 years ago. It was the warped climax to centuries of disrespect, oppression and rejection of Jews and the consequent enmity that developed between Jews and Christians. In retrospect it is clear that the failure to break through this

contempt and engage in constructive dialogue for the good of humankind weakened resistance to evil forces of anti-Semitism that engulfed the world in murder and genocide.

2. We recognize that since the Second Vatican Council the official teachings of the Catholic Church about Judaism have changed fundamentally and irrevocably. The promulgation of *Nostra Aetate* fifty years ago started the process of reconciliation between our two communities. *Nostra Aetate* and the later official Church documents it inspired unequivocally reject any form of anti-Semitism, affirm the eternal Covenant between God and the Jewish people, reject decide and stress the unique relationship between Christians and Jews, who were called "our elder brothers" by Pope John Paul II and "our fathers in faith" by Pope Benedict XVI...

3. As did Maimonides and Yehudah Halevi, we acknowledge that Christianity is neither an accident nor an error, but the willed divine outcome and gift to the nations. In separating Judaism and Christianity, God willed a separation between partners with significant theological differences, not a separation between enemies... Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch taught us that Christians "have accepted the Jewish Bible of the Old Testament as a book of Divine revelation. They profess their belief in the God of Heaven and Earth as proclaimed in the Bible and they acknowledge the sovereignty of Divine Providence." Now that the Catholic Church has acknowledged the eternal Covenant between God and Israel, we Jews can acknowledge the ongoing constructive validity of Christianity as our partner in world redemption, without any fear that this will be exploited for missionary purposes. As stated by the Chief Rabbinate of Israel's Bilateral Commission with the Holy See under the leadership of Rabbi Shear Yashuv Cohen, "We are no longer enemies, but unequivocal partners in articulating the essential moral values for the survival and welfare of humanity". Neither of us can achieve God's mission in this world alone.

4. Both Jews and Christians have a common covenantal mission to perfect the world under the sovereignty of the Almighty, so that all humanity will call on His name and abominations will be removed from the earth. We understand the hesitation of both sides to affirm this truth and we call on our communities to overcome these fears in order to establish a relationship of trust and respect...

5. We Jews and Christians have more in common than what divides us: the ethical monotheism of Abraham; the relationship with the One Creator of Heaven and Earth, Who loves and cares for all of us; Jewish Sacred Scriptures; a belief in a binding tradition; and the values of life, family, compassionate righteousness, justice, inalienable freedom, universal love and ultimate world peace...

6. Our partnership in no way minimizes the ongoing differences between the two communities and two religions. We believe that God employs many messengers to reveal His truth, while we affirm the fundamental ethical obligations that all people have before God that Judaism has always taught through the universal Noahide covenant.

7. In imitating God, Jews and Christians must offer models of service, unconditional love and holiness. We are all created in God's Holy Image, and Jews and Christians will remain dedicated to the Covenant by playing an active role together in redeeming the world.

INSTALLATION OF A NEW CENTRAL HEATING SYSTEM IN HOLBROOK MEMORIAL HALL. The installation of a new central heating system for Holbrook Memorial Hall is now close to completion. Later, once we have obtained a Faculty, work at installing a new system for the Church will begin. So there is much other work going on at this time.

DATE FOR THE DIARY: RIDE AND STRIDE – Sat 10th Sept 10:00 - 18:00. Sponsorship forms and details of church that will be open on the day will be available from me from late July onwards. Please sign the form at the back of church if you are able to man the church for an hour during the day. For more information speak to Fiona Wingate or see <http://www.rideandstrideuk.org/counties/leicestershire/>

BISHOP'S YOUTH COUNCIL OPEN DAY 17th September, 10am-3pm St Martins House. Bishop's Youth Council (BYC) exists to represent young people in the diocese and to help young people growing deeper in discipleship. BYC is run by young people who are given real opportunities to plan and run various missional events for young people through the year as well as going on mission trips overseas. The council meets for business meetings 10 times a year and then at different times for worship, fellowship and prayer. The open day is a chance for young people to come and find out more about the youth council, to meet some of the members and to consider joining the council. Parents, youth workers or church leaders are welcome to stay for some or part of the day with their young people. **This event is open to any young people aged 14-18.** Contact Mike Kelly, Diocesan Youth Ministry Officer T: 0116 261 5323 E: mike.kelly@leccofe.org

HARVEST SUPPER Sat 1st Oct 7.15-10 pm in church, for all ages. Please join us for a 2 course supper and entertainment. Tickets £6 adult, £3 child or £15 family from Wendy Bramley. You are welcome to bring your own alcoholic drinks. You are invited to enter a mini-scarecrow (max height 60 cm, any material or theme) into our competition. There will be a prize each for the best adult and best child entries. Raffle in aid of health clinics in Malawi.

DECORATING CHURCH FOR HARVEST Please add your name to the planner in the welcome area if you are able to do a windowsill flower arrangement for harvest weekend, when the church will be used for both the Harvest Supper (Sat 1st Oct) and our Harvest 10.30 am service (Sun 2nd Oct). Church will be open from 9.30 am until approximately 11 am on Sat 1st Oct. Please bring your own flowers if you are able, but there are usually spares available, as well as foliage. Containers and oasis are provided. All welcome (you don't need to be an expert!) Please contact Cheryl if you have a query.

HARVEST DONATIONS FOR OPEN HANDS At Harvest we will once more be collecting food donations to help the work of Open Hands, a project which supports needy people in Leicester. The following items have been suggested as those most regularly needed by the project: Coffee, UHT milk, Tinned fish, Tinned meat, Cereal, Sugar, Cooking oil. Thank you for your support.

FOR THE NEWSLETTER Please send material to be included in the next newsletter to administrator@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk