

ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



Parish Church of St Guthlac
Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

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

Minister in Charge: Revd Richard Bonney 07595536338
rjbonney@gmail.com

Churchwardens:
David Hunt
Tina Jarvis

**Sunday 11 September 2016 Communion for all
St Paul and agape love**

Newsletter No 217

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

Tuesday 13 September, 10.45 onwards	Visit of candidates for the post of Vicar of Knighton to St Guthlac's & Holbrook Hall
Wednesday 14 September, 7.30 pm	NO Choir rehearsal
Thursday 15 September, 9.30 am	Holy Communion
Thursday 16 September, 7.00 pm	Knighton Youth Group
Sunday 18 September, 10.30 am	Matins
Tuesday 20 September, 7.30 pm	Management Group of Southern Edge
	Mission Partnership (St G has 3 reps): St James the Greater Church Rooms
Wednesday 21 Sept., 7.30 pm	Choir practice
Thursday 22 Sept., 10.30 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 25 Sept., 10.30 am	Communion for All: St Paul and the Resurrection

PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL We have been asked to keep **Darryl Varley, Bob Newell, David Pallot, Ann Spring, Dorothy Wollaston, Derek Atkinson** and **Saty French** in our prayers. We hold **Jean Cooper**, who died recently, and her family and friends 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. St Paul:

<https://s-media-cache-ak0.pinimg.com/236x/90/a6/20/90a6205578d24ef85d65717fce25b683.jpg>

THE REVD RICHARD WRITES: In the second of our three related services on St Paul we consider today his great statement on Christian love in 1 Corinthians 13. **Because we hear it frequently at wedding services, we think we know what it means.** In fact, **the meaning repays careful study and evaluation.** A brief commentary is provided here. The text itself can be found in OCOFOL at p. 278.

Without love, our words achieve nothing. 1 Corinthians 13:1. Many people consider 1 Corinthians 13 to be **one of the greatest poems/hymns that anyone has ever written.** However, Paul was not trying to write poetry or hymns. He was trying to advise a group of young Christians who had not yet understood that **Christians should show love** towards other people (Mark 12:31; John 13:34-35). So, it was necessary for Paul to explain **what love really is.** By

'love', he did not merely mean human love. He meant **the kind of love that God himself has shown us** (John 3:16). It is this kind of love that Christians can show to other people. **Without love, knowledge and faith achieve nothing 1 Corinthians 13:2.** The person with great faith must act in love. That is, by his faith he must show God's love to the world. God does not give people faith so that they can use it for selfish reasons. **Without love, the most generous gifts achieve nothing 1 Corinthians 13:3.** Paul means a particular kind of love which would make the person's actions worthwhile. That would be clear to the Christians in Corinth who read this book in its original language, Greek. In the Greek language, Paul's word for 'love' in this chapter is *AGAPE*. It is the word that Christians use for **the love of God**. However, Christians can show that kind of love when they first receive it from God (1 John 4:19). It is a wonderful fact that **Christians can show that kind of love to the world**. It is that kind of love that makes their actions worthwhile.

The nature of true love. 1 Corinthians 13:4. The kind of love that Paul describes is a **decision**, not an emotion. Paul tells us *how we should behave*. **Our words and actions should constantly express the love of God.** We **decide** to be patient and kind. We **decide** not to be jealous or proud. **True love is never selfish.** Paul mentions **patience and kindness** as qualities of true love. **How to show love during an argument. 1 Corinthians 13:5.** Even when our words are completely right, our attitude may be wrong if we are not acting constantly in love. **Even when Christians argue, they should act in love. Perfect love has higher standards. 1 Corinthians 13:6.** It is vital to recognize the connection between love and truth. God does not expect Christians to do these things by their own skill. **It is not our own love that we must show, but God's love. Four things that love does, without limits 1 Corinthians 13:7.** It is possible to show true love even to someone who has carried out evil deeds and without approving these deeds. Perfect love brings perfect **faith** and perfect **hope**. Faith means to believe and to trust God. To **endure** means to stand firm during troubles. The word refers especially to the troubles that Christians suffer because of their enemies.

Why prophecies, tongues and knowledge will not last 1 Corinthians 13:8. '**Prophecies**' are messages from God that a person declares to other people by the power of the Holy Spirit. '**Tongues**' means words from the Holy Spirit in languages that the speaker has not learnt. So, similarly, '**knowledge**' must mean special knowledge that the Holy Spirit gives to a person. When Christ returns at his second coming, these gifts will be unnecessary. They had a purpose, but that purpose will be complete. Instead, **God's people will then have a perfect relationship with him because his love is both perfect and unending. Why prophecies are not perfect 1 Corinthians 13:9-10.** By '**prophecy**', he means that a person may speak a message from God. The Holy Spirit places those words in the person's spirit, then the person declares that message, often in a church meeting (14:5). But, because of the

human propensity for error, **we must be very careful** about any message that people believe to be from God.

Do Christians still need the gifts of the Holy Spirit? 1 Corinthians 13:11. An adult does not behave in the same way as a child does. So, when God makes all things perfect (15:24-28), Christians will not still need these gifts of the Spirit. They are essential now **so that Christians can become mature**. But when Christ returns to rule, they will not be necessary. However, God's love will always be necessary. That love never ends. So **Christians must always act in love. To see God and to know God 1 Corinthians 13:12** Paul separates time into two great periods: **the present age**, and **the future age**. In the present age, God's people are not perfect, and their relationship with God is not yet complete. They desire **to know God** and **to see him**. In the present age, God must teach his people. In the future age, their knowledge will be complete (Hebrews 8:10-11). God already knows and understands them completely. In the future, he will allow them to have **complete knowledge** of him. Paul compares the present state of Christians to someone who looks at a **mirror**. Formerly, mirrors were much poorer than they are today. They were only pieces of metal that someone had polished well. You could see something in them, but the image was not clear. So Christians know and understand some things now. But it is only **in the future age** that their knowledge of God will be perfect.

Faith, hope, love: 1 Corinthians 13:13. Paul tells us about **three other gifts that God gives**. These gifts remain with God's people, now and always. They are for both the present and the future age. **Faith** means active belief and trust in God. It is a gift that God gives by his word, especially by his promises. God has promised certain things to his people in the Bible; by faith, they believe and trust him. Without faith, it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6). In the Bible, **hope** is something certain. It is the sure knowledge that God will do good things for his people (Hebrews 6:18-19). God is good; he will not disappoint his people. It is wonderful that God gives faith and hope to his people. However, Paul says that **love** is even more wonderful. They received this love from God, and they share it with other people. It is because of love that Christians declare God's good news across the world. Because of love, they give up their selfish desires to serve other people as God guides them. This is the kind of love that God gives. This is the love that Christians should offer to this world. This love will never end.

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 completed. 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.

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