

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 2 October 2016

Harvest

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 220

FORTHCOMING SERVICES AND MEETINGS

TODAY

Sunday 2 October, 10.30 am

Harvest All Age Worship

Sunday 2 October, 11.45 am

Eucharist at St MM (RJB)

Sunday 2 October, 5 pm

Harvest Songs of Praise at St MM

NEXT WEEK

Tuesday 4 October, 7.30 pm

**South Leicester Christian Partnership:
AGM at Christchurch, Keene Room**

Wednesday 5 October, 7.30 pm

Choir practice

Thursday 6 October, 9.30 am

Holy Communion

Thursday 6 October, 10.30 am

Edge Project Task Group: St Andrew's
Aylestone

Sunday 9 October, 10.30 am

Matins

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.

COVER IMAGE. http://i.dailymail.co.uk/i/pix/2013/10/13/article-2456909-0695CE5E000005DC-696_634x435.jpg

THE REVD RICHARD WRITES: Harvest is a great moment to give thanks to God for his generosity to us. But God also recognizes that there is injustice in the world. The powerful seek to make the poor build their palaces with unpaid labour (Jeremiah 22:13). Are we saying, then, that God is unfair?, Paul asks in Romans. 'Of course not!', he replies (Rom 9:14). It is mankind who has created and creates unjust systems in the world. This harvest let's just consider some of the unjust systems in the world, drawing upon an Oxfam report.

Has there been any progress towards the sort of outcome that Gutierrez and other 'liberation theologians' have argued for, a more equal world? Less than we might have imagined. The decision of Bill Gates and Warren Buffet to give away their fortunes is an example to the rest of the world's billionaires. In fact, many billionaires and millionaires have been vocal in their agreement that extreme wealth is a problem that threatens us all. In the USA, a group called the Patriotic Millionaires is actively lobbying Congress to remove tax breaks for the wealthy, writing: 'for the fiscal health of our nation and the well-being of our fellow citizens, we ask that you increase taxes on incomes over \$1,000,000'. The aggregate wealth of today's billionaires has increased by 124 per cent in the last four years and is now approximately \$5.4tn. This is twice the size of France's GDP in 2012. Oxfam has calculated that a tax of just 1.5 per cent on the wealth of the world's billionaires, if

implemented directly after the financial crisis, could have saved 23 million lives across the world's poorest 49 countries, by providing them with money to invest in healthcare. The number of billionaires and their combined wealth has increased so rapidly that in 2014 a tax of 1.5 per cent could fill the annual gaps in funding needed to get every child into school and to deliver health services in those poorest countries.

Oxfam's research in early 2014 found that the 85 richest individuals in the world have as much wealth as the poorest half of the global population. This figure was based on the wealth of the 85 billionaires at the time of the annual Forbes report in March 2013. In the period of a year from March 2013 to March 2014 their wealth rose again by a further 14 per cent, or \$244bn. This equates to a \$668m-a-day increase. Once accumulated, the wealth of the world's billionaires takes on a momentum of its own, growing much faster than the broader economy in many cases. If Bill Gates were to cash in all his wealth and spend \$1m every single day, it would take him 218 years to spend all of his money. So, yes, while it is important that billionaires like Bill Gates make a significant contribution to helping solve the world's inequalities of wealth, we have to be realistic about their achievements: what difference does it make if it takes him 218 years or 118 years to spend his money? He still can't do so in his own lifetime!

CLIMATE JUSTICE: SPEAK UP WEEK, 8-16 OCTOBER.

We need to work together as the Church, with a prophetic imagination, to live differently, to tread more lightly and lead in our wider community, showing love for all our neighbours. The big shift towards clean energy is already in flow, and with some prophetic imagination and hopeful action, we can get there at a scale and a speed in line with the science and the world that we pray for. By making the big shift towards clean, renewable energy, we can help restore the earth and bring balance to God's creation. The shift we need isn't only about money or machines. It is about the hearts and minds of our communities and ensuring that those who represent us – our local politicians – hear us.

PRAYER BASED ON GENESIS 1:27-31 Father, thank you for creating a beautiful earth full of life. Thank you for creating us in your image and placing a calling on our lives to keep and till your earth. Forgive us when we lose sight of that mandate, when our greed causes us to exploit the earth, threatening the livelihoods of people around the world. As we gather together in our communities this week, help us to return to your call, to love and care for the earth. Give us prophetic imagination for how we can follow your mandate where we live. Give us courage to speak to those in power to take action to protect the earth. Give us boldness to Speak Up for those affected by climate change around the world. Amen.

HARVEST SONGS OF PRAISE Following St Mary's church being open to visitors from 2.30 to 4.30pm there will be a Harvest Songs of Praise **TODAY, 2nd October at 5pm**. It will be a chance to join in six favourite harvest hymns chosen by members of the congregations of St Mary's and St Guthlac's. Please spread the word and invite your friends and neighbours.

MOTHERS' UNION. Our Diocesan President, Margaret Rouse, will visit us on **Thursday, 6 October at 10.30am** in St Mary's. This is part of her Presidential Prayer Pilgrimage when she is visiting every MU branch in the Diocese (there are more than 60). Please try to join us then for prayer and fellowship. This meeting replaces our usual first Tuesday gathering.

HOPE WALK 16 October 2pm Victoria Park. In Memory of Stephen John Farmilo. Join the walk to support Papyrus – a national charity working to prevent young suicide and shatter the stigma around it. Meet at the gates on Victoria Park Road and complete as many circuits of the 1.5 mile circuit as you wish. Donations can be made at: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/LizFarmilo>

MOLLY CLARKE'S 'SKY DIVE' EVENING Sunday 16 Oct. 5-7 pm, Parish Centre. Following my successful 'Sky Dive' in July, I will be holding an evening event at which there will be a talk from Leicester Samaritans. There will be an opportunity to view my DVD of the event! There will be a raffle, cake stall and light refreshments. Admission free. Donations welcome. Molly Clarke

SKELLIG There will be a meeting on **Sunday 23rd October at 4.00 – 5.00** in the Welcome Area to chat about the book Skellig by David Almond. There will be tea/coffee and cakes. There is still time to read the book, which can be borrowed free. Just pick one up at the front of the church. It's a book suitable for all ages.

BBC SONGS OF PRAISE is recording at St. James the Greater on **Sat 29th Oct. 2.30-5.30**. Tickets are free, but it is entry by ticket only, closing date is Tues 4th Oct. See notice at the back of church for further details.

WELCOME TO GEOFFREY, ST. GUTHLAC'S ORGAN STUDENT!

We have appointed Geoffrey Hames as the St. Guthlac's Organ Student. He has met some of you already and there will be opportunities to meet others as time goes on. It is a two-year organ studentship, and Geoffrey will begin organ lessons with Roxy Summerfield very soon. Later on he will play parts of services. The project is being taken forward by a small group reporting back to St. Guthlac's PCC and the Worship Committee on a termly basis. I know you will all wish Geoffrey well, please make yourselves known to him and later on you can ask him how he is getting on. I know how encouraging you will be! Yolanda

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