

ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS

All Saints Day



They will receive blessing from the Lord
and vindication from the God
of their salvation. Psalm 24.5



Parish Church of St Guthlac
Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

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

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David Hunt
Tina Jarvis

Sunday 30 October 2016 Communion for All

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 224

FORTHCOMING SERVICES AND MEETINGS

Tuesday 1 Nov., 7.30 pm	PCC (Welcome Area)
Wednesday 2 Nov., 7.30 pm	Choir practice
Thursday 3 Nov., 9.30 am	Holy Communion
Thursday 3 Nov., 6.45 pm	Knighton Players Rehearsal
Sunday 6 Nov., 10.30 am	All Age Worship (Ralph Lee)

PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL We have been asked to keep **Liz Vickers, Darryl Varley, Bob Newell, Ann Spring, Dorothy Wollaston, Derek Atkinson** and **Saty French** in our prayers. For other prayer requests, please speak to the Revd Richard.

THE REVD RICHARD WRITES How do we as Christians respond to the secular feast of Halloween? Do we oppose it? Do we compromise with it? Do we simply ignore it? Ignoring it is scarcely an option since it has become more and more of an income generator for shops and supermarkets. If we oppose it, do we just seem to be (as we often are) old 'spoil sports'? We have to think about its anti-Christian ethos. The Christian church introduced the Feast of All Saints on 1 November in an attempt to move interest away from the emphasis on pagan festivals and the celebration of the dead. This is where the term Halloween originates since 1 November was originally the Feast of All Hallows and 31 October All Hallows Eve, later contracted to Halloween. There is an element of deception about Halloween, suggesting that it is all harmless fun while in reality touching on more sinister things.

The Bible Reading Fellowship comments sensibly: 'as Christians we need to tread carefully in these areas but we do not need to be afraid because Jesus is stronger than any evil. There is no need to be paranoid about what might happen to us if we get involved in something at school or with our friends. But at the same time we shall want to help our children ask serious questions about celebrating **something which has such a major emphasis on death, darkness and fear when our faith is about life, light and hope.** We must be alert to the dangers of arousing an unhealthy interest in more occult areas or exposing ourselves to ideas that will move us away from Jesus. It can be hard for children to go against prevailing culture, but there is a line to be drawn somewhere although exactly where may be something you have to work out for yourself.'

We can be counter-cultural. We can have a festival of life, light and hope instead of Halloween. The gospel of Jesus Christ is a message that is holy, set apart from the world; it's a message that is the very mercy of a forgiving God. What better time of the year is there to share such a message than Halloween? (But not to intoxicated revellers...)

In my address last Sunday I mentioned a book that I remembered using but couldn't now find. As so often happens, when you aren't looking for it, it turned up: *Praying St Mark's Gospel* by Gerald O'Mahony SJ (1990). The prayer method is Ignatian (i.e. after Ignatius Loyola). The author sees the Gospel through the eyes of Peter.

NEXT ALL AGE WORSHIP: DR RALPH LEE

Orthodox Christian Resource Center – Exclusive

The amazing journey of Dr Ralph and his family to the indigenous Church of Africa

Dr Ralph Lee was born in Cambridge, England and raised as an Anglican. After his schooling he joined Cambridge University for bachelors in engineering and graduated in the year 1987. He later obtained Masters in Engineering and started his job in BP. He visited Ethiopia on long leave from his job and taught in Addis Ababa University for two years at the faculty of Technology. His life in Addis Ababa brought him close to Orthodox Christianity. He understood that Orthodoxy is the heartbeat of Ethiopia. The outlook and general worldview of the Ethiopians is in connection to the Orthodox tradition. He wanted to learn more on Orthodox Christianity. Dr Ralph and his family moved to Bahar Dhar a sea side in Ethiopia and applied for a teaching post in one of the universities. The place was a prominent centre of Ethiopian Orthodox Church which helped him to access a lot of Ethiopian Orthodox Monasteries. He began to learn Amharic to know more about Ethiopian Church and tradition. He also involved with a lot of youngsters and made spiritual discussions with them. One of his students once commented that if Dr Ralph was formally Orthodox it would be more helpful and this question made Dr Ralph think to be join the Ethiopian Orthodox Church. He got introduced to an Ethiopian Monk Abbayibbabe who is prominent figure and authority on Ethiopian spirituality. The Monk asked Ralph why he was there and what he was doing with the Ethiopian Church. Dr Ralph replied that he is there to help the Ethiopian children and the monk immediately replied that, it is God's will that brought Dr Ralph and his family to Ethiopia.

After some more years Dr Ralph and his wife formally joined the Ethiopian Orthodox Church. They were baptized at the Abbo Church at Bahar Dhar in the year 2001 by the names Abraham and Sarah. They remained in Bahar Dhar till 2005 and returned back to England for another eight years. He decided to learn more deep on Orthodox Christianity. He joined SOAS for Masters in Eastern Christianity and also completed his doctorate under the supervision of Dr Erica Hunter in 2007 on Comparison of Ethiopian and Syriac Early Christian Writing. After his studies at SOAS, he began to contact the Holy Trinity Theological College in Addis Ababa and applied for the post of faculty which was accepted by the authorities. Presently Dr Ralph teaches textual history of Ethiopian Old Testament, Ethiopian Christian Thought and he is also involved in a number of projects. Joining Orthodoxy is not a rejection of his Anglican past, believes Dr Ralph. He has always struggled with how the Roman Catholic Church is run. The Roman Church is still bounded by structure and hierarchy. The roots of Orthodoxy are persuasive and the outlook is constructive. Theological values are clearly explained in Orthodoxy. Dr Ralph is of the opinion that the world Christian movement must learn a lot from Oriental Orthodox Christianity.

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/a-british-journey-to-ethiopian-orthodoxy/>

Image: <http://www.clipartkid.com/images/389/all-saints-year-c-lectionary-bible-notes-christian-teaching-Kt8vEI-clipart.jpg>

MOTHERS' UNION There will be a Prayer and Fellowship meeting as usual on **Tuesday, 1st November** at 2.30pm in the Narthex at St Mary's.

ADVENT REFLECTIONS: TUESDAYS IN ADVENT 6:30 pm in church.

Starting on **29 November**, take a little time out from the mad rush of Christmas shopping to reflect on the meaning of the Advent through readings, prayers and reflections, lasting no more than 45 minutes.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE Sat 3rd Dec 10pm-1pm. Please make a diary note!

Items we are now collecting include:

Unwanted, unopened gifts and full bottles for the tombola

Homemade preserves and pickles

Handicrafts

Cakes will be very welcome on the day.

PLEASE SIGN THE LIST IN THE WELCOME AREA IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP IN ANY WAY ON 2ND OR 3RD DECEMBER. THANKYOU.

CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE As in previous years, we will be raffling a Christmas Hamper again this year. If you would like to donate an item towards the hamper, please indicate what you would like to give on the list in the welcome area. As the hamper will be displayed at the Christmas Fayre, **items need to be brought to church by 27th November please. Thank you.**

ST MARY'S LEAFLET DISTRIBUTION LIST Despite valued and valiant efforts by a dwindling number of parishioners we are likely to have approximately 900 Christmas leaflets which we are unable to deliver this year from St Mary's. The Guides and Scouts have volunteered to assist within a defined area but this will result in some existing distributors being invited to offer their services in new roads. **If you currently help distribute leaflets for St. Mary's please** indicate on the sheets at the back of St Mary's, or by contacting me direct, which roads you are able to cover. Simon Britton

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

It is a two-year organ studentship, and Geoffrey has begun organ lessons with Roxy Summerfield. 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

Will you be buying chocolate advent calendars this year? Why not consider buying a Fairtrade 'Real Advent Calendar' which as well as containing tasty chocolate, tells the Christmas story and comes with an activity book to use throughout Advent? For details and stockists see www.realadvent.co.uk

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