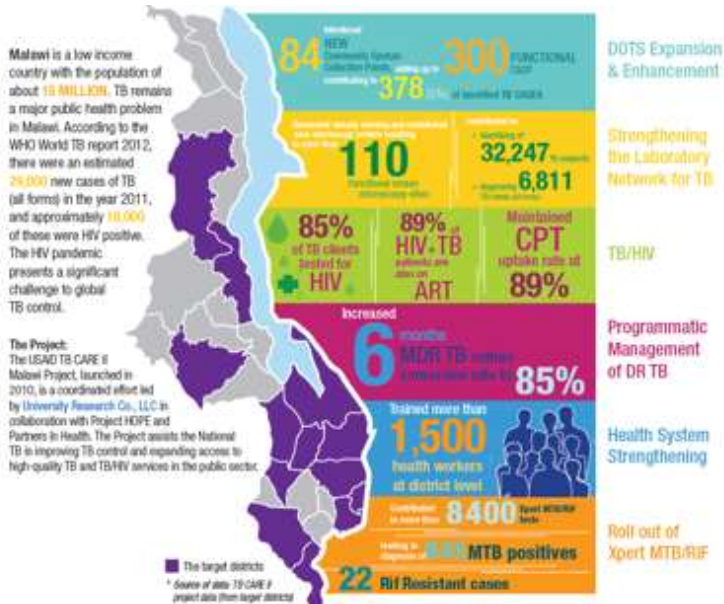


ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



Parish Church of St Guthlac
Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

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

Minister in Charge: Revd Richard Bonney 07981 314072

minister@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk

Churchwardens:

David Hunt

Tina Jarvis

Sunday 27 November 2016 Advent Sunday

10.30am Communion for All

6.30pm Advent Evensong at St. Mary's

We welcome Bishop Christopher to our service this morning

Newsletter No 228

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

TODAY , Sunday 27 Nov., 6.30pm	Advent Evensong at St. Mary's
Tuesday 29 Nov., 6.30 pm	Advent reflections
Wednesday 30 Nov., 7.30 pm	Choir Practice
Thursday 1 Dec., 9.30 am	Holy Communion
Thursday 1 Dec., 6.45 pm-8pm	Knighton Players Rehearsal
Friday 2 Dec., 2.00pm	Set up Christmas Fayre
Sunday 4 Dec., 10.30 am	Communion for All

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

THE REVD RICHARD is indisposed. As a Church we are pleased to welcome back Bishop Christopher, formerly Bishop of Northern Malawi. This report on Malawi was published by John Vidal on 15 November (in The Guardian of that date). 'Peter Phiri, a businessman in Lilongwe, Malawi, says: "It is always hot here but this year El Niño has made it worse. Last year, we had floods and we lost crops. This year, we had no rain. Two years of harvests have been hit hard and it has been disastrous for many people. Because 90% of Malwians are farmers, nearly half the country will need help with food.

"The lack of rain means we have water shortages and the rivers and lakes are low and the hydroelectric power does not work. There are long power cuts. People in rural areas do not have electricity, but in the cities this means homes and offices do not have air conditioning and people have no way to keep cool.

"Old people say it is hotter now than years ago but it is hard for me to tell. The rains are about to come and the temperature reaches 38C, 40C or more. Then it cools. One reason for the heat could be that people have cut down trees to make charcoal to earn money to eat, or to cure tobacco. Another could be climate change. The cities may be getting hotter because they are growing in size and people live in concrete houses.

"Over the past 10 years, people have noticed that the seasons are changing. In the past, the rains would come in October. Now it is November. The 'lean' season when people have less food to eat used to last three months. Now it starts early and lasts longer."

NEW YEAR'S DAY Please make a note that there will be a joint service at St Mary's at 10 am on New Year's Day but no 10.30 am service at St Guthlac's.

FIONA WINGATE: SELECTION FOR READER TRAINING

It is with very great pleasure that I take this opportunity to inform all members of this Church and the Church of St Mary Magdalen the good news that Fiona Wingate has been selected for training as Reader. The letter that she has received states among other things, that she is accepted onto the Reader Training Programme of the Diocese, delivered through the School for Ministry. She will receive a further letter in July with full details and dates of training. As a rough guide to the level of commitment, Reader training will involve an average of one Saturday / Sunday (day-time) a month and three Wednesday evenings a month (in term time). It is anticipated that all training will be held at St Martins House, Leicester. Since Fiona's training commences in September 2017 it is recommended that, in consultation with her incumbent, Fiona should begin learning and developing the practical skills of Reader ministry.

<http://leicestercathedral.org/about-us/meet-the-team/cathedral-clergy/>

SUPPORTING OPEN HANDS THIS ADVENT/CHRISTMAS We would like to invite you to help Open Hands reach out to some of the most disadvantaged people in our city by bringing food contributions throughout Advent. Please add one of these items to your weekly shop each week if you are able and bring along to church on Sundays, up to and including the Nativity Gift Service on 18th Dec: **Tinned meat and fish, breakfast cereal, cooking oil and UHT milk. Other tinned or packet foods can also be brought**, but no perishable food please as it won't be delivered until after Christmas. Thank you.

THANK YOU Molly Clarke would like to thank everyone for supporting her sky diving evening on 16th October and also to thank so many people who helped. The night raised £296 which has now been handed over to the Samaritans (this is in addition to the £1600 raised by her skydive). The evening was a great success.

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

CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE Items need to be brought to church by **TODAY** please. Thank you.

MAKE YOUR CHRISTMAS GREETINGS GO FURTHER. The PCC would like to suggest that, as in previous years, members of the congregation make a donation to Bishop Christopher's Malawi charity instead of exchanging Christmas cards with one another. **A large card for everyone to sign will be in the welcome area from early December together with a box for donations.** Thank you.

ADVENT EVENSONG TONIGHT 6.30pm at St. Mary's with the joint choirs of St. Mary Magdalene, St. Guthlac and friends.

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. Four reflections will be as follows:

29th November	Preparation
6th December	Hope
13th December	Light
20th December	Joy

ST GUTHLAC'S CHRISTMAS FAYRE Sat 3rd Dec 10pm-1pm.

Please come and support us next Saturday.

We are still collecting:

Items 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. THANK YOU.

CHRISTMAS CHARITY CONCERT at St Mary's on **December 4th 7:30pm** organised by Suzie Christie and Grace Pepper, to raise money for Brain Tumour Research Campaign (BTRC) and also in memory of Anna Louise Swabey, who sadly died this year. Please come and support us. Tickets £5 adult, £3.50 child 5-12 yrs, under 5's free. Thank you.

AFTERNOON TEA Father Christmas & the pink fairy invite you to join them for carols and afternoon tea at the Parish centre on **Sat 10th Dec 3-5.30**. Tickets £6 from Sue Ardley.

CHRISTINGLE COLLECTING CANDLES These are now available at the back of church for you to take home and fill in aid of the Children's Society. The Christingle service will take place in church on **Sunday December 11th at 5pm**.

NEW LOOK NATIVITY GIFT SERVICE This year's telling of the Nativity story will be brought to life by participants of all ages through 4 different dramatic scenes, with reflections by some of the characters. The service will be **in church on Sunday December 18th 10.30am**. Bubbles have had a well-earned rest from planning the nativity this year and it has been put together by members of the worship committee. There will be an opportunity for children to join in the drama on the day if they would like. Gifts for open Hands will be collected (see note above). Please do support this service if you can.

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