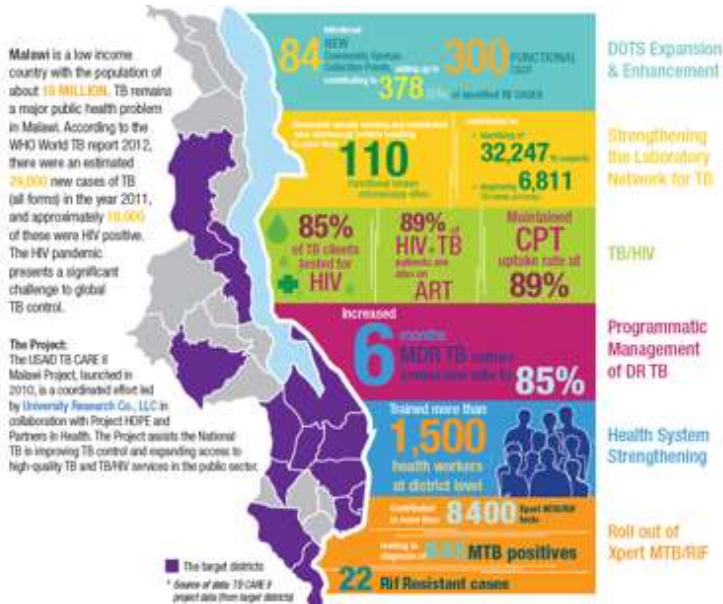


ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



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 4 December 2016 Second Sunday of Advent
10.30am 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.

FORTHCOMING SERVICES AND MEETINGS

Tuesday 6 Dec., 6.30 pm	Advent reflections
Wednesday 7 Dec., 7.30 pm	Choir Practice
Thursday 8 Dec., 9.30 am	Holy Communion
Friday 9 Dec., 1.30pm	Memory Café
Friday 9 Dec., 3.30pm	Messy Church at Stoneygate Baptist
Sunday 11 Dec., 10.30 am	All Age Communion and Admission to Holy Communion of Sophie and Tashie Bullough
Sunday 11 Dec., 5pm	Christingle

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.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENT MADE IN CHURCH ON ADVENT SUNDAY.

A number of you will know that I have had to visit hospital several times in the last few weeks for tests, including most recently for a biopsy. The diagnosis of primary liver cancer (HCC) has been confirmed and there will need to be a fairly invasive course of treatment. This is likely to be a difficult period for our Church. Churches like certainty, and that their priest will be available to do the things he usually does. Depending on how I react to the treatment, this may be not always be possible for the time being. The Archdeacon has offered to take the 8pm service on Christmas Eve, which means that I shall have the reduced load of the 4pm Crib Service and the Christmas morning service which should be manageable.

Anyway, there is no need for secrecy about the condition and its likely treatment. I am confident that your prayers will be with Margaret and myself and I thank you in advance for your love and kind thoughts. If we ask to be remembered in silent prayer during intercessions in Church rather than by name this is only to prevent overfamiliarity. Just as some other considerable things have been brought about in this Church through prayer we are confident that your private prayers will help strengthen us and keep us at all times in God's care.

THANK YOU FROM BISHOP CHRISTOPHER

Dear Richard and all at St Guthlac's,

It was very good to be with you again last Sunday and to celebrate and preach for the First Sunday of Advent. What a powerful season and so redolent of our discipleship: expectant waiting and preparation for birth of Christ and for Christ to be born in us anew each day.

Thank you for the cheque for £530 for the Mobile Clinic and Vulnerable Feeding Programme. I am so grateful to you for this, for your sustained awareness, commitment and care.

Canon Chifisi made his most recent visit to Chamalala – before the Dwangwa River becomes impassable – on Tuesday 29th November. He treated 191 patients. Funds did not allow us to distribute Likuni Phala to the children on this occasion. He next goes to Mfula on the 7th December. Likuni Phala will be given and these funds have already been sent. Your £530 now ensures a full delivery of medicines and Likuni Phala in January.

Thank you and every blessing for a holy Advent and a resplendent Christmas Day.

Yours very sincerely

+Christopher

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.

ST GUTHLAC'S CHRISTMAS FAYRE A big thank you to all who helped at or supported the Christmas Fayre yesterday.

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

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. The reflections will be as follows:

6th December Hope

13th December Light

20th December Joy

CHRISTMAS CHARITY CONCERT at St Mary's **TONIGHT, 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.

CAROL SINGING at the Lawns Care Home, 1A Knighton Rise, next **Friday 9th December at 2.30** for about an hour. Please come and join us if you can. Carol words will be provided. Further details from Ian Fraser.

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.

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.

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 by Thursday 10pm to administrator@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk