

ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



Christingle: Jesus is the light of the world



Parish Church of St Guthlac
Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

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

Minister in Charge: Revd Richard Bonney 07981 314072
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Churchwardens:
David Hunt
Tina Jarvis

Sunday 11 December 2016 Third Sunday of Advent
10.30am All Age Communion and Admission to Holy Communion
5pm Christingle

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 230

FORTHCOMING SERVICES AND MEETINGS

TODAY 11 Dec., 5pm

Tuesday 13 Dec., 6.30 pm

Wednesday 14 Dec., 7.30 pm

Thursday 15 Dec., 9.30 am

Friday 16 Dec., 7.30pm

Sunday 18 Dec., 10.30 am

Sunday 18 Dec., 6.30 pm

Wednesday 21st Dec., 7.30pm

Saturday 24th Dec., 4pm

Saturday 24th Dec., 8pm

Sunday 25th Dec., 10.30pm

Sunday 1st Jan., 10 pm

Sunday 8th Jan., 10.30 am

Sunday 15th Jan., 10.30 am

Christingle

Advent reflections

No Choir Practice

Holy Communion

Choir Practice at St Mary's

Nativity Gift Service

Nine Lessons & Carols at St Mary's

Nine Lessons & Carols at St Guthlac's

Crib Service

First Communion of Christmas

Christmas Morning Eucharist

Joint service at St Mary's

All Age Communion: Epiphany

Matins

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 **Ian Fraser, Liz Vickers, Darryl Varley, Bob Newell, Ann Spring, Dorothy Wollaston, Bill & Ann Ibbs** and **Saty French** in our prayers. For other prayer requests, please speak to the Revd Richard.

THE REVD RICHARD is indisposed.

ADVENT REFLECTIONS

Any event or celebration needs preparation, if you're going to celebrate Jesus' birth then you'll probably find yourselves preparing by buying or making gifts, carol singing and decorating your home but it can be useful to think a little more deeply about the season.

Preparation during Advent traditionally is a time for repentance (mind), fasting (body) and prayer (spirit) so that our whole selves are humbled, cleansed and ready to greet the King." (The Advent Creative Retreat Activity Book- M&M Fleeson)

This time of year gives us another chance to stop and once again prepare not only for the coming of Christmas when we remember the coming of the Christ child but also to prepare anew for the coming of Christ in glory. This time of preparation gives us time to think about the how we might prepare the body, the mind and the spirit. The challenge is to consider daily through out this period these three things:

Repentance – What are you sorry for?

Fasting – what could you do during this Advent as a sacrificial practice?

Prayer – try writing a short prayer each day

It is a held view that for something to become a habit we need to have done it 21 times. Thankfully Advent gives us a 4 week season to practice on a daily basis getting ready for Christ's return. The hope is therefore that it becomes a habit we can then use throughout the year and not just these 4 weeks before Christmas. In the end it is to ensure that we are not found asleep when the bridegroom comes home.

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

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. Over £950 has been raised so far for church funds, £303 for Fair Trade and the raffle raised £131 for Malawi. There are still a few items for sale in the welcome area, it would be wonderful if we could reach £1000. Thank you.

CHRISTINGLE TODAY 5PM in aid of the Children's Society. Come and make your own Christingle. Collection candles are available at the back of church for you to take home and fill in aid of the Children's Society. They can be returned at the service or any time until Christmas.

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:

13th December Light

20th December Joy

NEW LOOK NATIVITY GIFT SERVICE next Sunday December 18th 10.30am in church. 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. 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 is in the welcome area together with a box for donations.** If you wish to gift aid your donation, please use a blue envelope, complete your name and address and mark it ' Malawi'. 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