

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

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Churchwardens:

David Hunt

Tina Jarvis

Sunday 18 December 2016 Fourth Sunday of Advent
10.30am Nativity Gift service

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 231

FORTHCOMING SERVICES AND MEETINGS

TODAY , 6.30 pm	Nine Lessons & Carols at St Mary's
Wednesday 21 st Dec., 7.30pm	Nine Lessons & Carols at St Guthlac's led by Revd. Roy Seden
Saturday 24 th Dec., 4pm	Crib Service
Saturday 24 th Dec., 8pm	First Communion of Christmas Celebrant & Preacher The Venerable Dr Tim Stratford
Sunday 25 th Dec., 10.30pm	Christmas Morning Eucharist Celebrant & Preacher Canon Stephen Foster
Sunday 1st Jan., 10 pm	Joint service at St Mary's
Sunday 8 th Jan., 10.30 am	Epiphany
Sunday 15 th Jan., 10.30 am	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.

THE REVD RICHARD WRITES: REASON FOR MY ABSENCE THIS CHRISTMAS

This is the first time since 2008 that I am unable to join you for the Christmas services at St Guthlac's. On Monday 19 December I am expected to undergo a procedure called transcatheter arterial chemoembolisation (TACE). A fine tube called a catheter is inserted into the main blood vessel in the groin (femoral artery) and passed along the artery to the main blood vessel that carries blood to the liver (hepatic artery). Chemotherapy medication is injected directly into the liver through the catheter and either a gel or small plastic beads are injected into the blood vessels supplying the tumours to help slow down the speed they grow at. Individuals react differently to the treatment. The most common side effect is post-chemoembolisation syndrome, which can cause some people to experience abdominal pain and a high temperature, as well as making them vomit or feel sick. These symptoms may last for up to a few weeks after a TACE session. Others are less adversely affected by the treatment and it is obvious which outcome I would prefer!

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

DECEASE OF IAN FRASER It is with deep regret that I write to notify all members of the congregation of the decease of Ian Fraser at the Royal Infirmary on Monday night from complications arising from his liver cancer. Ian was a popular member of the congregation for many years and displayed a strong commitment to band music, bell ringing and the work of the choir. He was editor of the parish magazine for many years and a longstanding member of the Knighton Players. He was also sensitive to the needs of older worshippers and until his last illness very helpful in providing lifts to church for those without transport. He will be sorely missed. His closest relative is his brother, has arrived from New Zealand. The Churchwardens will keep members of the congregation informed of funeral arrangements when these are known.

Please pray for Ian's soul and remember his family in your prayers.

ADVENT REFLECTION: HOPE

"During Advent we remember the wait for the Messiah whose birth, life, death and resurrection fulfilled hundreds of prophecies. We also anticipate the return of Jesus. The Christian faith is a hopeful one, it assures that we are loved, that we are worth saving for eternal life. That no matter how far we stray from being the ideal human, we are never too far away to seek God."(The Advent Creative Retreat Activity Book- M&M Fleeson).

Ps 27: 4 – 5 speaks of our longing, indeed our hope, that we will live in God's house all our lives and be kept safe by God through the storms of this life. We can often lose sight of this great gift God offers us because of the business and busy-ness of our lives. Advent is a time to taking stock; stopping, if possible, and returning to God and once again putting in the centre of our lives.

When our lives get that busy that we feel, "Where is God in all this"; Ps 42: 1 – 8 may offer us a way to turn again to God. God is always there it's more likely us who are not. The psalmist has some very useful guidance on what to do when you despair and wonder why you may feel so sad or troubled. It is simply that "I will put my hope in God, and once again I will praise him, my God and my Saviour."

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. 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).

ANNE AND DAVID HUNT ARE DELIGHTED TO ANNOUNCE the safe arrival of their grandson Christopher Thomas. Richard and Ailsa had their second son on Monday December 2016 brother to James. All are doing well and send best wishes to everyone at St Guthlac's this 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 final reflection, on 'Joy' is on **20th December**.

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.

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; there are still a few items for sale in the welcome area, it would be wonderful if we could reach £1000! In addition, the Fair Trade stall took £303 and the raffle raised £131 for Malawi. An additional £66.35 was raised for Malawi, by Bubbles and LCOS with their sweet sale. Thank you.

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

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