

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

Saturday 24 December 2016 Christmas Eve

4pm Crib Service

8pm First Communion of Christmas

Celebrant & Preacher The Venerable Dr Tim Stratford

Sunday 25 December 2016 Christmas Day

10.30am All Age Communion

Celebrant & Preacher Canon Stephen Foster

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.

THE REVD RICHARD'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE: 'This is a final distress call to the world. Save Aleppo' (13 December 2016). 2016 has been a terrible year for violence and loss of life, especially the lives of innocent children, as a result mostly of man-made human catastrophes. At times of distress caused by man's inhumanity to man, I have found it helpful to recall the words of the Prophet Isaiah in chapter 11:

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them...

Henri Nouwen, whose words I often find of comfort, writes: 'The marvellous vision of the peaceable Kingdom, in which all violence has been overcome and all men, women, and children live in loving unity with nature, calls for its realisation in our day-to-day lives. Instead of being an escapist dream, it challenges us to anticipate what it promises. Every time we forgive our neighbour, every time we make a child smile, every time we show compassion to a suffering person, every time we arrange a bouquet of flowers, offer care to tame or wild animals, prevent pollution, create beauty in our homes and gardens, and work for peace and justice among peoples and nations we are making the vision come true. We must remind one another constantly of the vision. Whenever it comes alive in us we will find new energy to live it out, right where we are. Instead of making us escape real life, this beautiful vision gets us involved.' As Christians, our role is not just to think of the afterlife – inspiring though this should be to us – but to get involved in the world here and now, seeking to build God's kingdom and realize the Prophet Isaiah's vision of peace and justice here and now in this life.

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

Thursday 29th December

Sunday 1st Jan., 10 am

Thursday 5th Jan., 9.30 am

Sunday 8th Jan., 10.30 am

Thursday 12th Jan., 9.30 am

Sunday 15th Jan., 10.30 am

NO SERVICE

Joint service at St Mary's

Holy Communion

Epiphany

Holy Communion

Matins

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 (12th December) 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, his brother, has arrived from New Zealand. Please pray for Ian's soul and remember his family in your prayers.

A Service of Thanksgiving, to celebrate Ian's life will be held at St. Guthlac's Church on Thursday 29th December at 2.30pm, followed by refreshments in Holbrook Hall. No flowers by request please, donations if desired to Parkinson's UK c/o A.J. Adkinson & Son Funeral Directors, 12 London Road, Oadby, LE2 FDJ or www.ajadkinsonandson.com

ADVENT REFLECTION: LIGHT

The idea of light in the darkness resonates in the northern hemisphere where at this time of year it can feel as if the darkness is all consuming. Christ told his followers that he was the light of the world and that whoever followed him would have the light of life and will never walk in darkness. In Matthew's gospel Jesus goes further and challenges us by asking whether having lit a lamp we would hide it away and tells us quite clearly what we must do. Our light must shine before other people so that they will see the good things we do (through God's grace) and praise our Father in heaven.

"The mug was broken but we placed a torch inside and realised that the light could be seen, brightly shining through the hole. Isn't life a bit like that?" (Taize International Meeting, Budapest 1992). In this world where it would be easy to feel paralysed to respond to Christ's call to God in all people, Advent gives us the time to prepare again. In your preparations consider the questions

- What does it mean to be the light of the world?
- What is the light?
- How can you deliberately be a light to others?

THURSDAY COMMUNION 9.30AM The next Thursday service will be on January 5th, followed by January 12th and 9th & 16th February. We are currently seeking a priest to cover the other services, so please keep an eye on the newsletter and noticeboard for updates.

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 12th December 2016 brother to James. All are doing well and send best wishes to everyone at St Guthlac's this Christmas.

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

NEWSLETTER

There will be no newsletter next week as there is no service at St. Guthlac's. Please send material to be included in the next newsletter by Thursday 5th January 10pm to administrator@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk Thank you.