

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 8 January 2017 Epiphany
10.30am Morning Prayer

Newsletter No 233

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 10 th January, 7.30pm	PCC meeting
Thursday 12 th January, 9.30am	Holy Communion
Thursday 12 th January, 6.45pm	Knighton Players
Friday 13 th January, 1.30pm	Memory Café
Sunday 15 th January, 10.30am	Matins

THURSDAY COMMUNION 9.30AM The next Thursday service will be on January 12th, followed by 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.

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. Please pray for the soul of our friend Ian Fraser who died recently. For other prayer requests, please speak to the Revd Richard.

THE REVD RICHARD'S WRITES:

WISHING YOU ALL A JOYOUS NEW YEAR!

Firstly, a big thank you to all who have kindly stepped in to conduct services in my absence, to the churchwardens and to other members of the church who have worked to make things happen and to ensure that gaps are not noticeable.

I go for my next scan on 19 Jan, after which the next stage of the treatment will be determined. Apart from some minor inconveniences such as intense tiredness by 6pm, recovery so far seems to have gone pretty well. Colds and infections (so far) have been held at arm's length. Christians, whatever their denomination or precise spirituality, believe that our life here on earth should be a positive and enriching experience lived out joyfully. Apart from the consecration of the church, I found 2016 a rather joyless year, with too much ill-informed populist politics both here and in the US, the grinding inhumanity of the war in Syria, the ongoing child refugee crisis and our many social problems at home making for a combination of problems that was simply too much to take.

Some predict that 2017 may be no better, and may be even worse in international affairs, but we can hold on to initiatives of goodwill in our prayers and focus on small, tangible steps to help to make the world and our own country a better place. If we emphasise our common humanity and love and service to others we can bring about measurable change. If we take care to find out about the needs and concerns of others, we may find that we can be of help to others in unexpected ways, but also bring a measure of fulfilment to us. Above all, if we greet one another with joy and a smile, that smile and that joy can become infectious. While others may hate, our task is to love. Others may try to deride us for our views but we remain firm in living the Beatitudes. So let us show others how we live our Gospel in love and truth and joy. My prayerful greetings to you all this joyous New Year.

VOLUNTEER READERS AND CAR DRIVERS NEEDED

This is a difficult time for St Guthlac's due to Richard's illness and Ian's death, so additional helpers would be welcome. Ian very kindly gave lifts to elderly people who now may not always be able to get to church. He also was a frequent reader at services. If you can occasionally give lifts to an elderly person or are prepared to read at some services please let David or Tina know.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE EDGE PROJECT'S TEA AND TOAST GROUP.

The group meets at St Christopher's on Thursdays in term time and are in need of volunteers to help with the refreshments. They would only need to be around from 3 - 3:45pm, but would be welcome to join in with the rest of the session with the young people should they wish to do so. Even if people are only able to volunteer once or twice a month that would be a great help! For further information or offers of help please contact Ali Simpson-Smith at alikay1204@hotmail.co.uk. Thank you.

MAKE YOUR CHRISTMAS GREETINGS GO FURTHER. The PCC would like to thank everyone who donated this year. We raised £80 from the cards, plus a further £100 from donations on the collecting plate. The total raised for Malawi in 2016 excluding gift aid amounted to £1667.71 a fantastic amount.

GIVING SCHEME Regular giving can be made either weekly by envelope, periodic cheque or bank standing order. If you are a tax payer and gift aid your giving, our church can claim an extra 25%. Details of the scheme can be obtained from David Hunt.

EDGE PROJECT There are leaflets at the back of church from Ali Simpson-Smith, giving an update on how the Edge project is progressing. Please take one to read.

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