

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 15 January 2017 Epiphany 2
10.30am Matins

Newsletter No 234

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

Thursday 19 th January, 9.30am	Holy Communion
Thursday 19 th January, 6.45pm	Knighton Players
Sunday 22 nd January, 10.30am	Communion for All, Celebrant & Preacher Canon John Tonkin
Tuesday 24 th January, 12 noon	SLCP prayer pilgrimage at St. Guthlac's
Thursday 26 th January, 9.30am	Holy Communion
Friday 27 th January, 3.30pm	Messy Church at Stoneygate Baptist Church
Sunday 29 th January, 10.30am	Communion for All, Celebrant & Preacher Canon John Tonkin
Tuesday 31 st January, 7pm	Worship Committee meeting
Sunday 5 th February	All Age Worship

THURSDAY COMMUNION 9.30AM The next Thursday service on 19th January will be taken by Revd. Richard Bonney. Brenda Lee will lead the services on 26th January and 2nd February if a priest is unavailable. Revd. Neil Bullen is taking the services on 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 **the Miners family** in our prayers. Please pray for the souls of **Stan Merry** and of our friend **Ian Fraser** who have died recently. For other prayer requests, please speak to the Revd Richard.

THE REVD RICHARD'S WRITES:

THE REVD RICHARD WRITES. The value of a book bears no relation to its length. I have been trying to get through a biography of John Le Carré which some have reviewed favourably. So far the insights have not repaid the effort expended! On the other hand, I came across a 51-page booklet by Bishop Kallistos Ware ('the best known exponent of Orthodoxy in the UK') entitled *The Jesus Prayer* which has something to offer on practically every page.

The text on the rear of the cover offers the agenda for the booklet: 'The Jesus Prayer is the most popular devotional prayer in the Orthodox Church and increasingly popular in the West. A simple and direct method of invoking the mercy of Jesus Christ by repeating his Holy Name, it is a way of obeying St Paul's instruction to "pray always" (or "without ceasing": 1 Thessalonians 5:17). In an increasingly noisy and frenetic world, the Jesus prayer offers us an oasis of inner peace and a lifetime back to God.'

The exact words of the prayer may vary. The usual form, 'Lord Jesus Christ, son of God, have mercy on me' is based on the prayer of the blind beggar Bartimaeus outside Jericho: 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me' (Luke 18:38; Mark 10:47). Frequently the words 'a sinner' are added at the end 'have mercy on me a sinner'. This recalls the prayer of the tax collector in the temple, 'God be merciful to me a sinner' (Luke 18:13) and it gives to the Jesus a more penitential character. Sometimes 'on us' or 'on us and the world' are added. The prayer is implicitly Trinitarian. By invoking Jesus as son of God we think also of the Father while Paul tells us 'no one can say "Lord Jesus" except in the Holy Spirit' (1 Cor. 12:3).

Bishop Kallistos asks us what we mean by silence in a spiritual sense. God-awareness is one aspect (Ps 46:1): 'be still and know that I am God.' It implies relationship, not isolation. It is an attitude of receptivity and listening. When we are assailed by a stream of distracting thoughts, the Jesus Prayer helps us to dwell in God's presence, quiet and recollected. When our thoughts have drifted away, we do not have to ask ourselves 'where was I? What was I going to say next?' for we have only to take up once more the regular invocation of the Holy Name in the Jesus Prayer. The words should flow 'like a small murmuring stream', and in return we hear the 'still small voice' of God (1 Kings 19:13).

Bishop Kallistos contends that if our words and actions do not come out of the stillness of prayer, they turn out to be superficial and impotent. But if they have their source in stillness, they can prove words and actions of fire and healing. 'We can only truly change the world unless we have ourselves been changed by prayer... The Jesus Prayer is a prayer that make our contemplation active, and our action contemplative.'

The Jesus Prayer is published by CTS at £1.95.

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

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2017 runs from Wednesday 18th January to Wednesday 25th January. Please see the notice on the noticeboard for the venue and time of the daily prayer pilgrimage. **The United Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** will take place on **Sunday 22nd January at 6.30pm** at St Thomas More Church, Knighton Rd, LE2 3HN.

KNIGHTON BRANCH MOTHERS UNION looks forward to welcoming Tracy Pollard, a nurse with Inclusion Healthcare, at our next meeting. Tracy is going to speak to us about Treating the Homeless. Friends and Visitors are welcome to join with us, on **Tuesday 24th January, at 2.15 p.m.** in the Parish Centre Lounge.

AN EPIPHANY EVENING WITH ST MARK Revd Stephen Foster is giving a talk on St Mark on Tuesday 31st January at 7.45pm in the Parish Centre. All welcome, but please sign the sheet in the welcome area for catering purposes. Thank you.

RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY on **12th Feb. at 4.30pm** at the church of the Resurrection. Refreshments will be served at the service. See noticeboard for further information.

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 alokay1204@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, 0116 2716991 or e-mail: davidj.hunt@ntlworld.com

HAPPY 8TH BIRTHDAY TO THE 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. There is also a poster.