

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 29 January 2017 Epiphany 3
10.30am Communion for All
Celebrant & Preacher Canon John Tonkin

Newsletter No 235

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 31 st January, 7pm	Worship Committee meeting
Wednesday 1 st February, 7.30pm	Choir Practice
Thursday 2 nd February, 9.30am	Holy Communion
Thursday 2 nd February, 6.45pm	Knighon Players rehearsal
Sunday 5 th February	All Age Worship

THURSDAY COMMUNION 9.30AM Brenda Lee will lead the service on 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 soul of **Kath Fidoe** who has died recently. For other prayer requests, please speak to the Revd Richard.

THE REVD RICHARD WRITES: We count ourselves extremely fortunate as a Church that priests from the area have been willing to step in and help while I have been indisposed. Particular thanks this week are due to Stephen Foster, Keith Magee and John Tonkin. One benefit arising from the situation of our Church is that we are receiving a variety of voices and styles of priestly ministry.

This week has been the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, with an appropriate focus on Germany, which has been determined in part by the impending 500th anniversary of the Reformation (31 October 1517). There is much to think about in this anniversary, but the archbishops of Canterbury and York captured the headlines by urging Christians to repent for the killings and destruction it unleashed (17 January). They write:

'The Reformation was a process of both renewal and division amongst Christians in Europe. In this Reformation Anniversary year, many Christians will want to give thanks for the great blessings they have received to which the Reformation directly contributed. Amongst much else these would include clear proclamation of the gospel of grace, the availability of the Bible to all in their own language and the recognition of the calling of lay people to serve God in the world and in the church.

'Many will also remember the lasting damage done five centuries ago to the unity of the Church, in defiance of the clear command of Jesus Christ to unity in love. Those turbulent years saw Christian people pitted against each other, such that many suffered persecution and even death at the hands of others claiming to know the same Lord. A legacy of mistrust and competition would then accompany the astonishing global spread of Christianity in the centuries that followed. All this leaves us much to ponder.

'Remembering the Reformation should bring us back to what the Reformers wanted to put at the centre of every person's life, which is a simple trust in Jesus Christ. This year is a time to renew our faith in Christ and in Him alone. With this confidence we shall then be ready to ask hard questions about those things in our lives and the life of our churches that get in the way of sharing and celebrating faith in Him.

'Remembering the Reformation should also lead us to repent of our part in perpetuating divisions. Such repentance needs to be linked to action aimed at reaching out to other churches and strengthening relationships with them. This anniversary year will provide many opportunities to do just that, beginning with this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

'We therefore call on all Christians to seek to be renewed and united in the truth of the gospel of Christ through our participation in the Reformation Anniversary, to repent of divisions, and, held together in Him, to be a blessing to the world in obedience to Jesus Christ.'

The Henri Nouwen website for 25 January talks about 'receiving forgiveness' in this way. 'There are two sides to forgiveness: giving and receiving. Although at first sight giving seems to be harder, it often appears that we are not able to offer forgiveness to others because we have not been able fully to receive it. Only as people who have accepted forgiveness can we find the inner freedom to give it. Why is receiving forgiveness so difficult? It is very hard to say, "Without your forgiveness I am still bound to what happened between us. Only you can set me free." That requires not only a confession that we have hurt somebody but also the humility to acknowledge our dependency on others. Only when we can receive forgiveness can we give it.'

The issues arising from the five hundredth anniversary of the outbreak of the Reformation will doubtless prompt further comments when appropriate.

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

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

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.

VISIT MY MOSQUE DAY is on **Sunday 5th February, 12.30pm-5.30pm**. It is a nationwide initiative in collaboration with the Muslim Council of Britain which invites people from all walks of life in to Mosques and Muslim community centres all across the UK. We hope to give members of the local community an engaging insight into the life of the mosque and to promote greater understanding of Islam. The open day will last from 12:30pm to 5:30pm so you can pop in at your leisure. The day will consist of guided tours and the chance to meet members of our community. Our resident Scholar will also be present if you have any questions about Islam. As well as that there will also be different stalls such as Try on Hijab, free Henna and calligraphy, tasting the teas of the world. We will even have a fun quiz and uplifting discussions. Refreshments will be served. We are invited to the **Masjid Al-Husayn Mosque**, 17A Duxbury Road, LE5 3LR, (plenty of on site parking). If anyone is interested in attending please speak to Margaret Bonney.

SERVICE OF COLLATION OF THE REVD. ADRIAN JONES AS VICAR OF ST. MARY'S on **Thursday 9th February 7.30pm**. If you intending to attend this service please will you sign up on the list in the welcome area and also indicate whether you will be staying for refreshments afterwards. 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.

KNIGHTON PLAYERS will be performing Beauty & the Beast on **Friday 17th March 7.30pm** and **Saturday 18th March 2.30pm and & 7.30pm** in the Parish Centre. Tickets (adults £6, children £4) are available from Jane Wright, Ann Swanson (St. Guthlac's), Tanya Willis (St. Mary's), or knightonplayers@ntlworld.com.

KNIGHTON PLAYERS RAFFLE Could you provide a **raffle prize**? If so, please contact Jane Wright or Tanya Willis. Thank you

CHRISTINGLE The total raised for the Children's Society this year amounted to £224. Thank you for your support.

VOLUNTEER READERS AND CAR DRIVERS NEEDED Thank you to those who have already put their names forward as readers or to help with lifts. We would like to form a car pool to share the responsibility for providing lifts, so please sign the list in the welcome area if you are able to give occasional lifts. Many thanks PCC.