

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
minister@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk

Churchwardens:
David Hunt
Tina Jarvis

Sunday 14 May 2017 5th Sunday of Easter
10.30 am Communion for All
Celebrant & Preacher: Revd Adrian Jones

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

May

Wednesday 17 th	7.30pm	
Thursday 18 th	9.30am	Holy Communion, Celebrant: Revd. Neil Bullen
Sunday 21 st	10.30am	Matins, Leader: David Hunt
Wednesday 24 th	7.30pm	Choir practice
Thursday 25 th	9.30am	Holy Communion, Celebrant: Revd. Neil Bullen
Thursday 25 th	7.30pm	Ascension Day service at St. Mary's
Sunday 28 th	10.30am	Communion for All, Celebrant & Preacher: Revd Neil Bullen
Tuesday 30 th	7.30pm	Prayer service: Thy Kingdom Come (see p4)
Wednesday 31 st	7.30pm	Choir practice

June

Thursday 1 st	9.30am	Holy Communion, Celebrant: Revd. Neil Bullen
Saturday 3 rd	10.30am	Prayer service: Thy Kingdom Come (see p4)
Sunday 4 th	10.30am	AAW Pentecost
Wednesday 7 th	7.30pm	Choir practice
Thursday 8 th	9.30am	Holy Communion, Celebrant: Revd. Neil Bullen

THANK YOU Very many thanks to all the clergy who are generously giving their time to officiate at our services whilst Richard is indisposed.

PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL We have been asked to keep **Revd Richard Bonney, Beth Murgatroyd, Joan Willder, Chris Ellis, Ann Beams, Liz Vickers, Darryl Varley, Ann Spring and Bill & Ann Ibbs** in our prayers. Please pray for the soul of **Rob Thomson** who has died recently and remember Winifred and her family in your prayers. For other prayer requests, please speak to one of the churchwardens.

REVD RICHARD WRITES: When God speaks, how do we interpret his message?

Christianity affirms - and for that matter so too do the other monotheistic faiths in the Abrahamic tradition, Judaism and Islam - that God speaks directly to us. When He does so, how do we discern precisely what message He is conveying to us? How do we know that we are not misinterpreting the message, bearing in mind that when God 'speaks' it is not necessarily through specific words but through a sense of His presence or His will? We are told that politicians sometimes claim that God has 'called' them or 'told' them to do something specific, and given that we do not always appreciate the outcome of their decisions or actions this may not inspire us with confidence that in our own case we have correctly interpreted his will.

In one of the the relatively few books on the subject - *Divine Discourse* by Nicholas Wolterstorff - the author takes the example of the conversion of St Anthony of Egypt (251-356), who sold all his possessions at the age of twenty and lived among the local ascetics. St Augustine records three episodes of what he interpreted as God speaking - two in his own life, and the third, the conversion of St Anthony, when Anthony was standing in a Coptic church and experienced a command of God to him. But the command to Anthony was not directly conveyed: it was indirectly conveyed by means of listening to the gospel according to St Matthew. 'If you wish to be perfect, go, sell your possessions, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven, then come, follow me.' Anthony was convinced that God had spoken to him then and there, telling him to give away his possessions. Suppose that Jesus, in fact, had been speaking metaphorically rather than literally? Would this mean that Anthony was wrong on that occasion, that God had not spoken to him in the way that he interpreted it, and which led to his lifetime conversion? Wolterstorff makes the distinction between 'divine presentational discourse' and 'divine authorial discourse.' Anthony was not wrong in his conviction. It didn't matter in this case what Jesus had meant by those particular words; it didn't matter what Matthew thought Jesus had meant by them; this was a case of divine discourse mediated by human locution. The reader uttered the words of the Gospel; God performed the act of 'speaking' to Anthony without using any words other than those of the Gospel. When Jesus says 'Go and do Likewise' in Luke's Parable of the Good Samaritan, He has undoubtedly spoken to innumerable Christians over the centuries in a similar way. All of which suggests that God's Word to us may be relatively easy to discern when it is mediated by means of hearing the Gospel. It is much less clear when the power of God is felt but there is no specific text to accompany it - and the recipient has to interpret the feeling, to understand what is meant by the sense, but not the words, of 'do this' or 'do likewise'. The reviewers of William C Spohn's *Go and Do Likewise* state that 'the practices of spirituality sharpen the Christian's capacities to discern what is appropriate. Intercessory prayer, meditation, discernment, forgiveness, Eucharist and solidarity with the poor are (or should be) themselves formed and informed by scripture. They sharpen our perceptions, train our affections and transform our lives.' No doubt. But perhaps the most important thing we can do is wait patiently and prayerfully. We cannot know God's purpose at first, not least because we do not understand his timeframe. What we do know, if we believe, is that His purpose for us ultimately will be revealed.

Revd Richard sends you all his greetings and thanks everyone for their supportive messages and prayers.

STAMP COLLECTION FOR LEPROSY MISSION A big thank you to everyone who brings their used stamps to help raise funds for the Leprosy Mission Please try to remember when saving stamps that we have been asked to cut stamps from the envelope with a margin of 1/4 inch. Lesley Meakin

AGM There are few copies of the minutes available at the back of church, and also some AGM brochures.

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

SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING FOR BISHOP CHRISTOPHER'S MINISTRY

There will be a service of thanksgiving for Bishop Christopher's ministry in this Diocese on **Sunday 21 May at 3pm in Leicester Cathedral. The service is open to all and will be followed by light refreshments in the Cathedral.** On this occasion we will be making a presentation to Bishop Christopher as a token of appreciation from the people of the Diocese. If you would like to contribute towards this gift, please send a cheque, made payable to 'Leicester Diocesan Board of Finance' to: Jonathan Kerry, St Martins House, 7 Peacock Lane, Leicester LE1 5PZ. Please ensure that your cheque is clearly marked 'Bishop Christopher Gift' on the reverse.

THY KINGDOM COME Join in and change the world one prayer at a time. Between **25th May and 4th June**, communities and churches around the world are gathering together to pray that their friends, families, neighbours and people within their local communities come to know Jesus Christ. Here in the Benefice of Knighton we will be joining together in this life of prayer. Over the course of the 10 days we will be focussing our prayers and services on this theme. There is something planned for each day from Ascension to Pentecost. This will include our regular weekend and Sunday services, some additional events to allow people a chance to join in and finally an opportunity for each to respond in our own surroundings. We encourage all members of our church communities to join in as much as you are able whether it be coming to a service or focussing your private prayers on the Lord's Kingdom coming on earth. Prayer cards will be available in both churches to help and guide your days of private prayers.

The following services and events will take place across the Benefice:

Thursday 25th May	Ascension Day Service (Joint)	7:30 PM	St Mary's
Friday 26th May	Communion Service	11:00 AM	St Mary's
Saturday 27th May	Day of private prayer		
Sunday 28th May	Regular Service	10:00 AM	St Mary's
Sunday 28th May	Regular Service	10:30 AM	St Guthlac's
Monday 29th May	Day of private prayer		
Tuesday 30th May	Communion Service	9:30 AM	St Mary's
Tuesday 30th May	Prayer service	7:30 PM	St Guthlac's
Wednesday 31st May	Day of private prayer		
Thursday 1st June	Communion Service	9:30 AM	St Guthlac's
Thursday 1st June	Prayer Service	7:30 PM	St Mary's
Friday 2nd June	Communion Service	11:00 AM	St Mary's
Saturday 3rd June	Prayer service	10:30 AM	St Guthlac's

We encourage everyone to get involved and join in this life of prayer. If you would like more information please visit <https://www.thykingdomcome.global> and keep an eye on the newsletter.

CHRISTIAN AID If you do not receive an envelope through your door this week, there will be envelopes available in church, which can be put on the collection plate for the next couple of weeks. Thank you