

ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



Parish Church of St Guthlac
Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

<http://www.stguthlac-knighton.co.uk/>

Churchwardens:

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Sunday 3 December 2017 1st Sunday of Advent
10.30 Communion for All

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 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.

Newsletter No 280

FORTHCOMING SERVICES AND MEETINGS

December

Wednesday 6 th	7.30pm	Choir practice
Thursday 7 th	9.30am	Holy Communion, Celebrant: Revd. Neil Bullen
Friday 8 th	9.30am	Advent Prayer Meeting
Friday 8 th	1.30pm	Memory Café
Sunday 10 th	10.30am	Communion for All, President & Preacher: Revd. Adrian Jones
Sunday 10 th	5.00pm	Christingle
Tuesday 12 th	6.30pm	Advent Prayer Meeting
Wednesday 13 th	7.30pm	Choir practice at St. Guthlac's
Thursday 14 th	9.30am	Holy Communion, Celebrant: Revd. Adrian Jones
Friday 15 th	7.30pm	Choir practice at St. Mary's
Sunday 17 th	10.30am	Nativity Gift Service
Sunday 17 th	6.30pm	Nine Lessons & Carols at St. Mary's
Tuesday 19 th	6.30pm	Advent Prayer Meeting
Wednesday 20 th	7.30pm	Nine Lessons & Carols at St. Guthlac's
Thursday 21 st	9.30am	Holy Communion, Celebrant: Revd. Neil Bullen
Sunday 24 th	10.30 am	NO MORNING SERVICE
Sunday 24 th	4pm	Crib Service
Sunday 24 th	8pm	First Communion of Christmas, President & Preacher: Revd. Neil Bullen
Monday 25 th	10.30am	Communion for All, President & Preacher: Canon Dr Stephen Foster
Thursday 28 th	9.30am	NO SERVICE
Sunday 31 st	10.00am	JOINT SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION AT ST. MARY'S (No service at St. Guthlac's)

January 2018

Sunday 7 th	10.30am	All Age Worship: Epiphany
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THANK YOU Very many thanks to all the clergy who are generously giving their time to officiate at our services.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS We have been asked to keep **Susan Ellson, Leigh Wingate, Chanchal Barber and her daughter Nita, Chris Ellis, Ann Spring, Alison Prior and Bill & Ann Ibbs** in our prayers. Please pray for the soul of **Peter Beams** who has died recently and remember Ann in your prayers. For other prayer requests, please speak to one of the churchwardens.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Please note there will be no morning service at St. Guthlac's on Sunday 24th & 31st December and on Thursday 28th December. On Christmas Eve there is a Crib service at 4pm and the First Communion of Christmas at 8pm. On 31st December there is a joint service of Holy Communion at 10pm at St. Mary's.

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

Leadership at St Guthlac's

Every voice is important: Please help through your prayers & your views.

Over the past month David, Tina, Jane and Lesley (the Standing Committee of the PCC) have met twice with Adrian to begin to develop a Parish Profile. As a first step they have been considering the current work of St Guthlac's; our abilities, skills and interests as well as the things we would like to improve, to support the worship and mission at St Guthlac's in the future. From this they have produced a SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats). This has been seen by the PCC and we would now welcome your comments on this analysis.

You should have received a copy of the SWOT analysis and we would be grateful if you could add your comments to the sheet and then return it to the box in the welcome area by **Wednesday December 20th**; you may add your name if you wish but it is not necessary.

We aim to have a clear idea of what we all hope St Guthlac's will do in the future by 21st January when Archdeacon Tim will come to take the communion service and talk over our views. Following this we will think about the leadership needed by St Guthlac's to help us achieve our aims. We plan to do this in consultation with the congregation by Easter.

There will also be special opportunities to pray for guidance as part of three Advent prayer meetings, see below for dates. Churchwardens

ADVENT REFLECTIONS: Advent provides a time to reflect and prepare. On one level we prepare for the coming of Christ as an infant but also for his coming again. This year Advent gives us, the family of St Guthlac's, a chance to reflect and prepare for a new phase of our journey in Christ in this place. As a church we need to be thinking about where God is calling us and what is important to us in our Christian life. The Churchwardens and PCC have started the process but it is important that all of us take time to think carefully and prayerfully about this.

To support this very important work our Advent reflections will this year allow time to focus on the future direction and leadership of St Guthlac's using the themes of HOPE, LIGHT and JOY. They will be a short service of readings, prayer and time to think. Please do try to come one:

Friday 8th December 9.30am

Tuesday 12th December 6.30pm

Tuesday 19th December 6.30pm

CHRISTINGLE COLLECTING CANDLES These are now available at the back of church for you to take home and fill in aid of the Children's Society. If you wish to gift aid, please use one of the envelopes provided. The Christingle service will take place in church on **Sunday December 10th at 5pm**, but candles and envelopes can be returned to church any time before Christmas.

MEMORY CAFÉ ST GUTHLAC'S KNIGHTON This informal cafe is for people, living at home, with dementia and memory loss with their families/carers. The cafe provides an opportunity to meet up, share experiences and learn in a socially supportive and friendly environment. Refreshments are provided. The cafe is supported by the Alzheimer's Society. The next session on **8th December 1.30 – 3.00pm** will have a Christmas theme and will include singing and simple exercises. If you know someone who would be helped by this cafes please let them know. For further information please call Nita Devabhai on 0116 231 6926

WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS TIME CHARITY CONCERT Suzie O'Neill-Turner (nee Christie) and Grace Pepper are hosting a Christmas concert in aid of the **Alzheimer's Society** at St Mary's on **December 9th at 7pm**. The tickets are on the door at £5 for an adult; £3.50 for child over ten and under 10's free and refreshments will be provided. All welcome.

NATIVITY GIFT SERVICE 17TH DEC: DONATIONS TO OPEN HANDS As in previous years we will be collecting food donations for Open Hands. These can be brought either to the service on 17th Dec or any time before then. You might like to bring the usual staples of cereal, long life milk, cooking oil or tinned meat and fish, but any packet or tinned foods will be welcome. Fresh foods are not suitable thank you. We had a fantastic response at Harvest and it would be wonderful to be able to take a generous gift again in the run up to Christmas to help some of the most disadvantaged people in our city.

A ROUGH SLEEPER REPORTED IN ST MARY MAGDALEN CHURCH!

On the night of **Wed 20th Dec** Revd Neil will be 'rough sleeping' in the church, not because his wife Jackie has kicked him out, but to raise awareness of the plight of the many homeless people in our society. This will be part of the Church Urban Fund's 'Advent Sleepout Challenge 2017'. For further details please see: <https://www.sleepoutchallenge.org.uk/>

If you would like to support Neil in this endeavour, there is a sponsorship sheet at the back of church or you may even consider joining Neil and raising your own sponsorship for this very worthwhile course (please speak to Neil about this).

CHRISTMAS FAYRE A big thank you to all who helped at or supported the Christmas Fayre yesterday.

BEN MICHAEL THOMAS BARNES We are delighted to announce that Ben was born on 27/11/17 at 09:02 weighing 6lbs 7oz. He is doing really well and we hope to have him home soon. We'd like to thank everyone at St Guthlac's for keeping us in thought and prayer. The sacral spinal lesion is covered with skin and his bladder and bowels seem to be functioning normally suggesting a milder form of spina bifida. He is currently being assessed by the paediatric team.



We look forward to seeing you soon! Amy, Dan and Ben