

# 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 10 December 2017      2<sup>nd</sup> 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 281

## FORTHCOMING SERVICES AND MEETINGS

### December

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

### January 2018

|                        |         |                           |
|------------------------|---------|---------------------------|
| Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> | 10.30am | All Age Worship: Epiphany |
|------------------------|---------|---------------------------|

**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, 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.

Peter's funeral is to be held at St. Mary's on Monday December 11th at 10.15am.

### CHRISTMAS SERVICES

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

**CHRISTMAS FAYRE** A big thank you to all who helped at or supported the Christmas Fayre, so far we have raised over **£900** for church funds and there are still a few items for sale at the back of church for those who were unable to attend. In addition the raffle raised **£109** for the mobile health clinic in Malawi.

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

**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 **TODAY, Sunday December 10<sup>th</sup> at 5pm**, but candles and envelopes can be returned to church any time before Christmas.

**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.

**AFTERNOON TEA** Father Christmas & the pink fairy invite you to join them for afternoon tea at the Parish Centre on **Sat 16th Dec 3-5.30pm**. Tickets £6/£4 from Sue Ardley.

**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).

**KNICKS AT ST NICK'S** Christmas is a time for presents and we think of socks and underwear as being quite dull gifts, but to refugees and asylum seekers they are anything but. They have great difficulty in finding underwear as charity shops do not sell them. We are collecting new knickers on behalf of Nottingham Refugee Forum. Any would be gratefully received, but sizes 10-14 for ladies and medium for gents are the most commonly required. If you are able to help, please pass the knickers to Margaret as soon as possible. Thank you

**MAKE YOUR CHRISTMAS GREETINGS GO FURTHER.** As in previous years, members of the congregation may like to make a donation to Bishop Christopher's Malawi charity instead of exchanging Christmas cards with one another. **A large card for everyone to sign is in the welcome area together with a box for donations.** Thank you.

**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