

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 18 February 2018 First Sunday of Lent
10.30 am Matins

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 290

FORTHCOMING SERVICES AND MEETINGS

February

Wednesday 21 st	7.30pm	Choir practice
Thursday 22 nd	9.30am	Holy Communion, Celebrant: Revd. Neil Bullen
Thursday 22 nd	6.45pm	Knighton Players rehearsal
Sunday 25 th	10.30am	Communion for All

DIARY NOTE The annual parochial church meeting will take place in church at **12 noon** on **Sunday April 22nd** in church.

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 **Vivienne Freeman, Susan Ellson, Chanchal Barber and her daughter Nita, Chris Ellis, Ann Spring, Alison Prior and Bill & Ann Ibbs** in our prayers. For other prayer requests, please speak to a churchwarden.

Update on future leadership at St Guthlac's

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

David, Tina, Jane and Lesley (the Standing Committee of the PCC) and Adrian have now met several times. Thank you to all who gave their comments on the SWOT analysis. We produced a draft Parish Profile to use at initial discussions with the Archdeacon on 5th February.

The Archdeacon agreed that he would help us look for a Non Stipendiary Priest – or 'Associate Vicar' who would work with / under Adrian in the Benefice with special responsibility for St Guthlac's. Following his advice we now have to make some additions as well as prepare a concise attractive document with photographs. The aim is to achieve this by Easter.

If you have good recent photographs of activities at St Guthlac's that can be used in an on-line document please let us have them. Churchwardens

IS THIS YOUR NEXT STEP ON THE JOURNEY OF FAITH? It may be that for a while now you've been thinking about our Christian faith and have a feeling that you should take another step forwards....and that step could be 'confirmation.' In the Church of England, the service of confirmation is a chance to 'confirm' that the promises made on your behalf at baptism (often when you were a baby) are now your promises too - a clear intention to follow Jesus in a life of faith.

A confirmation service is always taken by a Bishop and often includes 'candidates' from several churches. You can be confirmed at any age, as long as your supporting Minister has spent some time with you first talking about the basics of Christianity and your faith. Our next local confirmation service is at the Cathedral on Easter Saturday (31st March) at 6pm so if you'd like to join others in thinking more about this next step on your journey of faith do please let Adrian know as soon as you can (0116 270 4268 adrian.jones@zoho.com).

TEA & TALK Tasting Faith: Islam at St Guthlac's

What an interesting evening we had on Tuesday 30 January! Sumaiya Mulla and Laura Johnson from St Philip's Centre brought us a Taste of Faith: Islam, an evening in which we learned more of Sumaiya's personal journey of faith and were able to taste a variety of delicious foods, mainly from the Middle East. Sumaiya talked informally, without any notes, about the effect 9/11 had on her and her friends at college – how suddenly all Muslims seemed to be under suspicion and made to feel they were not wanted, even though they and their families had lived in Leicester for many years. Very bravely, these college students organised debates to raise and explore some very difficult subjects, and went on the radio to communicate with as many people as possible. This led to Sumaiya wanting to explore her own faith in more depth. She had been born into the faith, but felt she knew too little about it to defend herself and other Muslims against the accusations of terrorism and other extreme views. So began her own personal journey of discovery, and to working with St Philip's Centre to share her faith with others.

Her inspirational words revealed how much we have in common, as Christians, with Islam. Our holy books share many of the same stories, and Jesus is revered by Muslims as a holy prophet, although not the final messenger of God. We heard just how important prayer is, and how intensely physical it is – Muslims prepare for prayer times by washing thoroughly as well as meditating, and they literally prostrate themselves before God. The meaning and significance of the month of fasting, Ramadan, ending with the joyful feasting of Eid brought home the importance of practical charity – entering into the experience of those who have little to eat encouraging giving of time as well as money to good causes – as well as the centrality of family life.

The evening ended with our shared meal and much 'Talk and Tea' as Sumaiya answered our many questions and we talked to each other about our own faith journeys and how differences in belief should not lead to conflict.

Our next 'Tea and Talk' will be on **Tuesday 27 Feb**, when the film **'Housewife 49'** (Cert PG, 92 mins) will be shown and the wonderful much-missed Victoria Wood gives her excellent insight into the lives of 'ordinary' women after WWII. Free and open to all – including men!! Margaret Bonney

SLCP LENT GROUPS are being held on **Thursday's 7.30pm** - at Christchurch. The course is called 'The Art of the Possible'; at a time when a lot of people say they are turned off by politics, many in our churches say they are concerned about what is going on in the world. What does politics mean for our faith - and what should faith mean for our politics? Please join us for a course that will be both thought provoking and enjoyable. Annette Brindle

22 February: Where is the justice?

1 March: Change-makers

8 March: Church and state

15 March: Parliament

22 March: Politics of the here and now

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

WOMEN'S WORLD OF PRAYER is on Friday 2nd March, 2pm at Christchurch, Clarendon Park Road and 7 30pm Clarendon Park Congregational Church, London Road/Springfield Road.

MESSY CHURCH Friday 2nd March 3.30-5.45pm at Stoneygate Baptist Church
Theme: All God's Creation is Very Good. Craft activities, worship and delicious food (with veggie option), especially for primary age children and their parents/carers. Free (donations welcome to help cover costs). Tell us you're coming if you can. We need to know of any special dietary needs (contact Jane on 0116-2129568). All welcome. Next Messy Church: 27th April 2018.

MEMORY CAFÉ ST GUTHLAC'S This informal cafe is for people, living at home, with dementia and memory loss with their families/carers and is supported by the Alzheimer's Society. The next session is on **9th March 1.30-3.00pm**, seated exercise and laughter. For further information please call Nita Devabhai 231 6926

KNIGHTON PLAYERS will be performing Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat on **Friday 16th March 7.30pm and Saturday 17th March 2.30pm and & 7.30pm** in the Parish Centre. Tickets (adults £7, children £5) are available from Jane Wright (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, Tanya Willis or Bernard Stone. Thank you

BISHOP MARTYN'S SCHOOL OF PRAYER 2018

All Christians know that prayer is a vitally important aspect of discipleship, and that is both a discipline and a joy. In prayer we open ourselves to God, and are drawn into relationship with Him, into peace and joy. But despite knowing all that, prayer sometimes seems difficult.

Bishop Martyn will be leading a School of Prayer at Launde Abbey, from **9th-13th May**, with worship, teaching, conversation, and workshops around the themes of Prayer and Scripture, Prayer and Silence, and Prayer and Social Action. He will be assisted by a team that includes David Newman (Warden, Launde Abbey), Helen Newman (Chaplain, Launde Abbey), Chris Webb (Spirituality Advisor to the Diocese and author), as well as a resident artist and a resident musician.

Bishop Martyn, who describes prayer as 'a foretaste of heaven' says: "I hope this School of Prayer will help people grow and develop in their own prayer lives. This is an open invitation for anyone at all, whether you're experienced in prayer or feel yourself to be a complete novice: come and join us."

Although anyone can book for all five days and stay residentially at Launde, we are hoping to organise a group of day visitors from St Mary's and St Guthlac's to attend together, probably on **Thursday 10th May**. The cost of £37.50 includes coffee, lunch and tea, but if this feels beyond your pocket then please do mention this to me. As we'll need to book well in advance, please let me know if you'd like to come as part of our group by Sunday 25th February. I'll collect money closer to the time. Adrian Jones (0116 270 4268, adrian.jones@zoho.com)