

ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



Parish Church of St Guthlac
Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

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

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Sunday 7 June 2020 Trinity Sunday

A prayer for the Coronavirus outbreak

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy,
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.

How do we live as the Church now? Can the Bible help us?

I've been wondering a lot recently about what the church is here for and what we should be doing. I don't mean the building of course, but the people – the gathered community of people who share a Christian faith and who live in a particular place.

My wondering has obviously been prompted by the fact that we can't use our buildings and we can't even meet – what then is church actually all about?! I'm not alone in going back to the very first churches for some help.

Last week we celebrated Pentecost – the day when the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples in power and forged the first church from a disparate and varied band of men and women, of all nationalities, languages, social classes and ethnic backgrounds. This first group of Christians met in Jerusalem, in their own houses – the Book of Acts tells us that 3000 were added to their number on that day, so they must have quickly sorted themselves into smaller groups as well as meeting in public places that were large enough for them all. The end of Acts chapter 2 then outlines exactly what they then did:

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

The Apostle Luke, who wrote Acts, gives us a picture of a community drawn together to share all aspects of life. They are committed to each other directly because they have chosen to follow the way of Jesus. They have faith in what God has done

for us through Jesus, and they have a new and different way of living that reflects that faith. Their life together has been described as the practice of ten 'Holy Habits'.

In the coming weeks I'm going to continue my 'wondering' about what the church is here for and what we should be doing, and I'm going to use Luke's description of these Holy Habits to help me. It will be some considerable time before we are free from the restraints imposed on us by the pandemic, but in the meantime we might find some hope and vision for the future shape of the church by looking back to these first Christians.

God is in the rescue and repair business, and out of this strange year he will surely craft a good future for us all together, so that once more we'll be able to say *"You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence."* (Acts 2. 28, after Psalm 16.11)

Keep safe and stay well.

Adrian

FOR YOUR PRAYERS Please remember those whom we have been asked to keep in our prayers. Please remember those who have died recently and keep their family and friends in your prayers. For other prayer requests, please contact a churchwarden.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN MALAWI. Please continue to prayer for our sisters and brothers in Northern Malawi and across the world as the nations of the world deal with the pandemic. Let us pray that the remoteness of many of these rural communities will provide an effective shield to the spread of the disease in areas where medical facilities would struggle to cope.

PRAYERS FOR HEALTH CARE WORKERS Please pray for all our local doctors, nurses, care workers and support staff, especially **Amy and Dan Barnes** and **Katherine Swanson**.

VERONICA SMALL

It is with sad news to report that Veronica Small died June 2nd peacefully at home with her family. Veronica had been ill and discharged recently from hospital. Details about a future memorial service will be published in due course.

UPDATE on the lockdown restrictions for churches

Our lockdown restrictions continue to change gradually — but there are no changes for churches yet. The Vicar and authorised others (such as construction and maintenance engineers) can enter the building for essential tasks, but only with all the appropriate precautions. Sadly there are no immediate plans to allow the people of the church to gather, and these restrictions apply to all public worship so we cannot meet *outside* either.

Weddings and funerals still cannot take place in church, although funerals continue in crematoria and at the graveside, albeit with social distancing and no singing. When church buildings are re-opened again it is likely that this will happen in gradual, small steps. Small weddings might be first, alongside the opportunity for personal prayer. However, in order to keep the risk of virus transmission as low as possible, we would need to provide sanitiser for all and undertake to clean the church after each opening.

When congregational worship does resume we will still need to maintain social distancing, refrain from singing and from using paper or books, take a register of all present, guarantee hand cleaning on arrival and departure, and deep clean the building afterwards. This means that we may need several services,

each with a small number of people present. It is hard to see when we might celebrate the Eucharist together again.

The Pre-School group (Your Cherubs) has started to meet in the Parish Centre once more, but with all the precautions you would now expect.

All of this means it is more important than ever to sustain our faith with an individual pattern of prayer and Bible reading, as well as to maintain contact with others of the church family. Previous newsletters have included some tips on doing this, but if you've missed them please do let me know. *Adrian*

BBC1 Sunday Worship 10.45am For the order of service:
www.bbc.co.uk/orderofservice

BBC Radio 4 Sunday Worship 8.10am

BBC Radio 4 Daily Service each weekday 9.45am on long wave only

Catch up available for all these on BBC iPlayer or Sounds app.



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

0800 804 8044

Are you in need of some daily hope during this lockdown?

We have a new FREE telephone line for you to ring to hear comforting hymns, daily prayers and reflections.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND  faith in every life **CONNECTIONS**

Don't forget to visit the St. Guthlac's Facebook page and website <http://www.stguthlac-knighton.co.uk/>

'Church is Changing' on the home page includes copies of reflections and links to the You Tube recordings of virtual services. Newsletters can found on the news page.

Virtual Sunday Service for the Knighton Benefice. Please look out for the email giving the link to this week's Sunday Service which will be available on YouTube from Sunday.

Virtual Compline/ Night Prayer at 8pm on a Wednesday. It has proven a meaningful way to have fellowship and prayer together as well as being quite good fun, especially as we find our feet with the technology and more people join us each week. You can join by just **phoning up** and inputting the code **or** using **'Zoom'** online. It has been democratic with several voices joining in with a line of liturgy each. If you would like to participate with a speaking part, please do contact Matthew by 4pm each Wednesday (revgough@gmail.com).

For Phone only: telephone this number **0131 460 1196**
When promoted input Meeting ID: **746 767 4408**

For internet using Zoom:

Join Zoom Meeting <https://leccofe.zoom.us/j/7467674408>
Input Meeting ID: 746 767 4408

Thank you for caring at home and in our community” : this is the message of appreciation that, as St Mary's and St Guthlac's, we want to send loud and clear to the staff of our local care homes and to all those carers who have been supporting clients, friends and relatives in their own homes during the pandemic. We are particularly conscious that we have at least nine care homes in our benefice, and that the staff will have been under extraordinary strain and pressure over the last two months—often, it seems, unappreciated by those who make key decisions, and perhaps also by ourselves, until now. To express our appreciation to these care home workers we are aiming to give a gift to as many as possible—probably a gift token to be redeemed when times are easier and leisure seems

possible again. We have a generous grant from our Ward Councillors to start things off, but if each gift is really to convey true appreciation then we want to add to it substantially through our own generosity.

Please do make a contribution to our Carers Fund to show your appreciation. We are collecting money through the St Guthlac's bank account, so please make a cheque payable to 'St Guthlacs PCC' (no cash please) . Alternatively you can pay by Direct Transfer:

Sort code 20-49-08 account 53861341 Reference "Carers"
You can send a donation by post or drop your envelope through the door of 62 Elms Road (Matthew), 5 Church Lane (Adrian) or the St Mary's Parish Centre, Church Lane (but not at St Guthlac's Church please!).

Thank *you*, in anticipation, for helping us thank our care staff.
Adrian

Fundraising Update Thanks to people's generosity so far. With the Council ward funding of £500 we now have a total of £1200 to say thank-you to the local carers.

Collect & Readings for Trinity Sunday

The Collect

Almighty and everlasting God,
you have given us your servants grace,
by the confession of a true faith,
to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity
and in the power of the divine majesty to worship the Unity:
keep us steadfast in this faith,
that we may evermore be defended from all adversities;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen

2 Corinthians 13.11-13

¹¹Brothers and sisters, put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. ¹²Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. ¹³The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 28.16-20

¹⁶The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

REFLECTION: It's all to do with relational love!

Being a biblical scholar, my fascination with the Doctrine of the Trinity finds its place in how the more specific and developed formulas of the Trinity, for example, Matthew 28:19, (one of at least half a dozen such formulae) find their way into the New Testament, given that the doctrine itself is a later development in early Christian history than the likely dates of these New Testament examples.

Having got that sorted then (not!) what I want us to think about is not that, nor the complexities of the doctrine itself, but simply that at its most basic level, the persons of the Trinity are perfect in relationship. The Creation itself has been described as the result of an overflowing of 'a cauldron of love' , the perfect love

being that between the persons of the Trinity... Father, Logos, and Spirit. Creation happened out of self giving love in order to love.

This 'agape' in Greek, this self giving, sacrificial love for God and for others is at the very heart of our faith and how we 'are' as Christians in today's world. The present times do demand of us at least to think about what 'relationship' is and means when the 'face to face' is either almost constant or on the other hand, very much at a distance.

How does self-giving love find its expression in a mode of this 'imposed being' we have never come across before? How does our own mini cauldron 'overflow'? How will that affect similar overflows as we move through the gears to a freer being and a new 'normal'?

May the perfect and creative love of God the Holy Trinity inspire and guide us as we move forward.

SAF

Trinity Sunday Revd Janet Gasper

On Trinity Sunday the church celebrates the mystery of God. Other festivals in the church's year recall events on which our faith is founded. On Trinity Sunday we enfold ourselves in God whose essence is that of a threefold unity of persons – three persons bound in a unity of love.

The Trinity describes our experience of God: three in oneness is something we can all relate to in nature and in daily life as we see in this traditional Irish poem:

‘Three folds of cloth yet one napkin is there.

Three joints of the finger but only one finger fair.

Three leaves of the shamrock yet no more than one shamrock to wear.

Frost, snowflakes, ice all in water their origin share.

Three persons in God, to one God alone we make prayer.’

We are also familiar with Trinitarian language – before the beginning of a sermon the preacher may say that he/she speaks “In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”. Many of us are familiar with a prayer known as The Grace, words from 2 Corinthians, 13, “The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all”. There is often a Trinitarian blessing at the end of a service and we baptize: “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit”, as described in today’s Gospel reading from Matthew 28: 19. We receive all this as part of our worship, part of our prayer.

The oneness of God is constant, timeless. The threeness reflects our experience of God. Sometimes when we are out in the countryside or when we are thinking about the world of nature and the infinite possibilities of plant and animal life or of the human body, then we know God as Creator-Father. At other times, our experience of God is focused on Jesus. We see his love and forgiveness, read about his life and teaching in the Gospels. We see Jesus like a window into God – healing, teaching, loving everyone in the world and we know God as Saviour-Son. Most of us sometimes feel God at work deep within ourselves or within a particular situation, guiding, strengthening – often at times of loss and crisis, where somehow we have drawn on resources and inner strength which came from God – sustainer - Holy Spirit. Perhaps this has been especially true during the Covid crisis which we continue to face.

So this Trinity Sunday let us be aware of all we have experienced of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit and let us not forget that when we talk about God we are on Holy Ground, we tread on the edge of Eternity. In speaking of God as Christians, we see that in Jesus Christ God is revealed and we become involved with God through the Spirit which is everywhere

enabling us to respond to all revelations of truth, the life giving spirit who moves us to move the world.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, three in one, the Holy Trinity bound in one eternity of love. Amen.

KNIGHTON BENEFICE ONLINE QUIZ

Thursday June 11, 7.30pm

You will need to log in via Zoom to fully participate or phone in to just join in the conversation. Zoom meeting ID and phone number below.

To provide your answers you will need a smartphone or second screen (or split screen) alongside your main computer, lap top or tablet. The Quiz is provided by Kahoot which is very simple to log onto (www.kahoot.it) and Matthew will give instructions at the start of the evening. Why not come along as a household & pit your wits against fellow church members? General Knowledge, Knighton specialism, history, politics, music sport, etc. Be great to see you and don't worry about the technology - it adds to the entertainment value! Join via details below and contact Matthew for more details revgough@gmail.com, 07754961997

Topic: Benefice Lockdown Quiz 2020

Time: Jun 11, 2020 07:30 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://leccofe.zoom.us/j/7467674408>

Meeting ID: 746 767 4408

Or phone-(same meeting ID)

0131 460 1196 United Kingdom

BENEFICE MAGAZINE—MAY EDITION : If you haven't received your copy of the magazine, either by email or post, and can't see it on our Church website, then do please let me know and I'll make sure it gets through. Adrian

GREETINGS & GOOD WISHES come to us all from **Gill and Derek Atkinson**, who are both well and thinking of us back in Knighton. They enjoy our Virtual Worship on the church website.

ACCOMMODATION WANTED Hilary is an ordained C of E minister but currently without a parish. She is urgently looking to rent or buy a two bedroom house in this part of the city. If you know of anything that might be suitable please get in touch with Adrian.

Ride+Stride 2020

For this year's Ride+Stride the coronavirus situation is being monitored carefully. Normally at this time of year, registration forms would have been sent out but registration is postponed until the situation becomes clearer.

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