

ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



Parish Church of St Guthlac
Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

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



Sunday 6 September 2020

Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

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.

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.

PRAYERS FOR BEIRUT Please remember in your prayers the people of Beirut and all Aid Workers and Charities working in the capital and throughout Lebanon.

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**.

MALAWI In your prayers, please take time to remember the people of South America, the Middle East and Africa as cases of Covid-19 start to soar in all three areas. Thank you. *Fiona*

RE-OPENING OUR CHURCH BUILDING

It's good to be back in our building. Today we have re-opened the church for worship for the first time since March, and it's a very welcome step. I know that the special requirements will make church feel unusual and may indeed put you off, but please remember that God himself is not shaped by our circumstances! The world is an imperfect place and we are imperfect people but we can worship God in all situations and he is pleased when we do. This is our first step on the road towards a 'normal' worshipping life together and it is right and good to feel some joy as well as a healthy awareness of all that we have to do to be safe. Adrian

ST GUTHLAC'S OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

St Guthlac's will be open for private prayer on **Sunday 6th and 13th September 10.30-11.30 am**. You can come at any time in this period. It will be wonderful to welcome people who want to spend some time in the church. This is a time of quiet prayer with God. There will be no one leading a service.

To do this safely we have carried out a risk assessment to ensure that we keep to the rules and guidance from the government and Church of England. Sadly, this means there are lots of rules. Mainly about things you can't do!

We have cleared away all hymn books and other documents and removed most of the chairs. We can accommodate 25 individuals, or household groups at a time, socially distanced in the main body of the church. There will be no toilets available.



- You must wear a mask.
- You will be asked to give your contact details by the Steward. The Steward only will write these down. These details will only be shared in the unlikely event that anyone develops symptoms. This is to protect everyone.
- You will be given a prayer card which you might find useful. Please leave this on the chair you use to show that no one else should use this chair during whole Prayer Period. This is to stop transmission of the virus from one person to another.
- Please do not pray out loud and there must be no singing!
- If more people than 25 come at any one time, you will be asked to queue outside (socially distanced). In this case we ask that everyone stays for a short time only to allow others to take their place.

There is no pressure to come or not to come. Whether you come or not please pray for everyone in our congregation and the wider community, as we make this important start in opening the church.

NEWS OF MATTHEW'S ORDINATIONS AS A PRIEST

At last we have details of how Matthew, our curate, will be ordained priest! The service will be on the afternoon of Sunday 13th September at the Cathedral – I will be there to pray with Matthew and welcome him on everyone else's behalf into his new and expanded ordained role, but sadly because of the pandemic restrictions it is not possible to have members of our local congregations present to support him as we would have hoped.

We will be getting a special gift for Matthew to mark his ordination and if you would like to contribute then do please send a cheque (not cash please) payable to 'St Guthlacs PCC' . Alternatively you can pay by Direct Transfer: sort code 20-49-08, account 53861341, reference "Matthew's Ordination".

You can send a donation by post or drop your envelope through the door of 5 Church Lane, LE2 3WG (Adrian) or the St Mary's Parish Centre, Church Lane (but not at St Guthlac's Church please!). Thank you.

Matthew will preside at his first service of Holy Communion at St Mary Magdalen on Wednesday 16th September, at 7.30pm (more details to come).

Adrian

Collect & Readings for the Thirteenth Sunday of Trinity

The Collect

Almighty God,
who called your Church to bear witness
that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself:
help us to proclaim the good news of your love,
that all who hear it may be drawn to you;
through him who was lifted up on the cross,
and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen

Romans 13:8-14

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet'; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'

¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; ¹³let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Matthew 18:15-20

Jesus spoke to his disciples.¹⁵‘If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.’

A Reflection on today's reading, Romans 12: 9-21

Revd Adrian Jones

A few days ago our son has started a new school – I'm glad to say that it's all going well, but there are challenges too of course; a different layout, new rules, fresh expectations, and then social distancing and 'bubbles' as well. No surprise that he's missing the familiar ways and safe routines of the old school.

We all have that tendency don't we? It's very tempting to look back with rose-tinted spectacles and yearn for things as they used to be. Perhaps a better way would be to resolve to let the past teach us and shape us, but not to hold onto it so tightly that we can't grasp the new things God wants to give us.

Over the last 10 weeks or so I've been writing a series of reflections for the newsletter called 'Holy Habits', looking back in the Bible to the first church, as it's described in the Book of Acts. I've been using Acts to help us identify the key characteristics of what it means to *be* the church in every generation... the people of God, living in and serving the world, sharing the story of all he has done, and following the way of Jesus. But I know that I mustn't idealise the past - that backwards look has to run alongside an openness to God's future too.

Sam Wells, who is the Vicar of St Martin in the Fields, in Trafalgar Square, has written this:

"People talk as if Jesus and the early church lived an eternity ago and set everything in stone. But what if Jesus still lives today and the church still has thousands or millions of years ahead of it? Perhaps we are the early church, still haggling over the details, and rightly so."

He's right of course - the church is not set in stone.... and we know sometimes change is forced upon us!

But God's good purpose for us remains constant. Through faith in Jesus Christ he wants us to live lives of active, practical, loving kindness to others. We read this in Romans 12 today: "Share with those in need show hospitality rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn... live in harmony.... do what is right be at peace.... feed your hungry enemy... overcome evil with good." All commands that are very practical and active aspects of love for others.

While the way we 'do church' is changing, and the way of *being* the church is changing, God's goodness remains constant however. Therefore the way we *do life*, our way of being a Christian, should remain constant as well.

As Romans shows us, it's simply the way of Jesus. It's the way of love, whatever the circumstances and whatever shape the church has to take. This is our calling amidst the uncertainties and changes of the pandemic world – a calling to love in action. Amen.

'Brush it under the carpet...'
Revd Canon Dr Stephen Foster

Today's Gospel is set within a whole chapter where Matthew goes to great lengths to emphasise the need for Christians to live in harmony.

Matthew 18:15-20 is bracketed by parables and teachings concerning forgiveness...vv10-14 relates the Parable of the Lost Sheep...vv21-22 emphasises that requirement for forgiveness is beyond calculation.

The Church in Matthew's day was being persecuted from the outside and suffering serious growing pains from within... note the themes of Paul's letters to get a real taste of the latter.

So, how disagreements between the theologically intimate relationships of Christian 'brothers and sisters' are handled became very important for the Church's image and potential growth. Conflicts were bound to occur, which, though often between individuals, affected the whole body of the Church... and no doubt got to be known outside the body too!

In Matthew's method for dealing with conflict, he keeps it internal, within the ecclesia. And, although the concern for the individual is important, the welfare of the whole is paramount.

(To myself, this feels in direct contrast to the values of today's society, where the rights of the individual seem to be seen as much more important than a shared responsibility for each other.)

So, far from 'brushing stuff under the carpet', Matthew offers a method where reconciliation is the ultimate goal, although sadly, when the method fails, the good of the whole is again the priority.

There are not many, if any, clergy who have not had to face up to disputes with individuals or groups from within the whole ecclesia. In my ordained ministry, now of some 42 years, there have been occasions when 'taking the bull by the horns' with a view to reconciliation and wholeness being restored had to be faced.

A methodology similar to Matthew's was employed.

Often, and much better than letting a situation remain unresolved and therefore often fester, an honest and open meeting where personal pride and power is left at the door, brought about healing and wholeness.

But of course, not always. Sometimes, there was no mutuality to be had, and folk withdrew from the whole local ecclesia and perhaps went to Church somewhere else. When that happens, it is always, but always painful, and sometimes unavoidable.

The challenge is to ensure that whatever the outcome, it is for the good of the whole body.

Sometimes, we get it right and sometimes for a multitude of reasons, we don't. Mea culpa!

WORSHIP INFORMATION

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 the BBC Sounds app.

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.

You can join by just **phoning up** and inputting the code **or** using **'Zoom'** online. If you would like to participate with a speaking part, please do contact Matthew by 4pm each Wednesday (revgough@gmail.com).



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 Gift to your life **CONNECTIONS**

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

Don't forget to visit the St. Guthlac's Facebook page and website

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

Whilst work is being carried out on the webserver it may be necessary to access the website via

<http://82.22.25.16/StGuthlac/>

CONTACT DETAILS

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

RIDE AND STRIDE 2020: This annual event organised by the Leicestershire Historic Churches Trust to raise funds to preserve churches in our county is going ahead on **Saturday 12 September** between 10am and 6pm. There are a few changes this year but the format remains the same where we're encouraged to visit participating churches and through sponsorship and donations raise funds for the trust. It may not be possible for Welcomers to welcome at all churches this year and refreshments will not be offered, but those churches and chapels that have signed up to participate in Ride+Stride 2020 can be found on the trust's website (<https://www.lhct.org.uk/ride-and-stride/>)

Riders and striders may be able to find a cold tap to fill up a water bottle and also toilet facilities at some churches along your chosen route but again not all churches will be physically open. All participants must carry their own pen and hand sanitiser to sign in at each church or chapel on the day. Remember to take a face covering /mask with you to wear when you enter a church or chapel. As refreshments are not going to be served at the churches please ensure you take food and drink with you.

I would encourage you, if you feel able to take part even if only to visit your local church. Even though this year might be a very different from other years, I suggest it remains important to support the work of the trust. Visit their website for details of how the funds raised through Ride and Stride support churches and their communities across the county. I hope to have the sponsorship forms in the next few weeks. If you'd like a form please let me know. Fiona.

LEICESTER CITY OF SANCTUARY

St Guthlac's has supported *Leicester City of Sanctuary* over several years. Its mission is to welcome asylum seekers and refugees in and around Leicester, and support them to rebuild their lives, develop their skills and feel part of the community. St Guthlac's would like to support their autumn fund-raising campaign where every gift is matched £ for £.

Leicester City of Sanctuary have continued to be active throughout Lockdown including:

- Giving £1500 in emergency payments to people in need
- Providing over 100 online English as a Second Language classes in conjunction with University of Leicester
- Providing fresh vegetables from a local allotment run by an asylum seeker;
- Handing out toiletry packs; books, art materials and seeds
- Helping people find food banks
- Providing 15 WhatsApp exercise sessions
- Giving over 60 hours of individual help and support

Can you help them continue this good work?

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 "COS" You can send a donation by post or drop your envelope through the door of 62 Elms Road (Matthew) but not at St Guthlac's Church please!

If you would like further information Shali Bullough, Coordinator, would love to hear from you. Email: shali@leicester.cityofsanctuary.org or you can check out their website on www.Leicester.cityofsanctuary.org

LETTER FROM BEIRUT

[Some of you will know that my youngest daughter, Christine, has been living and working in Beirut over the last year. She came home on leave during July, and shortly after her arrival in Leicester, there was a tremendous explosion in Beirut. She returned to the city last Tuesday, and this is her account of life there. *Margaret Bonney*]

Returning to Beirut this week, at first it is hard to see the real effects of what has happened here. A huge explosion on 4th August razed much of the port and surrounding area, killing around 180 people, injuring 6500 and damaging an estimated 200,000 homes and 15,000 businesses. The explosion was felt as far as Cyprus and was reportedly the equivalent of a 3.3 magnitude earthquake. Friends and colleagues described how, within seconds, the city was transformed into a warzone. The cause and details of the explosion are still unknown and it is widely accepted that they will always remain so. Many people feared the explosion was the start of an aerial attack (in fact many said they heard a warplane immediately before the explosion) and the psychological effects of this have persisted.

After the explosion came an outpouring of support from Lebanese people across the country. In typical Lebanese style, strangers helped each other out. People came from across the country to Beirut in order to sweep glass from the streets, survey the damage and help people to rebuild their homes, taking risks in order to do so as the side effects of the blast were still unknown. What was most clear, and shocking, was the lack of coordinated government response.

Almost a month later, because of the work of ordinary people, grass-roots movements and NGOs, much of the damage is no longer visible at first glance. When looking closer, glass fragments still litter the streets and most buildings have lost

some or all of their glass windows. Signs have fallen down, roofs have caved in. In areas closer to the port the destruction is much more severe and buildings do not exist in the same way as before.

The impact of what has happened in Beirut, and in Lebanon, is much deeper. Aside from the pain of losing loved ones, lost buildings and culture, the lack of information about the incident and lack of accountability is also very scarring. The explosion compounded an economic collapse and political upheaval that already drastically increased poverty levels.

The Lebanese, descendants of the 'Phoenicians', often associate this word with the Phoenix. Like the phoenix, they 'rise from the ashes' and adapt despite the myriad difficulties they have faced. Now, many are saying they do not want to be the phoenix anymore, they cannot recover from yet another tragedy this big.

The huge explosion caught the attention of the world media and many people were moved to help and donate to Lebanon. As the attention fades and Lebanon has to adapt to a new reality, help is needed more than ever. If you are moved to help, I recommend the following:

Donate to local groups and fundraisers: (please note I am not associated with any of these but I have heard they are doing good work on the ground)

- <https://www.givingloop.org/offrejoie>
- <https://livelove.org/donate>
- <https://www.beitelbaraka.org/>

Give to the Lebanese Red Cross, who are vital in providing emergency health services as well as the ongoing COVID-19 response in Lebanon.

https://donate.redcross.org.uk/appeal/beirut-emergency-appeal?c_code=170460&c_source=google&c_name=Beirut%20Emergency%20Appeal&adg=&c_creative=brand&c_medium=cpc&gclid=Cj0KCQjwv7L6BRDxARIsAGj-34rfW-Q9ygdVT5gHsoCwh4pFSyHbnxUc5L5QGCO2IoP_KdsCAgVu8slaAqbMEALw_wcB

Donate to the organisation I work for, Jesuit Refugee Service, who will be distributing aid and providing psychological support to families in one of the areas most affected by the blast.

<https://jrs.net/en/donate-beirut/>

Thank you!!!

Christine Bonney

Regional Advocacy and Protection Officer

Tel: +961 1 332 601 | Skype for Business: christine.bonney@jrs.net

Jesuit Refugee Service | MENA Regional Office

Beirut, Lebanon.

PLANNED GIVING SCHEME

Regular giving is an integral part of our church life supporting our day to day costs, ministry and mission. A good way to achieve this is through a weekly envelope or a monthly bank standing order as part of our Planned Giving Scheme. Scheme details can be obtained from David Hunt. If you are a taxpayer and gift aid your giving, our church can claim an additional 25%.

During the current Coronavirus pandemic please put aside your weekly offerings ready to bring to church when things return to something like normal. The costs of the church are largely unchanged even though we cannot meet, so your regular giving is extremely important to our collective 'health' and the mission of God here.

"Images of Knighton"

Entries Wanted
for
2021 Calendar
Competition



Have you got a photographic eye, or can you paint, draw, create (any medium) an image of Knighton?

Adult and under 18s categories

The panel of judges is made up of a local councillor, artists, photographer & Vicar

Free calendars to successful entrants

Please send high quality original jpeg images by -

Monday 14th September

to spireappeal@gmail.com

Queries to Rev. Gough-07754961997



St Mary's Knighton Spire Appeal