

ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



Parish Church of St Guthlac
Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

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



Sunday 20 September 2020
Fifteenth 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*

MORNING PRAYER SERVICE & BOOKING SYSTEM

Sunday 20th September 10:30am

We are delighted that St Guthlac's will be open for Morning Prayer this Sunday 20th September at 10.30.

In order to maintain social distancing, we have to limit the number of people who can attend each service; our current calculation is that we can seat 21 individuals, small households or 'bubbles' safely at any one time. This is sadly very limiting. Consequently, we need to use a booking system.

If you would like to attend, you need to contact Tina to book a place. tina.jarvis@btinternet.com

THE MORNING PRAYER SERVICE

Before the service

- Please arrive by 10.25 to allow time to direct you to your seat.
- When you arrive, you may have to queue for a while - please maintain a distance of 2m from others.
- Please wear a face covering as you queue and all the time you are in the church - we have some extras for those who cannot obtain their own.
- You will be welcomed and asked to sanitise your hands.
- The steward will ask you to give or check your contact details. 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 directed to a seat. Please sit only in this place as we need to maintain distances and reduce movement.
- Please note there are no toilets available.

The service

- You will find a service sheet and a book (OCOFOL) with the day's readings and prayers on your chair.
- A member of the Benefice Team will lead the service.
- The choir is still not able to lead us in worship and we can't sing any hymns. We are working on providing recorded music to help us praise God and reflect on what we are doing together. However, this may not be available on 20th September.

After the service

- Leave your service sheet and book on your chair
- Please keep your distance from others as you leave and do not linger in the building - sadly we can't offer refreshments.
- If you wish to leave a donation, please put it in the small box provided.
- You will be asked to sanitise your hands as you leave.

When we have all gone, the church building will remain unused for 72 hours to eliminate any virus.

If you should feel unwell with any of the symptoms of coronavirus in the two weeks following the service, as well as

seeking medical advice, please leave a message with Adrian or Matthew.

No doubt, over time, even these restrictions will begin to feel 'normal.' Please don't feel too put off by these necessary precautions – throughout history Christians have found themselves worshipping in many dangerous and unusual circumstances, making do with what they have and still praising God, as is our duty, calling and privilege.

NOMINATIONS FOR 2020 AGM

We are starting to plan for the AGM which was cancelled in April. Elections will take place for 2 churchwardens, 3 PCC members and 2 Deanery Synod representatives. If you would like to stand for any of these vacancies, or would like to find out more, please let me know. Thank you. **Lesley Meakin**

ELECTORAL ROLL.

If you are not currently on the electoral roll and would like to be entered on it, please contact Jane Wright administrator@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk for a form. Please see the 'Notice of Revision' on our website or the external church noticeboard for eligibility. Completed forms must be returned to Jane by 3rd October if you wish to be entitled to vote at the APCM. Thank you.

DIARY DATE: ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

This will take place on Sunday 18th October immediately after the morning service. More details will follow soon.

Collect & Readings for the Fifteenth Sunday of Trinity

The Collect

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit
upon your Church in the burning fire of your love:
grant that your people may be fervent
in the fellowship of the gospel
that, always abiding in you,
they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service;
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

Philippians 1.21-30

²¹For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

²⁷Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹For he has graciously granted you the

privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well – ³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Matthew 20.1-16

Jesus said to his disciples: ¹“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; ⁴and he said to them, “You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.” So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, “Why are you standing here idle all day?” ⁷They said to him, “Because no one has hired us.” He said to them, “You also go into the vineyard.” ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, “Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.” ⁹When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, “These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.” ¹³But he replied to one of them, “Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?” ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.’

A Reflection on Matthew 20

Revd Adrian Jones

Christopher Smart was an Englishman born in 1722, a poet with a mixed reputation and a troubled personal life. "*The Parables of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ Done into Familiar Verse*" was published in 1768.

Smart ends *Parable Ten*, '*The Lord of the Vineyard and the Labourers*', with these lines:

*According to the Lord's intent
By this same penny here is meant,
The crown of him that wins the race;
The time of day's the time of grace.*

*Some from their infancy begin
To cleave to Christ, and flee from sin,
As Samuel walk'd to God well known
As soon as he could walk alone.*

*Some must be strengthen'd ere they thrive
In Christ, and ev'n their prime survive.*

*Some are religious not before
Their knees are weak, and heads are hoar.*

*And others on a sick-bed lie,
And there first call on Christ, and die.*

*God's property is mercy still,
And he can grant it when he will.*

*He knows man's talent, and his pow'r.
Some lab'ers earn more in an hour
Than others in a tedious space,
And frustrate love and thwarted grace
Thro' Christ the final doom may stave,
And rise fructif'rous from the grave.*

Smart's own troubled life and the ebb and flow of faith throughout it, have clearly shaped his understanding of the parable. We might want to re-work some of his approach, but he does leave us with some penetrating reflections.

He wants us to see that everyone has the opportunity to respond to God's call – and that in God's eyes we are all equally valued, whether we respond early in life (like Samuel), in midlife (our 'prime'), when older ('heads are hoar' like frost), or on our 'sick bed'.

'The time of day's the time of grace' – *today* is the day that God calls to us, whatever day it is. Respond we must, if we are to rise with Christ and be fruitful, both in our life here and now, and in the life to come.

Perhaps you feel much of your life to have been 'a *tedious space*' or your experience to have been marked by '*frustrate love and thwarted grace*' – Jesus tells us in this parable that, through God's mercy and kindness, it is never too late to redeem the past. Have *you* yet responded to God's call with your own clear '*yes Lord!*' of commitment? Today is the day of God's grace.

'O Lord my God, I believe in you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit... enable me to remember you, to understand you, and to love you. Amen.' (St Augustine)

The Last shall be first...

Revd Canon Dr Stephen Foster

The parables of Jesus, in whatever their original form was, are thought to be the nearest we get to the actual words of Jesus, and so for scholars, they form quite an inquisitive touchstone.

Certainly, although the Parable set for this week has been redacted or changed from previous forms, there are a number of qualities which shine through as possibly 'original'. One of these is the Hebrew Mashal or 'spiritual riddle' at the end...'The last shall be first and the first shall be last'...a short pithy, often moral saying, of a type also found at the end of other parables of Jesus.

The Mashal here refers to the Kingdom of God to which all are invited no matter what their background, status, and worth in the eyes of others.

But, like the Parable of the Sower where we are asked to determine what kind of soil we are (at whatever time of our lives we are at, and in whatever situation we find ourselves,) here, in similar fashion, we are asked to determine which sort of labourer we think we are.

The parable revolves around the 10th Commandment and the subject of coveting... covet ing that which someone else has, or is, or has been granted by the grace of God.

In teaching Old Testament Biblical Studies at University, initially asking students to relate from memory the Ten Commandments, apart from getting similar New Testament commandments mixed up with the Old, the one they most often struggle to remember is 'coveting'... finding it hard enough to say, let alone understand!

We may think that this is one of the commandments we are not guilty of, or least guilty of when properly interpreted... but I wonder!?!

In clergy circles, there is a non too flattering phrase called 'clerical climbing' where it is recognised that some clergy are determined that they should be Bishops, and then they do all in their power to make sure their wish for preferment comes about. Strangely, in my view, why anyone would actually want to be a Bishop, I really don't know. Having had much to do with that particular Order over the years in one way or another, it is at best a double-edged sword and at worst a 'dog's life'.

But folk still covet that sort of 'station' in life and get very jealous and ill at ease when others who 'in all humility' are not as 'good' as they are, are preferred or promoted over them.

Beware, as such things can eat away at your very soul!

The parable suggests that our place in The Kingdom of God in the end is an equal one and for now, we need to be content with where God has placed us in the rich tapestry of his creation, and do our very best for Him 'there and then'.

This means that we shouldn't be constantly looking for the next move, and chafing over others who seem to have 'got on' whilst we ourselves have seemingly been overlooked.

Coveting and jealousy are similar bed fellows but both can be very dangerous to a healthy spiritual life.

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.

St. Mary's Online Services-NOW LIVE

Now we are returning to worship in person, we will be ceasing the recorded online services for now. However, mindful of those unable to attend worship, we would like you to attend online and from Sunday St. Mary's service can be accessed from 10am on the Mary Magdalen YOUTUBE channel. Please see this link. The service will be live at 10am but will stay on the channel for those who watch it later. (Also available to watch on the St Mary's Website)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ryrtNMrUv3U>

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).

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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Revd Aphro McCullough

Revd Janet Gasper

Reader: Fiona Wingate

Churchwardens:

David Hunt

Tina Jarvis

churchwardens@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk

Knighton Benefice Magazine: Nigel Siesage
stmaryknighton.magazine@gmail.com

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: The event took place this year although a bit different from previous years with many of the participating churches not physically opening but having a register outside. We were however, very blessed with the weather. St Guthlac's had six visitors despite the situation which is still a good number for our church. Simon and I managed to visit 23 churches, covering some 48 miles and noticed that there were still many people taking part to raise funds for the Leicestershire Historic Churches Trust. I just wanted to thank everyone for their support this year as ever. If anyone would still like to sponsor our efforts that would be wonderful as we have a little time before we have to submit the funds. Also half of everything we raise will come back to St Guthlac's. Many thanks. *Fiona*

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 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.

Typos from Church Newsletters

“The Senior Choir invites any member of the congregation who enjoys sinning to join the choir.”

“Applications are now being accepted for 2 year-old nursery workers.”

Thanks to Margaret for forwarding these from City of Leicester Singers. More to follow!



DailyHOPE
A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers

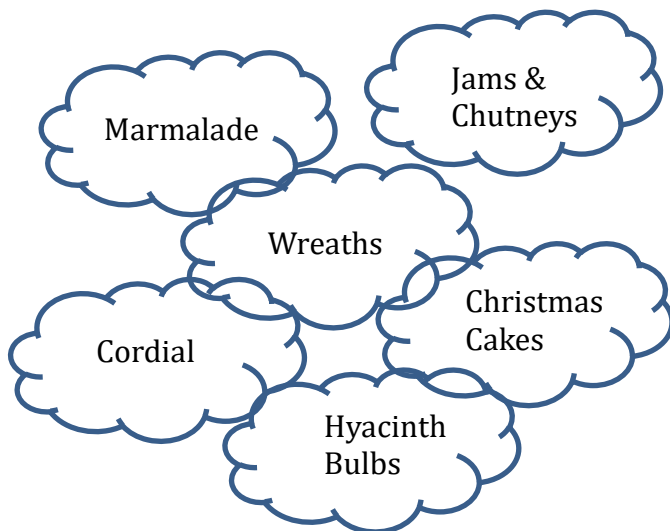
0800 804 8044

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 Church in your life **CONNECTIONS**

St Guthlac's Virtual Christmas Fayre Home-made Christmas Gifts



Although St Guthlac's won't be able to hold a Fayre this year, we are pleased to be able to offer some of our popular makes and bakes..... We are aiming to have a sale of home-made items that can be ordered in November. They can then be either collected or delivered early December. The items available will be long lasting and can be made Covid-safe.

If you can help with making jams, chutneys or Christmas wreaths please contact Tina. Thank you.
churchwardens@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk