

ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



Parish Church of St Guthlac
Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

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



Sunday 8 November 2020
Remembrance 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.

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 or member of the Ministry Team.

The funeral for Gil Parsons will be on Monday 9th November at Great Glen Crematorium. Gil held the churches of Knighton close to his heart. The hearse and funeral cars will therefore call briefly at St Mary's at noon on the 9th as they make their way to the funeral. You are welcome to join us outside for that moment if you would like to pay respects. Please keep to social distancing and wear a mask at all times. *Adrian*

Father Michael has had a fall at home, and has fractured several bones in his body. He's now transferred from the Royal to Nottingham, and Tom O'Connell (my informant) says 'Fr. Michael Moore is One of The Best. Lets All and Others get on Our Knees for Him. Orabis pro Nobis' (Pray for us); *Margaret*

PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD

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

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**.

Weekly Worship during the lockdown

During the new lockdown our church buildings must remain closed for worship together, but that doesn't mean that our worship must stop! As you can read elsewhere, our online Virtual Worship and Compline will continue through the lockdown. At St Guthlac's the PCC have decided that our responsibility to care for each other and to ensure safety during a time of rising infection, means our smaller space should not open for individual prayer. However, the larger space at St Mary's means that the building can open for individual private prayer, each Sunday morning from 9.45am to 11.15am.

As before we will need to wear masks and keep to social distancing guidelines in church, and of course we can't have any structured or shared worship – but God will still be present and will still meet us there. Do drop in at any point to pray, and leave when you are ready.

Adrian

St Guthlac's Live Remembrance

To complement the pre-recorded online service being produced for Sunday, we will livestream The Last Post, 2 minute silence and laying of a wreath outside Holbrook Memorial Hall. This will be on the St Guthlac's Facebook Page from 10.50am and will be available afterwards as a recording. We wish to honour and remember all those who have lost their lives serving the country.

Please note that it is with regret that this tribute cannot lawfully have other attendees gathered.

If you need help setting up a Facebook account, please visit the resource created on the St Mary Magdalen website under Corona Virus support, 'Social Media staying connected' <https://www.stmarysknighton.co.uk/coronavirus-support>

Matthew

Remembrance Sunday 2020

There are several ways in which you can mark Remembrance Sunday (8th November) and indeed Armistice Day itself (11th November) this year, despite the fact that we cannot gather in church.

Firstly, do have a look at our Virtual Worship for the week, which has a Remembrance theme and will be available at any time from Sunday on our websites, Facebook pages and with the You Tube link that will be emailed out to our contact list.

Secondly, together with this newsletter is a simple booklet called 'An Act of Remembrance' and which contains some prayers and reflections for you to use at home if you would like to do so.

Thirdly, you can watch various programmes on the BBC, including:

- *The Festival Of Remembrance* (Saturday 7 November, 9.10pm-10.30pm);
- *Remembrance Sunday at The Cenotaph* (Sunday 8 November, 10.15am-11.45am with highlights on BBC Two at 7pm-8.10pm); and
- '*Unknown Warrior 100*', including the national two minutes silence at 11am (Wednesday 11 November 10.30am-11.45am and highlights on BBC Two at 7pm-7.30pm).

Do take some time to share in our national remembering – and remember that God is faithful to us through all trials and tests, past, present and future.

Adrian

Fresh Challenges and Eternal Hope

The news last weekend about a new national lockdown for England was not a great surprise to many of us, but I'm sure we all still felt disappointment and a weariness about facing these challenges afresh.

On the plus side, our experience has given us ideas for staying positive and connected to each other during the lockdown. Can I urge you to remember how important it was back in the spring to keep in touch through phone calls, and to offer and accept help when needed, with practical things like shopping but also with listening and encouragement?

We also discovered that a pattern of daily exercise, doing something creative, and also making time for prayer and some Bible reading, all helped to keep us feeling more balanced. Limiting the amount of news programmes we watched also helped many people not to be overwhelmed.

Although we won't be able to meet for worship in our church buildings we *can* still meet online. Our weekly Compline on Wednesday evenings will continue, and we will produce Virtual Worship for each Sunday, which you can find on our websites, Facebook pages and through the You Tube link that will be emailed to you and in the newsletter. The Diocese will continue to produce 'Sunday at 10' every week too.

Do join in with Christian worship regularly in some way – it will help your faith and keep you looking outwards to other, as well as upwards to God.

Christians across the world and across the centuries have often faced severe challenges – to their safety, their communities and to their traditional worship and beliefs. We now follow in their footsteps. But we can be encouraged, as they were, by the words of the Bible.

Consider these verses from the Letter to the Hebrews, chapter 10:

*“Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings ... Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, **for he who promised is faithful**. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds...”*

Our hope in the face of so many challenges is grounded in the faithfulness of God. We may feel weak and weary, we may have little confidence in our leaders and scientists, and we may despair when we see the stress put on our doctors and nurses *but* we can live as hopeful people, if we develop the habit of remembering the faithfulness of God.

He walks with his people through all our tests and trials; in Jesus he knows what it is like to be human and weighed down by earthly life; and in Jesus he has acted to defeat suffering and death for ever. Truly, we can have hope that we are safe, when we put ourselves in his care.

“We have put our hope in the living God, who is the Saviour of all people, and especially of those who believe.” (1Timothy 4.10)

Yours in friendship and Christ’s service, *Adrian*

Collect & Readings for Remembrance Sunday

The Collect

Almighty Father,
whose will is to restore all things
in your beloved Son, the King of all:
govern the hearts and minds of those in authority,
and bring the families of the nations,
divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin,
to be subject to his just and gentle rule;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen

Judges 7.2-22

² The LORD said to Gideon, “The troops with you are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hand. Israel would only take the credit away from me, saying, ‘My own hand has delivered me.’” ³ Now therefore proclaim this in the hearing of the troops, ‘Whoever is fearful and trembling, let him return home.’” Thus Gideon sifted them out; ^[a] twenty-two thousand returned, and ten thousand remained.

⁴ Then the LORD said to Gideon, “The troops are still too many; take them down to the water and I will sift them out for you there. When I say, ‘This one shall go with you,’ he shall go with you; and when I say, ‘This one shall not go with you,’ he shall not go.” ⁵ So he brought the troops down to the water; and the LORD said to Gideon, “All those who lap the water with their tongues, as a dog laps, you shall put to one side; all those who kneel down to drink, putting their hands to their mouths, ^[b] you shall put to the other side.” ⁶ The number of those that lapped was three hundred; but all the rest of the troops knelt down to drink water. ⁷ Then the LORD said to Gideon, “With the three hundred that lapped I will deliver you, and give the Midianites into your hand. Let all the others go to their homes.” ⁸ So he took the jars of the troops from their hands, ^[c] and their trumpets; and he sent all the rest of Israel back to their own tents, but retained the three hundred. The camp of Midian was below him in the valley.

⁹ That same night the LORD said to him, “Get up, attack the camp; for I have given it into your hand.” ¹⁰ But if you fear to attack, go down to the camp with your servant Purah; ¹¹ and you shall hear what they say, and afterward your hands shall be strengthened to attack the camp.” Then he went down with his servant Purah to the outposts of the armed men that were in the camp. ¹² The Midianites and the Amalekites and all the people

of the east lay along the valley as thick as locusts; and their camels were without number, countless as the sand on the seashore. ¹³When Gideon arrived, there was a man telling a dream to his comrade; and he said, "I had a dream, and in it a cake of barley bread tumbled into the camp of Midian, and came to the tent, and struck it so that it fell; it turned upside down, and the tent collapsed." ¹⁴And his comrade answered, "This is no other than the sword of Gideon son of Joash, a man of Israel; into his hand God has given Midian and all the army."

¹⁵When Gideon heard the telling of the dream and its interpretation, he worshiped; and he returned to the camp of Israel, and said, "Get up; for the LORD has given the army of Midian into your hand." ¹⁶After he divided the three hundred men into three companies, and put trumpets into the hands of all of them, and empty jars, with torches inside the jars, ¹⁷he said to them, "Look at me, and do the same; when I come to the outskirts of the camp, do as I do. ¹⁸When I blow the trumpet, I and all who are with me, then you also blow the trumpets around the whole camp, and shout, 'For the LORD and for Gideon!'"

¹⁹So Gideon and the hundred who were with him came to the outskirts of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, when they had just set the watch; and they blew the trumpets and smashed the jars that were in their hands. ²⁰So the three companies blew the trumpets and broke the jars, holding in their left hands the torches, and in their right hands the trumpets to blow; and they cried, "A sword for the LORD and for Gideon!" ²¹Every man stood in his place all around the camp, and all the men in camp ran; they cried out and fled. ²²When they blew the three hundred trumpets, the LORD set every man's sword against his fellow and against all the army; and the army fled as far as Beth-shittah toward Zererah,^[d] as far as the border of Abel-meholah, by Tabbath.

John 15. 9-17

⁹ As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹² "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ I do not call you servants^[a] any longer, because the servant^[b] does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶ You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷ I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

What are we remembering?

*a Remembrance reflection by Bishop Peter Price,
retired Bishop of Bath and Wells.*

The season of Remembrance will soon be upon us. On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month increasing numbers of people will stop what they are doing for the two minute Act of Remembrance.

What are they remembering?

There is a sense in which this is an unanswerable question. Who can look into the millions of minds and see what those two moments of stillness mean to each individual? The Act of Remembrance followed the armistice at the end of the First World War when the European battlefields finally fell silent over

the slaughtered, missing and maimed of nearly five years of unrelenting warfare. Today, of course, such space marks remembrances of other conflicts too numerous to mention, but include the Second World War, Korea, Northern Ireland, the Falklands, Iraq and Afghanistan.

'All war is sin' remarked a senior military officer to me recently. Few would deny that the taking of human life, with its consequences of loss, bereavement, and the hidden realities of physical and psychological injury, hurts human kind in a way that is incalculable.

Someone described sin to me recently as 'love deficit.' Certainly that describes the conditions that both make for war. Whenever we are unable to see in our fellow human beings the image of God, or refuse in some way to acknowledge that truth, we are in deficit of love to both neighbour and enemy.

The first Act of Remembrance was necessary for combatants of all sides to remember those whom they had lost. For comrades, friends, companions who had accompanied them in the travail of war. People who had shared with them in the questioning, the fear, the loneliness, as well as the ferocity of fighting. 'Love deficit' certainly is present in war. But so too is love that lays down its life, not only in acts of heroism, but in that mysterious, almost mystical 'love of country'.

'Remembering', at least in part, is about acknowledging both our worst and best as human beings. It is to express remorse, repentance for our 'love deficit.' It is to express gratitude for courage, generosity, and the love that lays down life for friends, fellow citizens, or simply 'others.' It is to re-commit to the task of making peace with all, and to find that grace which God gives us to forgive, reconcile, and be healed. It is to 'remember' that our calling as human beings is to reflect God because it is in his image we are made. And his path is compassion, forgiveness, equanimity and justice for all humankind.

+Peter Price

Three Brave People

Revd Canon Dr Stephen Foster

Whether in books or on film, whether a story based on truth or more or less embellished, whether in the Second World War or any other conflict, there are women and men who stand out from many thousands of similarly heroic or courageous examples, who have risked their own lives in theatres of huge danger so that others may live, and in doing so have had a profound influence on their opposing aggressors.

Three men, (and here gender has no significance, as I could similarly name three women) who stand out as individuals who protect, defend, and nourish the persecuted both physically and spiritually in the most horrific and personally dangerous scenarios relying on their faith, courage, wit, and sheer bravado to achieve what they did, and in one case paying the ultimate price...

all this clearly reminds us of the ultimate power at work for justice, righteousness and peace.

These three people, who you might like to look up, or view on film are Oscar Schindler, Maximilian Kolbe and Hugh O'Flaherty. The films surrounding their stories are Schindler's List, Maximilian: The Saint of Auschwitz, and The Scarlet and the Black respectively.

None of the heroes involved would consider themselves 'saints' in the inaccurate yet 'traditional' sense and yet each show huge amounts of the self- giving, infinitely loving nature of God, in the face of whatever we think great evil to be.

For Maximilian Kolbe, it cost him his own life, for Oscar Schindler, it changed his life, and for Hugh O'Flaherty, it changed his relationship with the Vatican.

But apart from being changed themselves, which you might think would be inevitable, each changed or at least profoundly

influenced the surrounding characters with whom they were in conflict.

I guess we could name many more of all nations who have showed similar characteristics in the theatres of war and conflict, the well remembered and the not so well remembered. But all have been subject to the enormous grace of God in combatting the disastrous effects of warfare on individuals and nations.

Happy 100th Birthday, Holbrook Hall!



One of the sad things about the present restrictions on our lives is that we won't be able to celebrate Holbrook Hall's centenary, as we had hoped to do earlier in the year. Ever since its official opening, on Saturday 23 October 1920, it has

been a focal point for community life in South Knighton, bringing people together for a wide variety of educational and social events. And as such it has triumphantly repaid the hopes and aspirations of all those who contributed to its construction.

Local builder, Mr H M Dudgeon, was given the job of constructing the hall, and the cost was about £5,000 – mainly raised by local subscription. Contemporary newspapers record the opening of the 'quaintly-built and commodious hall' adjoining St Guthlac's church by the Lord Bishop of Peterborough, Dr Woods, on that Saturday afternoon. A large number of parishioners gathered to hear speeches made by the Vicar of Knighton, Revd R E Roberts, who said 'they were particularly grateful to several Nonconformists who had been kind enough to subscribe to the fund' and also to the large number of contributions received from 'subscribers who had never attended either of their churches'. So this hall was truly ecumenical from the outset! But more seriously, it was to be a

war memorial 'worthy of those who served them so faithfully and fell so gallantly in the Great War'. There were high ambitions for the use of the hall: it would 'serve as a social centre and for the stimulation of intellectual interests – not to deteriorate into a mere billiard or dancing saloon'! The curate, Mr Mallory, had 'some excellent schemes' in mind, and Mr Oram had offered to start a library with 100 first-class books.

However, it was the bishop who set Holbrook Hall in the context of community cohesion: 'every hall like that should be the workshop in which people of various social grades and various outlooks in life and various schools of thought should be able to meet on terms of equality'. 'There were many things the Church needed to try to teach other people, and indeed learn herself, but there was no greater task ... than the teaching of true neighbourliness, and he believed that hall would prove a powerful instrument for carrying out that task (Applause)'.

And so Holbrook Hall continues (when restrictions are lifted) to bring people of all ages and backgrounds and interests together – whether it be for botanical painting, for yoga, for ballet or lectures, talks, concerts or exhibitions, for wedding celebrations and funeral eats – the hall is there for us all to enjoy and use now, 100 years on. Happy birthday, Holbrook Hall, and long may you continue to bring our local community together!

Margaret Bonney

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ON THE CHRISTMAS FAYRE CATALOGUE HAVE NOW SOLD OUT:

2 & 3 bulb hyacinth bowls

Plum chutney - all sizes

Plum Jam

Lemon & ginger jam - all sizes

Apple chutney now back in stock

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.

Each week we will now usually upload a recording of the Sunday service from St Mary's or St Guthlac's onto the Knighton Benefice You Tube channel. This should happen by 1pm each Sunday. Please go direct to

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChYDSfNmiB2Zamsaz_EdZSg? or via the website or Facebook page.

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



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 Part of our caring life: CONNECTIONS

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

Vicar: Revd. Adrian Jones 0116 2704268
adrian.jones@zoho.com

Associate Priest- St Guthlac's: Revd Canon Dr Stephen Foster
safpta6@gmail.com 07966 376905

Assistant Curate: Revd Matthew Gough
revgough@gmail.com 07754 961997

Revd Aphro McCullough

Revd Janet Gasper

Reader: Fiona Wingate

Churchwardens:

David Hunt

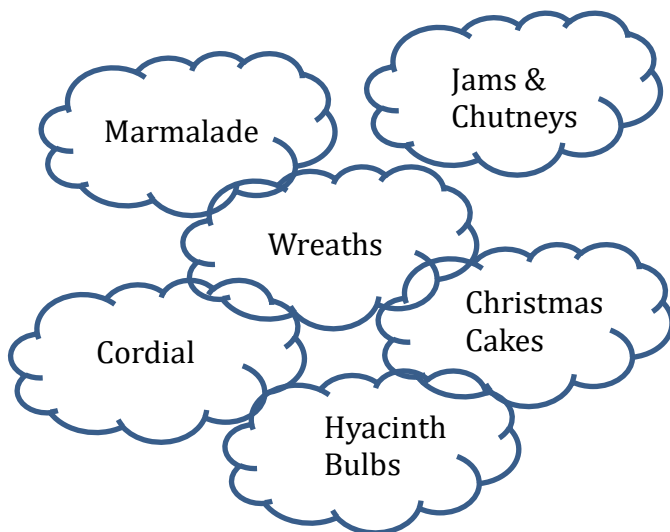
Tina Jarvis

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

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..... **the order line is now open!**

If you would like a copy of the catalogue please email fayre@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk or phone David Hunt for a paper copy.

There is a limited supply of goods so orders will be dealt with on a first come first served basis. **PLEASE SEE p13 FOR ITEMS WHICH HAVE SOLD OUT.**

Methods of payment and receipt of goods are detailed on the catalogue. Completed orders will be available from December 6th.