

# ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



Parish Church of St Guthlac  
Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

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



**Sunday 29 November 2020**  
**First Sunday of Advent**

## **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.

### **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**.

## **Sunday Worship during the pandemic**

As we come out of lockdown once more, you are welcome to join us for worship on Sunday mornings at 10.30am as usual, from 6<sup>th</sup> December. Sunday services will usually be a celebration of the Eucharist, apart from the fourth Sunday when we have Morning Prayer (in church) and Church Club (online).

Next services:

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December (Advent 2) – Communion Service

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December (Advent 3) – Communion Service

### **BOOKING SYSTEM**

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 a maximum of 19 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, either service you need to contact Tina to book a place.

### **THE COMMUNION 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 communion booklet or service sheet and a book (OCOFOFOL) 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. Yolanda will be playing the organ.

### *The sharing of the bread or blessing*

- Great care will be taken to protect the safety of the congregation. Only the priest will handle the elements and vessels, and then only after sanitising their hands. There will be no assistant. The wafers for the congregation will be covered while the priest consecrates them.
- After the priest takes his/her wine and priest's wafer, he/she will put on a mask and sanitise hands again. Only then will the small individual wafers be uncovered and given to the congregation. Only wafers will be offered, not wine. At the distribution, Holy Communion will be administered in silence.
- Please stay in your seats the celebrant will come out to you in turn.
- If you wish to receive the bread, please hold out your hands. The priest will 'drop' the wafer into the outstretched hands, taking care not to touch them.

- There is no obligation to take the bread. If you wish to receive a blessing, please hold up your service booklet. If you prefer to pray quietly and not to receive either please fold your arms.

### *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.

### **Good news! Light is coming into the darkness.**

The good news about the development of three vaccines for preventing and treating Covid 19 is a welcome glimmer of light in our restless-autumn-becoming-dark-winter. In addition, the news that families and friends can meet at Christmas, albeit under strict regulation, gives us the prospect of the contact and time together that we have missed for so long now. Clearly we still have to be cautious, and there will be a price for our Christmas reunions, but perhaps we should allow ourselves some optimism now about the prospects for 2021. Our churches reopen for worship on Sunday mornings from next week, 6<sup>th</sup> December.

It's not hard to see the parallels with the Christian hope that comes with the season of Advent. *"On those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned"* said the prophet Isaiah all those centuries ago, and so we begin our advent journey together this Sunday - a journey towards the light.... to the manger, to the cross and then to the empty tomb. It's a journey that has its own difficulties and troubles, but it's a journey of hope.

As you'll see from notices elsewhere in the newsletter, we still have a series of Advent events and services taking place this year, although by necessity they are different in form. There will also be special Christmas worship when we get closer to the time, and we are hoping to provide something for everyone of all ages, with and without technology.

Please do take the time to be part of our Advent journey together, in the way that suits you best. Although the pandemic has separated and distanced us from each other physically, as Christians we will always be part of the body of Christ himself. Our connection is real and vital, even if hard to see or feel at the moment – and we share the same hope: *"The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it."* (John 1.5) – the promised Saviour is coming!

Yours in friendship and Christ's service

*Adrian*

## **Collect & Readings for the First Sunday of Advent**

### **The Collect**

Almighty God,  
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness  
and to put on the armour of light,  
now in the time of this mortal life,  
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;  
that on the last day,  
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty  
to judge the living and the dead,  
we may rise to the life immortal;  
through him who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
Amen

### **First Reading: Isaiah 64.1-9**

<sup>1</sup>O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence –

<sup>2</sup>as when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil –  
to make your name known to your adversaries,  
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

<sup>3</sup>When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

<sup>4</sup>From ages past no one has heard,  
no ear has perceived,  
no eye has seen any God besides you,  
who works for those who wait for him.

<sup>5</sup>You meet those who gladly do right,  
those who remember you in your ways.  
But you were angry, and we sinned;

because you hid yourself we transgressed.

<sup>6</sup>We have all become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

We all fade like a leaf,

and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

<sup>7</sup>There is no one who calls on your name,  
or attempts to take hold of you;

for you have hidden your face from us,

and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

<sup>8</sup>Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;

we are the clay, and you are our potter;

we are all the work of your hand.

<sup>9</sup>Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,

and do not remember iniquity for ever.

Now consider, we are all your people.

## **Psalm 80.1-8, 18-20**

### **Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1.3-9**

## **Mark 13.24-37**

Jesus said to his disciples: <sup>24</sup>In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, <sup>25</sup>and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. <sup>26</sup>Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup>Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

<sup>28</sup>From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. <sup>30</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things

have taken place. <sup>31</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>32</sup>But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup>Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup>It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. <sup>35</sup>Therefore, keep awake – for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, <sup>36</sup>or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. <sup>37</sup>And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

## **A Reflection for the start of Advent**

*Revd Adrian Jones*

Given the troubles of the year and our need to look forward to the prospect of good times, it's no surprise that many people are beginning Christmas early this year.... by which I mean that decorations have been up for a while already, plans are being fretted over, and the newspapers are full of speculation about the size of turkeys for 2020.

Even without a pandemic to deal with, for many people Christmas – and therefore the Christian season of Advent that precedes it – is about nostalgia, about recreating family occasions, following traditions, telling familiar stories in familiar places with familiar songs. There is a lot in this way of celebrating that is positive and helpful, because we need to be reminded again and again of God's rescue plan for the world and how it still speaks to us today.

However, the Christian time of Advent and our celebrations of the incarnation of God as the human Jesus, are not at all about a safe and familiar 'sameness', but rather about a revolution, a breaking with the old; our season is about celebrating change

and newness. In Advent we prepare for Christmas by remembering, but not the past so much as the new future that God has already planned for the world and for each of us.

What God has in mind for us is a re-shaping, re-moulding and restoration in readiness for that new and eternal life. In our reading from the Hebrew scriptures today, the prophet Isaiah acknowledges before God the people's desperate need of this restoration, and also God's faithful readiness to start again with us. Isaiah sees a picture of a loving God at work already: *"Yet you, Lord, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand."*

One of the great hopes of Advent is that, as we turn once again to God - seeking him and looking for him as we watch and prepare for Christ's return- then God begins again to change and remake us. Certainly, God accepts us today as we are, but he is not content to leave us like that – the crooked and misshapen clay needs the potter's expert touch to become what it should be.

*He* is ready at the potter's wheel – we are called to be watchful and attentive so that we allow him to do his work. Then he can make us much more of what we are meant to be.

It doesn't really matter if our turkey is oven-ready this Christmas, but it is hugely, eternally important if we are ready for God's work in our lives - or not. My prayer is that Advent might be, for all of us, a time of opening up to God and preparing for all that he wants to do in our lives – and then, through us, for the world.

Amen.

## ADVENT 2020

Advent this year sees two opportunities in the benefice to do a little meditative study.

Fr Matthew is doing a Sunday Evening study and other members of the team will be looking at the ancient Advent themes of Hope, Peace, Joy, Love and Light each for half an hour before Wednesday Compline, but also available on line and in the newsletters for further study at leisure and in preparation for pre Compline. Our very complementary team will bring their own ways of approaching these...we hope you enjoy!

So...here we go with...

### Hope!

Icebreaker...

St Paul writes...

'Hope that is seen is no hope at all;  
Who hopes for what he already has?  
But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.' (Romans 8:24-25)

*In our hoping, how patient are we? (2 mins)*

As we shall see later, hope is not always centred on 'time' but it is often bound up with it, and to varying degrees.

For example,

'I hope to visit Aunt Mildred this afternoon.'...this 'hope' is well nigh a certain one.

But...

'I hope to travel to Corfu next Easter'...due to the time differential has more uncertainties attached to it.

And...

'I hope for a world of peace and harmony.'...is very nebulous and we tend to think of a hope like that as being very much in the future.

This time delineation of hope also finds its way into what scholars call 'The Little Apocalypse.' (Mark 13)

*Read Mark 13: 3-7, 9-13, 21-23, 32-37.*

*THEN read Mark 13:1-2, 8,14-22, 24-30. (5 mins)*

Each of these reads very smoothly as here Mark, (or probably another writer) has cleverly woven two lots of texts and two themes together.

The first emphasises the need to 'dig in, stay faithful, and prepare for the long haul'.

The second is about 'preparing for an imminent end of all things.'

*Which of these are we most convinced by as we live in the 21st century? (2 mins)*

The Advent Hope majors partly on the second, that is, on what we call the Parousia, the End Time, the Second Coming of Christ in judgement.

*Which of the three ideas of 'timed hope', exemplified near the beginning do we think the Parousia falls into for us today? (1 min)*

The other part of the Advent Hope is, of course, the hope of the Messiah 'coming' for the first time.

*In the beginning chapters of Matthew's Gospel, find a text or two from the Old Testament Prophets which Matthew uses to 'prove' that Jesus is the Messiah the one who is hoped for! Do we find any of this rather odd? (5 mins)*

A sure and certain Advent hope is that Jesus will be born again in each of us this Christmas and every Christmas.

So how do we each hope? How do the solid Advent Hopes as above overflow into the rest of our lives?

An encouraging fact is that hope is bound up in the very nature of God himself.

'God is our hope and strength, a very present help in trouble.'  
(Psalm 46:1)

Because God is our 'hope and strength', we can put our trust in him who is infinite love, indeed, our infinite love.

Of course, the 'storms of life' will come along and from our faith, we hang onto God in our prayers and devotions hoping that any particular 'storm' will eventually pass.

*Listen to 'the storm' in Beethoven's Pastoral Symphony (YouTube Abbado, Berlin Phil. 28.45-32.40) and it's beautiful resolution in one of the most perfect melodies ever written! (4 mins)*

Our list of hopes will vary from person to person, but undoubtedly we will have some in common.

*In a few minutes share some of the latter. (5 mins)*

Finally, a poem and a blessing...

'You always have hope in Christ,  
for in him hope abounds.  
In him who was and always will be, endless hope resounds.  
Once you're in Christ, his life holds you fast...of this you can be sure.  
Whatever you long for, this much is true...the hope in Christ is yours...  
Hope for tomorrow,  
Hope for each day,  
Hope during sorrow,  
Hope all the way.  
Till his Kingdom comes and takes us away, where we will be home at last.  
(Elizabeth Vecchione)

The God of all power make us all steadfast in faith, joyful in hope and constant in love, and may his blessing be upon us evermore.  
Amen.

***The zoom log in details for this course can be found on page 17.***

## **LIVING IN HOPE-YORK ADVENT COURSE**

**4 Advent Sundays, Starting 29th November 7-8pm.** Getting to the heart of Advent's message, how we live our lives in preparation for the return of Christ. We will focus each week on the York Course themes of Living well, Dying well, & and the afterlife (Hell? Heaven?). The big questions we all ask in an enquiring, supportive space, hosted by our Living Waters group. £2 suggested donation for the course book. You can join in over the phone or on Zoom. Contact Matthew to secure a place and a booklet and the joining details.

Email: [revgough@gmail.com](mailto:revgough@gmail.com), or phone/ text 07754961997

## **CHRISTMAS FAYRE**

**Thank you to those who have already submitted an order. We are selling out, so please place your order as soon as possible. If you have not got an order form, just phone your order through to Anne & David Hunt.**

**We have a few items remaining these are:**

Christmas Cakes

Christmas Orange Marmalade Medium

Single hyacinth bulb in a bowl

Plum & Cinnamon and Festive Ginger Fruit Cordial

Christmas Wreaths

Festive Face Masks

Wrapping Paper 3, 4 and 5 metres

## **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.**

## **MAKE YOUR CHRISTMAS GREETINGS GO FURTHER.**

For those of you who are planning to write your Christmas cards during lockdown, we would like to let you know that we will, as in previous years, be accepting donations to Bishop Christopher's Malawi charity instead of exchanging Christmas cards with one another.

If you wish to donate in this way, you may do so by cheque or online transfer:

Cheques should be made payable to St. Guthlacs PCC. Please write 'Malawi' on the reverse of the cheque and post it to Jane Wright.

Bank Transfer, account name St. Guthlacs PCC, code 20-49-08, account number 53861341, please put 'Malawi' & your name as the reference.

**Names of those sending Christmas greetings in this way will be included in the newsletter nearer to Christmas, so that your greetings are passed on to the rest of the congregation.**

## 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\\_EdZSq?](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChYDSfNmIB2Zamsaz_EdZSq?)  
or via the website or Facebook page.

**Wednesday Evening Meditative Study and Compline for Advent** Please note a change to the regular pattern of Wednesday evening Compline. From Wednesday 2nd December you are welcome to join via Zoom or to phone in from 7.30pm each week to explore the themes of Hope, Peace, Joy, Love and Light with the ministry team facilitating a discussion. Compline will follow at 8pm (but without the usual breakout discussion). Join for both or either, you are most welcome. 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 <https://www.stguthlac-knighton.co.uk> Please note that this is a new address with an "s" after "http" to denote it is secure connection. If you don't put the "s" in

you will still arrive at the website, but your browser may indicate that the site is "not secure".

## **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](mailto:administrator@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk)



# 2020 Charity Winter Gardens



Let's celebrate our communities and support our local charities at a time they need it most.

Taking part is easy and it's open to everyone



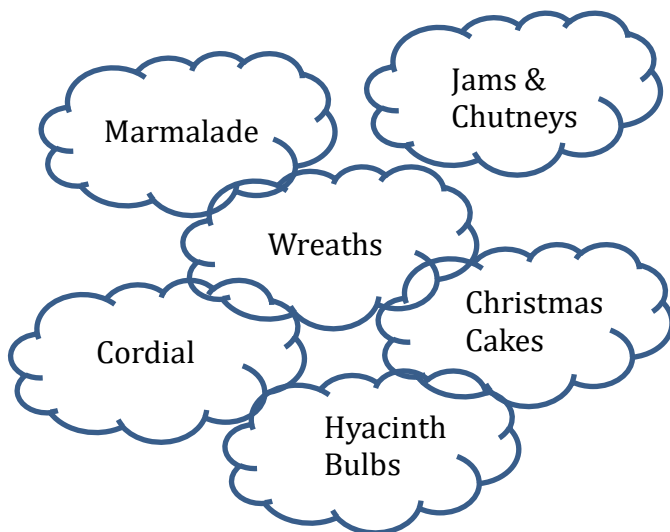
1. **Get creative & decorate** your house, window, front garden or office
2. **Choose a local charity** to support at [oldmanandsons.co.uk/charity-winter-gardens](http://oldmanandsons.co.uk/charity-winter-gardens)
3. **Add your charity QR Code** to your display
4. Passers by can donate to your chosen charity by **scanning the code**

Find out more at  
[oldmanandsons.co.uk/charity-winter-gardens](http://oldmanandsons.co.uk/charity-winter-gardens)



Organised by: **OLDMAN AND SONS**  
THERAPEUTIC GARDENERS

## 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](mailto: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 p15 FOR ITEMS WHICH ARE STILL AVAILABLE.**

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