

ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



Parish Church of St Guthlac
Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

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



Sunday 20 December 2020
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday 27th December 2020
First Sunday of Christmas

God is with us! - Christmas Worship 2020

As we continue our Advent journey – reflecting, preparing, watching and learning to wait – it is also time for me to tell you about opportunities in the benefice to worship at Christmas time.

Sundays: our Sunday services at both churches continue at the usual time, and with the usual precautions in place. Please note however that there are no live Sunday services on 27th December.

Carol Service: our online Benefice Carol Service can be viewed anytime on the church websites, Facebook pages and the You Tube channel (just search for ‘Knighton Benefice’). Do encourage friends, family and neighbours to take this chance to sing along to some favourite carols at a time that suits them!

Crib Service: You can view our online Crib Service from 21st December on our websites and our YouTube channel in the usual way.

Christmas Eve Communion: our live service will be at St Guthlac’s on Christmas Eve at 8pm as usual. Early booking is advised – please email churchwardens@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk

There will also be recorded Christmas Communion services from both churches available online on Christmas Eve.

Christmas Day: our live Christmas day service will be at St Mary’s at 10am. A celebration suitable for all ages will be followed by a short Communion for all those who wish to stay. Please book a place for your household by phoning the vicarage (0116 270 4268) or emailing Adrian (adrian.jones@zoho.com), indicating how many people will be attending in your bubble and whether or not you will stay on to Communion.

Please note that there is no Midnight Communion or 8am service at St Mary's this year, nor a Christmas Day service at St Guthlac's. This was a difficult decision to take but felt wise given the stewarding and cleaning of the buildings that would otherwise have been necessary.

However you choose to worship this Christmas (and there are plenty of other choices online or on television & radio) can I urge you to keep a focus on the miracle of the incarnation – that God himself chose to enter the messy, virus-ridden, strife-torn human world, with all its risks, disputes, and violence. At the same time, remember that the way of Jesus – commitment, grace, love, service and sacrifice – remains the best and only answer to the world's needs.

In friendship and Christ's service,
Adrian

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. 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:

Sun. 3rd January (Epiphany / 2nd Sunday of Christmas) – Communion Service

Sunday 10th January (Baptism of Christ) – 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 (*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. 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.

ADVENT 2020

ADVENT MEDITATIONS FOR WEDNESDAYS:

Advent this year sees another opportunity in the benefice to do a little meditative study. On each Wednesday evening members of the Ministry Team will be looking at one of the ancient Advent themes of Hope, Peace, Joy, Love and Light, for half an hour before Wednesday online Compline. Reflections will also be available on our websites and in the newsletters for further study at leisure and/or in preparation for Wednesdays. Our very complementary team will bring their own ways of approaching these themes...we hope you enjoy the reflections.

~~2nd December: — **Hope** — the Revd Canon Dr Stephen Foster~~

~~9th December: — **Peace** — the Revd Janet Gasper~~

~~16th December: **Joy** — the Revd Adrian Jones~~

23rd December: **Love & Light** – Fiona Wingate, Reader

The zoom log in details for this course can be found in 'Worship Information' on page 16.

LOVE & LIGHT

On Sunday the fourth candle was lit representing love and on Christmas Eve at 8pm at St Guthlac's and 10am at St Mary's the final large white candle will be lit representing light.

Both love and light are weighty subjects that stretch from the being to the end of the bible.

Love

Deut. 4:35 – 37: “...Because he loved your forefathers and chose their descendants after them...”

John 14:15, 21: “If you love me you will obey what I command.....and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

John 3:16: “For God so loved the world...”

John 13:34-35 “A new command I give you...”

1 Corinthians 13:4: “Love is patient.....” Remember the discussion on Hope – the idea of waiting – patience.

Rev. 1:5. “...To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood....”

Consider what they say to us about God's love? (2 minutes)

How is God's love manifest in our world – both at that first Christmas and today? (2 minutes)

What is our response to that love? (2 minutes)

Light

What does the light do? Some ideas below but what other ones can you think of? (2 minutes)



As with love, the bible has much to say about the light.

Genesis 1:3-4: “Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.

John 1: 3-5, 7, 9: “All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

John 8:12. Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.”

John 12:46. I have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me should not remain in the darkness.

The passages above speak of God’s power over darkness. It is a message for all people; as believers we no longer have to find our in the darkness. Like the lightship Spurn we can navigate safely through those troubled times in our lives. Like the lightning God’s power shines through the black of night shattering the darkness – illuminating our way.

What does this “light” mean for you and how does the it truly impact our daily lives? (3 minutes)

But we also have a role to play in this story of the light.

Matt. 5:14 – 17. “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

How can we be the light of the world this Christmas time and beyond? (2 minutes)

Do you ever think “what an earth can I do, I am a flawed being”?

From the Taize International Meeting, Budapest 1992, “The mug was broken but we placed the torch inside and realised that the light could be seen, brightly shining through the hole. Isn’t life a bit like that?”

One of the most beautiful poems/passages that speak of light I think Simeon’s song

Song of Simeon

- 1 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace :
according to thy word.
 - 2 For mine eyes have seen :
thy salvation;
 - 3 Which thou hast prepared :
before the face of all people;
 - 4 To be a light to lighten the Gentiles :
and to be the glory of thy people Israel
- (Luke 2: 29 – 32)

As we approach Christmas let us remember

- The hope that this season brings
- The peace that Christ offers
- The joy we can experience
- The love God has for us
- The light which he gives and asks us to reflect.

To close we listen to a more modern piece of music that speaks of the light. My Lighthouse by Rend Collective (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=reAlJKv7ptU>).

Collect & Readings for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

The Collect

God our redeemer,
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of your Son:
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour,
so we may be ready to greet him
when he comes again as our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7.1-11, 16

¹Now when David, the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' ³Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.'

⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan:
⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?'
⁸Now therefore you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you, David, that the Lord will make you a house. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

Canticle: Magnificat

Second Reading: Romans 16.25-27

Luke 1.26-38

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this

might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' ³⁴Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' ³⁵The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.' ³⁸Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

Advent 4

Revd Janet Gasper

2 Samuel 7 1-11,16.

Luke 1 26-38

In the first reading we hear that King David wants to build a temple in Jerusalem and he consults the prophet Nathan. Through Nathan God reveals that He does not need a special place and David does not need to invent tasks for himself in order to win God's approval. The final editor of this part of the Old Testament is reflecting on the question of where God dwells, for by then, the temple built by David's son Solomon, has been destroyed..

God desires to dwell among his people and David's house is David's family who will reign before God forever. Our churches point the way to the God we believe has dwelt among his people in the person of Jesus ,a descendant of David.

Our gospel reading focusses on God's message to Mary that she will be the mother of Jesus. The Angel says "The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Spirit will overshadow you". In Mary's womb, temple and king come together once and for all in Jesus. Nothing will be impossible with God. Mary is the object of God's grace - she does not earn or deserve this honour. God chooses who he chooses. Mary's response to the grace of God is to describe herself as his servant and to consent to God's choosing. "Let it be with me according to your word". Later she will puzzle over events concerning her child. Here Mary simply consents to God's plan.

The first verse of Madeleine L'Engle's poem "O Simplicitas" takes up this theme, An angel came to me And I was unprepared To be what God was using Mother I was to be.

A moment I repaired
Thought briefly of refusing
The angel knew I heard
According to God's word

As we focus our thoughts on Mary today let us pray for all ordained or lay who help to lead our church in these troubled times and give us the peace of Christ that passes all understanding .

Readings for the next two weeks

Christmas Day: Isaiah 52.7-10, Psalm 98, Hebrews 1.1-4[5-12], John 1.1-14

Christmas 1: Isaiah 61.10 - 62.3, Psalm 148, Galatians 4.4-7, Luke 2.15-21

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**.

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?
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 7th January 10pm** to administrator@stguthlacknighton.co.uk

MAKE YOUR CHRISTMAS GREETINGS GO FURTHER.

It is not too late to donate to Bishop Christopher's Malawi charity instead of exchanging Christmas cards with one another. This may be done 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.

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.

ST MARY'S VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

2020 This time last year we had a really successful Christmas Tree Festival but, of course, sadly a 'real' display is not possible this year. You can view a 'virtual' Christmas Tree Festival on the St Mary's website however - a forest of great trees! Plans are already being made for the 2021 Festival too 

Happy Christmas from the Vicarage! Wishing everyone the joy of Christmas and a healthy, happy 2021! - love from Adrian, Alison, Skye and Derry

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

A huge thank you to everyone involved with the Christmas Fayre 2020. This includes those who have been involved in the production and organisation but equally importantly, those who have so generously supported St Guthlac's by submitting an order. We have made the fabulous sum of over £800 to support the running of the church.

Images of Knighton 2021

Last chance to get some excellent 'Images of Knighton' Calendars for Christmas, local artists celebrating Knighton life and raising funds for Spire Project. Free postage tubes as they make great gifts. £7.50 each, or 3 for £20. Available St Mary's on Sundays, Flynn's (Londis), Knighton News, Holbrook News, Aileen Orme, Nigel Siesage or Matthew revqough@gmail.com, 07754961997



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT ST GUTHLAC'S

Donations made to Malawi in lieu of sending Christmas Cards



June Ardley

Lesley Meakin

Anne & David Hunt

Ann Swanson

Wendy Bramley

Tina Jarvis

Jane Wright

Jean Gabbar

Fiona Wingate

Brenda Lee

Daisy Reynolds

Margaret Bonney

Yolanda Courtney

Jane Christie