

ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



Parish Church of St Guthlac
Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

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



Sunday 3 January 2021

Epiphany

Reflection from the Revd Adrian Jones

Welcome 2021! Most of us are heartily glad to see the back of 2020 – but the New Year hasn't yet brought us the relief from the pandemic that we so look forward to.

This time last year, at our All Age Worship, I spoke about some important questions that faced the 'Three Wise Men', or Magi, and the modern-day equivalents that faced us as we started a new year. Of course, at that moment, none of us beyond a handful of scientists, even suspected that our plans for the year, and indeed our daily lives, would be de-railed in such a dramatic way by a new virus.

The questions I raised at the start of 2020, however, remain just as pertinent now – and perhaps more so, given the continuing uncertainty that surrounds us. This is some of what I said last January:

"The 'Kings' followed the star, and trusted that they would get to the new king at the right time. God is the God of time, and God's timing is always right. As we start a new year have you taken any time yet to listen intentionally for the quiet voice of God – how does he want you to use your time in this new year?"

"As the star stopped in the sky over the little town called Bethlehem, the Kings had found the right place at just the right time – there is no place that is outside of God's special care – this was the time and the place God had planned for it all to happen. You may find yourself in a place that's less than comfortable, a place that isn't your first choice, a place of challenge perhaps...but every place is within God's special care... what are you learning in your place? How is God shaping you? How could he use you?"

“The Kings brought highly significant gifts for Jesus, at the right time, in the right place. We are here now and today. You could have been doing other things right now, but instead you’re at the right place at the right time. God is the God of time and this is all happening within his greater purpose.

The only question is, what gifts do you bring? Can you use your personal skills and gifts to help others? As you worship Jesus as the Wise Men did, at the right time in the right place, can you offer the right gifts to use as you serve Jesus? “

The challenge for us in 2021 is to trust God as much as we would in any ‘normal’ year – perhaps even more so – and to trust that we each **still** have a calling and a special role to play within God’s purpose.

Can I urge you then not to be overwhelmed by discouragement and anxiety as we look ahead? Beyond the headlines there is still plenty of good news, as many people find deep reserves of kindness and concern for each other.... and God is the same God who loved us so much that ‘he gave his only son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life’ (John 3.16)

My prayer for this New Year is that, once more, we all might determine to spend regular time with God, and allow him to renew us and change us – so that we can follow the way of Jesus and live more fully the life that he has given us.
Amen.

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

SUNDAY WORSHIP DURING THE PANDEMIC

At the time of going to print, the following services are planned, however these may change in line with any further restrictions which may have been brought in over the Christmas period.

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

Sunday 10th January (Baptism of Christ) – Communion Service

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).

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.

MALAWI

Many thanks to everyone who has given to Malawi this Christmas and throughout the year. In total this year we have sent **£1100 to Malawi**, a tremendous result.

Collect & Readings for Epiphany

The Collect

O God,
who by the leading of a star
manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth:
mercifully grant that we,
who know you now by faith,
may at last behold your glory face to face;
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

First Reading: Isaiah 60.1-6

“Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.
See, darkness covers the earth
and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the LORD rises upon you
and his glory appears over you.
Nations will come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
Lift up your eyes and look about you:
All assemble and come to you;
your sons come from afar,
and your daughters are carried on the arm.
Then you will look and be radiant,
your heart will throb and swell with joy;
the wealth on the seas will be brought to you,
to you the riches of the nations will come.
Herds of camels will cover your land,

young camels of Midian and Ephah.
And all from Sheba will come,
bearing gold and incense
and proclaiming the praise of the LORD.”

Psalm 72.(1-9)10-15

Second Reading: Ephesians 3.1-12

Matthew 2.1-12

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.”

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

“But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.”

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and

presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

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.

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



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 faith is made real **CONNECTIONS**

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>

CONTACT DETAILS

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Knighton Benefice Magazine: Nigel Siesage
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FOR THE NEWSLETTER Please send material to be included in the next newsletter by **Thursday 7th January 10pm** to administrator@stguthlacknighton.co.uk

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT ST GUTHLAC'S

Donations made to Malawi in lieu of sending Christmas Cards



June Ardley Chris & Shali Bullough Lesley Meakin
Anne & David Hunt
Ann Swanson Wendy Bramley Tina Jarvis
Jane Wright Jean Gabbar
Fiona Wingate Brenda Lee
Margaret Bonney Daisy Reynolds
Yolanda Courtney Jane Christie