

ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



Parish Church of St Guthlac
Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

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



Sunday 10 January 2021

Baptism of Christ

The new lockdown and its impact on our churches.

It feels as if we are back to Square One doesn't it? The new lockdown announced by the Prime Minister once more confines us to home, closes all but essential shops and schools, limits work outside home, and gives us only an hours exercise each day.

We do have the vaccine programme rolling out however, and Churches and other places of worship can continue to open their doors as long as all the necessary safeguards are in place. Therefore the PCCs of our Knighton churches have considered carefully both the risks and the positive benefits of continuing with 'live' services. We have taken on board all that the Government and the Church of England have said as well.

With sadness, but believing that it is in all our best interests for the next period of the pandemic, both PCCs have agreed that worship on Sunday should be suspended once again. At St Mary's however, where the building affords more space, there will continue to be an opportunity for individual prayer each Sunday from 9.45-11.15am.

We will continue to produce our regular 'virtual worship' for those people who have internet access (see details below) and to include reflections and Bible readings in the weekly newsletters, just as we have done since last March.

Back then I quoted the Song of Solomon (2.12) as an encouragement for us all, and because we know and trust that God is faithful and unchanging in his loving care for us, this verse still holds good. Whilst living with caution, and with care for others, we can have confidence that the time will come when we can say once more *"Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come."*

Yours in friendship and Christ's service,
Adrian

Collect & Readings for the Baptism of Christ

The Collect

Eternal Father,
who at the baptism of Jesus
revealed him to be your Son,
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:
grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit,
that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children;
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: Genesis 1.1-5

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light "day", and the darkness he called "night". And there was evening, and there was morning – the first day.

Psalm 29

Second Reading: Acts 19.1-7

Mark 1.4-11

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people

from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

Reflection: Mark 1, 4-11

Revd Aphro McCullough

We stand at the beginning of a brand new year with all its hopes and dreams and potential. It seems to me that last year was a year of endings. We saw the end of "life as we know it". Some say it was the end of democracy and with it our freedom. The end of our holidays, our hugs, our dinners with friends and family. The end of our ability to make choices and to live life in the way that we want to. Our ability to meet together for worship ended and then changed significantly. We lost loved ones whose lives ended in tragic circumstances and we were unable to mourn in the way we would want to. And yet.....

We began to find new ways of being, who knew that Zoom could be a lifesaver? We began to not take life for granted. We began a new way. This new way will not last for ever; life will return to some kind of normality but it will be different.

In our Gospel reading today, Jesus arrives at the Jordan asking John for baptism. John preached a baptism of repentance. This baptism was an outward and visible sign of a new beginning, a new attitude to life and a new way of living. Jesus does not need to repent but, by showing his baptism by John, the Gospel writers show Jesus doing what God in Christ always does: stands by us and with us.

Jesus' baptism was a sign of a new beginning, a new ministry and evidence that Jesus was and is the expected Messiah. In our own baptism, whenever that was, we also began a new way. We began a journey of discovery, and along the way perhaps we came to see Jesus as our own new life.

If this terrible tragedy causes us as individuals and the nations of the world to stand back from our own personal and national interests and realise that we are part of one world, and that we should live in love and compassion for each other, as children of God and brothers and sisters, then something of great value will have come out of it and that will truly be a new beginning and there is hope.

I end with a version of the Methodist Covenant prayer as a way of looking forward to the new year ahead and dedicating ourselves in hope to the God who loves us and stands by us in every circumstance:

I am no longer my own, but yours.

**Your will, not mine, be done in all things, wherever you may place me,
in all that I do and in all that I may endure;
when there is work for me and where there is none;
when I am troubled and when I am at peace.**

***Your will be done when I am valued and when I am disregarded;
when I find fulfilment and when it is lacking;
when I have all things, and when I have nothing.
I willingly offer all I have and am to serve you, as and where
you choose.***

***Glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
you are mine and I am yours.***

May it be so for ever.

Let this covenant now made on earth be fulfilled in heaven.

In the name of Jesus-Christ, our saviour. Amen.

WEEK OF CHRISTIAN UNITY

Each day at midday a local church from the South Leicester Partnership will host a midday time of pilgrimage prayer from Monday 18th January (details to follow).

St Mary's, Knighton is hosting the Sunday launch service which this year will be via Zoom and anticipated to last for approximately 40 minutes from **6.30pm, Sunday 17th January**. We look forward to seeing you then, or phone in via the details below. Please contact Matthew if you would like to read or pray.

Topic: South Leicester Christian Unity Service

Time: Jan 17, 2021 06:30 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://leccofe.zoom.us/j/91375339451?pwd=Q1pYNEN2Z3BiYlBWZHp5N0hpd0VKZz09>

Meeting ID: 913 7533 9451

Passcode: 316

Dial by your location

0131 460 1196 United Kingdom

Meeting ID: 913 7533 9451

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_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



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 Worship in your own home **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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FOR THE NEWSLETTER Please send material to be included
in the next newsletter by **noon Thursday** to
administrator@stguthlacknighton.co.uk

MINI MUSICATHON ONLINE

It was disappointing that the Musicathon planned originally for the Spring and then Autumn had to be postponed. As a thank you to those generous sponsors who committed their support despite the lack of performance, some of the musicians kindly agreed to record themselves for an Online Mini Musicathon. We hope you enjoy the music as well as some of the breath-taking views of the Spire being repaired! Please visit "Knighton Benefice" You-Tube Channel or directly via the link below.

Matthew

<https://youtu.be/J7l5JQzF7jQ>

MALAWI

Many thanks to everyone who has given to Malawi this Christmas and throughout the year. In total we have sent **£1100 to Malawi** in 2020, a tremendous result.

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.