

ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



Parish Church of St Guthlac
Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

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



Sunday 17 January 2021

Second Sunday of Epiphany

“How can we sing the Lord’s song in a strange land?”

I wonder if this quote from Psalm 137 might sum up something of your current feeling about being a Christian during a pandemic and a lockdown which has resulted in all our familiar services and forms of worship being cancelled?

The ancient Israelites, who prayed their aching complaint so long ago, were in exile – living in a foreign country far from home and surrounded by people who cared nothing for their God or their faith. The temptation was to give up trying to be distinctive, but rather to just be like everyone else. If God had forgotten them then why should they make an effort to remain faithful to Him? It must have felt as if the strength needed to trust Him and find hope for a better future was just so far out of their reach.

Perhaps this is your feeling at this moment too.

Psalm 137 is not a happy song. It is made of misery and dejection, bubbling up in desperate anger.... but there is one shaft of light in the gloom. That light is the determination of these ancient Israelites to hang on to the remembrance of Jerusalem. It is a refusal to forget, come what may, where they have come from and all the blessings that God gave them. Their foolishness and departure from His ways have led them to their present dreadful captivity, but they will not forget that vision of life with God that was theirs and, they pray, will one day be theirs again.

We know from the rest of the Old Testament that people of special faithfulness and courage (Nehemiah and Ezra amongst others) would eventually lead a remnant of the people back to Jerusalem, and then rebuild it and re-establish their worship and Godly life together.

For the moment we too are in a sort of exile – unable to worship in our churches or even to meet each other. We too should hang on to all that we remember about the goodness of God and the life that He so desires for us to have together.

This is a testing exile but it will not be endless – and nor need it be fruitless. If we are defiantly persistent in our prayer, in our good deeds, and in our hope of a better future, then perhaps we will gain new songs of joy and inspiration when the pandemic has passed.

Yours in friendship and Christ's service,

Adrian

Collect & Readings for the Second Sunday of Epiphany

The Collect

Almighty God,
in Christ you make all things new:
transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace,
and in the renewal of our lives
make known your heavenly glory;
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: 1 Samuel 3.1-10(11-20)

¹Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

²At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. ⁴Then the LORD called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' and he said, 'Here I am!' ⁵and ran to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call; lie down again.' So he went and lay down. ⁶The LORD called again, 'Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call, my son; lie down again.' ⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, 'Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, "Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.'

Psalms 139.1-5, 12-18

Second Reading: Revelation 5.1-10

John 1.43-51

⁴³The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me.' ⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and said to him, 'We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.'

⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip said to him, 'Come and see.' ⁴⁷When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, 'Here is truly

an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!’ ⁴⁸Nathanael asked him, ‘Where did you come to know me?’ Jesus answered, ‘I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.’ ⁴⁹Nathanael replied, ‘Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!’ ⁵⁰Jesus answered, ‘Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.’ ⁵¹And he said to him, ‘Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.’

Reflection for the Second Sunday of Epiphany

Revd Janet Gasper

1 Samuel 3 1-10.

John 1 43 -51

God’s call is the theme of both readings for this Sunday. The first book of Samuel opens on a barren landscape. Eli the Priest and Spiritual leader

Of the shrine at Shiloh, is physically weak, his sons are exploiting the people and he cannot control them. There is an atmosphere of emptiness and impurity.

Out of this comes God’s call to Samuel, a child given by his mother Hannah for service to God at the shrine. The boy does not realise that God is

Calling him, the call is repeated three times and finally it is Eli who perceives that the call is from God and Eli helps Samuel to make his response.

Samuel is given a terrifying message of judgment to pass on to Eli ,but Samuel has to be prepared to respond directly to God’s call and through

Samuel’s response , God will begin to usher in a new era in the history of Israel leading to the reign of King David.

The gospel reading begins with the call by Jesus the disciple Philip. His first action is to go and tell someone else, which is the way bits of news or

stories get round in local communities . The person he chose to go to isn't very enthusiastic. The gospel does not record Nathaniel as one of the

Twelve disciples though some scholars believe he may be Bartholomew whose call is not recorded. Nathaniel is sitting contemplating under a fig

Tree when Philip bursts in shouting " We have found him spoken of by Moses and the prophets. It's Jesus of Nazareth'. Nathaniel's mind does not

get further than Nazareth. He sees the place, small and undistinguished. We've all been guilty of this . I lived for ten years near Redditch but I can

Hear myself on occasion describing my village as thirteen miles from Stratford upon Avon.

Can any good come out of Nazareth? This does not look like a likely setting for an encounter with God, a closed mind not open to the possibility

Of surprises. Yet Nathaniel does respond to Philip's invitation to come and see and when Jesus encounters Nathaniel, he knows that here is a

Man who can be relied on to speak the truth and Nathaniel inspire of his scepticism is called to the place where the vision of God is possible -

The person of Jesus Christ.

God calls and throughout Christian History people have responded in all sorts of ways. So what is God calling us to do at this time of crisis in our

Country and in our world?. We are called to listen to those who have lost loved ones to Covid 19, to listen to those who have recovered but whose

Lives will never be the same again, to listen to the nurses, doctors ,paramedics, all hospital staff and carers tending Covid patients day after day. We

Are called to bring to our loving God all who suffer in body, mind or spirit and to pray that all may keep to the lockdown rules and to know that God

Stands by us, embraces us in pain and guides us into his tender care.

WEEK OF CHRISTIAN UNITY

The theme this year “Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit” has been prepared by the Monastic Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland and expresses their vocation to prayer, reconciliation and unity in the Church and the human family. Our pilgrimage will be hosted by the SLCP on Zoom, with different churches leading our prayers each day.

St Mary's, Knighton is hosting the Sunday launch service via Zoom and it is 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

The weekday services are as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Church leading prayers</u>
Mon 18 Jan	12:00 noon	St Thomas More Church
Tues 19 Jan	12:00 noon	St John the Baptist Church
Wed 20 Jan	12:00 noon	Leicester Quakers (<i>Silent Meeting for Worship</i>)
Thurs 21 Jan	12:00 noon	Stoneygate Baptist Church
Fri 22 Jan	12:00 noon	Christchurch

Link to the booklet with details for each day of the pilgrimage - [link to document](#) [pdf]

Details for joining our Zoom Pilgrimage Prayers

Annette Brindle is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Pilgrimage 2021

Time: Every day, Jan 18, 2021 until Jan 22, 2021, 12:00 PM 5 occurrence(s)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87907520377?pwd=Y0JU3NoTVdOMk1DRFZtL1ZrM01FUT09>

Meeting ID: 879 0752 0377 Passcode: 467079

To Join by Phone

Dial by your location: 0131 460 1196 United Kingdom

Meeting ID: 879 0752 0377 Passcode: 467079

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 GOVERNMENT OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND **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

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 **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>

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.