

ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



Parish Church of St Guthlac
Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

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



Sunday 24 January 2021

Third Sunday of Epiphany

“For the winter days are long and many...”

When I was a teacher (which now seems like a very long time ago!) a colleague introduced me to a super story book for children. It's called 'Frederick', by Leo Lionni, an Italian artist and author born in 1910, and one of the first to use collage as the basis for his book illustrations.

'Frederick' was published in 1967 and relates the tale of a family of field mice, working hard to gather provisions to see them through the coming winter. Whilst they are all busy they reproach their brother Frederick for dreaming the lazy summer away. He tells them he is gathering sunrays and colours and words.

When winter comes and the mice's stores and stories are almost exhausted, they turn to Frederick again. "What about your supplies Frederic?" they ask. As they close their eyes, Frederick's careful words feed them with the warmth, colours and comfort of summer days past, and at the same time give them deep hope for the summer to come. "You are a poet!" the mice declare. "I know it" he shyly replies.

We too face the prospect of winter days that are long and many, and, because of the lockdown, feel more lonely, dark and cold. Yet, we too have our Fredericks.

This week I recommend that you reach for that book or music, those pictures or holiday souvenirs, the memories and recollections, that brought you such pleasure and happiness in the past. Let them once more feed your sense that life can be joyful and good.

Then turn to your *spiritual* Fredericks – the people, events, services, books, music and special times that have nurtured your Christian faith over the years. Let them too, bring the warmth, colours and comfort of days past, and at the same time give you deep hope for the days to come.

If you need a starting point then why not go back to the inspirational Christians or prayers of your youth? Or pick up

your Bible and read some of 'the old, old stories' of Jesus. Try the Gospel of Luke, the master storyteller, and read not to learn or analyse or because you should, but simply to hear the words of comfort and hope that God has for you today.

In Isaiah 49 God says to his people: *"I have engraved you on the palms of my hands.... you will know that I am the Lord; those who hope in me will not be disappointed."* (verses 16 and 23)

We can have confidence that God has not, and will not, forget us. We can draw comfort and hope from remembering his loving kindness in the past. Despite the uncertainty of the future, we can look forward knowing his purpose for us is a new summer of good things.

Yours in friendship and Christ's service.

Adrian

Collect & Readings for the Third Sunday of Epiphany

The Collect

Almighty God,
whose Son revealed in signs and miracles
the wonder of your saving presence:
renew your people with your heavenly grace,
and in all our weakness
sustain us by your mighty power;
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 14.17-20

¹⁷After Abram's return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). ¹⁸And King Melchizedek of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was priest of God Most High. ¹⁹He blessed him and said, 'Blessed be Abram by God Most High, maker of heaven and earth; ²⁰and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!' And Abram gave him one-tenth of everything.

Psalm 128

Second Reading: Revelation 19.6-10

John 2.1-11

On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."

"Dear woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come."

His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons.

Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim.

Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet."

They did so, and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realise where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside and said, "Everyone

brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now.”

This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him.

Reflection for the Third Sunday of Epiphany

Revd Janet Gasper

The Epiphany theme of the revelation of God’s love in Christ continues in our gospel reading for today which is the well-known story of the Wedding at Cana. Here Jesus, his family and friends are guests at a village wedding, a situation with which we are all familiar, though not for the last twelve months. Jesus mingles with the other guests and shares the joy of the occasion. His mother then becomes aware of an impending disaster - they are running out of wine! She rushes to alert Jesus who isn’t going to be forced into action, though he clearly has every intention of responding to the need and at the end of the story, the wedding party end up with gallons and gallons, three hundred and fifteen bottles of the very best wine.

In Jewish literature and in the gospels a wedding is a symbol of the kingdom of God and this story is described by the writer of John’s gospel as the first of Jesus’s signs by which he showed forth his glory and disclosed his identity. The wedding happens on the third day so perhaps its meaning lies in the new union of God in Christ with his people, which will be inaugurated by Christ’s resurrection on the third day. It’s also a story about the new dispensation of the Spirit. The water is replaced with new wine which in the New Testament stands for the life of the kingdom. The water is in stone jars used for the Jewish rites of Purification and the number six in rabbinic numerology stands for deficiency. But when the water becomes wine and is served

the jars are overflowing with superabundance, also to be seen in descriptions of the feast in the kingdom of God.

This story also shows us that God can reveal himself and change our lives in the context of everyday problems and domestic concerns and we can all catch a glimpse of God's eternal presence and love. The disciples saw such signs as they journeyed with Jesus .They watched how, by his love he could take a seemingly hopeless situation and somehow make it new - bringing healing and wholeness to the sick, comforting the desperate, transforming the poverty of human nature by the riches of his grace. We come to the end of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity realising that we are part of a great fellowship of love and that in all our diversity every Christian wants to be part of a new relationship of love for each other and for the people of this earth.

Kevin Mayhew's hymn book contains a children's song for this Sunday which I would like to share.

Life for the poor was hard and tough
Jesus said "That's not good enough
Life should be great and here's the sign
I'll turn water into wine."

Life is a thing to be enjoyed,
Not to be wasted or destroyed
Laughter is part of God's design
Let's turn the water into wine.

Go the lonely and the sad
Give them the news to make them glad
Helping the light of hope shine
Turning the water into wine.

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_Ed_ZSg? 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 WALK TO GOSPO' GOLF 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>

PRAYER

Personal

In my loneliness and darkest moments may I see your light and know that I am not alone. May I have the strength of character to pray blessings upon those who hurt me and that my heart may love them as Jesus loves them.

The Jesus Prayer-from Eastern Orthodox tradition to pray repeatedly.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Church & Local Community

We thank you for our week of Christian Unity. We pray your blessings on the churches of Christ Church, St John the Baptist, Stoneygate Baptist, The Quakers, The Congregational Church, St Mary's and St Guthlac's, as well as all those churches in fellowship seeking to follow and love the Lord Jesus Christ. We pray for greater unity, mission and life in all its fullness.

We pray for our mayor and Director of Public health and all civic leaders guiding communities through the health crisis of Covid and associated economic hardships. We pray for wisdom and discernment for our community leaders in their decisions to close places of worship.

We thank God for the courage and strength of our health and care workers. We pray for Leicester General, The Glenfield and LRI and all those who work there and in the community. We pray for our care homes and the staff working there as well as those providing care for those in their own home. We pray that these public servants may know rest and find time to enjoy peace with those they love.

Weekly prayer for roads in the parish - **Gartree Road, Shanklin Drive and Woodland Avenue.**

Nation and World

We thank God for the peaceful transfer of presidential power in the USA. We pray that Joe Biden may know God's spirit of wisdom and compassion for leading his nation and the power it yields across the world.

We thank God for the further roll out of vaccines. We pray for policies for our schools and those facing severe hardships may be executed with integrity. We pray against the compromised cronyism of nepotism, rewards for political donors and vested interests.

We pray for those affected by extreme weather in this country who have lost their homes or businesses. We seek God's mercy to hold back the rains. Though we pray for political courage and commitment from our political and corporate leaders to radically address climate change. We thank God for the new president's commitment to the Paris accord.

Those facing personal pain we name before our Lord

And those who have finished their days on this earth. We thank you for their lives and pray for their families and loved ones to be comforted

For further prayer requests which can be included anonymized or not included, people requiring corporate prayer on the list above, please contact Matthew revgough@gmail.com

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

A MESSAGE FROM JUNE PARRY

I would like to send all my best wishes to all who remember me of the clergy and the members of the congregation. I pray you will have good health and safety in your journeys. God bless you all. *June Parry*

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/J7I5JQzF7jQ>

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.