

# ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



Parish Church of St Guthlac  
Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

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



**Sunday 14 February 2021**

**Sunday next before Lent**

## A challenging year and an unusual Lent

Friends,

This cold wintry weather seems to be pushing away from us the long-awaited spring, doesn't it? I'm sure that I'm not the only one to have linked the reawakening and blossoming of the natural world with our gradual emergence from the winter of isolation and sickness that the pandemic has brought. Beautiful though the snow and ice may be, it seems to say that our challenging 'year' is not yet over.

Lent, however, will not be put off! Ash Wednesday is this coming week and we have some particular challenges this year when it comes to thinking how we will mark Lent and prepare for Easter. Even more so than usual, I want to encourage you to take up a discipline for Lent (either giving up something or taking something on) - but I also want to encourage you to do some specifically spiritual 'exercise' as well.

Keeping fit physically is difficult when we're confined at home, and keeping fit *spiritually* is difficult when we are otherwise preoccupied and unable to meet with others – we need each other to worship with, to learn from and to smooth off our rough edges and jagged points. Without meeting in person, we need to be more intentional and purposeful in getting our spiritual exercise during Lent.

To help us all, therefore, the Ministry Team have planned several ways to 'get into shape' during Lent, and you'll find the details elsewhere in the newsletter.

Can I also urge you to consider these words attributed to Pope Francis? We would all do well to use them as our morning and evening 'stretches', as we consider daily how with God's help, we need to be changed during Lent 2021.

## ***Do You Want to FAST this Lent? ~ Pope Francis***

*Fast from hurting words and say kind words.*

*Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.*

*Fast from anger and be filled with patience.*

*Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.*

*Fast from worries and trust in God.*

*Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.*

*Fast from pressures and be prayerful.*

*Fast from bitterness and fill your heart with joy.*

*Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.*

*Fast from grudges and be reconciled.*

*Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.*

Yours in friendship and Christ's service,  
*Adrian*

## **Collect & Readings for Sunday next before Lent**

### **The Collect**

Almighty Father,  
whose Son was revealed in majesty  
before he suffered death upon the cross:  
give us grace to perceive his glory,  
that we may be strengthened to suffer with him  
and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
Amen

### **First Reading: 2 Kings 2.1-12**

### **Psalm 50.1-6**

## **Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 4.3-6**

### **Gospel Reading: Mark 9.2-9**

<sup>2</sup>Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, <sup>3</sup>and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. <sup>4</sup>And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. <sup>5</sup>Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' <sup>6</sup>He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. <sup>7</sup>Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!' <sup>8</sup>Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. <sup>9</sup>As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

### **Glory revealed! - a reflection on Mark 9.2-9**

*Revd Adrian Jones*

In the 1939 film "The Wizard of Oz" there is a show-stopping moment near the end of their adventures, when the travelling friends are all gathered in the Emerald City ...and Toto, Dorothy's little dog, pulls back a curtain ....and reveals the Wonderful Wizard of Oz to be a distinctly non-magical man operating a variety of levers and buttons to create the illusion of wizardry....he is a lot *less* than they had thought...

On the mountain top in our Gospel reading, it's also as if a curtain is pulled back. The three disciples have sweated up the mountain with the genuinely human Jesus, a man that they

have seen tired, angry, distressed, joyful, disappointed, compassionate, and more.

Now, just for a few moments, a curtain is pulled back to reveal aspects of his being that they had never even imagined; he is a lot *more* than they had thought.

Jesus is shown to be on a par with Moses, the great leader and rescuer, and at least the equal of Elijah the prophet and spokesman for God ... but clearly He is also something much more, as witnessed by the clouds of glory and the heavenly voice.

At the transfiguration the curtain was drawn back for a glimpse of a deeper and more amazing reality than they had even thought possible. However, if the disciples were to fully understand who Jesus was, then He had to continue teaching them, explaining afresh, helping them to see the scriptures in a new way, to reinterpret what they thought they knew about their history and their religion, and about God. Their understanding was as yet incomplete, and so Jesus warns them not to tell others about what they've seen.

Indeed the glory of Jesus glimpsed by Peter, James and John on the mount of *transfiguration* can only be really understood from the vantage point of another hill... the mount of *crucifixion*.

The transfiguration was a challenge to the disciples - it recognised what had gone before but forced them to look forwards, prompting them to explore more of who Jesus actually was, and to go with Him on that journey to Jerusalem and the cross.

As we consider the transfiguration of Jesus today, we are also challenged to look forwards into Lent, challenged to explore *intentionally* more of who Jesus actually *is*, as we make Lent our journey of preparation and move towards Easter.

We are also challenged to look forward into an uncertain future. Despite the Covid-19 vaccinations there is still much that we cannot predict with any certainty about the next year, and indeed the years to come. The impact of the pandemic will be with us for a long time yet.

In all the uncertainty, Jesus is the gift of God to us. He can bring us peace and freedom from anxiety, even though the journey we take may be hard. The transfiguration confirms that he is way beyond anything we might have expected – or even hoped for. We cannot remain with him in that glory – yet- but the closer we walk with him, the more encouragement and strength we will have for the road.

Amen.

## **PRAYER**

### **Personal**

May we know the words of Martin Luther in our lives and commit to trust in a God who hears us:

***Prayer is a two way activity. First we speak to God, and then he speaks to us. Simply talk with God-that is the nature of prayer...more precious is that he does actually speak to us, and that we listen to him.***

Martin Luther 16th Century Leading Protestant Reformer

### **Church & Local Community**

As we enter the season of Lent, we think of those who need to know the meaning of penitence and hope in the Christian message. We pray particularly for those without contact through technology and that we may be the arms and legs of Christ-as the body of the church. We pray for all to have a renewed

commitment as we mark Ash Wednesday and the beginning of this season of denial, fasting and prayer.

Loving Lord we thank you for the rest and peace this coming week for teachers, homeschoolers and young people in a much needed half term break.

We thank-you Father for the significant roll out of the vaccination across our communities, individuals and age groups. We thank God for the GPs and surgery staff administering our vaccinations. We pray particularly for Springfield Road Surgery, Two Steeples Medical Centre, Clarendon Park, Queens Road, Asquith, The Spire Hospital, The Central Surgery, Oadby Urgent Care centre and all those clinical practices serving our parishes. We thank God for those place administering the vaccine: Kube, Leicester Racecourse, the Peepul Centre and University Hospitals Trust and Leicestershire Partnership Trust providing care throughout this winter. We thank God for those working on the wards, our chaplains and the loving service each provide to those most needing care throughout this bitterest of winters. We thank God for those often overlooked in home-care services, local authority care support, voluntary and charity sector as well as our care homes. We pray particularly for the work of Age Concern as it extends it befriending to more age groups and appeal for more volunteers. Please meet their need Lord.

Weekly prayer for roads in the parish – **Alexandra Road.**

## **Nation and World**

We pray for much needed wisdom and integrity in our political leadership in deciding the best steps forward for the nation's health in the coming weeks. We pray particularly for those

suffering the long effects mentally and economically of this pandemic.

We pray for much needed peace in the world where there is none. We pray particularly for conflict to cease in Myanmar and Mozambique and those places which no longer attract our attention but are an assault against the image of the Divine.

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 in the weekly prayer list or anonymized and prayed for in private, please contact Matthew [revgough@gmail.com](mailto:revgough@gmail.com) or Jane [administrator@stguthlack-knighton.co.uk](mailto:administrator@stguthlack-knighton.co.uk)*

**The World Day of Prayer 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021** will not be like other years. The service has been prepared by Christian women of Vanuatu in the South Pacific, but this year actual services in Church are not possible for us. The service will be available on YouTube and other social media and will be led by the women of Vanuatu themselves. (The service will be in English). I have some printed orders of service for those of you who do not have access to YouTube etc. but would like to read through the service on 5th March. *Lorna Pollard*





## **Lent 2021 in the Knighton benefice: devotions, weekly prayer and study**

Sadly, we are not able to meet together during Lent this year but there are still several opportunities for everyone to use the time as good spiritual preparation for our Easter celebrations.

### **“God’s Story, Our Story”**

In the next few days everyone should receive by post a copy of the Church of England’s ‘Live Lent’ booklet for this year, which takes as its theme “God’s Story, Our Story”. This engaging booklet has Bible readings, reflections and a prayer for each day of Lent, and we urge you to use it daily as a key part of your lenten pattern this year. It will help you understand more of the story of ‘the God we can barely grasp’ and to feel more confident about your own story of faith.

**You are invited!** To help deepen your faith in anticipation of Easter do try and commit to at least one of the following each week in Lent as well:

### **Wednesday Compline and Discussion for Lent**

Our regular Wednesday Compline (Night Prayer) will continue) but with an extra dimension. On Ash Wednesday we will have a reflective guided meditation from 7.30pm, and on the following Wednesdays a half-hour discussion based around the theme and readings of ‘God’s Story, Our Story’. There will be plenty of chance to listen and talk,, before seasonal Compline at 8pm (without the usual breakout rooms).

**Sunday Evening Lent Course** from 7pm -8pm, starting 21st February and using the York Lent Course written by Leicester's Brian Davis: “Caring for Creation”, and hosted by Matthew and the Living Waters Group. Each Sunday evening until Sunday 21st March. Please contact Matthew for a place and a course booklet. (see below for further information)

**Weekly Prayer**-by Zoom or Phone-in.

Daily Prayer Common Worship: every Monday starting 22nd February at midday;

Morning Prayer Common Worship: every Friday starting 26th February at 8am.

For all of the above events each week the below Zoom link and telephone code is the same which will also be emailed out.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://leccofe.zoom.us/j/7467674408?pwd=T3pHbW5XRvVh2b29rV3pIOTZ1Rm1SZz09>

Meeting ID: 746 767 4408

Passcode: lent

To Phone in-

Dial by: 0131 460 1196 (standard call charge)

Input Meeting ID when prompted: 746 767 4408

Do join us this Lent. *The Ministry Team*

## **Caring for Creation - Lent York Course written by Leicester's long serving (since 1971!)-Canon Brian Davis**

“an informative course... **Caring for Creation** digs deeper into issues, and is particularly good at calling out misplaced Christian attitudes” (*Church Times* review Jan 2021). The human race is facing its greatest challenge: the threat to the environment and climate change. Faith in our Creator God should enable us to see what is actually happening.

5 Sunday evenings 7-8pm, starting 21st February. Simple to join by phoning in or using the Zoom link. **Please see joining details above.** Contact Matthew for more information and a free course booklet.

## 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?](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](mailto: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  **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@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk](mailto:administrator@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk)