

ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



Parish Church of St Guthlac
Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

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



Sunday 21 February 2021

First Sunday of Lent

A Hymn for Lent: ***“Forty days and forty nights”***

Forty days and forty nights
Thou wast fasting in the wild;
Forty days and forty nights
Tempted, and yet undefiled.

Shall not we Thy sorrow share,
And from earthly joys abstain,
Fasting with unceasing prayer,
Glad with Thee to suffer pain?

And if Satan vexing sore,
Flesh or spirit should assail,
Thou, his Vanquisher before,
Grant we may not faint or fail.

So shall we have peace divine;
Holier gladness ours shall be;
Round us, too, shall angels shine,
Such as minister'd to Thee.

Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear,
Ever constant by Thy side;
That with Thee we may appear
At th' eternal Eastertide.

words: George Hunt Smyttan (1822-1870)
music: “Heinlein”, Martin Herbst (1654-1681)

George Hunt Smyttan was born in Mumbai, India, the son of a Medical Missionary. After attending Cambridge University he was ordained, had a curacy in Alnwick, Northumberland, and then became Rector of Hawksworth, near Newark-on-Trent, Nottinghamshire, from 1850. Among his writings were *Thoughts in Verse for the Afflicted* (1849) and *Mission Songs and Ballads*

(1860). He was compelled to resign his living in 1859 because of ill health, and died suddenly and alone whilst travelling in Germany in 1870. He was buried in a 'grave in Frankfurt. 'Forty days and Forty Nights' is his most enduring hymn.

Collect & Readings for the First Sunday of Lent

The Collect

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness,
and was tempted as we are, yet without sin:
give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit;
and, as you know our weakness,
so may we know your power to save;
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 9.8-17

⁸Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹'As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.' ¹²God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the

clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.' ¹⁷God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.'

Psalm 25.1-9

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3.18-22

Gospel Reading: Mark 1.9-15

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.'

¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness.

¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

Reflection for the First Sunday of Lent. Mark 1 9-15

Revd Janet Gasper

Our Gospel reading is about re focussing, taking stock, both practically and spiritually and that of course is what the season of Lent should be about for each one of us. Jesus comes from Nazareth and is baptised by John in the River Jordan. As he comes out of the water he sees the heavens open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. He hears God saying to him, "You are my Son, the Beloved, with you I am well pleased"

Then immediately Jesus is driven out into the wilderness. The Greek word the gospel writer uses *ekballo*, from which we get our word ballistic, is about forcing or driving out. The Spirit hurls Jesus, flings him headlong into the desert. It is a violent, terrifying experience, but he cannot avoid it.

There, in the grey, dusty, bleak wasteland that is the Judean wilderness. Jesus undergoes his time of trial and testing - learning and exploring just like the people of Israel in other times. Jesus now has to think about what it means to be God's Son in a world like this, what the temptations are and what suffering his calling will bring. So as a final preparation for his public ministry, Jesus is given the opportunity to take stock of what lies before him. We too need this constant refocussing, guided by the Spirit.

Now let's jump from the wilderness of Judea to the magnificent city of Rome - to the year 65 AD. A Christian called Mark is writing a Gospel, telling the Good News to the little Christian fellowship in Rome. He tells them the story of Jesus's Baptism and testing .This little church is discovering just what it means to be a follower of Jesus. Already several of their number have been killed because they are Christians. Soon many more will die horrible deaths for the same reason, being a follower of Jesus. What happened to Jesus; what happened to little

churches in the Roman world; What happens to us is all the same.

There can be no calling that doesn't involve a testing; there can be no real and deep faith that doesn't have to struggle with dilemma and doubt; There can be no inner peace that has not known turmoil and temptation. Life is not fair - most of us know this from our own experiences, and on one level, being a Christian won't make any difference to that fact, but it does make a difference to how we cope with things and the difference comes out of the struggle itself. We see it in the courage of Christians who have stood out against injustice or who have ministered to the sick and dying in places where others have turned away .We see it in the way Christians face illness and bereavement - stories of hope and love alongside the story of our God who came and shared our human life with all its dilemma and struggles, and by whose death comes the promise of peace, love and forgiveness.

Lent is a time for refocussing, inviting God into our hearts, being open to his love especially at this time of lockdown, a time for making a commitment to do something positive in our life of faith. There are on line Lent courses on Sunday and Wednesday evenings or if you prefer you could set yourself the task of reading Mark's Gospel during Lent, a small section each day. If you are able, try to support those in poorer parts of the world by setting aside the cost of a main meal each day and giving it to Christian Aid or another charity at the end of Lent. Above all try to set aside more time for Prayer perhaps bringing to God those you love but have not physically seen for nearly a year and those known or unknown who are in hospital at this time as well as those who nurse them. Let us this Lent allow ourselves to take some small steps on our journey of faith knowing that our faithful God walks beside us.

PRAYER

Personal

As I begin this season of Lent, a time of ashes, self-denial, penitence, forgive me as the things that matter most to me have been denied the touch and closeness of loved ones, to meet and travel freely without fear. I do not wish to enter into further self-denial. I do however want more of Christ in my life. I want to be more like Jesus in my words, my thoughts and dealings with others. I want to know God's mercy and grace in my heart and pray the words of Hosea 6:6 as truth for myself, 'I desire steadfast love not sacrifice and the knowledge of God'.

Church & Local Community

We are thankful that our over 65s now are being vaccinated. We pray for the stubborn levels of the virus which persist in Leicester despite lockdown to diminish. We thank God for our public health team and their sterling work. We cry out against the injustices exposed with spread in our poorest communities. We pray for the start of Fair Trade week and thank God for the work of churches involved and The Just Shop. We thank you that they have found creative ways to operate. We pray for our retailers on Francis St/ Allandale Rd and South Knighton Rd which have not been able to open. We pray that their homes and families will be protected from further hardships.

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

Nation and World

From storms, to floods, volcanoes and snow, the earth seems to groan and cry out against its exploiting. We pray that a reawakened consciousness of humanity's impact on climate crisis may bring change amongst the policy makers in business

and politics. We pray particularly at this for the ongoing condition in Texas enduring a further day without power and without water in some places. We pray for those in Guatemala without shelter in the shadow of the erupting volcano. We pray for peace in Mozambique with the ongoing devastating conflict there. We are minded of our relative peace and beneficiaries of injustice as we live before God the 130 poorest countries yet to receive any Covid vaccines.

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 or Jane administrator@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk

The World Day of Prayer 5th 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*



THANKS

I really appreciated everyone's prayers while I was in Glenfield Hospital. I was very touched and felt supported by your thoughts and prayer. Many thanks.

I was in two Cardiac Wards during the week. I was very impressed with the care given by NHS staff. There were some staff shortages with regular staff supported by others from different hospitals and returned retirees. Despite the additional pressures due to the pandemic, I always saw quality time and consideration given to all patients.

Please pray for all the NHS staff who are giving their time and effort in these really demanding circumstances.

Thank you, Tina Jarvis

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. From February 24th we will have a half-hour discussion starting at 7.30pm, 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 every Sunday, starting 21st February and running until Sunday 21st March. Using the York Lent Course written by Leicester’s Brian Davis: “Caring for Creation”, and hosted by Matthew and the Living Waters Group. 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=T3pHbW5XRvh2b29rV3plOTZ1Rm1SZz09>

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_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

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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 **noon Thursday** to
administrator@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk

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.

Send us your art on the theme of
"Create the World You Want"
for an online exhibition for Fairtrade Fortnight

Photographs, poems, pictures of your artwork...
what might you come up with?

Send your entries to
leigh@stoneygatebaptist.org.uk
by 21st February

Churches Together in Clarendon Park and Knighton
We need your imagination!

Send us your contributions
on the theme of what Easter means to you
for a special Easter booklet

Prayers, poems, reflections, drawings...
what might you share with us?

Send your entries to
leigh@stoneygatebaptist.org.uk
by 28th February

KEEP BUYING FAIRTRADE

Look for the Fairtrade symbol when you are doing your supermarket shop, or order online from places like JUST, Traidercraft and Ethical Superstore

DONATE

Support the Fairtrade Foundation with a one-off or regular donation by visiting the Fairtrade Foundation website

PROMOTE

Tell your friends! The more people know about Fairtrade, the more demand increases, and the more companies commit and invest

WAYS YOU CAN KEEP SUPPORTING FAIRTRADE IN LOCKDOWN



GET ONBOARD WITH FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

Join the online festival from 22 February to 7 March for speakers, discussions, workshops, art and entertainment – see the Fairtrade Foundation website for more

Join a local Fairtrade event –

Wednesday 24 Feb 11am | online coffee morning
Sunday 28 Feb 6:30pm | online screening of ecumenical service
(email leighestoneygatebaptist.org.uk for Zoom joining details)

Enter our "Create the World You Want" exhibition – send photographs, poems, or pictures of artwork to leighestoneygatebaptist.org.uk by 21st Feb then visit our online gallery to see the entries