

ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



Parish Church of St Guthlac
Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

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

Second Sunday of



Sunday 28 February 2021

A hymn for Lent: *'All my hope on God is founded'*

All my hope on God is founded;
he doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance he guideth,
only good and only true.
God unknown,
he alone
calls my heart to be his own.

Pride of man and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray his trust;
what with care and toil he buildeth,
tower and temple, fall to dust.
But God's power,
hour by hour,
is my temple and my tower.

God's great goodness aye endureth,
deep his wisdom, passing thought:
splendour, light and life attend him,
beauty springeth out of naught.
Evermore
from his store
new-born worlds rise and adore.

Daily doth th'Almighty giver
bounteous gifts on us bestow;
his desire our soul delighteth,
pleasure leads us where we go.
Love doth stand
at his hand;
joy doth wait on his command.

Still from man to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ, his Son.
Christ doth call
one and all:
ye who follow shall not fall.

words: Robert Bridges (1844-1930)
based on Joachim Neander (1650-1680)
music: 'Michael' by Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

Robert Seymour Bridges OM was Poet Laureate from 1913 to 1930. A doctor by training, he achieved literary fame only late in life. His poems reflect a deep Christian faith, and he is the author of many well-known hymns. It was through Bridges' efforts that Gerard Manley Hopkins achieved posthumous fame.

Collect & Readings for the Second Sunday of Lent

The Collect

Almighty God,
you show to those who are in error the light of your truth,
that they may return to the way of righteousness:
grant to all those who are admitted
into the fellowship of Christ's religion,
that they may reject those things
that are contrary to their profession,
and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same;
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen

First Reading: Genesis 17.1-7, 15-16

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.' ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

¹⁵God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.'

Psalm 22.23-31

Second Reading: Romans 4.13-25

Gospel Reading: Mark 8.31-38

³¹Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan!

For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

Reflection: Mark 8:31–38

Fiona Wingate

Why not what?

2008 was the year we most of us first heard about Fanny May and Freddy Mac. The year the banking crisis hit. It was the year the house of cards built on clever financial products collapsed. But how did it all happen? It was the time that bankers lost sight of what they were there to do. People trusted the bankers to look after their interests. To protect their hard-earned savings. But instead, what happened? They got carried away.

Some might say it de-regulation was to blame, that is partly true. It started with one "clever" way to make money. Then it snowballed. It became about cleverer and cleverer ideas – hedge funds, mortgage-backed securities, sub-prime mortgages, collateralised debt obligations, and other derivatives. I'll be honest I don't know what half of these terms mean. But it is clear to me, that bankers stopped focussing on

the “why” they exist and got carried away with “what” they were doing.

“Get behind me Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

But what do bankers have to do with our gospel reading today. Well Peter is our gospel’s banker. He’s focused on the here and now. He doesn’t want to hear Jesus talking about his death (even though it means also his resurrection). That doesn’t fit with Peter’s view of the world. It is only in the passage immediately preceding today’s, that Peter has declared Jesus is the Messiah. But Peter’s idea of the what the Messiah is there to do is skewed. What the Messiah is there to do is sort out the Romans in Israel, surely. Hence Jesus’ rebuke, “Get behind me Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

“Get behind me Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

I would say the that the bankers created and worshipped the idol of clever money-making ideas – the quick buck, the “ingenious” idea. But it a risk we can all fall into. Not the clever banking ideas but the risk of creating idols of what we do, even as Christians.

We have the church which is organised more and more like any other big organisation, with rules, processes and procedures. These are important for the smooth running of the organisation. For carrying out of what the church does. Do we risk creating idols of these processes and procedures within the church? How often do we stop and think about **why** the church exists?

Why does the church exist? It exists as the body of Christ. It exists to worship God and give him the glory. It exists to reflect Jesus Christ’s light in the world. It exists to point the world to

Christ. As Rowan Williams put it “The church exists to pass on the promise of Jesus - “You can live in the presence of God without fear; you can receive from his fullness and set others free from fear and guilt”.

So is what we do in the organisation of church in support of or instead of this “why”? Are we like Peter? Can Jesus rebuke us?

“Get behind me Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

I am not saying that all the things we do in the organisation of the church are unimportant. We can be sure that Christ is with us in the mundane as much as he is in the magnificent. In the committee as much as the communion. In the paperwork as much as the prayer. The challenge for all of us is to keep the “why” in focus. To set our minds on things divine even in the midst of the mundane human things.

My world of work, engineering, is full of processes and procedures. With the need to comply with laws and regulations. It is very easy to lose sight of why all these things matter. It is easy for the goal simply to be “ticking the boxes”. Why do we do all this compliance work? In order to make sure people are kept safe. Making sure the equipment is safe and meets these legal requirements. In my world of work, if equipment fails then people can die. That is a sobering thought. But it is what makes all the hard work of compliance worthwhile. It is the “why” that makes sense of the “what”.

So why do we, the church, do what we do? Is it because we love God, knowing that he loved us first? Is it because we do want to be followers of Christ, to pick up the cross? Or is it because we’ve got caught up in the organisation?

“Get behind me Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

Peter may be the one who Jesus rebukes in today’s gospel but he is also the one who offers us the greatest encouragement. He is the one who is so wonderfully human. The one who gets it so right – recognising Jesus as the Messiah. He is the one who gets it so wrong – suggesting building tents at the Transfiguration or denying knowing Jesus on Good Friday. But still Peter is the one who Jesus chooses to be shepherd of the sheep when Jesus is no longer here on earth. Peter just needed to turn his mind from human things to focus on divine things.

That is what we also need to do. This season of Lent gives us that opportunity. The opportunity to stop. A time to look again at our lives. To look at what we do. A time to reflect on the reasons why we do them. To ask ourselves, “Why do I do this? Is it for God or is it for me?”

Lent might feel like a burden this year. There is so much going on and yet nothing. But I would encourage all of us to see Lent as the chance to stop, look and listen. Let us be honest with ourselves. Let us be prepared to have the conversation, “Why do we do this?”

So that as we move through this season of Lent towards Easter let us take time to prepare our hearts and minds to focus not on things human but divine.

Because as John F Kennedy once said “Efforts and courage are not enough without purpose and direction.”

Amen.

PRAYER

A Christian is always praying, whether sleeping or waking, their heart is always praying, even a little sigh is a great and mighty prayer-Martin Luther

Personal

As I adjust the loss of the life I once knew, help me to know that I am not alone. I pray that I may know the words of Isaiah 43, that I need not fear because the Lord knows my name and will not let me drown in the waters of despair or be consumed when I walk through the fire of pain.

Church & Local Community

Many Christians are supporting Anti Modern Slavery initiatives this Lent. We thank the Lord that our eyes have been opened this Pandemic to the closeness of Modern Slavery within our nation and City. The nail bar, the car wash, the factory with labour bussed in during the night. The farm workers stuck in cramped static caravans in isolated fields without language, passports or proper pay...Lord forgive us for turning away and being complicit. Accepting the cheap food or clothing as we are vested and benefit from this exploitation. We commit abuse by surrogacy and delegate to others on our behalf to deliver us a bargain no questions asked. As Fairtrade Fortnight enters its second week-may we open our eyes and commit as St Paul does (1 Tim 5:18) 'workers are worth their pay'.

We pray for new priorities and an awakening of spiritual life in the reassessment people make in their lives through the pandemic. We pray for revival and a turning to God and Church for a time of belonging and meaning.

Weekly prayer for roads in the parish – **Bankart Avenue.**

Nation and World

We pray for integrity in our government and a reckoning for when nepotism and corruption has influenced our political and economic life. We pray against where favour and influence has been exchanged for contractual reward. We pray the words of Proverbs 11 and 16 'dishonest scales are an abomination but accurate weights find favour and honesty belongs to the Lord'.

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

Sad news- Ann Ibbs: I'm sorry to have to tell you that our friend Ann Ibbs died in the early hours of last Saturday morning. Ann had been living at Welford Court for the last couple of years and had become increasingly unwell. Despite the pandemic she was able to see her family during her last hours. Our thoughts and prayers go out to them. Adrian

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*



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”

Everyone should have received 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, until 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. **This course is now full.**

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*

WORSHIP INFORMATION

BBC1 Lent Worship 2: 11.15am

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 iPlayer and Sounds apps.

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 1920-2020 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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Revd Janet Gasper

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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@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.

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT IS HERE!

The Zoom link for the ecumenical service on **Sunday 28th February**, which has been put together by Fairtrade, will be:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89017167176?pwd=VzExTGxOSFpu dFZrUHVxSHBpbVdqdz09>

Meeting ID: 890 1716 7176 / Passcode: 129389

The Zoom link for the Stoneygate Baptist Church wellbeing cafe, which you are welcome to join any Wednesday at 11am is:

us02web.zoom.us/j/86350559902?pwd=TEwyOWxUZTE0bjhW ZFA1Smplbk1YUT09

Meeting ID: 863 5055 9902 / Passcode: 216265

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