

ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



Parish Church of St Guthlac
Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

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



**Sunday 4 & 11 April 2021
Easter Sunday
& Second Sunday of Easter**

A Hymn for Easter – “*Thine be the glory*”

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory, thou o'er death hast won;
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave clothes where thy body lay.

*Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son,
Endless is the victory, thou o'er death hast won.*

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
let the Church with gladness, hymns of triumph sing;
for her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting.

*Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son,
Endless is the victory, thou o'er death hast won.*

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;
life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love:
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.

*Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son,
Endless is the victory, thou o'er death hast won.*

words: Edmond Budry (1854-1932), tr. Richard Hoyle (1875-1939)
music: 'Judas Maccabaeus', George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

Edmond Budry was a Swiss hymn writer, and today is well known for writing the original French lyrics to the hymn "Thine Be the Glory" ("À toi la gloire"). For most of his working life, Budry was the pastor of the Free Church in the Swiss town of

Vevey. Besides writing original hymns, he translated German, English, and Latin lyrics into French.

JUDAS MACCABEUS is an arrangement of a tune initially used by Handel in his oratorio 'Joshua' (1747). He later transferred it to 'Judas Maccabeus' in 1751 for "See, the Conquering Hero Comes."

"This hymn perfectly displays the glory and brilliance of Christ's resurrection. The first stanza discusses the power of the resurrection, the second verse tells Christ's people to shed their doubt now that Christ has conquered the grave, the third verse tells us to quench our fear now that the Prince of peace reigns. The powerful lyrics and the universally-liked tune no doubt led to the hymns' enormous popularity." (hymnary.org)

Worship for Holy Week and Easter

Despite still not being able to meet together for our regular worship, we can still mark Holy Week and celebrate Easter.

To help you remember the profound moments leading up to the crucifixion we will send everyone a simple guide to **praying through Holy Week**.

Then on **Maundy Thursday** you can join our special Eucharist at Home, at 7.30pm, by following this Zoom link:

<https://leccofe.zoom.us/j/92186073163?pwd=UmkyVzNNTWlmMUZPRktDQ2lzUWoydz09>

or phoning 0330 088 5830, using Meeting ID: 921 8607 3163 and Passcode: 814346

On **Good Friday** you can share in our Reflection at the Cross through the Youtube link that will be on the Church website.

On **Easter Day** itself we will have a special Virtual Worship, accessed as usual through the website or the YouTube link sent by email. Those who receive their newsletter by post will also receive special Easter Day prayers in printed form.

These special days are the heart of our Christian faith, so please do plan to mark and celebrate them in whatever way you can.

Together we can affirm confidently the transforming power of all that Jesus accomplished through his suffering and through the triumph of the resurrection – the hope that the world needs so much today.

Yours in friendship and Christ's service,

Adrian

Collect & Readings for Easter Sunday

The Greeting

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The Collect

Lord of all life and power,
who through the mighty resurrection of your Son
overcame the old order of sin and death
to make all things new in him:
grant that we, being dead to sin
and alive to you in Jesus Christ,
may reign with him in glory;
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be praise and honour, glory and might,
now and in all eternity.
Amen

First reading: Acts 10.34-43

Psalms 118.1-2,14-24

Second reading: 1 Corinthians 15.1-11

Gospel reading: John 20.1-18

¹Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ²So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' ³Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. ⁴The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰Then the disciples returned to their homes.

¹¹But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹²and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' ¹⁴When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid

him, and I will take him away.’ ¹⁶Jesus said to her, ‘Mary!’ She turned and said to him in Hebrew, ‘Rabbouni!’ which means Teacher. ¹⁷Jesus said to her, ‘Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, “I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.”’ ¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, ‘I have seen the Lord’; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Collect & Readings for the Second Sunday of Easter

The Collect

Almighty Father,
you have given your only Son to die for our sins
and to rise again for our justification:
grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness
that we may always serve you
in pureness of living and truth;
through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ 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: Acts 4.32-35

Psalm 133

Second Reading: 1 John 1.1-2.2

Gospel Reading: John 20.19-31

¹⁹When it was evening on the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.'

²⁷Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' ²⁸Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!'

²⁹Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

"Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." *Rev Canon Dr Stephen Foster*

The seven signs, or 'semeion', in St John's Gospel, are what we might normally call miracles. In St John especially, they are designed to give his readers clues to who Jesus is, that is, the Son of God. There are seven signs in the Gospel, probably symbolising the seven days of creation, but these seven are all pointing to the 8th sign on the 8th day; they are pointing to the greatest of all signs....they are pointing to today; they are pointing to The Feast of the Resurrection....where re-creation finds its ultimate focus.

Hold on, Father Stephen, this is a bit complicated to take in one hearing.

'I know!' Father says,...'but now, it gets a bit easier!

"Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost."

This text is from John's version of the Feeding of the Five Thousand, his fourth sign, the only miracle which occurs in all four Gospels. Jesus is saying that the scraps of bread after the meal need collecting, and not left (say), for the birds of the air to feast on.

"Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost".

This verse only appears in John's Gospel.

On Holy Saturday, Jesus lies dead in the tomb, with the wholeness of his ministry seeming to have fallen apart. His ministry seems to have been smashed to pieces, fragmented, and lying in ruins. Those who have listened to him, those who have learnt from him, those who have been healed by him, those who have been fed by him have largely disappeared. The disciples...well the disciples! One has betrayed him...one has denied him...and the rest have fled. Like the morsels of leftover bread they are scattered in separation. The disciples are now

hoping to save their own lives at the end of what had promised so much, but seemingly had delivered so little. To them, all seems to have ended in fear and failure. The eleven just want to return to the 'fishing grounds of their past' and forget this whole sad episode.

Even the body of Jesus itself, now lying in a tomb has begun to fall apart, a cameo of his ministry... his body like his ministry is falling apart too.

This is the final phase of him 'being done to' from Maundy Thursday to last evening...on Holy Saturday, he ends up in darkness, alone, finished, failed. He is now being 'done to' even by the natural processes of post mortem.

That though is Holy Saturday.

But this is now a whole new wonderful day. In the glory of this moment...the glory of this day...the glory of Easter Day, Jesus rises from the dead, all is gathered together in the miracle of miracles, in the ultimate sign of the Resurrection. Jesus body is drawn together; in John's eyes recreated, never to die again. Jesus' ministry is not lost afterall, the disciples are restored, the final enemy of death is defeated in this most wonderful day of ultimate glory. His ministry is recollected, he lives for ever in glory, and empowered in the Spirit he fills the lives of his disciples...the beginning of the Church.

"Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost."

This is the day that the Lord has made.

This is the day that the Lord has made for us.

So what does this day mean for every one of us?

Why is today the most important day of the Christian year?

Well, for us, whatever we do... in the name of Christ, the smallest deed done, the kind word spoken, the simplest thought and prayer offered, because of today, in the power of Jesus' Resurrection, like the fragments of bread scattered abroad in

the Feeding, all will be drawn together and will never ever... ever... ever... be lost. Such is Jesus' victory for us today.

"Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost."

I continue to be staggered by the self-giving, the self-sacrifice that the NHS and indeed many others have shown in the selfless service of others in the last twelve months. Each might be tempted to think that it is simply 'what they do', and in the grand scheme of things, it will eventually be forgotten and society will move on. But what they need to know; what they need to always remember, is that all they have done, all that folk have done, in the power of today will never be lost, never be forgotten, never be simply set aside, but in God's own power will be drawn together in glory.

"Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost."

Over the last year, all of us in one way or another have led strange lives and certainly very fragmented lives. The pandemic has torn families apart to a lesser or greater degree. Our routines have been turned upside down; our leisure and social activities have been curtailed; our music has been at best socially distanced and our singing together impossible. Thousands and thousands have become very ill, and many have lost their desperate fight to live. And especially, we may pray for their souls. We pray that they may rest in peace and rise in glory. And we pray for those who mourn them right now.

"Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost."

But for all of us who share this miracle we celebrate 'today', Jesus meets us in a garden, on the seashore, on the road, in an upper room... in the supermarket, the bus queue, the take away, the local.

Just like the fishermen disciples returning to what they knew best returning to their own 'everyday activity', in the Great Catch, in the power of the Resurrection we can look for, and

we can find him in the everyday, but now the 'new everyday' of a 'new era of humanity'.

"Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost."

The invitation to the disciples to have breakfast on the seashore after the Great Catch is very poignant.

Jesus identifies with their past fishing grounds. He meets them where they are. The disciples know it is Jesus risen...a changed Jesus...a Jesus meeting them where they are and from what they have known, and leading them and empowering them into a new future, for themselves, for the Church and for the world.

Jesus gathers the fragments of their own shattered lives and refashions them into apostles...they become those who are sent... they become the foundation of the New Testament Church.

As the Pandemic recedes and hopefully is controlled, Jesus meets us where we are today and sends us out into a different world, a world which has the familiarities of the past but one which has profoundly changed.

"Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost."

Many people have lost a great deal, their loved ones, their livelihoods, their place in God's world, where it is not only Covid which has decimated societies...civil wars...oppressive regimes undermining democracy.

But the Lord can gather up our fragments however they happen, and he can recreate us to face a rather different future. But it is a future in which we can have confidence as the Risen Lord is always with us, as he is in a special way at each Eucharist, and in his power he gives us all we need to be a risen people in a risen world.

"Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost."

AMEN.

PRAYER

Personal

'It is finished', or rather everything has changed. I no longer need to live and dwell in the shadow of death. May I know the hope of the Risen Christ and how this changes the meaning and purpose of life and death and beyond. Help me to live a life worthy of my calling to be a follower of Christ.

Church and Community

'May they all be one' (John 17) we pray for the unity of denominations to take seriously Jesus' final prayer for his believers to be one, united. We pray for our witness as a united body may shine love for one another and the world we inhabit. We pray for unity, love and oneness in our individual churches, Benefice and wider Church as Body of Christ. We follow Jesus' command in the Eucharist (Luke 22) to 'Remember him'. May we "re-member"-put back together his body on earth.

Weekly prayer for roads in the parish – **Dovedale Road**

Nation and World

We look to the example of the Risen Christ (John 21) who shared his food with his friends and forgave Peter for his error. We pray for those in the world who are hungry. May we be prepared to take seriously the command of Jesus to 'feed his sheep' both with the material needs and shared our resources but also those who need the hope of Christ in their lives. We pray for the nations around the world who suffer persecution for the gospel. We pray for the areas of darkness where faith is forbidden. We pray for those hungry for hope to be fed by the mission of the church to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28)

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

GIVING THANKS FOR OUR VACCINES IN LEICESTER: CHRISTIAN AID APPEAL As more of us, our family, friends, and neighbours receive their COVID vaccine, we give thanks to God and are both joyful and relieved. However, we are aware that many communities around the world are suffering and do not have access to vaccines and many of them lack the basics they need to protect themselves like clean water for handwashing. As you or a family member is protected, please give to help protect those who do not have access to vaccines. All donations will support Christian Aid's response to the coronavirus. Thank you for your support. You can give online at <https://giving.tapsimple.org/online/christian-aid/leicestercag>

WORSHIP INFORMATION

BBC1 Easter Sunday Worship: 10.00am Sunday 4th April

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_EdZSg? or via the website or Facebook page.

Online Compline Night Prayer from 8pm each Wednesday And From Monday 12th April Midday Prayer

All Welcome. Same online joining details below for both:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://leccofe.zoom.us/j/7467674408?pwd=NHRQZ2F0Mmt5Wk5sd2NMc1JtREpaUT09>

Meeting ID: 746 767 4408

Passcode: hope

Or Phone In: 0131 460 1196 (standard call charge)

Input Meeting ID: 746 767 4408

CONTACT DETAILS

Vicar: Revd. Adrian Jones 0116 2704268
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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@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk

Don't forget to visit the St. Guthlac's Facebook page and website <https://www.stguthlac-knighton.co.uk>

DIARY DATE: ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

This will take place on Sunday 2nd May. More details will follow soon.

ELECTORAL ROLL

If you are not currently on the electoral roll and would like to be entered on it, please contact Jane Wright administrator@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk for a form.

Completed forms must be returned to Jane by 4th April if you wish to be entitled to vote at the APCM. The 'Notice of Revision' posted on our website and the external church noticeboard gives details of eligibility. Thank you.

Nominations for AGM:

Voting will take place at the AGM for 2 Churchwardens and for PCC members (3 x 3year posts and 2 x 1 year posts). If you are interested in standing for election or would like to find out more, please get in touch with me on 2103690 or at l.c.meakin@ntlworld.com. Thank you. **Lesley Meakin**

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.

NEWS FROM MALWI

Fiona Wingate and myself have received correspondence from Bishop Christopher in which he writes....

“There have been no visits for January to March because of rains and the demands of the pandemic on the medical team which has been significant. The medical team consists of volunteers who offer their free time to operate the clinic. Sadly the clinic lost one of its clinicians to COVID - 19 which I heard on Tuesday. We are now planning our next 6 visits - May to July.”

He also included a report covering the visits last October, November and December. Each week the team went out, alternating between Chamalala one week and Mfula the next. The list of medical conditions they treated included Malaria, Sepsis, Scabies, Diarrhoea, Respiratory disorders and other conditions. Each week they treated anything between 200 and 327 of these conditions. Dr John Chipolombwe the Chairperson of the Health Commission, who prepared the report, also listed the following:-

Achievements

1. Availability of funds for supporting the outreach clinics from Lord Bishop Boyle through Lord Bishop Magangani.
2. Readily availability of volunteer medical staffs to undertake the outreach clinics despite busy schedules at their places of work and families.
3. Good support from Anglican Diocese of Northern Malawi through Lord Bishop Magangani and Diocesan Secretary Bernard Mainga.
4. Good support from Health Commission

Challenges

1. Heavy workload affecting data recording.
2. Vehicle not very perfect for such activities.

Recommendation

1. Lord Bishop Magangani to continue pleading with Lord Bishop Boyle for continuing support for the medical outreach clinics.
2. Need for all-weather road worth vehicle for the activity.

You will note how much they rely on their Bishop Magangani and Bishop Christopher (Boyle) for the funds to allow this truly outstanding work to continue and we will shortly be providing a further **£1200**. If you would like to donate to this very worthy cause, the easiest way at present is by Bank Transfer to St Guthlacs PCC account, including "MALAWI" as your reference. If you do not have our Bank details, please contact me for them.

Bishop Christopher signed off by saying that we will all be much in his thoughts and prayers this Easter. ***"God bless"***. And we should keep him in our prayers.

David Hunt

STONEYGATE BAPTIST CHURCH WELLBEING CAFE

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=TEWyoWxUZTE0bjhWZFA1Smplbk1YUT09

Meeting ID: 863 5055 9902

Passcode: 216265

St Guthlac's Buddies: Keeping in Touch & Making Friends

Would you like to take part?

Over the past year, we have had a Buddy System which has involved about 30 people regularly keeping in touch, via the telephone, to provide mutual friendship, support and assistance. Each participant telephones their Buddy once a fortnight or so. It might be for a brief check to ensure their buddy is OK or for a longer chat. Nearly everyone currently in the Buddy System is very keen to continue with their Buddy(s).

Buddying has taken different forms. The most common form is that one person has telephoned another. This second person has telephoned a third and so on... This has meant that individuals have been able to do something for someone else, as well as being able to receive the gift of care from another.

In other cases someone who has not been at special risk or needed to shield, did some shopping or fetched medicines as well as telephoned their buddy. In another instance the pair had a regular prayer time.

Feedback from participants has been very positive. One person wrote 'I've enjoyed being a part of the Buddy system very much.' Another commented on how much she looked forward to the calls and felt she had gained a friend, rather than just an acquaintance. Getting to know people better and making friends has been the most common outcome. It has also been pointed out that the Buddy System keeps people in touch with the church even when they are not able to go because of the Lockdown, temporary illness or longer lasting infirmity.

In the future the Buddy system would also enable new people in the congregation to have an initial regular link.

Would you like to take part? Please contact Tina via email.

