

ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



Parish Church of St Guthlac
Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

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



Sunday 18 April 2021
Third Sunday of Easter

Remembering HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh



Remember, O Lord, your servant Philip,
who has gone before us with the sign of faith
and now rests in the sleep of peace.
According to your promises,
grant to him and to all who rest in Christ,
refreshment, light and peace;
through the same Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Most merciful God,
whose wisdom is beyond our understanding,
surround the Queen and the Royal Family with your love,
that they may not be overwhelmed by their loss,
but have confidence in your goodness,
and strength to meet the days to come.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Collect & Readings for the Third Sunday of Easter

The Collect

Almighty Father,
who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples
with the sight of the risen Lord:
give us such knowledge of his presence with us,
that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life
and serve you continually in righteousness and truth;
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: Acts 3.12-19

¹²Peter addressed the people, 'You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? ¹³The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. ¹⁴But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

¹⁷'And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.'

Psalm 4

Second reading: 1 John 3.1-7

Gospel reading: Luke 24.36b-48

³⁶While the eleven and their companions were talking about what they had heard, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' ³⁷They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, 'Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.' ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate in their presence.

⁴⁴Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you - that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things.'

Reflection for the Third Sunday of Easter –

Acts 3 12-19. Luke 24 36b – 48

Rev Janet Gasper

Our gospel reading this week is Luke's account of Jesus coming to his disciples after his resurrection. Immediately before this passage two followers of Jesus, Cleopas and his unnamed companion have come in breathless from the village of Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem. They come with a tale of meeting Jesus on the road out to the village and recognising him when he broke bread with them at their Emmaus home. They knew him and then he was gone.

Suddenly Jesus is standing among his friends in the room in Jerusalem and at first they think they're seeing a ghost. The ancient world knew all about ghosts and visions - there are plenty of stories in ancient literature about the spirits of the dead returning to haunt, spy on or chat with the living . But Jesus addresses their fear by showing them his hands and feet with the marks of the nails of crucifixion. "Feel me, see me take my hand" he says. He asks for food, assuring them that it really is him and they can be at peace in his presence. The disciples struggle to believe, at first for sheer dread and then amid the joyful fear that this could be real.

Jesus then reminds them of teaching he had given to them long before drawing from the scriptures. He taught them of God's love and forgiveness and that he is the fulfilment of God's promise. "You knew it was going to happen like this," he says. Jesus brings us back to God's love through his suffering and death on the cross, and the disciples start to recognise in Jesus a new kind of life, a new kind of love , more powerful than they had known before. These friends who witness the risen presence of Jesus are to have a vital role in telling this good

news to the world. Here in the Jesus they had known and loved, who had gone through death and come out into a new mode of life, his physical body transformed - living both in our hearts and in the heart of God. Here is a new way of being and there are no words to describe it which is why we often use symbols - poetry, art, music in our worship.

Within weeks the friends of Jesus are drawing on that love and peace and using the power of the Spirit. In Acts Chapter 3 we learn that a lame man has suddenly been given new health and energy and Peter explains that the power of Jesus was at work here, not absent in resurrection but accessible and active through the faith of his church. Peter draws on Israel's heritage - Jesus who has been raised is the servant glorified by the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Jesus is the wounded redeemer of Isaiah. So the people of Jerusalem where Jesus had been denied and killed should look on the resurrection as an amnesty from God. Rulers and people had been involved in his death but God is ready to pardon their ignorance and Peter invokes them to walk through this window of opportunity and turn to Christ. Of course there were angry responses from people antagonised by Peter's claims and Christians today still encounter angry opposition, but that day in Jerusalem there were many who believed and joined Peter and became followers of Jesus.

Tomorrow is the Feast of St Alphege who lived in the eleventh century. He became a monk withdrawing into the life of a hermit in Somerset. Dunstan The Archbishop of Canterbury drew him back into mainstream church life, appointing him Abbot of Bath and in 984 Bishop of Winchester. In 1005 Alphege became Archbishop of Canterbury - his simple life style and generous support for the needy made him a revered and much loved man. In 1011 the Danes invaded south east England and Alphege was taken prisoner and an enormous ransom put on his head. He would not have it paid knowing that to do so

would impoverish the people even more. He was brutally murdered by his captors on April 19th 1012.

We live in a world full of disputes, large or small. We all fall short of the glory of God and have our sinful moments, but we strive to behave in ways that are loving and caring, following the example of Jesus. We may be ignored, manipulated and sidelined but we are not going to disappear because our lives are rooted in the life death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER

Personal

Lord, quieten me, as I place in your hands those for whom I want to pray. I know that you love them with a love greater than I could ever imagine. In the stillness I am here, with you, for them. Use me, Lord.

Angela Ashwin, from 'A Little Book of Healing Prayer'

Church and Community

Lord we thank you for the re-opening of our local businesses, for those workers and business owners to be blessed with a sense of purpose. We pray for them to be protected from the virus and that people may conduct themselves with care and consideration. We thank our heavenly Father that we may worship in this country without fear of persecution or harassment. We pray that this virus renews a sense of gratitude and wonder for fellowship and praise. We pray for our young people and schools re-opening, that the reported anxieties and destructive behaviours which have afflicted so many may soon be soothed.

Weekly prayer for roads in the parish – **Elms Road & Elms Court**

Nation and World

We pray for the family of Prince Philip and those who loved him. We thank God for his life and how he impacted so many lives for good. We pray that the Queen may know the comfort of her faith in Christ at this time. May God bless our Sovereign Queen and her family through these difficult times.

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/leicesterca>

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 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 Monday 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

St Mary's is open for services from April 18th at 9am and 10.30am every Sunday. (Note new times) If you would like to attend a service please contact James in the Parish Office on 0116 2702705 to book a place. He will also be able to let you know the type of service being held or check St. Mary's website.

LIVE STREAMING SERVICES

As we begin to re-open St Mary's and St Guthlac's buildings for worship, we would like to trial live streaming as some people have requested. To participate and watch the service live, you will need a Facebook account. We have a step by step guide for how to set up a Facebook account currently available on St Mary's Website under Corona Virus Support '**Social Media-staying connected**', or on request from Matthew. The live recording will be available on the website later that day. For **Sunday 18th April, a livestream will be broadcast on St Mary's Facebook page for the 10.30 service and available later on the website www.stmarysknighton.co.uk**. If successful, we hope to offer live streaming at St Guthlac's too. This will complement the in-person and pre-recorded services.

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.

CONTACT DETAILS

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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 at noon, via Zoom. More details will follow soon.

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. Thank you.

Lesley Meakin

BENEFICE MAGAZINE

The copy deadline for the May/June issue of the magazine is 1 May, for publication in mid-May. Please send your contributions, preferably in Word, to stmaryknighton.magazine@gmail.com.

I am hopeful that it will no longer be necessary to badge articles as 'Letters from Lockdown'; but the experience of lockdown and ideas it prompts for the future, may act of a stimulus for items (short or long) under the banner 'Beyond Lockdown'.

And it's Spring. So to complement the pictures readers provided of their gardens last year, why not get out and about and send pictures of the Benefice in springtime.

Thank you. Nigel

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

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

Summary of Deanery Synod Meeting – 23rd March 2021. Part 1

The meeting was held by Zoom and two key areas were discussed. The first is summarised below and the second will follow next week.

1. Update on the Shaped by God Together process by Stuart Burns & John Barrett (Diocesan Mission & Ministry Team)

The Shaped by God Together process is a diocesan process that is looking to find better ways to improve and support churches’ mission as it moves forward. The process aims to discern God’s will corporately throughout the diocese. The framework considers what the church’s ministry will be, how the

worship will be run and how we might use our church buildings and halls in the future. The aim is to look at these patterns to see that they are sustainable or appropriate for the future. The diocese also acknowledges that part of this also needs to look at the financial model because the present model is not sustainable because expenditure consistently exceeds income.

The Bishop's Council had, before the outbreak of Coronavirus, started looking towards new ways of working by 2026, but the pandemic has accelerated the process because it raised questions about new and existing ways of being the church in the community. The process is underway but the diocese is very keen for as many people throughout the diocese get involved in the process as it moves forward. To date the diocese has been through a process of gathering data from individuals. This data has been reviewed and themes identified. The next phase, presently in progress, is getting feedback on these themes – with options to be discussed at Diocesan Synod in April/May 2021. July 2021 – progress reviewed at Bishop's Council and synods with a view to taking final decisions about the new framework by end of 2021.

The feedback from the initial phase showed that :

- a. There is a greater understanding among Christians in the diocese of the concept of daily lived faith.
- b. There was a balance between those who felt that the church has been more inclusive since the pandemic whilst a similar number felt they were more excluded during this pandemic.
- c. There were a number of tensions that existed and needed to be addressed namely;

Personal	Faith	Collective
Geographic	Is local?	Accessible & welcoming
To celebrate	Is gathering together?	To be equipped for living
My responsibility	Growing in faith is?	The priest's responsibility
Before death	We are about life	After death
Hierarchical	Is church	Relational
Is local	Vision	Diocesan
Gathering and supporting the faithful	Is Church	Seeking the kingdom

The aim is to ask “What is God up to here?” Nothing is prescribed or on/off the table but it is aiming to looking to work with limited resources. The next steps will be “Road shows” to enable people to join the conversations about the framework.