

ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



Parish Church of St Guthlac
Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

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



Growing
Together IN Christ

Sunday 2 May 2021
Fifth Sunday of Easter

NEW UPDATE: Re-opening St Guthlac's for Sunday Worship

At our recent PCC meeting we confirmed our plans for re-opening the church building for Sunday worship when the right time comes, in other words delaying until after the move to Step 3 of the Government's Roadmap, due on 17th May, all being well.

Our own 'roadmap' therefore looks like this (God willing):

- 13th May – checking over the building
- 16th May – church cleaning (see separate notice)
- 23rd May – Morning Prayer 10.30am (Church Club by Zoom)
- 30th May – Morning Prayer 10.30am
- 6th June – Eucharist 10.30am
- 13th June – Morning Prayer 10.30am
- 20th June – Eucharist 10.30am
- 27th June – Morning Prayer/ Church Club 10.30am

We will need to use the same booking system as before for the time being, and singing is still not permitted, but as soon as Government and Church of England guidance allows then we will restore the familiar features of our worship together.

In the meantime, the larger and more spacious building of St Mary's is now able to be used for Sunday worship, albeit with all the restrictions that you would expect. Services will follow the usual pattern (please see below) and everyone is welcome - but please do note the change in service times and the need to 'book' a place by phoning the Church Office (0116 2702705).

Adrian

St. Mary's services

First Sunday: 2 nd May	9am 10.30am	Weekly Eucharist All Age Worship & Communion
Second Sunday: 9 th May	9am 10.30am	Weekly Eucharist (trd. language) Eucharist
Third Sunday: 16 th May	9am 10.30am	Weekly Eucharist Morning Worship
Fourth Sunday: 23 rd May	9am 10.30am	Weekly Eucharist (trd. language) Pentecost Eucharist
Fifth Sunday: 30 th May	9am 10.30am	Weekly Eucharist Trinity Sunday Eucharist

To encourage you..... *“Be still and know that I am God”*
(Psalm 46.10)

“Some plans that you have for your life may no longer seem possible as situations change. Or you might need to put them aside for a season. Accepting the things that you cannot change will enable you to put your energy into those that you can. But we can be comforted by the fact that God does not change, and that he has good plans for your life.”
(from “World of Difference” by Tearfund, the UK Christian charity that works with developing communities around the world).

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

This will take place on **Sunday 2nd May at noon**, via Zoom.

Topic: St Guthlac's Annual meeting

Time: May 2, 2021 12:00 PM London

<https://leccofe.zoom.us/j/94699236609?pwd=WIRUUEoxOHFGdkV4R2NGankwRmR3QT09>

Meeting ID: 946 9923 6609

Passcode: 615922

The Agenda and PCC Report have been emailed to you if we have your contact details. If you would like a paper copy of the report please contact Lesley.

Church of St Guthlac, Knighton ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS TO ELECT CHURCH WARDENS

Sunday 2nd May 2021 12 noon

PROPOSED RESOLUTION from the PCC to the Annual Meeting 02.05.21

This meeting notes the limitation on the term of office of Church Wardens, provided by the Churchwardens Measure 2001, to six consecutive periods of office.

This meeting resolves that, in subsequent years, this limitation shall not apply to the election of Churchwardens in the Parish of St Guthlac, Knighton.

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**

Collect & Readings for the Fifth Sunday of Easter

The Collect

Almighty God,
who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ
have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting
life:
grant that, as by your grace going before us
you put into our minds good desires,
so by your continual help
we may bring them to good effect;
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord.
Amen

First reading: Acts 8.26-40

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' ³¹He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.'

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?'

³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Psalms 22.25-31

Second reading: 1 John 4.7-21

Gospel reading: John 15.1-8

Jesus said to his disciples: ¹'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.'

'How can I unless someone explains it to me?'

Rev Canon Dr Stephen Foster

Have you ever been left 'out in the cold' when having read your 'daily bible passage' you feel none the wiser as to its meaning?

One of the wonderful things about biblical scholarship is that you can help others to debate what they think a passage means and throw one or two 'juicy clues' to help them along in their own 'research'.

Hence what follows...!

This situation is exemplified by the Acts passage set for today which makes little sense unless we understand what scholars call the 'sitz im leben' or context of the passage.

The question is put by the Eunuch to Philip as above...not surprising, as the passage he is attempting to read is from the Greek Old Testament called the Septuagint and being Ethiopian he would not have understood Hebrew at all, and almost certainly not Greek either!

His language, and nationality marginalised him, the context of the story being Samaria marginalised him, as did him being a Eunuch, and being an Ethiopian almost certainly black, an object of curiosity to both Greeks and Romans.

As a Eunuch, despite being high ranking and obviously rich in Ethiopian society...being able to afford a chariot and a scroll of Isaiah suggests his affluence... he would not have been accepted into the fellowship of Yahweh. He wouldn't have been circumcised but he would have been castrated....a safety measure against temptation in the Royal Court! He was probably what is known as a 'God-fearer'...one who looked at the Jewish faith, but very much from the outside.

Philip employs a common feature of Old Testament exegesis from the time of the early Church, by 'cherry picking' passages which seem to refer to Jesus.

What the Eunuch is reading is one such passage.

Despite all the above apparent marginalisation, the Eunuch asks Philip what is preventing him being baptised as a Christian. Despite all the above, the almost rhetorical answer is of course....Nothing!

I hope this little explanation shows that what may seem to marginalise one person from another too often in modern society, has no place whatsoever in the Christian faith.

PRAYER

Personal

Prayer is like watching for the Kingfisher. All you can do is be where he is likely to appear and wait....sometimes when you've almost stopped expecting it, a flash of brightness gives encouragement

Ann Lewin

Church and Community

We pray at this fearful time of taking more risks in this time of the pandemic.

We pray for your wisdom and discernment, help each of us decide how to navigate new freedoms to protect others, living mindful of our limits and vulnerability of all.

We pray particularly for Leicester, the health of our city and county. The decision makers; may the political and health leaders be blessed with sound wisdom and guidance. We pray too for our businesses and churches and those facing the difficulties of upholding freedoms and protection.

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

Nation and World

We pray for integrity, justice and truth in our national life.

We pray for those suffering in countries without health systems or where they may be overwhelmed and cannot cope. We pray particularly for India, and those in our midst most affected by family members in India. May we honour our close links, our link Diocese, our multigenerational communities and mutual histories.

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

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

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_EdZSq? 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 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 25th 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.

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>

CONTACT DETAILS

Vicar: Revd. Adrian Jones 0116 2704268
adrian.jones@zoho.com

Associate Priest- St Guthlac's: Revd Canon Dr Stephen Foster
safpta6@gmail.com 07966 376905

Assistant Curate: Revd Matthew Gough
revgough@gmail.com 07754 961997

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>

CAN YOU HELP WITH SPRING CLEANING? : SUNDAY 16TH MAY 2.30PM

We are hoping to start services at St Guthlac's on Sunday 23rd May. As the church has been unused for several months, we need to smarten up the inside of the building. This involves light cleaning such as dusting and vacuuming.

Could you come and help on **Sunday 16th May at 2.30 – 3.30?** Everyone is welcome. Volunteers should bring a face covering and gloves, please. Dusters would be helpful. There is no need for special cleaning materials as there is no reason to think that the church has any virus contamination.

Many hands will make light work and it will be good to see people 'in the flesh' in a socially distanced way. But please don't think about coming along if you are in a 'vulnerable group'.

You can just turn up on the day but if you already know that you can come then please let Tina or David know ahead. Thank you!

STEWARDS NEEDED FOR SUNDAY SERVICES FROM 23RD MAY

Can you help to enable people to spend time in church? We need stewards each Sunday from our opening on 23rd May, to welcome and help people take their places in church in a safe and socially distanced way.

We aim to have two stewards each Sunday. It involves arriving before the service to open the church. Then to welcome people; check that they have booked; and to make sure they have masks and sanitise their hands. At the end of the service it is important to help people leave safely (and chat outside). Then lock the church.

Please contact David, if you can help.

We have received the following Letter from Bishop Christopher:

Warmest Easter greetings to you and all at St Guthlac's.

Thank you very much for your letter of the 7th April and for the most generous donation of £1200.00. Like your earlier gift in December it gives sustained capacity and 'muscle' to the life of the clinic going forward.

We are planning to have two trips in May, June and July. We were not able to arrange trips between January and April because of rain and the sheer volume of work of medical personnel emanating from the COVID -19 pandemic. What St Guthlac's does is sacrificial and makes a huge difference in keeping the work of the clinic running.

This comes with my very best wishes and prayers and every blessing on all you are and all you do in worship, service and outreach.

Kindest regards and every blessing.

Yours sincerely,

+Christopher

When I sent the money to him, I suggested that when we are open again and it is safe, we would very much like him to come and see us at St. Guthlac's; and he told me that he would like to come and see us again. So that is something for us all to look forward to.

David Hunt

More about the Eco Church Scheme

Many of you will have read Fiona's address "**Let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action**" in last week's newsletter, in which she explained that the PCC has approved a new Environmental Strategy for St Guthlac's. The aim of this is to encourage our whole church family to show love for all of God's creation not only by changing our habits and lifestyles to reduce our impact on the world, but also by working together with people locally and more widely to bring about the changes needed to help those most affected by climate change. The Eco Church scheme provides a manageable, stepwise approach to what might otherwise seem the daunting task of reviewing 'where we are now' and deciding what action we need to take. A group of interested individuals has been formed to start work on this and to liaise with the PCC and a group from St Mary's. If you are not involved and would like to find out more, please contact Fiona Wingate.

The first step will be to look at what we are already doing in five areas in order to identify priorities for change.

- Worship and teaching
- Management of church buildings
- Management of church land
- Community and global engagement
- Lifestyle

There will be regular updates on this issue in the newsletter.

Lesley Meakin



The climate crisis is having a devastating impact on communities in Kenya. Right now, families struggle to survive without a reliable water source. Every day, they walk further, dig deeper and build stronger to survive. Unrelenting. Determined. Join me this Christian Aid Week as we stand together with those on the frontlines to battle coronavirus and fight for climate justice.

We will not be doing a house-to-house collection this year but will be operating a drop off only system for selected roads. Thanks to those who have agreed to be a drop off point. If you would like to donate, please consider using our church '**e-envelope**' which you can find at:

[e-envelope | Christian Aid Week](#)

For those without computers who wish to donate I have a few envelopes available which I can drop off and collect from you. Please call me on 2103690 to arrange this. Thank you.

Lesley Meakin