

ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



Parish Church of St Guthlac
Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

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



Sunday 9 May 2021
Sixth Sunday of Easter

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:	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..... *"I can do all this through him who gives me strength" (Philippians 4.13)*

Life is offering us all challenges now. "Don't try to ignore or avoid difficult situations, if you can. If you are faced with an adverse situation, take action in response. It can be helpful to face up to issues rather than detach yourself from them in the hope they will be resolved on their own." Be determined to take action.

(from "World of Difference" by Tearfund, the UK Christian charity that works with developing communities around the world).

Collect & Readings for the Sixth Sunday of Easter

The Collect

God our redeemer,
you have delivered us from the power of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:
grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life,
so by his continual presence in us he may raise us
to eternal joy;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.
Amen

First reading: Acts 10.44-48

⁴⁴While Peter was speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷'Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?' ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

Psalm 98

Second reading: 1 John 5.1-6

Gospel reading: John 15.9-17

Jesus said to his disciples: ⁹'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said

these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹²This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.'

A reflection on John 15.9-17 "What's love got to do with it?"

Rev Adrian Jones

Tina Turner once famously announced, with a voice that I can't transcribe to paper, *"What's love got to do with it? What's love but a second-hand emotion?"* -in her 1984 hit song of the same title. I imagine Jesus giving her a wistful smile and then replying *"Come and sit down Tina ... let me tell you something...."*

Today's Gospel shows us that Tina Turner and Jesus have quite different understandings of love. Jesus might even quote Rowan Williams, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, to her: *"Love is a long-term commitment to the welfare of another, usually at some cost to the giver."*

Our English language suffers, of course, by only having the one word to describe love in all it's different facets and forms. Overwhelmingly, we embrace the *romantic* meaning on the

occasions that we hear the word 'love', and so we face some difficult problems for the credibility of the Christian faith in today's world. If love is soft, cuddly and surrounded by hearts and flowers, what has a Jesus who talks about love got to do with the realities of suffering and hardship in our daily lives?

Love. It would probably be futile to search for an alternative English word that carries anything like the same weight of meaning and is easy to understand correctly. It would be clumsy to attempt to amplify the word with extra descriptors when Jesus uses it, just to contrast with pop songs.

So we remain with the challenge of continually explaining that Christian 'love' is not pop-song 'love', or Valentine's Day 'love', or the 'love' of ice cream or beautiful scenery or chihuahuas.

I wonder if this might actually be a good thing. When we read a passage like John 15 we know that we have to face the words head on if we are to understand it properly. To explain it, to ourselves and to others, we have to dig into the true meaning of love, look at it closely in the cruel, bright light of day. We all know that we can't hide behind romantic notions of love – that would just make Jesus sound absurd. To look this closely at the real meaning of love is a powerful thing.

Today, what strikes me from this challenging exercise is that the love Jesus calls us to show to each other, is exactly the same love that he has shown himself, towards us.

Long term? Certainly: *"For he chose us in him before the creation of the world"* (Ephesians 1.4)

Commitment? Absolutely: *"though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor"* (2 Corinthians 8.9)

For our welfare? Exactly: *“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”* (John 10.10)

At cost to himself? Clearly: *“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”* (Romans 5.8)

I’m challenged to consider if my love for you is for the long-term – or just while I am getting something in return.

I’m challenged to consider if my love for you is a whole-hearted commitment – or am I holding something back?

I’m challenged to consider if my love is about ensuring the best for you – or simply the things that make me feel good too?

I’m challenged to consider if my love for you is at all costly – or do I settle for a bargain version?

Jesus calls us to love each other exactly as he loves us. That’s ‘each other’, as in: people we don’t like, people we disagree with, people who are different, people who hurt us, people we are jealous of, people who feel far away oh, and the other people in our churches too. And beyond of course.

But God doesn’t leave us to do this alone.

St Paul was convinced that as God *calls* us to love, then he would also *help* us to love: *“May the Lord direct your hearts into God’s love and Christ’s perseverance.”* (1 Thessalonians 3.5).

St John knew that becoming like Jesus in every way is the key to a life of love: *“Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. This is how love is made complete among us in this world we are like Jesus.”* (1 John 4.16-17)

As Tina sang elsewhere, it’s a love that’s *“simply the best.”*

PRAYERS FOR CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Great God,
Who makes the sun to rise, and opens the heavens
Hear the cry of the people
Who sow in hope for rain, but reap only despair
Hear the cry of the people
Seeking shelter from the storm, their hopes and homes
submerged
Hear the cry of the people,
When creation is hitting back, with rage and resistance
Give us hope, grant us salvation,
Give us a new relationship with creation
With reverence to tend this gift from You
And say once again of the earth and all you created
It is GOOD

Christian Aid's Global Theology Advisor, Bob Kikuyu

We pray for all the events and services happening this Christian Aid Week, face to face and online. Pray that they will create a sense of connection and joy for churches and communities here in the UK and across the world.

May the spirit of joyful giving transform communities across this nation and the world this Christian Aid Week.
Amen.

Weekly prayer for roads in the parish – **Francis Street**

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.

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 9th May, 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.

ANNUAL MEETING LAST SUNDAY

Many thanks to everyone who came to the Annual Church Meeting (APCM) last Sunday and helped to elect David Hunt and Tina Jarvis once again as Church Wardens, and Yolanda Courtney, Anne Hunt, Ann Swanson, and Peter Lakin to the PCC. The meeting also passed the motion that removes the limitation on the term of office of Church Wardens, and noted with thanks the Annual Report and Accounts of the Church. We were also sad to see Steve Bowyer step down from the PCC and to say farewell to Brenda Lee. Brenda has been a pillar of the church for very many years, and although we send her with all God's blessings as she moves to Lutterworth to be closer to her family, back in Knighton we will all sorely miss her.

Adrian

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>

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.

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

SLCP CHRISTIAN AID SERVICE, 6pm, 9TH MAY

INSIDE THE BUILDING at Christchurch, 105a Clarendon Park Road.

Because of the pandemic, Christian Aid have decided not to send out live speakers this year, but one of their locally-based officials has recorded a 12 minute talk for us, which it is planned to use during the service.

Social distancing, hand sanitising and appropriate ventilation will, of course, be provided. It's best to retain the option of keeping your coat on. Please remember your face mask.

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.



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 to arrange this. Thank you.

Lesley Meakin