

ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



Parish Church of St Guthlac
Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

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



Sunday 23 May 2021
Day of Pentecost

To encourage you *“We also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.”* (Romans 8.28)

Struggles can help you know yourself better. When you have struggled with loss or disappointment, you have the opportunity to learn more about yourself. Often people who have one through times of grief or hardship find that they deepen their relationships with others. Trials can strengthen you in your faith and other aspects of your life, even if you feel vulnerable. Processing the suffering you have experienced can result in improved self-worth; a deeper relationship with God; and a greater appreciation for life.

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

MORNING PRAYER SERVICE & BOOKING SYSTEM

Sunday 30th May 10:30am

St Guthlac’s will be open for Morning Prayer Sunday 30th May at 10.30.

In order to maintain social distancing, we have to limit the number of people who can attend each service; our current calculation is that we can seat 21 individuals, small households or ‘bubbles’ safely at any one time. This is sadly very limiting. Consequently, we need to use a booking system.

If you would like to attend, you need to contact Tina to book a place: churchwardens@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk

THE MORNING PRAYER SERVICE

Before the service

- Please arrive by 10.25 to allow time to direct you to your seat.
- When you arrive, you may have to queue for a while - please maintain a distance of 2m from others.
- Please wear a face covering as you queue and all the time you are in the church - we have some extras for those who cannot obtain their own.
- You will be welcomed and asked to sanitise your hands.
- The steward will ask you to give or check your contact details. The Steward only will write these down. These details will only be shared in the unlikely event that anyone develops symptoms. This is to protect everyone.
- You will be directed to a seat. Please sit only in this place as we need to maintain distances and reduce movement.
- Please note there are no toilets available.

The service



- You will find a service sheet, blue prayer book and red OCOFOL book with the day's readings and prayers on your chair.

- A member of the Benefice Team will lead the service.
- The choir is not able to lead us in worship and we can't sing any hymns.

After the service

- Leave your service sheet and books on your chair
- Please keep your distance from others as you leave and do not linger in the building - sadly we can't offer refreshments.
- If you wish to leave a donation, please put it in the small box provided.
- You will be asked to sanitise your hands as you leave.

When we have all gone, the church building will remain unused for 72 hours to eliminate any virus.

If you should feel unwell with any of the symptoms of coronavirus in the two weeks following the service, as well as seeking medical advice, please leave a message with Adrian or Matthew.

St Guthlac's services

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 23 rd May | – Morning Prayer 10.30am (Church Club by Zoom) |
| 30 th May | – Morning Prayer 10.30am |
| 6 th June | – Eucharist 10.30am |
| 13 th June | – Morning Prayer 10.30am |
| 20 th June | – Eucharist 10.30am |
| 27 th June | – Morning Prayer/ Church Club 10.30am |

Collect & Readings for Pentecost

The Collect

God, who as at this time
taught the hearts of your faithful people
by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit:
grant us by the same Spirit
to have a right judgement in all things
and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort;
through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen

First reading: Ezekiel 37.1-14

¹The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord GOD, you know.' ⁴Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD.'

⁷So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he

said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely." ¹²Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.'

Psalm 104.22-36, 37b

Second reading: Acts 2.1-21

¹When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸And how is it

that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?⁹ Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes,¹¹ Cretans and Arabs – in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.’¹² All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, ‘What does this mean?’¹³ But others sneered and said, ‘They are filled with new wine.’

¹⁴But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: ‘Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.’¹⁵ Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning.¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷“In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.¹⁸ Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.¹⁹ And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist.²⁰ The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day.²¹ Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Gospel reading: 15.26-27; 16.4b-15

Jesus spoke to his disciples: ²⁶‘When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. ²⁷You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning. ⁴I have said these things to you so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you about them.

‘I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. ⁵But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, “Where are you going?” ⁶But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. ⁷Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgement: ⁹about sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; ¹¹about judgement, because the ruler of this world has been condemned. ¹²I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.’

Pentecost Sunday 2021: Ezekiel 37:1 – 14 & Acts 2:1-12

“I will...put my breath in you, and you shall live;”

Fiona Wingate

During this last lockdown I rediscovered those friendly creatures that live in the Hundred Acre Wood. I once again shared Pooh Bear's adventures, Piglet's bravery when near to Pooh, Eeyore's - well Eeyore, and the infuriating bounciness of Tigger. I realise they still reflect us back to ourselves. Some of us are eager and full of bounce. Some of us, for whom the world seems permanently against us. And the rest who are willing to try things even when they're not feeling particularly bold.

As we meet together again in St Guthlac's it would be very easy to bounce headlong into celebration. The celebration of the birth of the church and the arrival of the Holy Spirit that first Pentecost. It would be easy to draw comparisons between that new Spirit filled beginning and our church's emergence after this lockdown. While some people may feel like this, for many in our community this last year has left people feeling like the bones in the valley. At best they feel like the body with no spirit; at worst like the dry bones. For people this year and last lockdown have taken their toll physically, emotionally and spiritually.

What could a prophet from 2500 years ago possibly have to say to us in the 21st Century?

“I will...put my breath in you, and you shall live;”

To try understand this we need to know a bit about Ezekiel and the times he lived in. It was a time of great upheaval. It seems like all the nations of the Ancient Near and Middle East were at war with each other. In the middle was the Kingdom of Judah. The kings of Judah changed allegiances as often as we change

clothes. It all comes to a head when Nebuchadnezzar conquers Judah. About 10,000 Jews, including Ezekiel, are exiled to Babylon. About 10 years later the Babylonians laid siege to Jerusalem. After a siege lasting almost 2 years, the walls were breached, the city and the temple burned to the ground. It is while in exile that Ezekiel received his call from God to be a prophet to the exiles.

The first 24 chapters of the book Ezekiel relay God's message that Jerusalem must fall because the Jews have repeatedly failed to obey God. Being God's chosen people would not give a golden ticket out of exile. The only hope Ezekiel is allowed to give the exiles was that they should live so that they were at peace with themselves and with God **during** their exile.

In addition to Jerusalem being crushed and Judah being in exile he suffers personal loss with the death of his beloved wife. His personal loss would mirror Israel's loss of the temple. God told him that he must not mourn his wife's loss openly. He was to be a sign to the exiles that they should not mourn the temple's loss openly. Despite this great personal and national loss he continues to do God's work. He continues to pronounce God's judgement on the nations of the region. It seems God's is angry with all the nations not just Israel.

Today's reading comes from the final chapters. By this stage news of the Jerusalem's fall has been received. Ezekiel's message turns to God's soothing and encouraging hope for his people. He prophesies that they will experience a revival and be restored to right relationship with God. They will have a wonderful future as the redeemed kingdom of God.

"I will...put my breath in you, and you shall live;"

In our Old Testament reading we see the valley of the dry bones. The bones all that remain of the nation of Israel after its long journey to this point in exile. But it does not mark the end of the story. We then see the bodies being restored but something is still missing. That is until “breath came into them, and they lived”.

That breath of God; that Spirit of God brought those bodies to life.

That same Spirit of God brought the disciples to life that first Pentecost.

Again, that same Spirit of God is in us and can bring us to life. It can bring us back to spirit filled life after the challenges of this last year.

“I will...put my breath in you, and you shall live;”

“You shall live and you shall know I am the Lord”. These Old Testament words echo down through the ages. Peter went out at Pentecost in the power of the Spirit. But not before he’d endured the roller coaster ride of Jesus’ ministry, Palm Sunday, Good Friday, Easter Sunday and Ascension. After all that. After receiving the Holy Spirit, he went out and declared God and Jesus to the crowds.

Ezekiel’s prophesy and Peter’s proclamation speak of hope and life through the gift of God’s Spirit. In both instances receiving the Spirit brought life and hope after turbulent journeys. We too can go forward in hope as we step out of our lockdown and isolation.

Let’s not dismiss or play down the impact the last year has had on us, individually or collectively as church. Let’s acknowledge it. Let’s be gentle with each other. But let us move forward

together on this journey in the hope that comes from God. Let us move forward in the power of the Spirit which He breathes on us. Let us be confident that he will **“put my breath in you, and you shall live;”**

Amen.

PRAYERS

Personal

The one who prays
stands at that point of intersection
where the love of God
and the tensions and
sufferings we inflict
on each other
meet and are held
to the healing power of God.

(Mother Mary Clare, The Simplicity of Prayer, SLG Press)

Church and Community

We pray for the ongoing work of South Leicester Christian Partnership and the faithful commitment of those who serve this ecumenical witness of local Christian unity. We pray for Leicester Diocese as it gathers views from the parishes on the best way to shape future local ministry with fewer paid clergy across Leicestershire. We pray that decisions made will be guided by the Holy Spirit.

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

Nation and World

We pray for peace in the ongoing conflict in Israel and particularly in the Gaza strip and Jerusalem. We pray for justice for those whose homes, safety and lives are threatened. We pray particularly for the widows and orphans as Jesus commanded us as the hallmark of true religion. We pray that in our witness and daily conversations we uphold in grace those suffering in the conflicts, that we may be merciful and open hearted to those who may be far away from us in miles and natural affinity.

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

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.

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_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 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 30th 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.

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

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>

Eco-Tip of the week



Use of your tumble drier might be hard to reduce during the winter, but with the summer months ahead why not:

- Fix up a washing line if you haven't got one and have outdoor space
- Choose a fine day for doing the washing
- Rediscover the relaxing art of 'pegging out' your laundry

Making this change will reduce your carbon footprint, save you money on power and tumble drier products and make your clothes last longer. An Eco 'no brainer'!

RSCM Music Sunday

Sunday 6th June

Did you know that we belong to the RSCM?

The RSCM invites everyone to join in online with the
Big Music Sunday Service
from Lichfield Cathedral at tbc

Whether you want to participate in the singing or just listen, you will
find all the information you need at

<https://www.rscm.org.uk/music-sunday-2021/>



Christian Aid week is now over, but the church's **e-envelope** will remain open for a couple more weeks. This has not yet had much use and I hope this is not because it has been difficult to access or use. If you have any comments on the e-envelope please let me know as this may help in future campaigns. Thanks to those who have donated, be it by envelope, e-envelope or on the Christian Aid website, and to those who have received envelopes for me.

St Guthlac's church 'e-envelope' can be accessed by clicking on the following link:

[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