

ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



Parish Church of St Guthlac
Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

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



Sunday 13 June 2021
Second Sunday after Trinity

To encourage you *“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.”* (Psalm 46.1)

Try not to feel overwhelmed. God never promised us a life without challenges and stress. But God does say that he will be with us to help change how we think about and respond to problems. It can help to look beyond the issues of today, and to cling to the hope that we have in Jesus.

Many of the problems and challenges we face will one day pass. But even in circumstances that won't change, we have hope that God is with us to help us cope with the troubles of each day. And we have the ultimate hope that one day there will be no more suffering and pain, when the old order has passed away.

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

MORNING PRAYER & BOOKING SYSTEM

Sunday 13th June 10:30am

This Sunday 13th June at 10.30am, Revd Matthew Gough will lead a service of Morning Prayer.

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 a maximum of 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, please contact Tina to book a place. Either email on churchwardens@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk

THE 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 the relevant book(s) and/or service sheet 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.

For Eucharist services:

The sharing of the bread or blessing

- Great care will be taken to protect the safety of the congregation. Only the priest will handle the elements and vessels, and then only after sanitising their hands. There will be no assistant. The wafers for the congregation will be covered while the priest consecrates them.

- After the priest takes his/her wine and priest's wafer, he/she will put on a mask and sanitise hands again. Only then will the small individual wafers be uncovered and given to the congregation. Only wafers will be offered, not wine. At the distribution, Holy Communion will be administered in silence.
- Please stay in your seats the celebrant will come out to you in turn.
- If you wish to receive the bread, please hold out your hands. The priest will 'drop' the wafer into the outstretched hands, taking care not to touch them.
- There is no obligation to take the bread. If you wish to receive a blessing, please hold up your service booklet. If you prefer to pray quietly and not to receive either please fold your arms.

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.

Collect & Readings for the second Sunday after Trinity

The Collect

Lord, you have taught us
that all our doings without love are nothing worth:
send your Holy Spirit
and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love,
the true bond of peace and of all virtues,
without which whoever lives is counted dead before you.
Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen

First reading: Ezekiel 17.22-24

²²Thus says the Lord God: I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar; I will set it out. I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its young twigs; I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. ²³On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it, in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind. ²⁴All the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD. I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree; I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish. I the LORD have spoken I will accomplish it.

Psalms 92.1-4, 12-15

Second reading: 2 Corinthians 5.6-10(11-13)14-17

Gospel reading: Mark 4.26-34

Such a large crowd gathered around Jesus that he got into a boat and began to teach them using many parables. ²⁶Jesus said, 'The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, ²⁷and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.'

³⁰Jesus also said, 'With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.' ³³With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

Nesting birds and a broken Church

Rev. Matthew Gough

I miss the Wisteria plant I grew over my Wigston doorway. I loved its explosions of, albeit short-lived, riots of indigo blossoms. We also enjoyed welcoming each spring a nesting couple of wood pigeons who would turn up like clockwork and stay until their chicks hatched early summer. I liked to imagine them as the previous year's chicks returning to use our frontage as their seasonal AirBnB. On the flip side, if you have ever tried to grow fruit or vegetables then such nearby nesting birds become your nemesis. On my unsuccessful allotment, I would battle the slugs, frost, mice, weeds and insects only for my pathetic brassicas to be demolished by divebombing kamikaze

birds despite my best Wurzel Gummidge creations failing to convince even the most timid of crows.

In today's Ezekiel and gospel reading there can be ambiguity in understanding the role of birds in the garden as either, or both, a sign of the rich prosperity of God's blessing **and** a threat of destructive menace. In Ezekiel, the eagles inhabit and move trees around apparently in opposition to God's will. These are representative of Israel's rival colonial powers (Egypt and Babylon) oppressing God's people. Though when God chooses to grow a cedar from a sprig it becomes inhabited by 'every kind of bird'. This parallels with the growth of the kingdom in Mark's gospel as illustrated by the tapestry in St Guthlac's-the fruitful tree holding the nests of the birds of the air.

Some scholars have come down on the side of the birds being a threat in Mark's gospel. How, when God's kingdom expands-such growth will always attract destructive and unwelcome inhabitants, like Emperor Constantine. The contemporary theological consensus seems to be, that Constantine in the late fourth century adopting Christianity as the official religion of the Roman Empire, has been the most destructive wrong turn the Church took which it still suffers from. Where kingdom was exchanged for empire. Christians came out of the dungeons of Rome to occupy its palaces. The vestments priests wear today resemble more the robes of Roman courtiers than the rags of the itinerant Jesus of Galilee and his disciples. The church, too easily wooed by the trappings of wealth, status and power cannot hold onto its prophetic purposes whilst embedded in the very fabrics of the ruling elite.

And today, are we at such a pivotal turning point? As a Church of England and even Leicester Diocese considers its position as financially it cannot meet its current obligations. "We have a

church on its knees?” Broken, vulnerable, uncertain, lacking control of the future. A church on its knees...but isn't this more likely where we should be? Our prayer kneelers were never intended to be comfortable cushions.

Not putting our faith in financial security, order, and hierarchy, can we embrace a vulnerable church and live? Flourish more? Be Ezekiel's smaller green sprig dependent on God's grace and mercy? On our knees. Finding strength through a welcome home for all? Rather than wishing to be the powerful eagle, instead the gentle dove our spiritual role model. On our knees, where we meet a vulnerable and broken saviour.

Let us be discerning and wise about our 'nesting birds'. Are they the vulnerable in need of shelter, or the deceptive vultures of comfort, security and ultimately death?

PRAYERS

Personal

In saying a daily office of prayer, we make the deliberate decision to say 'yes' to spending time with God-the god who is always with us. In prayer and attentive reading of scripture there is both a conscious entering into God's presence and a 'letting go' of all we strive to control..it is God who is God. Bishop Rachel Treweek

Church and Community

We pray for all those in our Diocese facing redundancy. We pray for them to be free from undue anxiety and fear for the future as they have served our Leicestershire communities faithfully. We pray for the protection of their families and homes in this uncertain time. We pray for all our parishes as we engage in the final public conversations about Shaped By God Together. We pray for wisdom, grace and courage for those

making decisions as the Church of England continues its mission throughout Leicestershire. We pray for our church communities to maintain relevance, serving their neighbourhoods with passion and love.

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

Nation and World

As our G7 leaders pack up to go home, we pray for their commitments and promises to be held where integrity and justice have been spoken of. We pray for courage and sacrifice for leadership of those in positions of power to implement bold policies which will change the world for the better, alleviating the suffering of those with least power and control over their lives.

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

PRIORITY NEWS: Shaped by God Together

I do hope that you've had the opportunity to read the article called '*Shaped by God Together*' in the current benefice magazine. It gives information about the highly significant reorganisation of clergy and churches being proposed by the Diocese. We are all invited to take part in discussions at a local level before decisions are made by the Bishop's Council and Diocesan Synod later in the year.

I'm pleased therefore to invite you to two 'local conversations' for the whole benefice. Firstly we have a live' and in-person meeting at 2.30pm on Wednesday 16th June in St Mary's. Church, and then at 7.30pm on the same day, a Zoom discussion of the proposals.

Please just click on this link and follow any online instructions:

<https://leccofe.zoom.us/j/91688133221?pwd=T1ZZSGZaQjVKU0dLL3BGaE1EMXVSQT09>

Meeting ID: 916 8813 3221

Passcode: 300798

or join by telephone, dialling 0330 088 5830 (local charges)
There is far more information about all the proposals on the Diocesan website.

Many people have commented that these proposals carry very significant implications for all churches in the diocese, and yet, at a local level, we are being asked to make sense of detailed information and submit comments within a very short window of time (our deadline is 21st June). This is true! - but we are assured that it is also very necessary. If you cannot come to either meeting but would like to make comments, please do get them to me by 17th June so that I can include them in our parish response. Thank you!

Adrian

Post Lock down 'Teach in':

An Introduction to the Gospels

Revd Canon Dr Stephen Foster will be running a series of three lectures in July as an Introduction to the Gospels. Each session will be 50 minutes interaction/teaching, then 40 minutes tea/biscuits and further questions. The provisional titles are:

July 1st: 'What do YOU/WE know about the Gospels?'

*July 8th: 'What would YOU/WE call the Gospels?
History?...Story?...Theology?...?'*

July 15th: WE look at St Mark...the first Gospel to be written?

The sessions on 1st and 15th will be 2.30pm in St Guthlac's and then repeated at 7.30pm in St. Mary's. They will take place in the church to enable social distancing to take place if preferred.

The session on 8th July will be 2.30pm in St. Guthlac's only. Everyone is welcome to attend any/all of the sessions for an instructive and enjoyable get together.

STEWARDS NEEDED FOR SUNDAY SERVICES

Can you help to enable people to spend time in church? We need stewards each Sunday, 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.

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

Now that we have returned to live services in both the churches of the benefice we are aiming to broadcast a service each Sunday live on the internet.

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.

You can also **watch a recording** of the service on the website later that day at www.stmarysknighton.co.uk.

Please let Adrian or Matthew know what you think about this new venture and how we might improve the recording.

St Guthlac's services

13th June – Morning Prayer 10.30am

20th June – Eucharist 10.30am

27th June – Morning Prayer/ Church Club 10.30am

4th July -- Eucharist 10.30am

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.

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

CONTACT DETAILS

Vicar: Revd. Adrian Jones 0116 2704268
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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



Let's talk toilet rolls!

Not long ago when toilet rolls were in short supply, it was a matter of getting your hands on whatever kind you were lucky enough to see on sale! With the luxury of choice restored, what should you take into account when shopping for toilet roll: Price? Softness/Quilting?? Sustainability???



Thing to consider:

- The growing trend for “luxury” four-ply and quilted toilet roll is apparently fuelling the use of virgin wood pulp in an effort to create the softest product. Maybe we have travelled rather too far from the IZAL!
- Recycled toilet paper may be less luxurious, but after all, loo roll is the ultimate single use product!
- If a brand carries the label ‘FSC Mix’ then it will be made using virgin wood pulp
- Bamboo if responsibly sourced, is more sustainable than virgin pulp. Look for the FSC stamp
- Is it wrapped in plastic? Go for unpackaged toilet roll (loose in a box) or one with biodegradable or at least recyclable wrapper if possible
- Is it made in the UK thus avoiding unnecessary transportation?

Brands to consider:

Most supermarkets offer an own brand 100% recycled toilet roll for starters.



If you'd like to take a further step, there are now a number of independent brands with great sustainability credentials. Some even support good causes such as funding sanitation overseas (e.g., Who Gives a C**P). Why not check them out? There is an excellent table comparing various brands which has just come out and can be found at:

<https://moralfibres.co.uk/guide-to-plastic-free-eco-friendly-toilet-roll/>

Bishop's urgent appeal for Covid-19 aid in Leicester's Indian link diocese

Bishop Martyn is asking for urgent financial support for our partners in India. We are hoping to help them purchase a new ambulance, oxygen concentrators, a ventilator and other equipment costing a total of £80,000. Details of how to contribute are given below.

The Bishop of our partner diocese, Trichy-Tanjore in the Church of South India (CSI), has written to describe the response of Christians in their region to the Covid-19 crisis which is sweeping India with devastating effect. Cases of infection have been increasing day by day and hospitals are short of beds, oxygen supplies and medication to treat the symptoms of Covid and other infections to which people, weakened by the virus, are falling prey. With the country in lockdown, schools and colleges are shut and people in many places are literally starving for lack of access to food. Regrettably, many church members, including two pastors in the diocese, have died and many more are in hospital receiving treatment.

In spite of all this, the Church is taking lot of effort and organizing relief work in partnership with Bishop Heber College in Trichy. The 'Task Force against Covid 19' works day and night to coordinate information about hospital bed availability, oxygen, food, ambulance services, counselling, prayer support, financial support, plasma availability and support for funerals. There has been a good response from the community for which they are very grateful to God.

The Diocese has come forward to open food counters in each local church where food packets are kept at the entrance of the

church for people who are hungry and needy to take. Facilities at the two CSI Mission Hospitals in the Diocese, in Trichy and Dharapuram have been dedicated for the treatment of Covid Patients and work is in hand to increase the number of beds available.

If you are able to make a contribution, however large or small, please send it to the following account:

Barclays Bank plc

Sort code: 20-49-37

Account number: 90577103

Account name: Leicester Diocesan Board of Finance

Please use the reference: 'Trichy Appeal'

Cheques can be sent for the attention of Jim Pullen at St Martins House, 7 Peacock Lane, Leicester, LE1 1SY. Please make your cheque payable to 'Leicester Diocesan Board of Finance' and write on the back 'Trichy Appeal'.

Meanwhile, please remember the people of India, especially our partners in Trichy, in your prayers.