

ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



Parish Church of St Guthlac
Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

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



Sunday 27 June 2021
Fourth Sunday after Trinity

Holy Habits – *how do we live as the church now?*

Habit number one: *Biblical teaching.*

I hope that you've all had the chance to read and consider the booklet distributed with the most recent edition of the benefice magazine, called 'Holy Habits'. It distils some of my recent wonderings, in the light of our coronavirus experiences, about *what specifically the church is here for and what we should be doing now*, in this very different set of circumstances.

I suggested that a helpful starting point might be the very first church, formed among the first believers in Jerusalem after the Day of Pentecost, and described for us in chapter two of the Book of Acts.

According to Luke, the first of the 'Holy Habits' of this church was a commitment to learning more about God's good purposes for the world: *'They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching*' (Acts 2.42).

As we read on in Acts, we see that this 'apostles' teaching' was, first of all, an explanation from the Hebrew Scriptures (that we call the Old Testament) that Jesus was the fulfilment of God's rescue plan for the whole of humanity. The apostles also explained the direct implications of this for the daily lives of the first Christians, especially for their relationships with others. Eventually this teaching was recorded for us in the New Testament, so 'the apostles teaching' is everything our Christian Bible has to tell us.

If we are to adopt the 'holy habit' of being devoted to the apostles' teaching as we come back to church and the familiar forms of our worship, then we need to ask "How can we become confident with the Bible as well as with our liturgy?"

If we follow the example of the early church then perhaps we

too should start by making sure we have a good grasp of what the Bible tells us about God's 'big picture', his rescue plan for us, that reached its climax in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. There are good books and courses that will help us to do this, but the best way is to meet and talk, and to read the Bible together.

Please do pause now and consider the place that the Bible has in your life. Do you feel that you understand the 'big picture'? Do you have unanswered questions about the Bible and how to hear God speak through it? Day by day, or week by week, does the teaching of the Bible have an impact on the way you live? And, if I can be quite frank for a moment, if you're not reading the Bible, how will you stay both secure and growing in your Christian faith?

If you're feeling stirred up by these questions and would like to think some more about reading the Bible, then do please let me know. I'd love to take the time to have that conversation with you, and to find the best way for you to engage with God's written word.

In the meantime, do check that you've got a good modern translation of the Bible to read! The traditional language of the King James Version is nostalgic and often beautiful, but this can get in the way of hearing the message for today. There are good alternatives: the Good News Bible has an easy style, the New Revised Standard Version is carefully translated and accurate, but therefore less flowing, and the New International Version falls between the two. Again, if you'd like any help in choosing or obtaining a Bible, then do please let me know and I'll gladly help.

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching,

rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3.16-17)

Yours in friendship and Christ’s service,

Adrian
0116 270 4268

PS: don’t forget Stephen Foster’s ‘Post lock-down teach-in’ on Mark’s Gospel!

MORNING PRAYER BOOKING SYSTEM

Sunday 27th June 10:30am

This Sunday 27th June at 10.30am, Revd Matthew Gough will be leading 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.
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 Fourth Sunday after Trinity

The Collect

O God, the protector of all who trust in you,
without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy:
increase and multiply upon us your mercy;
that with you as our ruler and guide
we may so pass through things temporal
that we lose not our hold on things eternal;
grant this, heavenly Father,
for our Lord 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: Lamentations 3.23-33

The LORD's compassions are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion; therefore I will wait for him."

The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD. It is good for a man to bear the yoke while he is young. Let him sit alone in silence, for the LORD has laid it on him. Let him bury his face in the dust - there may yet be hope. Let him offer his cheek to one who would strike him, and let him be filled with disgrace.

For men are not cast off by the LORD for ever. Though he brings grief, he will show compassion, so great is his unfailing love. For he does not willingly bring affliction or grief to the children of men.

Psalm 130

Second reading: 2 Corinthians 8.7-15

Gospel reading: Mark 5.21-43

²¹When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered around him; and he was by the lake.

²²Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, ²³fell at his feet and begged him repeatedly, 'My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live.' ²⁴So he went with him.

And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. ²⁵Now there was a woman who had been suffering from haemorrhages for twelve years. ²⁶She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. ²⁷She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, ²⁸for she said, 'If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well.' ²⁹Immediately her haemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. ³⁰Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, 'Who touched my clothes?' ³¹And his disciples said to him, 'You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, "Who touched me?"' ³²He looked all around to see who had done it. ³³But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. ³⁴He said to her, 'Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.'

³⁵While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader's house to say, 'Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?' ³⁶But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, 'Do not fear, only believe.'

³⁷He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. ³⁸When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. ³⁹When he had entered, he said to them, 'Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping.' ⁴⁰And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside, and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. ⁴¹He took her by the hand and said to her, 'Talitha cum,' which means, 'Little girl, get up!' ⁴²And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. ⁴³He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

“He called me daughter.”

Rev. Matthew Gough

A tale of two daughters. One, the sole focus of the crowd and the total pre-occupation of the religious community leader. The other, ignored, unseen by the crowd, marginalized and full of shame. The younger 12-year-old daughter is the focus of the flowing crowd. The older woman with life blood probably flowing from her lower body parts hopes to escape unnoticed by Jesus and the crowd.

Notice for both, the significance of ‘12 years’ of life. The young girl’s age, now dying and the older, 12 years of slowing dying, physically and socially. Are they connected by some cosmic divine power? The moment the older is healed after 12 years of suffering, the younger miraculously overcomes death.

Has the wider church become like the crowd? Pre-occupied with the fate of the young, the flow of activity to see the future of the church whilst overlooking the older, possibly hemorrhaging, quieter body? The frenetic activity, the noise, the direction all for the young?

Here the young daughter is upheld because of the power and status of the local synagogue leader, Jairus. Jairus appeals to Jesus to hurry. Meanwhile the stigmatized older woman just reaches out for Jesus’s hem of his garment, “Just a touch, that’s all I wanted”.

We know in the Leviticus purity laws how the Jewish religious (male!) adherents were meant to distance themselves from menstruating women. How ritually ‘unclean’ a woman was seen to be when menstruating. Still a feature amongst orthodox Jews today. When I visited the Old City of Jerusalem with my female manager, a Hassidic Jewish man reached across my manager ignoring her to pass his camera to me to take a photo of him and his wife. I gestured that he should let Sharon, who was

closer, take the photo, but he desisted my invitation. Sharon soon afterwards explained that the man would not want to risk 'being contaminated' in case she was menstruating, so there is no touching of all women. All may be 'unclean'. So, in our biblical encounter with the crowd, with this older woman suffering the loss of blood for so long, she will likely have felt shame and it will have taken courage to just reach out to Jesus unsure of what his reaction. Then he stops detecting her touch, feeling power leave him...

Unlike the religious purists separating the clean from unclean, Jesus stops the flow of the crowd to validate her. Validates her in front of her crowd. Restore her. Calling her, reminding her and her community as her status firstly as 'daughter'. He affirms her for her faith. Jesus disrupts and subverts the flow of the crowd. He pauses against expectations. He is not wooed by the status and power of Jairus and his acolytes. First, in the eyes of God this older woman whose personhood had her invisible to all including herself, needed to be restored.

In doing so, Jesus the Christ shows his primacy and power above the secular doctors of the age who had failed and taken all her money. He heals and does it for free. He is the face of a gracious God. He is also sovereign against the religious powers as despite Jairus's position and authority, the power of religion has failed his daughter. Both Jairus and the older woman have fallen at the feet of Jesus. Secular wisdom and religious piety show their limits before the Christ.

Jesus calls to us all as his daughters (and sons). He neither sacrifices the life of the old for the young, or young for the old. A generous God has enough healing and life giving for both. Regardless of worth in the eyes of the world, Jesus restores, redeems, and values all.

PRAYERS

Personal

On using liturgy to pray-it is less about inspiration and more the exercise and discipline of a workout guide. The gift of liturgy is that it helps us hear less of our own little voice and more of God's still small voice. It leads us away from self to the community of God. (*Shane Claiborne, Common Prayer-a liturgy for ordinary radicals*).

Church and Community

We thank God for so many adults having been vaccinated and we pray for those schools in Leicestershire where outbreaks have been known. We pray for the opening up of our care homes and thank God for the staff there who are willing to selflessly give of themselves day after day for those most vulnerable in our communities. We thank God for our trusted position in being able to occasionally share lives, Christ's love and communion with our local residents.

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

Nation and World

As we mark five years since the UK voted to leave the UK, we pray for unity. We pray for integrity in public life. We pray for our friends and neighbours who have suffered discrimination and hardship because of their nationality. We pray particularly for farmers, fishing industry and all those afflicted by international trade closing and opening to be protected for the sake of themselves and their families to know security and peace at this uncertain time.

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

CHANGE OF DATES! – Please note the changes below to dates following the Government's delay in relaxing pandemic restrictions.

Post Lock down 'Teach in': An Introduction to the Gospels

Revd Canon Dr Stephen Foster will be running a series of three lectures in **August** 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:

August 5th: *'What do YOU/WE know about the Gospels?'*

August 12th: *'What would YOU/WE call the Gospels?
History?...Story?...Theology?...?'*

August 19th: *WE look at St Mark...the first Gospel to be
written?*

All sessions will be held at 2.30pm in St Guthlac's and then repeated at 7.30pm in St. Mary's. They will take place in church to enable social distancing to take place if preferred.

Everyone is welcome to attend any/all of the sessions for an instructive and enjoyable get together.

Please bring a notebook and your favourite Bible to each lecture.

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.

Cleaners needed

As the church is opened up we need help with cleaning. The church, toilet and kitchen area need regular cleaning. We hope to have a rota of cleaners. The more people on the rota the less often each person is needed.

Can you help? Please contact Tina: churchwardens@stguthlack-knighton.co.uk if you could help.



2021



***Leicester
City, County & Rutland
At Risk War Memorials Project***

Open Days

**Chancel, (rear of) All Saint's Church, Highcross Street,
Leicester LE1 4PH**

Sat. 3rd July 11.00 – 16.00

Heritage Open Days

Thurs. 9th September - 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm

Fri. 10th September - 3.00 pm to 6.00 pm

Sat. 11th September – 10.00 am to 6.00 pm

Sun. 12th September – 2.30pm to 5.00 pm

Sat. 20th Nov. 11.00-16.00

**Email: mail@atriskwarmemorials.co.uk
Website: www.atriskwarmemorials.co.uk
Face Book: www.facebook.com/arwmp
Twitter: @ARWMP**

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 both of these on the BBC iPlayer and Sounds apps.

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.

The Cathedral's live stream service can be found at <https://leicestercathedral.org/services/> There is also a weekly online service from the Church of England. <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/church-online/weekly-online-services>

Online Compline Night Prayer 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>

Or Phone In: 0131 460 1196 (standard call charge)
Meeting ID: 746 767 4408 Passcode: hope

St. Guthlac's services, Sunday at 10.30am

27th June – Morning Prayer/ Church Club

4th July -- Eucharist

11th July - All Age Worship

18th July - Eucharist

Virtual Worship for Knighton Benefice – the last Sunday.

More of us are returning to 'live services' in the church buildings on Sundays, the number of viewers of our 'Virtual Worship' is declining, and we are now focussing on 'live streaming' from Sunday services. Therefore, we have decided to take a break from our weekly pre-recorded Virtual Worship, for the moment at least. This will also leave the Ministry Team more time for Sunday preparation and all the other aspects of our life together. Thank you to all those who have given us feedback and appreciation over the last fifteen months, and particular thanks to Matthew for his time and energy given to making Virtual Worship happen week by week.

There are still other options available for on-line worship:

this link takes you to the Cathedral's live stream

<https://leicestercathedral.org/services/>

and this link takes you to services provided by the national Church of England

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/church-online/weekly-online-services>

Adrian

CONTACT DETAILS

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Assistant Curate: Revd Matthew Gough
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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>

Eco-Tip of the week

Should I water my lawn in dry weather?

For the first time, the Royal Horticultural Society is urging gardeners **NOT** to use mains (drinking) water to keep their lawn looking green in a dry summer. It recommends allowing the grass to turn yellow or brown to help prevent water shortages and to protect wildlife in rivers which are in danger of drying up.



Lawn sprinkling can use as much water in an hour as a person would use in an entire week!

A brown lawn will recover rapidly once a dry spell comes to an end with no long term effects.

The RHS and Cranfield University have launched a website, mains2rains.uk, where gardeners can pledge to adopt measures to save water, including installing a water butt, placing drip trays beneath pots and adding mulch around new plants.

St Guthlac's and the environment

Hopefully you will have noticed the arrival of a regular EcoTip in the newsletter and are enjoying discovering new ways to reduce our impact on the environment around us. You might even have wondered why suddenly they've started appearing. These fantastic tips are one part of a much bigger picture about how we, the community of St Guthlac's, interact with and care for our world.

St Guthlac's Church has always valued the natural world around us. We enjoy and care for the church garden as one of the few public green spaces in the area. We encourage our congregation and users of Holbrook Hall to recycle and not to waste food, energy or water. We support organisations that work to address the impacts of climate change on the most vulnerable in our world such as Christian Aid and the mobile clinics in Northern Malawi. However, we felt there was **more** we could do. During the last year a team have taken St Guthlac's Environmental Policy and built an environmental strategy for St Guthlac's, which was approved by the PCC in March. This may all sound a bit too much like large organisation bureaucracy but the strategy will help focus our efforts to do our part to address the real and present danger of climate change.

The strategy considers why we need to act, what we're going to do and also how we're going to do it. Its success will not be down to a few people. It aims to engage, encourage and support the **whole** community of St Guthlac's. A series of articles in the newsletter in the coming weeks and months will give details of the plan and provide regular updates on progress.

Next time we'll explore the question of "Why should St Guthlac's bother about the environment"

If you'd like to know more in the meantime please get in touch at Eco@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk.

BENEFICE MAGAZINE

The copy deadline for the July/August issue of the magazine is 1st July, for publication in mid-July. Please send your contributions, preferably in Word, to:

stmaryknighton.magazine@gmail.com

Thank you. Nigel Siesage.

Church Family News: *Grandparents!*

Adrian and Alison are pleased to announce that they are grandparents for the first time! Elizabeth Mawgan Jones (known as Libby) was born to Rose and Claire (our elder daughter) last week. Libby was a healthy 6lbs 13 oz, and all three are doing well. All tips on how to succeed as grandparents gratefully received! A&A

Diamond Congratulations! Many congratulations to Michael and Lorna Kirk who celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 1st July. They were married sixty years ago in St Peter's, Oadby, as the building work had started at St Mary's and it was to be some time before the main nave and chancel as we know it today was completed. We wish you both a very happy day and very many more happy years together. *Adrian*

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'

UPDATE ON CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

For Christian Aid week a 'drop off' collection was done in Holbrook Rd, Knighton Church Road and South Knighton Rd which raised £260. Many thanks to those who assisted with this, as well as to everyone who has donated so far. If you haven't yet donated and would like to do so, the E-envelope will remain open until 30th June and can be found at: [e-envelope | Christian Aid Week](#)

OPEN HANDS DONATIONS

As a church we have supported this excellent cause with food donations for a number of years. Did you know that you can now donate to Open Hands at the Co-Op on London Rd or Asda Oadby? The items which are most needed/not needed can be seen on the chart. **Thank you.**

