

ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



Parish Church of St Guthlac
Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

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



Sunday 4 July 2021
Fifth Sunday after Trinity

EUCCHARIST BOOKING SYSTEM

Sunday 4TH July 10:30am

This Sunday 27th June at 10.30am, Revd Matthew Gough will be presiding at the eucharist service and Revd Canon Dr Stephen Foster will be preaching.

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 Fifth Sunday after Trinity

The Collect

Almighty and everlasting God,
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church
is governed and sanctified:
hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people,
that in their vocation and ministry
they may serve you in holiness and truth
to the glory of your name;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen

First reading: Ezekiel 2.1-5

The heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God. When I saw this, I fell on my face, and I heard the voice of someone speaking. 1He said to me: O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you. 2And when he spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard him speaking to me. 3He said to me, Mortal, I am sending you to the people of Israel, to a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have transgressed against me to this very day. 4The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD.' 5Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them.

Psalm 123

Second reading: 2 Corinthians 12.2-10

Gospel reading: Mark 6.1-13

¹Jesus came to his home town, and his disciples followed him. ²On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, 'Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! ³Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?' And they took offence at him. ⁴Then Jesus said to them, 'Prophets are not without honour, except in their home town, and among their own kin, and in their own house.' ⁵And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. ⁶And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching. ⁷He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. ⁸He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; ⁹but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. ¹⁰He said to them, 'Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. ¹¹If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.' ¹²So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. ¹³They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

Text Note: And They Took Offence at Him...

Rev. Canon Dr Stephen Foster

Before coming to Leicester and to the Cathedral some 17 years ago now, just occasionally, I used to pop home over a weekend and go and preach at the Church where I was brought up. I was 6 years old when I joined the Church Choir.

'Eeee Stephen, I remember you when you were 'knee high to a grasshopper'.'

I have never quite understood that hyperbolic phrase, but apparently it means that at some point they remembered me being much smaller than I am now!

'Those were the days...we had a fine choir then. You were a boy treble weren't you. Those were the days!'

And you know you haven't changed a bit...I said to our Sandra when you walked in this morning...I said...didn't I say Sandra...I said...it's our Stephen. Look at him, he hasn't changed a bit. Just look at him, just the same old Stephen.'

(And I thought it was me that had poor eyesight!)

Having preached then as a priest and as an academic theologian using 'those funny foreign words', over coffee afterwards, how I had changed over the last forty odd years,

and what I had said in my address made not one jot of difference to them.

'Eeee, when you were a choirboy you looked so angelic walking down that aisle in your little white ruff and your starched surplice. Didn't I say to you, our Sandra...didn't I say to you, I remember our Stephen walking down that aisle there...looking just like a little angel.'

'And they took offence at him.'

'Well they didn't take offence at me. But some were certainly quite stuck in a vision from the past which was to them ideal. And I had been painted into their ideal picture as an angel!

Well, I know it's hard for you to believe, but I don't think I was ever dressed so perfectly in pure virginal white choir robes. And I don't think I ever walked like an angel down the church aisle at St Andrew's Crewe.

Anyway, I thought angels didn't walk but flew!

'And they took offence at him.'

But there are occasions where a vision of the past is much less pleasant, very real, and very destructive.

In my first living, a person...let's call him 'Rob', began coming to Church. I arranged to pop round to see him at home. I did so...and was met at the door, by his incandescent wife.

The tirade went something like this...

'What are you here for?

You know he's just come out of prison don't you?...do you know what he did?

He's not worth the dirt under my finger nails...I've told him he's got to move out. My children won't come to see me with him still here.

You can't possibly do him any good... as he's going to rot in hell.'

With that, I remember, she slammed the door that hard that it nearly came off the hinges.

Rob phoned me very apologetically.

I took him out for a pint or six a few times.

He kept coming to Church. We helped him along as the Church 'Odd Job Man' and the 'tech. man in our Parish Dramas. But he had to leave home...he couldn't get a job...and as far as I know, he never saw his children again.

'And they took offence at him.'

Rob's wife and family were shackled to a past from which they couldn't or wouldn't break free. They were embroiled in a 'history' they had partly created themselves where everything Rob had ever done before, during and after his crime simply could never ever be of any value whatsoever.

Whilst still coming to Church Rob 'moved on', didn't reoffend, and as much as Society let him, got his life 'back on track'. Paradoxically, his family could not get their lives back on track. Rob's family would not even try to get their lives back on track, preferring to wallow in their hurt and wounded reputation.

'And they took offence at him.'

Jesus of Nazareth, his home town, his familiar stamping ground, his local place of worship.

In these scenarios, Jesus found a similar antipathy. His successful activity in neighbouring synagogues like Capernaum in Chapter 1 would have led readers to expect positive results here in Nazareth aswell. But no.

The people of his home were astonished... 'exeplessonto' at his 'sophia', his 'wisdom'. But such qualities only served to turn them sour because they knew his past...they knew where he had come from.

'And they took offence at him.'

To them, he was simply 'the carpenter' and the Son of Mary... conveniently ignoring any mention of Joseph. After all, to them he was conceived illegitimately. Jesus to them had a fatherless

lineage, scandalous to them. 'Skandalidzo' in Greek is to take offense....and they did!

Unlike Matthew and Luke, who 'clean up' the story, Mark does not alter the tradition and include a father. Rather, the tension between Jesus and his hometown is an on going sub plot of the story....and it is fair to say that Jesus calling himself 'a prophet' didn't help either!

'And they took offence at him.'

But, as Mark strongly intimates, it was these same people bound to their past... these were they who largely lost out.

It was similarly Rob's wife and family who lost out.

It was the Unforgiving Brother in the Parable of the Prodigal Son who loses out...it is the impenitent thief on a nearby Cross on Good Friday who loses out...(the list is actually endless)... each to their own detriment, in their own way being shackled to their own perception of the past and putting themselves on a self created pedestal.

Even in a lighter vein, in my home Church, it was Sandra and her Mum who were tied to a long lost unreal vision of a person they had once known but long ago.

'And they took offence at him.'

In terms of forgiveness; in terms of the labelling of a person based solely on their past in terms of an unreal vision of someone known long ago, the Christian faith tells us that this will simply not do. This will simply not do.

In the power of the Resurrection, the past can be put aside, sins can be forgiven and forgotten and new life, new hope and a new vision can grow and should grow, flourishing as part of God's glorious Kingdom.

AMEN.

PRAYERS

Personal

Prayer

God be in my head, and in my understanding;

God be in mine eyes, and in my looking;

God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;

God be in my heart, and in my thinking;

God be at mine end, and at my departing

The Sarum Prayer

Church and Community

We thank God for where there is unity across denominations as Jesus prayed for His followers to be as one, so the world will see unity and love. We pray for our sister church, the Methodist Church as they have taken the decision to affirm same sex marriage. We pray for the Church of England as it wrestles with the Living in Love & Faith initiative to cultivate honest conversation and unity across the diverse experiences and beliefs in the Anglican communion. We pray as our local conversations begin, that we hold close those we find most difficult to love.

Weekly prayer for roads in the parish – **Knighton Church Road**

Nation and World

We pray for schools and families as they break up this forthcoming week. We pray for those planning holidays and for those who cannot afford holidays for health or finances. We pray for rest for our teachers, learners and families separated by the pandemic. We pray for the end of lockdown restrictions to come more likely as further breakouts and public health concern diminish. We pray particularly for those areas in the world suffering most without healthcare or vaccine treatment

and for those countries and institutions which can help to look with generous hearts towards those most in need. May our eyes be opened to the common humanity we share, all being made in God's image.

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

Sad news about Bob Newell. Last Sunday morning we heard the very sad news that our friend Bob Newell died very early that day. Jan tells me that his last hours were very peaceful, and that he was ready to meet the Lord in whom he had trusted for so very many years. She is thankful to God for the time and love that she shared with such a gentle and humble man of deep faith. I know that many of you, like me, will miss his very genuine friendship too. Please remember Jan and their children in your prayers now. We hope that Bob's funeral will be on the morning of Thursday 22nd July at St Mary's - more details to follow in due course.

Jean Arnison

Jean Arnison's funeral will be at St Mary's on Friday 2nd July at 1pm and friends are welcome.

I will remember Jean for her great sense of humour, her determination to keep going despite her difficulties and her love for this church and her friends here. Please keep her daughter Sue and her family in your prayers.

Adrian

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'

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@stguthlacknighton.co.uk if you could help.

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.

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.

The benefice live stream service can be found on the St. Mary's Facebook page. **A recording** of the service will be available later that day at **www.stmarysknighton.co.uk**.

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

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 4 th July | -- Eucharist |
| 11 th July | - All Age Worship |
| 18 th July | - Eucharist |
| 25 th July | -Morning Prayer |

CONTACT DETAILS

Vicar: Revd. Adrian Jones 0116 2704268
adrian.jones@zoho.com 07919 262 399

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>

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.

Good news!

Molly would like to share with St Mary's and St Guthlacs Parish the news that both Ellie (Molly's granddaughter) and her boyfriend Kyle, have completed their degrees. Ellie achieving a 2:1 in Philosophy and Kyle a 1st in Geography. Both graduated at King's College, Cambridge. Some of you might remember Ellie from the Knighton Players when she was 6 years old.

Congratulations!



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.**



Eco-Tip of the week

Use Your LOAF

We may feel that much of the efforts needed to combat climate emergency and help build a sustainable and ethical society are beyond our control. However, we do have consumer power. As consumers we can do our bit to show priorities beyond the bottom line of market forces. However, it is not simple.

A principle in our purchases promoted by Eco Church are the **LOAF** principles.

When buying try to prioritise at least one of the following-
Local, Organic, Animal friendly or Fair Traded.

It's not always easy to say which is the most important, however any one is usually a better choice than none.

Putting this into practice collectively, over the last couple of weeks, the Benefice supported the Leicester Just Shop's Eco stall after each service outside. Thanks to both church congregations and local visitors who supported the stalls. The Just Shop were blown away with our whopping **£330** worth of Fair-trade and Eco sales!

The Just Shop would love us to do this again-perhaps an occasional 4 times a year? Just are also keen to promote their home delivery and online ordering service (www.justfairtrade.com).

Interestingly, St Mary's bought up all the Divine chocolate bars and St Guthlac's bought up all the bamboo toothbrushes?!?

Many thanks to the Eco Teams at both churches for running the stalls, **Eileen, Michal, Emily, Constance, Eleanor and Steve.** **If you would like to get involved in our Eco Church Teams, please contact Matthew or Fiona.**