

ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



Parish Church of St Guthlac
Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

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



Sunday 25 July 2021
Eighth Sunday after Trinity

Holidays Beginning 12th July, Adrian and Matthew will both be away on family holidays. Therefore, please contact the Wardens for general enquiries and questions, and the Revd Canon Stephen Foster or the Revd Janet Gasper for pastoral matters (contact details towards the back of the newsletter).

MORNING PRAYER BOOKING SYSTEM

Sunday 25th July 10:30am

This Sunday 25th July at 10.30am, Fiona Wingate will be leading a service of Morning Prayer.

Although the Government has said there will be no restrictions on communal worship after 19th July, the PCC need to review the revised guidance from the National Church of England who have urged a cautious approach. Consequently, we are keeping our arrangements as they are for this Sunday. While face masks and social distancing are not mandatory, we recommend that you use them.

So we can have a contact list, and 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.
- Please wear a face covering if you can. We have some extras for those who cannot obtain their own.
- You will be welcomed and asked if you would like 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 note there are currently 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 will not be leading us in worship and we currently aren't singing any hymns.

After the service

- Please leave your service sheet and books on your chair.
- If you wish to leave a donation, please put it in the small box provided.
- You will be asked if you would like to sanitise your hands as you leave.

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.

HELP WITH CHANGING THE CHURCH SEATING

After the service we hope to change the seating in the church. We will have a few rows of chairs at the front of the church with some well-spaced out chairs at the back. The intention is to enable people to choose whether they would like to sit with clear social distancing or to sit in closer groups in future.

If you can help, please stay, or come to help, after the service.

Important Update: Although the Government has said there will be no restrictions on communal worship after 19th July, there will be some strong advice in place that our PCC must take time to consider. There will also be revised guidance from the national Church of England at some point, and again we will need to talk this through in detail. The Bishop of London has urged a cautious approach to change by our churches. **Therefore, at the moment, we intend to keep our Sunday arrangements as they are, including for Sunday 25th July.** As soon as we can clarify the way ahead we will, of course, let you know! *Adrian*

Collect & Readings for the Eighth Sunday after Trinity

The Collect

Almighty Lord and everlasting God,
we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern
both our hearts and bodies
in the ways of your laws
and the works of your commandments;
that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever,
we may be preserved in body and soul;
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: 2 Samuel 11:1-15

¹In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab with his officers and all Israel with him; they ravaged the Ammonites, and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem.

²It happened, late one afternoon, when David rose from his couch and was walking about on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; the woman was very beautiful. ³David sent someone to inquire about the woman. It was reported, 'This is Bathsheba daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite.' ⁴So David sent messengers to get her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she was purifying herself after her period.) Then she returned to her house. ⁵The woman conceived; and she sent and told David, 'I am pregnant.'

⁶So David sent word to Joab, 'Send me Uriah the Hittite.' And Joab sent Uriah to David. ⁷When Uriah came to him, David

asked how Joab and the people fared, and how the war was going. ⁸Then David said to Uriah, 'Go down to your house, and wash your feet.' Uriah went out of the king's house, and there followed him a present from the king. ⁹But Uriah slept at the entrance of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house. ¹⁰When they told David, 'Uriah did not go down to his house,' David said to Uriah, 'You have just come from a journey. Why did you not go down to your house?' ¹¹Uriah said to David, 'The ark and Israel and Judah remain in booths; and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are camping in the open field; shall I then go to my house, to eat and to drink, and to lie with my wife? As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do such a thing.' ¹²Then David said to Uriah, 'Remain here today also, and tomorrow I will send you back.' So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day. On the next day, ¹³David invited him to eat and drink in his presence and made him drunk; and in the evening he went out to lie on his couch with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house.

¹⁴In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent it by the hand of Uriah. ¹⁵In the letter he wrote, 'Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting, and then draw back from him, so that he may be struck down and die.'

Psalm 14

Second reading: Ephesians 3.14-21

Gospel reading: John 6.1-21

¹Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. ²A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. ³Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. ⁴Now the

Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. ⁵When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming towards him, Jesus said to Philip, 'Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?' ⁶He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. ⁷Philip answered him, 'Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.' ⁸One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Jesus, ⁹'There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?' ¹⁰Jesus said, 'Make the people sit down.' Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. ¹¹Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹²When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, 'Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.' ¹³So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. ¹⁴When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, 'This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.' ¹⁵When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

¹⁶When evening came, his disciples went down to the lake, ¹⁷got into a boat, and started across the lake to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. ¹⁸The lake became rough because a strong wind was blowing. ¹⁹When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the lake and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. ²⁰But he said to them, 'It is I; do not be afraid.' ²¹Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land towards which they were going.

Reflection for 8th Sunday after Trinity 2021

Fiona Wingate

Can you see the difference?

2 Samuel 11:1–15 & John 6:1–21

A quick quiz on our Old Testament reading:

1. Who broke God's commandments?
2. How many commandments did this person break?
3. Can you name the commandments this person broke?
4. Bonus question: What numbers are these in the Ten Commandments?

From this I think it's fair to say that David comes out of our Old Testament reading looking very bad, even evil. Our Old and New Testament readings offer three insights on how and how not to act which I would like us to think about.

Firstly, in our Old Testament reading David is the King of Israel. It's a powerful position in society. Yet how does he exercise that power? He sees something he wants and just takes it. He takes it despite the fact that he knows that the object of his desire Bathsheba is another man's wife. Not only another man's wife but the wife of one of his own trusted guards who is off fighting wars for the sake of his kingdom. But this doesn't seem to bother him. Verse 4 tells us "So David sent messengers to get her", and "that she came to him, and he lay with her".

Bathsheba's husband, Uriah, is a soldier in David's army. For me it would not suggest that Bathsheba and David move in the same circles in society. David sending his messengers to get her suggests to me that their meeting was not a meeting of equals. I picture Bathsheba, like her husband, to be a loyal subject who would go to the king when summoned. Sadly, we never hear Bathsheba's story. I don't think she would have been "an un-protesting partner" as one commentary noted. The consequence of David's action is that both he and Bathsheba should die for their adultery. This was the law says in Leviticus (Lev. 20:10). So, what we have here is power for control of others.

By contrast, in our New Testament reading we see Jesus giving us a model for power in service. In this passage it is the practical service of feeding the crowds who have gathered to hear him. Yes, the situation provides the opportunity for one of Jesus' signs and a chance to help the disciples and the crowd to understand something of God and Jesus' mission. But from the gospels we also see that Jesus' power in service is motivated by love. It is motivated by the love he has for God the Father and for us. Ultimately his power in service will lead him to the cross. It will lead to our redemption and the renewal of a right relationship for each of us with God.

So, power for control leads to destruction but power in service leads to renewal.

Secondly, David takes Bathsheba's life by his actions because the law says they should die for their adultery. His plan to save himself is ultimately to have Bathsheba's husband Uriah killed. It feels to me that David takes everything from her. He takes her dignity; he takes her family. This is power used for greed.

In contrast, in the reading from John we see the boy (a young lad) comes forward and offers what food he has. We might picture lovely freshly baked loaves and fresh fish but barley was food of the poor, cheaper than wheat, and the original Greek word for the fish described small dried or pickled fish. This is a poor young lad's lunch box but yet he offers everything to Jesus. The feeding of the 5000 occurs in all four gospels but it is only here in John's gospel that we get the detail of the young lad and the fact they were barley loaves. I think it's really important because what we see is the weakest in society giving everything in service. It is generosity beyond understanding.

Lastly, we have David forgetting God. He loses sight of God and the result is a cascade of evil – coveting another's wife, adultery, false testimony by trying to cover up his actions and finally murder. A downward spiral. But opposing that is Jesus. Jesus who takes the young lad's offering and gives thanks to God. He gives thanks before sharing the loaves and fish with the crowd. We hear that there was enough for everyone to eat all they wanted and then still some left over. The crowd are well fed and nourished.

I think it is fair to say that David gives very clear picture of what not to do. But in Jesus we see that there is power in service. In the young lad we see that when we offer all we have to Jesus, he can use it in miraculous ways. We see that it is God who should be given our thanks and praise.

So, in the words of Richard Burridge, “Lord Jesus, give us the courage to offer the little we have to you that you may use it to satisfy all your people”

Amen.

PRAYERS

Personal

In any deep relationship we need to listen as well as, or more than, speak. The boy Samuel said ‘Speak Lord, for your servant is listening’. (1 Sam. 3:10). When I pray, help me never to say ‘Listen Lord, for your servant is speaking.’

Nation and World

In recent weeks with the excitement of Wimbledon and the European Cup Final, we have experienced the friendship and love that can exist between all nations through sport. In our prayers we sometimes forget our brothers and sisters in the wider world who are facing daily disasters – war, poverty, lack of medical help, hunger, homelessness, death and destruction. We are all God’s children. We pray that the leaders of our world will put aside their differences, their own pride and search for power, to work for peace and an end to suffering.

We thank God for the very many people who unselfishly give their lives to care for those whose suffering is so great, especially remembering those who work in the clinic known to us in Malawi as well as those who show their love of God through their dedication to the suffering of the poor.

Church and Community

At a time when many young people and adults see all religion as irrelevant or even a cause of division, hostility or war; we pray for new initiatives in showing harmony and love between all people of faith. We pray for a fuller representation of different ethnicities in our Anglian church among our members, clergy and leaders.

Lord we pray for our children and young people. We pray for their enjoyment and refreshment in the school holidays; and

give them determination and commitment in their effort to catch up after losing time in school and university due to Covid-19. We pray for children and young people in difficulties: those trapped in abusive or neglectful families; for all young careers missing out on childhood and education; for those battling their own or their carers grave illness; for those unable to find paid employment; for those on drugs; those attracted by gang membership; and those in trouble with the police. Please Lord help us care for the mental health and happiness of our children and young people, and to enable their fuller presence in our church.

Weekly prayer for roads in the parish – **Knighton Drive**

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.

With thanks to Winifred Thompson and Wendy Bramley who have provided this week's prayers while Matthew is away.

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

PIANIST NEEDED

We are looking for someone new to join the team who play the piano at St. Guthlac's services. It is not difficult, just straight forward hymns and a voluntary piece before and after. I know that some of you play the piano quite well enough to help, Please contact me on 0116 2120271 or 07414 674773. Thank you. Yolanda

THANKS FROM BRENDA LEE

I want to thank everyone for their kindness during the pandemic and the support and help I was given during my recent move to Lutterworth . Those who patiently did my shopping for months , my friend who spent his lunch hours dismantling my kitchen, others who dealt with my recycling and discarding , hauling to charity shops and the tip , and all the admin. and visits to house agents etc that a house move entails ---- all of these and above all the support of prayer enabled me to stay fairly sane and optimistic . Thank my neighbours and thank especially the Christian community of the Benefice of Knighton.

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 for 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. Please bring your own drink to have during the question and answer time. Biscuits will be provided.

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

All Welcome. Online joining details are:

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

25th July -Morning Prayer

1st August -Eucharist

8th August -All Age Worship

15th August -Eucharist

St Guthlac's and the environment - "why should St Guthlac's bother about the environment"?

The first part of the strategy explains why we as the Christian community of St Guthlac's Church need to act.

As Christians we have a responsibility to care for all of God's creation. Genesis 1 explains that all of creation includes the earth, the seas, the air and all creatures that live in these places and all people. Genesis 1 also says that we were given responsibility and care for the natural world and therefore we must act. We must care for the planet and all that is in it.

Secondly, as Christians we wish to see a world where people exist peacefully with one another. We also want a world where all people and the natural world are respected and are able to live in harmony with each; a world where neither people nor the natural world are exploited.

We are conscious that many people within the St Guthlac community already work actively to tread lightly on the world. We, as the church, want to affirm, encourage and support all the good work and deeds that the whole St Guthlac's community do in protecting God's creation. This can be from simply sharing ideas (like EcoTips), praying for natural world and for all who work to protect it, encouraging people to get involved with their political and civil leaders to drive the changes necessary. We also want to build relationships with other communities or organisations to conserve and protect creation.

We want to work actively as trustees of God's creation to preserve and protect God's creation for future generations, both our young people and generations not yet born.

In the next element we'll look at what this strategy will mean for the church.

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

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.

Our Diocese is looking back and conducting a safeguarding review..... We have all heard from the news over recent years about the tragedy of abuse endured by some children, young people and also adults. The Diocese of Leicester, along with the rest of the Church of England, has been conducting a review of church-related cases from the past. This review aims to check that all victims have had the opportunity to speak about their abuse and be heard, and that all cases have been considered in the right way and action taken where needed. The review is nearing its conclusion, but as you'll see from this poster there is still an opportunity for anyone who feels that they suffered from abuse within a church context, to give their views on the response made by the church at the time and since.

If you have any experience of abuse that you feel may not have been reported, recognised or acted on properly, then please do contact the names on the poster. If you would prefer, then get in touch with our parish safeguarding co-ordinators first: Anne Hunt (St Guthlac's) and Cora Paul (St Mary's), or talk to me.

Adrian



Victim and Survivor Invitation for Past Cases Review 2

There is still an open invitation to anyone who wants to make representations about their experience as a victim or survivor of church related abuse in this diocese to contribute to the national Past Cases Review 2 process which is ongoing in 2021. This in relation to the response they received from the Church, however long ago this may have occurred. Contact details below.

Rachael Spiers, Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser:

07930 819 279 Rachael.Spiers@LeicesterCofE.org

Peter Holloway, Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser:

07930 887 984 Peter.Holloway@LeicesterCofE.org

Dedicated independent phone line run by the NSPCC:

0800 80 2020

National Church of England Safeguarding Team:

safeguarding@churchofengland.org

There is also always an open invitation to come forward with information or make a new disclosure regarding church-related abuse or a request for support.

You can read more about the Past Cases Review 2 online at:

www.leicester.anglican.org/safeguarding

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>

Please pray for the following, who are starting their curacies in our diocese. They were licensed to parishes as lay workers last week and will be ordained as deacons at Michaelmas (Sunday 3 October). Those being ordained priest will also be ordained at Michaelmas (Saturday 2 October).

- Paul Betts, Wigston
- Kas Brown, St Peter Highfields and St Philip, Leicester
- Luke Dobson, Holy Trinity with St John the Divine, Leicester
- Tom Grant, Market Harborough and the Transfiguration – Little Bowden with Lubenham and Great Bowden
- Stephen March, The Hexagon Benefice
- Charles Ndigirwa, St Christopher, Leicester
- Rhianne O'Rourke, Coalville with Bardon Hill and Ravenstone
- Steve O'Rourke, Hugglescote with Donington, Ellistown and Snibston
- David Palmer, "Elderberries" Fresh Expressions in Harborough Team
- Liz Piki, Loughborough, All Saints with Holy Trinity
- Manuela Schmuki, Leicester Cathedral
- Ali Simpson-Smith, Emmaus Team (St John the Baptist), Leicester
- Steve Sweet, The Cornerstone Team
- Kate Szejnmann, Holy Apostles, Leicester
- Ben Williams, Oadby Great Glen Team

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@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk

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'

Eco-Tip of the week

Flying

The 3 most impactful things we can do as individuals in the fight against the Climate Emergency are i) eat less meat ii) fly less iii) use green renewable energy for our homes. Other than that, inter-governmental policy and corporate decision making needs to happen. For these three weeks, we will consider each one and the associated mindset as the helpful 'Eco Tip'.

Air flight produces the equivalent Co2 per passenger per mile as 3-4 passenger travelling by car. A return journey to New York produces the equivalent of 1.2 tonnes of CO2 per passenger. We all love holidays and can justify air flight for our unique set of circumstances. I wonder if the old fashioned concepts of temperance are useful here. Just because we can, should we? The consequences of climate emergency adversely affects those least contributing to global warming, the poorest communities in the Southern hemisphere, Pacific Islands. Perhaps the kinds of places one may wish to visit. Can we temper our desires? Can we fly only we really have to not because it is cheap or exotic? Who pays the price for our pleasure? Of course, with most of our choices, we have to live with a level of hypocrisy and compromise. Thankfully as Christians, we are not to judge and we have a God who forgives. Though such characteristics of our faith, require us to be honest before God and honest with ourselves. Like, sin, we will fail in our quest for climate justice. However, the object is not to avoid failure perceived hypocrisy, rather, it is to at least try. That starts with the question-do I need to do this? Can I wait, or ration my choice? What are the consequences on others if I do? What alternatives may be available?