

# ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



Parish Church of St Guthlac  
Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

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



**Sunday 15 August 2021**  
**The Blessed Virgin Mary**  
**Eleventh Sunday after Trinity**

# **HOLY COMMUNION**

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> August 10:30am**

This Sunday Revd Janet Gasper will be presiding and preaching at a service of Holy Communion.

## **COVID SAFETY AT SERVICES AT ST GUTHLAC'S**

Although the Government has said there will be no restrictions on communal worship after 19th July, the National Church of England has urged a cautious approach. Therefore we are planning to make limited changes only for the next few weeks.

### **Masks & social distancing**

While face masks and social distancing are not mandatory, we recommend that you use them, unless you have an exemption. Hand sanitiser will be available for you to use as you enter and leave the church.

### **Booking and contact details**

You will not need to book a place beforehand. However we need to have details of who attends. In order to minimise touching of the attendance list, we will have an alphabetic register of people who have regularly been coming to church in the last 2 months as we have contact details for these people. It will be easy and quick for the steward to tick these names. People who are not on the list will be asked to give their name and contact details.

### **Choose where you feel comfortable to sit**

The church will be set up with rows at the front of the church and spread out seats at the back. You can choose where you feel most comfortable to sit. You will be offered cards saying

**‘Covid Safety, Please do not sit on this chair’.** You can put them on your adjoining chair if you wish to guarantee that others will not sit immediately next to you.

### **Toilets**

Toilets will be open. Please use hand sanitiser before and after entering the toilet.



### **Singing will be allowed. Please use a mask**

Singing will be allowed. The Church of England recommend that precautions should be taken to reduce transmission of the virus by using masks and shortening the duration of an activity like singing. Therefore please wear a mask while singing. If you don't have a mask, please don't sing.

### **For Eucharist services: The sharing of the bread or blessing**

- 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.

**Food and drink will not be served** after the service in order to protect people who might serve and clear up afterwards. This will be reviewed after a few weeks.

### **Donations**

If you wish to leave a donation, please put it in the small box provided.

When we have all gone, the church building will remain unused for at least 48 hours to eliminate any virus. The church and toilet will be cleaned regularly as normal.



**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.

**Adrian and family are away for a few days holiday this week. Please contact Matthew or others from the Ministry Team for support and information.**

## **Collect & Readings for the Blessed Virgin Mary**

### **The Collect**

Almighty God,  
who looked upon the lowliness of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
and chose her to be the mother of your only Son:  
grant that we who are redeemed by his blood  
may share with her in the glory of your eternal kingdom;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
Amen

**First reading: Isaiah 61.10,11**

**Psalm 45.10-17**

**Second reading: Galatians 4.4-7**

**Gospel reading: Luke 1.46-55**

<sup>46</sup>My soul magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, <sup>48</sup>for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; <sup>49</sup>for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. <sup>50</sup>His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. <sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. <sup>52</sup>He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; <sup>53</sup>he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. <sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, <sup>55</sup>according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

## **Reflection for August 15th The Blessed Virgin Mary**

### **Rev Janet Gasper**

The main celebration for the Blessed Virgin Mary's on August 15th, but she can be celebrated on September 8th (her birth), December 8th (her conception). March 25 celebrates The Annunciation of our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary and on May 31st it is the Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth her cousin.

The gospel for August 15th is Mary's main response to the news that she is to be the mother of Jesus. We call it "Magnificat", now used as a Canticle at Evening Prayer, it is the gospel before the gospel - a bright shout of triumph. It is not a carefully constructed poem, it is Mary's response to God, to Jesus who has only just been conceived and Mary is full of excitement and hope.

The song starts with God, calling up the past and reflecting on the future. It is rooted in the Jewish dream that one day, God through the people of Israel would bless all nations. Mary's song is full of quotations from the psalms which speak of mercy, hope, fulfilment, victory over evil and God coming to the rescue at last. Much of Mary's song is echoed by the preaching and actions of her son - stories of God feeding the people in the Old Testament are paralleled by Jesus feeding the crowds on the hillside. Jesus warns the rich not to trust exclusively in their wealth, invites us all to sit lightly to material things and reallocates our treasure in the love, peace and joy we share with God and one another. Mary's song invites us to be warm hearted and generous reversing the values of our society. How much we need this song in the madness and sadness of life today.

God chose in Mary an ordinary young women. She has to learn to be patient, to let go and trust God for her son's well-being. She has to stand aside and allow him to leave the family and put the needs of others first. She has to endure the grief of watching him die a horrible death and struggle with the meaning of it all. God's choice of Mary is part of the mystery of our faith. God saw someone who would respond in faith and love. We are all like Mary ,at best humble servants . It is God who equips ,empowers, strengthens us. Mary's song is a celebration of God.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord  
My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour:

He has looked with favour on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed;  
The Almighty has done great things for me  
And holy is his name.

He has mercy on those who fear him'

From generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm  
And has scattered the proud in their conceit.

Casting down the mighty from their thrones  
And lifting up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things  
And sent the rich away empty.

He has come to the aid of his servant Israel  
To remember his promise of mercy

The promise made to our ancestors  
To Abraham and his children forever

*Common Worship Daily Prayer Evening Prayer*

## **PRAYERS**

### **Personal**

"I pray because the need flows out of me all the time, waking and sleeping. ... It doesn't change God. It changes me."

*CS Lewis*

### **Nation and World**

We thank God for our young minds and those preparing their futures. We pray that they may know their worth as children made in the image of God rather than exam results.

### **Church and Community**

May families and loved ones in our midst enjoy companionship and connectedness as each of us seek those who may feel alone. May we have the faith and wisdom to embrace the stranger as if 'entertaining angels'

Weekly prayer for roads in the parish – **London Road.**

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](mailto:revgough@gmail.com) or Jane [administrator@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk](mailto:administrator@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk)*



**Sad news of the death of Anne Squires:** Many of you will know that Anne Squires began treatment for cancer some time ago now, and has spent the last few months at home as it became evident that the illness was progressing. Sadly Anne died, at home with husband Phil, last Friday, 23rd July. I'm sure that you'll all join with me in sending her family our love and sincere condolences. Anne will be greatly missed at St Mary's and St Guthlac's as a loyal choir member, leading light of the Mothers Union and a very good friend. Please do pray for Phil, their sons, and the whole extended family at this time of loss. Anne's funeral will take place at St Mary's at noon on Friday 20th August and all are welcome. In the meantime do visit the webpage set up by the family to remember Anne and to forward donations to her chosen charities

<https://annesquires.muchloved.com/>

*Adrian*

**Diocesan Finance Webinar: what every church needs to know to make their 2022 Parish Contribution Commitment.**

This zoom webinar is open to anyone with an interest in diocesan finance. It will be particularly useful for PCC members who will be involved with deciding Parish Contribution commitments, and for those holding particular roles on PCCs (treasurers, secretaries, and clergy).

At this session most of the time will be dedicated to:

- Setting out the key messages for Parish Contribution commitments for 2022, and what is expected of churches in making their responses.
- How the 2022 commitments relate to the ongoing Shaped By God Together process.
- An update on the diocesan budget process for 2022.
- Plenty of time for questions and answers.

To book please click the following links:

8 September, 3 - 4pm - [click here](#)

14 September, 7.30 - 8.30pm - [click here](#)

## **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 5<sup>th</sup>**: *'What do YOU/WE know about the Gospels?'*

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

**August 19<sup>th</sup>**: *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.

## **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%.

## 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](http://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**

15<sup>th</sup> August Eucharist

22<sup>nd</sup> August Morning Prayer

29<sup>th</sup> August Eucharist

5<sup>th</sup> September Eucharist

## CELEBRATING CREATIONTIDE THIS SEPTEMBER.

This September in the Knighton Benefice we're celebrating Creationtide, a season in the church's calendar when we focus on creation and the wonderful gifts we receive from it. We're excited and delighted this year that through the whole month of September St Guthlac's will be welcoming four visiting speakers to offer their reflections of creation and the Christian faith. The pattern of services is unchanged and will be:

Sunday 5th Sept Eucharist Speaker: Peter Yates,  
*World Development Officer, Leicester Diocese.*

Sunday 12th Sept Harvest All Age Worship - Gift Service

Sunday 19th Sept Eucharist Speaker: Miriam Stoate,  
*Environmental campaigner and contributor to Green Christian Magazine, Licensed Pioneer in Launde Deanery*

Sunday 26th Sept Morning Prayer Speaker: Rev Brian Davis,  
*Author of the "Caring for Creation" course, Chair of Sustainable Harborough and Chair of EcoChurch Harborough.*

Sunday 3rd Oct Eucharist Speaker: Ann Scott,  
*Leader of an environmentally focused mission shaped community called Greenlight, Licensed Pioneer in Leicester Diocese.*

## **Let's celebrate Harvest together!**

Our first All Age Worship service since the pandemic began will be on **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> Sept at 10.30am** and will be a celebration of harvest. Cheryl and helpers will be decorating the church for the occasion, which will be a real treat as flowers have not been in church for a long time. If you would like to help with this and haven't already offered, please let Lesley know. As usual we invite you to generously bring along non-perishable food gifts for Open Hands, who have seen an increase in demand during the Covid crisis. The following items are particularly welcome:

Cereal

Tinned meat meals/fish/pulses (but not baked beans)

Tea bags/coffee/UHT milk

Tinned fruit/rice pudding

Vegetable oil

Biscuits/cake bars

Squash

## **BENEFICE MAGAZINE**

I aim to start work on the next magazine on 2 September, with a view to publication in mid-September. It would be very helpful to have contributions by 1 September. They should be sent, preferably as Word documents, to

[stmaryknighton.magazine@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryknighton.magazine@gmail.com) (despite the address, this is for the WHOLE benefice). I have been away from Leicester since early July, so I depend more than ever on your contributions! Nigel Siesage



# What is Climate Sunday?

The Climate Sunday initiative is calling on all local churches across Great Britain & Ireland to hold a climate-focused service on any Sunday before COP26 (November 2021). So far over 1,000 churches have joined in.

The collective action and commitments from local churches across Great Britain & Ireland will be presented to UK Government at a Nations' Climate Sunday Service in Glasgow on Sunday 5th September 2021.

We thought it would be good to join in, so we have registered St Guthlac's with Climate Sunday which complements our Creationtide services throughout September.

Thank you! Clare G and EcoTeam.

**Ahead of COP26 meeting in Glasgow (Oct-Nov 2021)  
could we as a community pray this prayer from  
Christian Aid.**

God of hope,  
We pray for world leaders attending COP26. Bless them  
with wisdom, creativity and a shared vision of hope for  
all creation. May they find the determination to take  
strong action to halt the destructive effects of climate  
change and the political will to act together for the  
common good.

Amen



More resources and information:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/pray/prayer-chain>

## **Eco-Tip of the week**

### **Energy saving in the kitchen**

It doesn't matter whether you view cooking as a necessary evil or one of life's great pleasures, you'll spend some time each day in your kitchen. Major appliances like ovens, microwaves and fridge-freezers mean this single room is responsible for almost one-third of your household's total energy usage. Being mindful of our use of energy when preparing food can help reduce our carbon footprint as well as our energy bills. Suggested actions are:

Cover your pan with a lid, which will reduce the amount of energy required to boil water by 75%, and only use the minimum of water needed to cover the food

Only fill your kettle with the amount of water you actually need to boil

Use a tiered steamer so that all your veg can be cooked on one ring

Use your oven more efficiently by preparing more than one dish at a time

Use a slow cooker- one of the most energy-efficient appliances in the kitchen

Resist the temptation to open the oven door during cooking- check progress through the window!

Use your microwave for simple reheating: Even the cheapest microwaves will usually be more efficient for this task

Keep your freezer full as it will be more efficient this way

