

ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



Parish Church of St Guthlac
Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

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



Sunday 22 August 2021
Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

MORNING PRAYER

Sunday 15th August 10:30am

This Sunday Revd Adrian Jones will be leading a service of Morning Prayer.

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.

Collect & Readings for the Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

The Collect

Almighty and everlasting God,
you are always more ready to hear than we to pray
and to give more than either we desire or deserve:
pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy,
forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid
and giving us those good things
which we are not worthy to ask
but through the merits and mediation
of 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: Joshua 24.1-2a, 14-18

Psalms 34.15-22

Second reading: Ephesians 6.10-20

Gospel reading: John 6.56-69

Jesus said to the crowd: ⁵⁶‘Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live for ever.’ ⁵⁹He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

⁶⁰When many of his disciples heard it, they said, ‘This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?’ ⁶¹But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, ‘Does this offend you?’ ⁶²Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴But among you there are some who do not believe.’ For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. ⁶⁵And he said, ‘For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.’

⁶⁶Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. ⁶⁷So Jesus asked the twelve, ‘Do you also wish to go away?’ ⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him, ‘Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.’

Homily for August 22nd Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

“Lord, to whom shall we go?”

These are the words of Simon Peter.

Have we ever asked the same question? Who do I turn to? Are some of us asking it now, in our search for something beyond this life; the search for meaning, hope and purpose. We may ask ourselves: “there’s got to be more to life than this, hasn’t there?”. To whom do we go?

In this world we are surrounded by promises – marriage promises (sometimes broken), price promises (subject to terms and conditions), product promises (this cream will make you look and feel younger), political promises (...let’s not go there!).

We have grown to be sceptical about promises because we have been let down so often. So, it may not be a surprise that when someone promises something as big as eternal life, we feel nervous about accepting it.

But this is the promise of Jesus Christ in verse 58 of today's reading: "whoever feeds on this bread [meaning himself] will live forever". More plainly, earlier in John's gospel, Jesus said: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life".

How can we trust this promise – a promise of such importance and enormity?

There are many other religions that offer eternal life, but these largely depend on the judgement of whether our 'good' acts have outweighed our 'bad' ones. They depend on our own efforts and because we are not the judge, we can never be assured of our salvation. In addition, the founding leaders of these faiths are mere men (presumably with their own faults and egos).

What makes Christianity unique, and what makes Jesus's promise so trustworthy is this: It is based not merely on a man, but a God-man, God incarnate, "the bread that came down from heaven" as verse 58 of our reading puts it. Simon Peter declares in this passage "We have come to know that you are the Holy One of God". The Amplified Bible uses the words "son of the living God". As a result of his observations and experiences, Simon Peter concluded that Jesus was more than a man; a belief that he was, later, prepared to die for rather than forsake.

Jesus is God and we can trust that we can have eternal life through him because he is the **only** religious leader who has ever died and been raised back to life. He proved through the cross and resurrection that he has power over life and victory over death, to demonstrate that death can be overcome if we believe and trust in him. His actions matched his words.

If someone promised each of us it was safe to launch ourselves over a cliff edge attached only by a rope tied to an anchor point and to then abseil down, it would be natural to want to see our instructor do it first. If they did it, then our trust would be well-founded. If we were to place our lives into someone's hands, we would want to have that trust, wouldn't we?

So, when Jesus says we can pass through death into new life, we can trust his words because he did it first. What's more; he is our anchor. He is the one who holds us safe.

A preacher once said, "Hope is a rope, but it very much matters what it's tied to". What, or who, is your hope of eternal life tied to? Referring to Jesus, the book of Hebrews puts it like this: "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure". Jesus is our anchor.

In the cliff-top illustration, there might be many of us who, prior to seeing the instructor abseil down, would refuse to take a 'step of faith' beyond the cliff edge. In today's passage we see a similar reaction. Verse 66 says: "From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him". They found that believing Jesus was hard to do; something they could not accept. Despite the amazing teaching and miracles of Jesus, they remained unconvinced. However, at that time, Jesus had not passed through death to life. We, however, have the benefit of having seen 'the instructor' go before us.

So, back to the original question: “To whom shall we go?”

Who shall you and I go to, to find eternal life? Who shall you and I trust and follow?

However small our steps of faith are, let us trust in the One who has gone before us and acts as our safe and secure anchor.

Amen.

From *The Homilies Project*

PRAYERS

Along with churches across the South Leicestershire Christian Partnership, we pray the Christian Aid prayer for Afghanistan

O God of mercy and of peace,

We hold before you
the peoples of Afghanistan;
be living bread to those
who are hungry each day.

Be healing and wholeness to those
who have no access to health care
amidst the ravages of the pandemic.

Be a true home to all
who have been displaced.

Be open arms of loving acceptance
to those who fear because of their
gender, ethnicity,
religious or political views.

Be peace to those engaged in armed conflict,
and those who live within its shadow.

Turn our hearts and minds to your ways
of just and gentle peace;
open our eyes to see you
in all acts of compassionate Care.

Strengthen our hearts to step out in solidarity
with your suffering people, and
hold us all in your unfailing love.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ,
who emptied himself of all but love,
in order to bring life in all its fullness.

Amen

Weekly prayer for roads in the parish – **Raglan Court.**

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*

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](#)

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%.

St Guthlac's and the environment - What will the strategy mean for us?

Last time we looked at why as a Christian community we must protect and preserve creation. This section explores what this will mean for the St Guthlac's.

Firstly, we will ensure that care for all of creation will be an integral part of all aspects of our church life including worship, church activities and how we make decisions. It also means that as a church we'll actively support our young people to explore their concerns for and ideas about the environment and climate crisis. This may be through church activities and clubs or in their private capacities.

In addition to looking at our own patch, we'll also continue to strengthen our bonds with the local community so that together we can promote and encourage the conservation of our local environment. We are actively hoping to be able to share ideas and initiatives with the local community so that all in our community feel empowered and encouraged to reduce their footprint on God's creation in whatever way they are able to.

We are conscious that every person has a sphere of influence around them. As part of our plan we would pray that people would feel empowered so that they can engage their friends, families, neighbours or colleagues in the need for each of us to consider how our behaviour impacts the climate and where possible to make changes.

In addition to all this as a church and PCC, we have committed to invest time, talents and financial resources of the church to reduce our footprint on the earth. This may be through direct investments in infrastructure (like bike racks) to supporting organisations that are working to address the impacts of climate change. In the next element we'll look at how we'll do all this.

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

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

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 12th 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 (2103690). 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 (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.

Preparation for COP26

Walk the Labyrinth at the Quaker Meeting House Queens Rd

Any time between 2pm and 4pm on Monday 30th August.



You are warmly invited to the Quaker Meeting House garden to walk the labyrinth which is mown into the lawn.

You can also design and write a postcard to send to encourage positive action as a result of COP26, join in with a craft activity, or talk about what the climate crisis means to you.

The labyrinth is an ancient symbol of wholeness. By peacefully walking it we can reaffirm our own individual meandering but purposeful journey through life: the one that is unique to each of us. Here at the centre, we may find renewed connection for our battered but gracious planet and take that joyful hope out into the wider world with us.

Adults and children welcome

Bring your own umbrellas or bottles of water as the weather dictates! Because of Covid, unfortunately the Meeting House will not be open but there will be access to the toilets.

We look forward to seeing you.

**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>

CONTACT DETAILS

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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
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FOR THE NEWSLETTER Please send material to be included in the next newsletter by **noon Thursday** to administrator@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk

Don't forget to visit the St. Guthlac's Facebook page and website <https://www.stguthlac-knighton.co.uk>

Eco-Tip of the week

Let's talk tea bags!



If you've been torn between using a Fairtrade brand tea or prioritising a polypropylene free, compostable tea bag, you can have the best of both worlds:

Clipper Everyday Fairtrade tea bags

Contain a blend of the finest Fairtrade teas grown in the rich red soils of Africa and the fertile soils of India, for a full, classic flavour.

Are 100% biodegradable and can be put in your garden waste or composting bin

Come in a recyclable cardboard box