



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



Newsletter 468

HOLY COMMUNION

Sunday 29th August 10:30am

This Sunday Revd Matthew Gough 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.

Collect & Readings for the Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

The Collect

Almighty God,
who called your Church to bear witness
that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself:
help us to proclaim the good news of your love,
that all who hear it may be drawn to you;
through him who was lifted up on the cross,
and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen

First reading: Deuteronomy 4.1-2,6-9

Psalm 15

Refrain: Through the greatness of your mercy,
I will come into your house.

- 1 Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle?
Who may rest upon your holy hill?
- 2 Whoever leads an uncorrupt life
and does the thing that is right;
- 3 Who speaks the truth from the heart
and bears no deceit on the tongue;
- 4 Who does no evil to a friend
and pours no scorn on a neighbour;
- 5 In whose sight the wicked are not esteemed,
but who honours those who fear the Lord.
- 6 Whoever has sworn to a neighbour
and never goes back on that word;

- 7 Who does not lend money in hope of gain,
nor takes a bribe against the innocent;
8 Whoever does these things
shall never fall.

Refrain: Through the greatness of your mercy,
I will come into your house.
Lord, lead us to our heavenly home
by single steps of self-restraint
and deeds of righteousness;
through the grace of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Second reading: James 1.17-27

¹⁷Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸In fulfilment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

¹⁹You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. ²¹Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

²²But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act – they will be blessed in their doing.

²⁶If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Gospel reading: Mark 7.1-8,14-15,21-23

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, ²they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) ⁵So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?' ⁶He said to them, 'Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, "This people honours me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines."

⁸You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.'

14 Then he called the crowd again and said to them, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.' ²¹For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²²adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.'

Homily for August 29th Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

By and large, we're very polite people. Our conversations are littered with "pleases" and "thank yous". And if we accidentally nudge someone, or stand in their way, we quickly say "sorry".

We readily apologise for trivial incidents when we inconvenience others. But when it's more serious, when we've done something that really hurts someone else, saying sorry can be a lot more difficult. It's then that the words of Elton John's hit from way back in 1976 ring true. *"Sorry Seems to Be the Hardest Word."* And, yes, at times "sorry" can be extremely hard to say if we truly mean it.

It's easy taking responsibility for things that go well, but very different when things go badly. Nationally, hardly a week goes by without a call for a Public Inquiry on something or other that's gone wrong, either in government policy or in the workings of a public body. At their best, such Inquiries identify recommendations to avoid similar things happening again. At their worst, they either result in bland rationalisation of what happened, or they degenerate into arguments over who should 'carry the can.'

No one likes making mistakes, especially if it causes real pain or upset for someone else. The immediate reaction can be to try and hide our embarrassment by attempting to justify what we've done. We say things like "No one complained when so and so did the same thing", or "that's how I've always done it", or "if I hadn't acted, something far worse would have happened."

Alternatively, we might try pinning the blame on someone, or something, else. "He told me to do it", "It's the computer's fault", or "If you had told me you were going to do that, then of course I wouldn't have..."

Any of those statements might be true, or any other excuses we make in seeking to avoid blame for what we've done. But that's all they are – excuses – attempts at deflecting blame for the wrong we have done. The responsibility is ours. Yes, we're subject to influences. Yes, there are pressures on us. But no, difficult though it may be, we do not have to give in to those pressures and influences, those temptations, if they are pushing us in the wrong direction. As Jesus said to the crowd in today's Gospel passage, it is not the things that enter into our lives that defile. We are not besmirched or corrupted by the existence of temptation. It is how we respond to temptation that stains our lives with sin.

We are made in the image of God, so we have free will. We can choose how we live our lives, how we respond to those influences and pressures and forces that enter our lives.

But being made in God's image, we also have responsibility for the consequences of how we live our lives, whether in doing good, or doing ill to others.

We are made in the image, ***the image***, of God. We are not God; we are not pure as he is. We are flawed. We get things wrong. We give way to the forces on us, we give way to temptation, and the result is always harm. Sometimes harm for others. Always harm for our relationship with God, and so also harm for ourselves.

It is not enough to pay lip service to God in the way Jesus accused the Pharisees and scribes of doing. We cannot point to all the many good things we do and hope they will somehow outweigh the times when we get things wrong. Nor, as James wrote in his letter, as we heard earlier, can we simply rely on a claim to having faith. If our faith in Jesus is genuine, then it will show itself in how we seek to live our lives.

And in this we have an ally. James wrote of “the implanted word that has the power to save (our) souls”. The implanted word that is the Holy Spirit. Our lives are subject to the influences and pressures, the temptations, of the world around us. But dwelling within us, implanted by God within us, is his Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit who, if we will listen to him, will help us resist temptation and to live lives worthy of God.

We will not always succeed, but we must always strive to follow God’s way, the way of purity and love, the way of the Holy Spirit implanted in our lives.

And when we do get things wrong, we need to say that hardest of words. We need to say “sorry”. Sorry to those we hurt, and, above all, sorry to God, for it is he that we hurt most. We need to say sorry and mean it. And use that as a spur to shape our lives ever closer to God’s calling.

Amen

From *The Homilies Project*

PRAYERS

Personal

Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one. O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Caritas, New Zealand

Nation and World

We pray for the desperate in Afghanistan and those arriving in this country. We pray that we may shine light and offer hospitality offering welcome as if 'entertaining angels in disguise'. We pray for our government preparing to host the Cop26 Climate Summit, that integrity and courage may flourish against the powers of vested interests.

Church and Community

We pray for all the teachers, children and families who are now returning to school. Protect their learning and health from further Covid outbreaks. May all be refreshed and able to learn and live fully in this new season. We pray for our church communities as they prepare to focus on the earth through harvest festivals, Eco Church and Creationtide-may our hearts burn for environmental justice.

Weekly prayer for roads in the parish – **Morland Avenue.**

Those facing personal pain we name before our Lord.

And those who have finished their days on this. 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



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>

CELEBRATING CREATIONTIDE THIS SEPTEMBER.

Creationtide September 5th - October 3rd will be celebrated by both St Mary's and St Guthlac's in common with other churches.

This is particularly important this year as we seek Eco Church accreditation. Also, the UK hosts the important United Nations Climate Change Summit (COP 26) in Glasgow this November.

We hope that you will join in as much with our activities as well as those across the local area.

We have a programme of local leading Environmentalist preaching in both churches as well as harvest festivals, All age and Outdoor Pets' Thanksgiving for all our 10.30am Sunday services.

Our guest speakers and special services are-

Canon Brian Davis-creator of York Course 'Caring for Creation', Chair of Eco Church Harborough and former Vicar of St Mary's Hinckley, the first medieval church to fit solar panels.

St Guthlac's Sept 26th; St Mary's Sept 12th

Anne Scott- Pioneer leader of Greenlight and environmental focused Fresh Expression of Church, Leicester and head of Forest School at Overdale Juniors. **St Guthlac's Church, October 3rd**

Dr Miram Stoate- Environmental Scientist and Campaigner. Pioneer minister for Eco Youth and Outdoor Groups in the Launde Deanery. **St Guthlac's Church, Sept 19th**

Peter Yates Reader, former Director of Social Responsibility and current World Development Adviser Leicester Diocese as well as The Midlands Fair Share Director and Ecumenical link

for Churches together with the Diocese of Trichy, India, **St Guthlac's Sept 5th**

Rev. Andrew Quigley Vicar of St James the Greater and Leicester Diocese Environmental Officer. Andrew has no car, does not fly and cycles or runs most places! **St Mary's Sept 26th**

Special Outdoor Pet Blessing Service, "Fresh!" with live music, **St Mary's Rev. Matthew Sept 19th**

Harvest Festivals September 12th St Guthlac's (Fiona and Tina) and **October 3rd St Mary's** (Rev. Adrian)

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. 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

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.

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 – The Strategy: How will we do this?

In this final section about St Guthlac's environmental strategy we'll look at how we're going to make all this happen.

The starting point will be to use the EcoChurch framework. EcoChurch is A Rocha's (<https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk>) tool to help our church celebrate what we already do well and make informed decisions about what to do next. It is based on five key areas; worship and teaching, management of church land, lifestyle, community and global engagement, management of church buildings.

Using the EcoChurch assessment a small group has met to review what we do at present in each of these areas. From this we'll be identifying what next steps we can make. Some things will be easier to achieve than others for example, ensuring we include creation and the environment in our intercessions or music can be achieved more easily than installing solar panels or heat source pumps.

As a church and PCC we'll aim to "Rethink – Reduce – Reuse – Recycle" in all aspects of our church life from the consumables we buy to what we do with the green space of the church garden. This means that we'll challenge what we've always done and look to do things differently by being mindful of the impact our actions will have on the environment.

The important thing part is that this is not just a small group of people doing this. What needs to be at the heart of this is the whole church community being involved in whatever way possible. We'll do our best to keep the church community updated on what is happening through the newsletter and magazine.

This work is not taking place in isolation. Leicester Diocese have committed to becoming an EcoDiocese and St Mary's has also registered as an EcoChurch. We'll work with the St Mary's Eco Task Team to share ideas and work together where this brings the most benefit.

The EcoChurch framework provides some exciting ideas and new ways of considering what we've always done. Over the next few months we'll feedback on the work being done in the five areas of EcoChurch as we aim to address the "low hanging fruit". We hope you'll enjoy, be excited about and get involved with all that will be happening.

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

Ride and Stride - 11 September 2021 from 10:00 18:00:

Once again St Guthlac's is taking part in the Leicestershire Historic Churches Trust annual fundraising event. It's a chance to explore the wonderful church buildings in the city and county and raise funds for the work of the trust and also St Guthlac's. A list of church and chapels that will be open is available at the following website (<https://www.lhct.org.uk/ride-and-stride/>) and will be updated right up to the date. If you're interested in taking part sponsorship forms are also available from the website or from me. It would be lovely St Guthlac's could offer welcome to visitors in the morning whilst the church is being decorated for harvest, after which we'll have a register outside the church for visitors to sign. If you're willing and able to act as a welcomer please let me know. Fiona Wingate.

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

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



Hello – Clare and Lydia Gough have taken up the challenge from Mothers' Union to run the Royal Parks Half Marathon in London this October.

If you would like to sponsor us to help raise essential funds for the Mothers' Union please let Clare know in person.

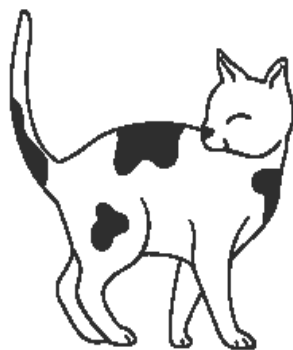
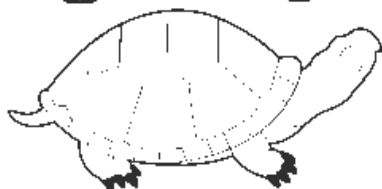
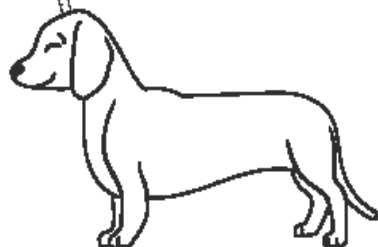
Our target is £300 each!

You can also give directly by visiting Clare's fundraising page - <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/claregoughmothersunionrun>

Many thanks for your support and prayers for this event!

ALL CREATURES GREAT & SMALL WELCOME

OUTDOOR PET
BLESSING
SERVICE



ST MARY'S
CHURCHYARD,
KNIGHTON
SEPTEMBER
19TH 10.30

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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

A new way to shop on-line

If you are considering a swap to more eco-friendly household or beauty products, you might like to check out a local business providing a zero-emission refill service of high quality eco-friendly products which are delivered to your door by bicycle!



“Our core ethos is sustainable, fair and kind living. We choose suppliers who are committed to ethical practice and environmental

protection and run our business in a sustainable and environmentally sound way. We also believe that a green way of life should be fair. That's why we strive to price our products so that as many people are able to lead a more sustainable way of life as possible. It's simple, convenient and doesn't cost the earth! “

For more information please see: <https://ethicalnatty.co.uk/>