

ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



Parish Church of St Guthlac
Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

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



Sunday 5 September 2021
Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity
Creationtide 1

HOLY COMMUNION

Sunday 5 September 10:30am

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

We are delighted to welcome Peter Yates to preach at our service. Peter is a Reader, former Director of Social Responsibility and current World Development Adviser for the Leicester Diocese as well as The Midlands Fair Share Director and Ecumenical link for Churches Together with the Diocese of Trichy, India.

Collect for Creationtide

Glorious God,
the whole creation proclaims your
marvellous work:
increase in us a capacity to wonder
and delight in it,
that heaven's praise may echo in our hearts
and our lives be spent as good stewards of the earth,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Readings for Creationtide 1

Genesis 1 26-31

26-28 God spoke: "Let us make human beings in our image, make them reflecting our nature so they can be responsible for the fish in the sea, the birds in the air, the cattle, and, yes, Earth itself, and every animal that moves on the face of Earth." God created human beings; he created them godlike, reflecting God's nature.

He created them male and female. God blessed them:
“Prosper! Reproduce! Fill Earth! Take charge!
Be responsible for fish in the sea and birds in the air,
for every living thing that moves on the face of Earth.”

29-30 Then God said, “I’ve given you every sort of seed-bearing plant on Earth and every kind of fruit-bearing tree, given them to you for food.

To all animals and all birds, everything that moves and breathes, I give whatever grows out of the ground for food.”
And there it was.

31 God looked over everything he had made;
it was so good, so very good!
It was evening, it was morning—
Day Six

Mark 4: 35-41

The Wind Ran Out of Breath

35-38 Late that day he said to them, “Let’s go across to the other side.” They took him in the boat as he was. Other boats came along. A huge storm came up. Waves poured into the boat, threatening to sink it. And Jesus was in the stern, head on a pillow, sleeping! They roused him, saying, “Teacher, is it nothing to you that we’re going down?”

39-40 Awake now, he told the wind to pipe down and said to the sea, “Quiet! Settle down!” The wind ran out of breath; the sea became smooth as glass. Jesus reprimanded the disciples: “Why are you such cowards? Don’t you have any faith at all?”

41 They were in absolute awe, staggered. “Who is this, anyway?” they asked. “Wind and sea at his beck and call!”

Genesis 1 – 26-28 Discussion starter

In 1967, medieval historian Lynn White Jr. published an article called 'The Historical Roots of our Ecologic Crisis', he argued that Christianity was an anthropocentric religion which could be blamed for our ecological crisis. Not everyone agrees with that view. However, most people would agree that the bible has often been interpreted in an anthropocentric way. As opposed to what I will suggest is the proper Christian attitude, Christians' attitudes towards the earth have often elevated human rights over environmental ones.

Rather than giving human beings rights over nature, these verses give us the responsibility to care for nature in a way that is consistent with God's will

One of the reasons for Christianity's anthropocentrism can be found in Genesis 1:26-28. There we see that God made humans in his own image and that he gave them "dominion" over every living thing upon the earth. Throughout history, many Christians, even up to the present day, have read this to mean that human beings are the most (or even only) valuable part of Creation. They have also thought the non-human parts of nature are valuable only so far as they benefit humankind. For example, Wesley said that all creatures were made for human beings and Calvin said all things were ordained for the use of man. In addition, the command to "rule" and "have dominion" over the earth was often seen as a right to subdue, alter and even exploit nature.

While Genesis 1:26-28 suggests that human beings have a special role within Creation, it does not necessarily follow that they have more value than the rest of Creation. One interpretation of how human beings bear the image of God (and the most popular view among Old Testament scholars today)

says that human beings are like God because they perform the functions of God and are God's representatives. As God's representatives, Genesis 1:26-28 indicates more of a caretaking or stewardship role. Traditionally, these were known as the dominion verses. A more accurate description may be the stewardship verses. Rather than giving human beings rights over nature, these verses give us the responsibility to care for nature in a way that is consistent with God's will.

While it is impossible to reach any certainty about God's will, for Christians the Bible does contain clues as to what God's will might be. God calls Creation good six times before human beings are even created, suggesting that nature has intrinsic worth. Romans 8:21 says that Creation will be liberated, showing that God has a plan for it. Revelation 11:18 says that those who destroy the earth will themselves be destroyed, revealing that God does not like people to damage the earth. An insight into God's attitudes towards the environment can also be found in Leviticus 25:2-5:

Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them, "When you come into the land which I give you, then the land shall keep a sabbath to the LORD. Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard, and gather in its fruit; but in the seventh year there shall be a sabbath of solemn rest for the land, a sabbath to the LORD. You shall neither sow your field nor prune your vineyard. What grows of its own accord of your harvest you shall not reap, nor gather the grapes of your untended vine, for it is a year of rest for the land."

Later in Leviticus, God says the land must not be sold permanently because it belongs to him. The Year of Jubilee (which happened every 50 years and involved special land regulations) contained a commandment that all people can

return to the land that was owned by their ancestors (Leviticus 25:13). Leviticus 25 reveals a God who wants the land to be looked after and for all people to have access to the earth's resources. As such, it is a good biblical example of why Christians should care about environmental rights. Furthermore, it is consistent with many other passages of the bible that display the same attitude.

Genesis 1:26-28, therefore, is not saying that human beings have more value than the rest of Creation. Nor is it an excuse (let alone a right or a requirement) for human beings to plunder the earth for their own ends. Rather, it is a responsibility to care for the earth and all living things in the way that God would wish. The stewardship role of the Christian therefore should involve ensuring that the rights of every aspect of Creation (both human and non-human) are protected.

PRAYERS

For the start of Creationtide

Personal

May I neither become too cynical nor too egotistical about my place in the world, my responsibilities to God's creation and the impact I am responsible for in nurturing and harming the gift of life in all its forms.

Nation and World

May the world see clearly the relationships between refugees from areas affected by global warming and food scarcity and the industrialised countries culpability. May we take responsibility for our actions. May the Glasgow summit which will bring together nations to build strategy and vision achieve

meaningful change. Fellow humanity cries out amongst the rocks, and deserts of Afghanistan. May our hearts hear such cries with tenderness.

Church and Community

We pray that we will engage well with the challenges posed by Climate Emergency speakers and community initiatives. We pray for our Creationtide services, our speakers and our study. We pray for the work of the local church partnership in campaigning and raising awareness as well as creatively engaging with natural ways to enhance nature. We thank God for our beautiful gardens, parks and allotments in our community which we may access.

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

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

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



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.

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!

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%.



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.

ALL
CREATURES
GREAT &
SMALL
WELCOME

OUTDOOR PET
BLESSING
SERVICE



ST MARY'S
CHURCHYARD,
KNIGHTON
SEPTEMBER
19TH 10.30

Pause



Many of us find ourselves dashing around without time to rest or to pause, even on a Sunday.

Make some time to hear the still small voice of God at a relaxed, informal Communion service at **St Mary's - 7.30pm on Sunday 10th October.**

There will be music, readings and quietness, before an opportunity to share bread and wine as we remember the sacrifice of Jesus.

You're welcome to bring your own cushion, and a favourite mug for tea or coffee.

More information from Adrian Jones.

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.

CONTACT DETAILS

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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>