

ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



Parish Church of St Guthlac
Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

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



SEASON OF CREATION

Sunday 26 September 2021
Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity
Creationtide 4

HOLY COMMUNION

Sunday 26 September 10:30am

This Sunday Fiona Wingate will be leading a service of Morning Prayer

We are delighted to welcome **Canon Brian Davis**, creator of the 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.

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 4

1Timothy 6.7-10, 17-19

⁷For we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; ⁸but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. ⁹But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

¹⁷ As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸ They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, ¹⁹ thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

John 6.1-13

Feeding the Five Thousand

6 After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias.^[a] ² A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. ³ Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. ⁴ Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. ⁵ When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" ⁶ He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. ⁷ Philip answered him, "Six months' wages^[b] would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." ⁸ One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, ⁹ "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" ¹⁰ Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they^[c] sat down, about five thousand in all. ¹¹ Then 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. ¹² When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." ¹³ So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets.

FINDING FAITH & HOPE AS WE FACE THE CLIMATE CRISIS

(based on CARING FOR CREATION – York Courses - by BD)

We have two big problems.

a) how can we as people of faith keep hope alive as we face the climate crisis?

All is not well with God's Creation: the planet is warming, with carbon dioxide still being pumped into the atmosphere and into the oceans. Etc etc Yes, things are bad and will get worse., affecting all of us.

b) We live in a secular society where the Christian religion is seen by more and more people as irrelevant. Its hard not to be affected by it.

We need to help each other hold on to our faith in God. These two problems could be related. Facing up to the reality of what is happening to our planet could also be a way into re-newing our faith in God. The teaching of Jesus will give us guidance and reassurance as we face these testing times.

1. 'The time has arrived, the Kingdom of God is upon you. Repent and believe the good news.' (Mark 1.15.)

'The time has arrived' to face reality, with no more pretence or avoiding the truth about the crisis we now face. Engaging with reality is the only way we can truly engage with God: only by getting real will we find the real God.

'Repent' is actually good news: Jesus believed we could change our ways. He can inspire us and help us to change. And we have all sinned! We have all contributed to the present catastrophe. We need to make deep changes to our whole way of life if we are to save the planet.

Interactive: we need to change our lifestyle. What ideas do you have about a changed sustainable lifestyle? - two minutes!

A new Christian lifestyle – a check list (On PP)

2. Jesus came to bring new life and hope, but how do we find it? What is the secret? ***‘If any of you want to become my followers, you must forget yourself, take up your cross, and follow me. For those who want to save their life, will lose it; ...’***(Mark 8. 34-38)

Here is the heart of the Gospel. Jesus calling us to stop thinking about ourselves.

But selfishness and self-centredness, and our pride, run deep in all of us. **Our planet will only be saved as we all learn to act unselfishly and sacrificially, thinking less of ourselves, and more of others.** The opposite of selfishness is generous, sacrificial love. Another word for this is compassion. God is love, and compassion is love in action. When we share the suffering of those already affected by the climate crisis, including the suffering of all living things, all creation, this is how God acts in the world, working in us and through us. ‘It is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfil his good purpose’ (Philippians 2.13).

Some ideas of how we can show compassion.....

3. ***‘Look how the wild flowers grow: they do not work or make clothes for themselves. But I tell you that not even King Solomon with all his wealth had clothes as beautiful as one of these flowers’.*** (Matt. 6. 28)

Jesus often talked about nature in his teaching. If we are to re-connect with God we need to re-connect with nature – God’s Creation.

Interactive: Have you experienced God in creation? minutes	2
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We need to re-connect with the natural world around us. *‘The Gospel is not only found in the pages of the Bible but is written in the trees and the flowers, in nature all around us.’* It is God’s Spirit that is the life force at work in nature, as we watch the seeds grow. It is the same Spirit at work in each one of us bringing new life and hope. So reconnecting with nature is good for our health, both physically, mentally and spiritually!.

We need to see that our relationship with the natural world is not an add-on extra, but essential to our development as human beings as God intended, made in his image. What is happening to the planet is happening to us; we are not separate from it. And by destroying life on our planet we are destroying our relationship with God. Creation is crying out because of the harm we have inflicted on her. And it follows that **when we show real care for the Earth we come closer to God.** So what can we do? We cannot go it alone. We need to support and encourage each other – to ‘keep the faith’ and to save life on this planet. Here are a few ideas...

FINALLY: **‘The time has arrived, the Kingdom of God is upon you. Repent and believe the good news.’** - The good news that God is with us, and that nothing can separate us from his love. We will experience God’s love, his presence with us when we wake up and face reality – what is happening to our planet. When we repent, change our ways and find a new Christian life-style based on sustainable living. When we die to self, allowing the selfish, self-centred part of us to die, so that God’s new life can blossom and grow in us. When we show real love, and compassion for all those already suffering the effects of the climate crisis; and in showing compassion we will

come closer to God who is compassion. And when we reconnect with God’s creation – in the sights and sounds of nature all around us. When we do all this, God is there with us. And God becomes real once again in our lives. And we can live in Christian hope.

Creationtide Discussions: 7:00pm Sunday 26th September and 3rd October on Zoom. There is an opportunity to join a short discussion group to reflect on the presentations of Brian Davis (our speaker on 26th) and Ann Scott (our speaker on the 3rd) from the morning service. The meeting will start at 7:00pm and last a maximum of 40 minutes. There won’t be any breakdown rooms so we’re all in the same space. The intention is really just to have a chance to share thoughts. Meeting details as follows:

Topic: Creationtide Evening Discussion
Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74882445053?pwd=YXQxWU11NnlxMlZlTnU0K05yVXV5UT09>

Meeting ID: 748 8244 5053
Passcode: rR4EF2

St. Guthlac’s Services, Sunday at 10.30am

3 rd October	Eucharist	Rev Canon Dr S Foster
10 th October	All Age Worship	Rev Matthew Gough
17 th October	Eucharist	Rev Adrian Jones
24 th October	Matins	David Hunt

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

PRAYERS

"While all creatures stand in expectation, what will be the result of our liberty"

Thomas Traherne

In the midst of our Creationtide season our unsustainable dependence on fossil fuels and profiteering from energy marketing has crashed around us with sure consequences. We pray for the poorest amongst us who will not be able to heat their homes this winter due to the cost of gas. Loving Father we pray for mercy and repent from our casual disregard for the gifts you have given us. You have given us resources to know life in all its fullness. We have commodified your grace and exploited the earth to the pain of the most vulnerable.

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

Those facing personal pain we name before our Lord – **Jill, Tom Reynolds and his wife Christine, Father Michael (St Thomas More), and Martha Perez.**

And those who have finished their days on this earth- **Jeremy Macafee.** 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

Rest in Peace - I'm sorry to have to report the death of the Very Revd Derek Hole. Derek was a former curate in Knighton and later became the Provost of Leicester Cathedral. He was very much a Leicester personality and will be missed by many.
Adrian

Introducing Cecilia Adjadje

I'm really very pleased to tell you that we have a new face among our congregations! Cecilia is an ordinand (that is, she is training for the ordained ministry), studying over two years with St Mellitus College, and on placement with us in the benefice for two days a week. This means you can expect to see her taking part in services on Sundays and in all sorts of other places within our church life together.

Cecilia lives locally, is married to Peter, and they have three children; Esther, David and Daniel. Originally they are from Nigeria, and they made their home in Leicester some years ago. Please do welcome them all warmly!

Adrian

MESSY CHURCH / MESSY PLAY has started again at Stoneygate Baptist Church. Sessions will be held on Fridays 8th October, 12th November and 10th December, 3.30 pm, for children of primary school age and their families. All very welcome, including any new volunteers. Further details from Eileen McKellican.

'A new direction' for the Rev Canon Dr Stephen Foster

For the last few years, since his retirement from the University Chaplaincy, our parishes in Knighton have benefitted tremendously from the ministry of the Rev Canon Dr Stephen Foster – but after a time of prayerful wrestling and re-evaluation, Stephen has decided that his ministry should take a new 'direction' and to do that he needs to step back from the support that he has been giving here.

Personally, I am deeply grateful for the time, energy and gracious wisdom that Stephen has contributed here – and I know that many of us have good reason to thank God for his pastoral care and concern as well. Whilst understanding how he has come to this 'turning point', I will miss the extra dimension that Stephen has brought to our shared life.

I'm pleased to say that Stephen will continue presiding and preaching for us, and in his musical leadership, until just before Advent, and then we will say a fuller 'thank you' and wish him well in new ventures. *Adrian*

Ethical finance links: Below are a series of links that Miriam Stoate mentioned during her address on the 19th September on Ethical finance. Please remember that the links below are part of the Divestment campaign and should be viewed as information and ideas, **not as financial advice**. People need to make their own decisions and Miriam Stoate is not responsible for any financial losses or customer service problems related to the choice of any product or provider mentioned on or found through this information. If people are unsure about whether a product is right for them, they need to contact a financial adviser. <https://www.unbiased.co.uk> is a place to find regulated independent financial advisers based on your own criteria. They also need to consider any risks mentioned on the above websites.

Divestment

[Make My Money Matter](#)

[Pensions with intentions: a simple guide to sustainable investing |](#)

[Green your pension | The Guardian](#)

[SwitchIt - Find out if your money is funding fossil fuels.](#) - this also provides links to more detailed sources of information

[Divest your council – UK Divest](#)

[UK Divest](#)

[Operation Noah | A Christian response to climate change](#)

Examples of divested bank accounts - not recommendations - see comments below

[Nationwide Building Society | building society | Nationwide](#)

[Personal banking | Online banking | The Co-operative Bank](#)

[Triodos Bank](#)

<https://www.ecology.co.uk/>

Examples of divested investments that involve risk as capital can go up or down - not recommendations - see comments below

[Ethex - make money do good](#)

[Mobilise your money for good - Abundance](#)

[\(abundanceinvestment.com\)](https://www.abundanceinvestment.com/)

<https://www.solarforschools.co.uk>

[Home - Harbrough Energy](#)

[SwitchIt - Find out if your money is funding fossil fuels.](#)



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 was 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;

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**

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**

St Mary's Harvest Festival October 3rd (Rev. Adrian)



As part of our EcoChurch project, our church loo has now been twinned with a latrine in Malawi.

Please look at the framed certificate on the windowsill next time you use the facilities. By twinning our toilet, we are recognising our good fortune in having excellent sanitation, and showing that we care about others living in very different circumstances:

Did you know that 2 billion people have nowhere safe to go to the toilet?

Without proper toilets and clean water, people are trapped in a vicious cycle:

- They're likely to become sick through sanitation-related diseases
- Illness means they cannot work or farm their land, so they earn less or grow less food
- Children often miss school, because they are sick or because they're busy collecting water
- Girls often drop out of school altogether when they start their periods if there are no toilets or changing rooms
- Parents have to pay for medicines or food, so they may fall into debt
- Women and girls risk being attacked or bitten by snakes as they go to the toilet in the open, especially if the culture dictates that they have to go out at night

Water and sanitation projects enable families to build a toilet, have access to clean water, and to learn about handwashing and other hygiene principles.

Dignity is restored when the whole family can use a private, hygienic toilet at their home and no longer have to squat in the bush.

If you would like to consider twinning your own toilet, please visit the toilet twinning website. Tap twinning is also available. Both cost £60, which I think you will agree would be money well spent!

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%.

Harvest Gifts for Open Hands: Thank you!



A huge thank you to everyone who responded to the appeal for food gifts for Open Hands at our Harvest Festival. Thanks to your generosity, a really huge collection of bulging bags and boxes has now been delivered to the Open Hands warehouse and was received with great thanks. Thanks to the ongoing support they receive, Open Hands have been able to respond to increasing need and are about to move to larger premises, having outgrown their current warehouse. Here is an extract from the latest newsletter: "We love partnering with churches, organisations, businesses, and supporters, and believe we can make a real difference by working together to help the poor and needy of our city. Together, we are continuing to deliver emergency food, toiletries, clothing, furniture and English classes to those who need it". If you would like to support this great cause on a regular basis, or didn't get the chance to donate at Harvest, you can drop off food donations at various locations including the Co-op in London Rd, or donate online. For more details please see: [Donate – Open Hands \(openhandsleicester.org.uk\)](https://openhandsleicester.org.uk)

Please Pray for the Next Stage of Shaped By God Together

Bishop Martyn has written a letter to clergy to share across our diocese as we reach a significant moment in the life of the diocese with key decisions on how we are being 'Shaped By God Together', and asking our churches and communities to pray for the next stages of the process.

A key date for our prayers is 9th October when our Diocesan Synod meets to approve a new framework or structure for the diocese. Following that every person in our worshipping communities will be able to take part participate in making the new framework take shape in our own local contexts.

In his letter, Bishop Martyn stresses that the church will always need lay ministers, deacons, priests and bishops, just as we will always need and cherish parish churches which serve every person living in that parish. But how our ministers and parishes operate will start to look different in the coming years.

You can read the letter from Bishop Martyn on the notice board at the back of church, or by following this link:

https://d3hgrrlg6yacptf.cloudfront.net/5f3ffd8a9f6aa/content/pages/documents/bp9529-pastoral-letter-from-bishop-martyn-sept-21-.pdf?utm_source=Diomail&utm_campaign=3d8f71a6be-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_03_25_10_27_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_3b79945ade-3d8f71a6be-87825889

Update on Bishop Martyn's emergency appeal to support our partners in the Trichy Diocese



The response to Bishop Martyn's emergency appeal to support our partners in the Trichy Diocese in India as they work to care for those affected by Covid-19 has been tremendous. We have been able to send nearly £37,000 in total so far and this is being used to purchase vehicles and equipment to resource the diocese's hospitals and to support local churches throughout the diocese in caring for their communities. Bishop Chandrasekaran has written to express his sincere thanks to us for this generous support, adding: "We really had a difficult time - lost many lives including a few pastors. We earnestly seek your prayers and be sure of our prayers." The appeal will remain open for a little longer.

If you are able to make a contribution, however large or small, please send it to the following account:

Barclays Bank plc

Sort code: 20-49-37

Account number: 90577103

Account name: Leicester Diocesan Board of Finance

Please use the reference: 'Trichy Appeal'

Cheques can be sent for the attention of Jim Pullen at St Martins House, 7 Peacock Lane, Leicester, LE1 1SY. Please make your cheque payable to 'Leicester Diocesan Board of Finance' and write on the back 'Trichy Appeal'.

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.



Stoneygate Baptist Church presents

THE GREAT BIG GREEN HARVEST FESTIVAL

10:30am

Climate Sunday and Harvest Service

12:00noon

Bring Your Own Picnic | Cake Stall | Games | Crafts
Just Fair Trade Stall | Homegrown Plants and Produce
Meat Free Cooking Ideas | Awkward Recycling Station
Eco Church | Friends of the Earth | Knighton Justice Group

2:00pm

Tree Planting in the Church Garden

**Food collection for Zinithya Trust and
donations to Christian Aid Harvest Appeal**



SUNDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2021

Stoneygate Baptist Church

315 London Road, LE2 3ND

for more details see stoneygatebaptist.org.uk

CONTACT DETAILS

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Assistant Curate: Revd Matthew Gough
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Revd Aphro McCullough

Revd Janet Gasper

Reader: Fiona Wingate

Churchwardens:

David Hunt
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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>

Fauré REQUIEM

Would you like to sing with the Knighton Parish Singers for a performance of the Requiem by Gabriel Faure?

Rehearsals for this performance begin on
Wednesday 22nd September at 8.00pm
in St Mary's.

You would be more than welcome to join the choir
for this performance.

The performance will be on Wednesday 24th
November.

Further information from Revd Canon Dr Stephen
Foster.

Looking forward to seeing you next Wednesday.

Knighton Players Presents
The Sword In The Stone
By Ian Jones



Saturday 9th October 1.30 pm & 6.00 pm

St Mary's Church Brinsmead Rd, Leicester

Tickets: Adult £7.00 Children £5.00

Available from Tanya Willis & Ann Swanson

Or contact knightonplayers@ntlworld.com

Profits in aid of MENPHYS

(supporting Leicestershire children and young people with disabilities for over 50 years)

Please be aware, due to Covid precautions, we would ask you to observe social distancing and wear a face covering where possible?

Although there will be a short interval, refreshments will not be available and there will not be a raffle.

Toilets are available in the church.

Knighton Players apologise for these measures but feel that they will be in the best interests of all present.