

ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



Parish Church of St Guthlac
Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

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



Sunday 7th November 2021
Third Sunday before Advent

HOLY COMMUNION

Sunday 7 November 10:30am

This Sunday Revd Canon Dr Stephen Foster will preside and preach at a service of Holy Communion.

Collect and Readings for the Third Sunday before Advent

The Collect

Almighty Father,
whose will is to restore all things
in your beloved Son, the King of all:
govern the hearts and minds of those in authority,
and bring the families of the nations,
divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin,
to be subject to his just and gentle rule;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen

First Reading: 1 Kings 17.8-16

The Widow of Zarephath

⁸ Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, ⁹ “Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you.” ¹⁰ So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, “Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink.” ¹¹ As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, “Bring me a

morsel of bread in your hand.”¹² But she said, “As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks, so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die.”¹³ Elijah said to her, “Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterwards make something for yourself and your son.”¹⁴ For thus says the LORD the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the LORD sends rain on the earth.”¹⁵ She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days.¹⁶ The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by Elijah.

Psalm 62.5-12

Second Reading: Hebrews 9.24-28

Gospel Reading: Mark 1.14-20

¹⁴After John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God,¹⁵ and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.’

¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake – for they were fishermen.¹⁷ And Jesus said to them, ‘Follow me and I will make you fish for people.’¹⁸ And immediately they left their nets and followed him.¹⁹ As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets.²⁰ Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

Reflection for the Third Sunday before Advent

Revd Canon Dr Stephen Foster

The jar of flour is not used up...and the jug of oil does not run dry.

It was autumn time.

Sally and Ruth were students in their third year of University in Minnesota. They were partners, loving each other dearly and living in a modest second floor flat not far from their own Humanities Faculty.

Downstairs lived an old man, William, who spent his days painting and selling what he did in the local store down the road. Sally and Ruth kept an eye on him and made sure he was looking after himself properly.

The jar of flour is not used up and the jug of oil does not run dry.

One day Ruth became very sick. She took to her bed at the back of the flat. The doctor was called several times but couldn't find anything wrong with her.

'I don't know what to say...' he said. 'There is nothing more I can do. She's not eating, not drinking much...I just don't understand it. She seems to have just given up.' Ruth seemed to get worse and worse, deteriorating in front of Sally's eyes.

Each morning, she opened Ruth's bedroom curtains. The bedroom looked out onto a small courtyard. A beautiful climbing plant with bright red leaves clung to the wall opposite Ruth's window. Sally tried to cheer her up commenting on how beautiful it was...but to no avail.

The jar of flour is not used up and the jug of oil does not run dry.

The leaves began to fall, and one morning on Sally opening the curtains, Ruth delivered a chilling prophecy. 'When the last leaf falls from that plant I will be no more.'

Sally was beside herself. She ran to the local surgery. On the way, Old William was the first person she met and told him of the latest news bursting into tears as he listened patiently.

The jar of flour is not used up, and the jug of oil does not run dry.

Morning after morning Sally opened Ruth's curtains. The leaves seemed to bravely hang on to the branches, but inevitably they began to fall and in ever increasing numbers.

The jar of flour is not used up and the jug of oil does not run dry.

One morning, on opening Ruth's curtains there were just six leaves bravely clinging to the branches...the next morning four, the following morning two. Ruth always insisted Sally opened the curtains, and the following morning in fear and trepidation she opened the curtains. One sole beautiful red leaf remained.

The next morning she tried to put Ruth off.

But no...

'Please open the curtains Sally.' Ruth slowly did as she was asked, peeping round the curtain edge hoping against hope. The one leaf bravely remained...and it did the next day... and the next, and the next.

The jar of flour is not used up and the jug of oil does not run dry.

On seeing this one remaining leaf, this last hope, Ruth began to eat again, she began to cheer up and feel better. Eventually

she got up, became stronger, and resumed her course at University.

After a few weeks Sally pulled back the curtains of Ruth's bedroom. To her amazement, although it was very very cold and frosty the one beautiful red leaf was still there.

She happened to bump into William at the corner shop. William had gladly heard of Ruth's recovery.

'I don't understand it she said... but Ruth is now just fine.

'The jar of flour is not used up and the jug of oil does not run dry.

'Come and see' he said. He led Sally to the yard at the back of their flats. There was a set of ladders, some paint brushes and paints.

'Painting a leaf onto a wall is not hard you know...and this leaf is one that is never going to fall off any branch to which it seems attached. But don't tell Ruth...let it be our little secret!'

The jar of flour is not used up and the jug of oil does not run dry.

We all have sufficient flour and oil...because as in the story of Elijah God equips us all. The equipping of our flour and our oil will never run-out because God is always faithful.

Therefore we all have leaves to paint. We all have leaves to paint, and, whoever we are, we have the means to paint them, and thereby we can bring life to others. We all have leaves to paint whatever the season, in places to be shown and at times to be discerned. All we need to do is to be faithful and leave the rest to God.

The jar of flour is not used up and the jug of oil does not run dry. AMEN

PRAYERS

Prayer request from Climate Intercessors with COP26:

Although among most protesters there is a sense of comradery, with common goals and here to celebrate, there was a particular group of activists in town today that our teams were aware of the heaviness they carried - anger and hopelessness. Our team actively came in the opposite spirit to release joy and hope - laughing down the street. Jesus is the joy and hope of the world – even if the challenges are great.

Prayer Assignment

Let's pray for youth and the upcoming generations.

Romans 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

There is a sense of progress being made with several negotiated agreements having been made already. There is still a long way to go in dozens of different policy areas, with intense activity by advisors and diplomats from every nation now that the heads of state have left. Friday is 'Youth and Public empowerment' day in COP26. Pray for hope for the future to infiltrate the youth day at COP26. Pray that all the generations would be more mindful of the generations to come.

There will also be a youth march in the city on Friday. Hope is in short supply for many young people but we have a God of Hope who can cause us to overflow with hope- who is never overwhelmed by a situation. Pray for the message of the church in these protest marches to carry some of this hope. Pray that these passionate young people would have revelation of salvation and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Pray for creative solutions to be revealed for the problems of today to bring hope, peace and joy for the future.

Remembrance

This week in the season of Remembrance will fall silent on Thursday 11th for 2 mins. We pray amongst the noise of life-peace may reign. That we may honour all those who have died in war. All the losses endured over Covid. Losses continue. May those who need comfort know the nearness of God especially for those who cry alone.

Weekly prayer for roads in the parish – **South Knighton Road.**

Those facing personal pain we name before our Lord.

And those who have finished their days on this earth. We thank you for their lives and pray for their families and loved ones to be comforted.

For further prayer requests which can be included in the weekly prayer list or anonymized and prayed for in private, please contact Matthew revgough@gmail.com or Jane administrator@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk

The Service of Thanksgiving for Elizabeth Birtles is at St. Guthlac's on Monday 15th November at 1.30pm.

Bishop Martyn's visit – thank you! Very many thanks to everyone who helped to make Bishop Martyn's visit to our benefice service last Sunday such a success. Two years on it was great to be able to celebrate and give thanks for the successful completion of repair work to St Mary's spire, and to recognise the tremendous efforts made by so many in that time. Thank you to everyone for making Bishop Martyn, and his wife Lynn, so welcome. *Adrian*

St. Guthlac's Services, Sunday at 10.30am

14 th November	Service of Remembrance	F Wingate
21 st November	Eucharist	Revd Canon Dr S Foster
28 th November	Morning Prayer & Church Club	Revd Adrian Jones
5 th December	Eucharist	Revd A McCullough

Advent Benefice Carol Service on Sunday 28th November 6.30pm at St Marys

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

Eco-Tip of the week

Do we need cling film?

You wrap food in it. Mark Addy wrapped himself in it while eating Mars Bars in his shed in The Fully Monty. What else is there to know about clingfilm?

More than 1.2 billion metres, equating **to 745,000 miles** of cling film is used by households across Britain every year – enough to go around the circumference of the world 30 times over!

It is plastic, typically low-density polyethylene (LDPE) or linear low-density polyethylene (LLDPE).

It is also single use – and far less widely accepted for recycling than other common single-use plastic products, such as drinks bottles.

We managed to store food securely and safely before it became available!

Why not try these alternatives?



- Use an inverted plate or saucer to cover bowls or plates of food in the fridge
- Use lidded storage boxes (including your empty margarine tubs etc) in the fridge
- Try reusable wax wraps for wrapping sandwiches or to cover refrigerated food

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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>

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

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%.

Benefice Magazine

I would like to start a regular feature - My favourite hymn. We all have our favourites: tell our readers which means most to you, and why. Where there is a choice, which tune do you prefer?

If you have an article in you on this subject or any other, please send it to me at stmaryknighton.magazine@gmail.com.

Nigel Siesage



Knighton Parish Singers perform the Requiem by
Gabriel Faure

at

St. Mary Magdalen Church, Knighton

on

Wednesday 24th November 7.30pm

"The theme of those who have lost their lives due to
Covid and those who mourn their loss provides a
poignant theme for our singing such a beautiful and
evocative work."



**You are invited to join us at
“Stand up for Climate Justice”
at 2.30pm on 6th November '21
to call on the British government to push for climate justice
at the COP26 United Nations Climate Talks.**

This is part of an International Day of Action for Climate Justice, with events being held across the world.

- 2.30-3.30 We will be holding a silent vigil for climate justice at the Leicester Clocktower – please wear black or white.
- 3.30-4.00 We'll then move to either the Town Hall Square or Jubilee Square (place to be confirmed) and take an aerial photograph of everyone standing in the shape of an eye to send to Boris Johnson to say that Leicester and Leicestershire are watching you at the UN Climate Talks.
- 4.30 We'll invite everyone present to write a postcard to their MP there and then asking them to press for Climate Justice.

It would be lovely to have your presence as a councillor, showing your support for this hugely important issue of climate justice.

We do plan to issue a press release beforehand, and hope there will be press there on the day, so if you are going to join us, would you please:

- 1/. Send us a short quote on why this issue matters to you and why you're attending this event. We will include this in the press release.
- 2/. As well as the aerial photo we will take a politicians photograph to use in social media, press work and again to send to Boris Johnson.

**We hope to see you there. Please RSVP to:
leicesterclimateaction@gmail.com**

***Knighton
Christmas Tree Festival***

**St Mary Magdalen Church
Brinsmead Road
Leicester
LE2 3WG**

**Saturday 4th & Sunday 5th December 2021
(setting up on 2nd & 3rd December)**

***A community event Free to enter a tree
To raise money for a local charity
and church funds***

**To reserve a place please email
smctf@outlook.com**



St Guthlac's Virtual Christmas Fayre Home-made Christmas Gifts



St Guthlac's are holding another virtual Fayre this year and we are pleased to be able to offer some of our popular makes and bakes. We will also be having a raffle in aid of Malawi.

You should have received an **updated** copy of the catalogue with this newsletter. If you did not please email fayre@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk

There is a limited supply of goods so orders will be dealt with on a first come first served basis. **Please check revised order form attached before ordering. Some items have now sold out!**

Methods of payment and receipt of goods are detailed on the catalogue. Completed orders will be available from December 11th.