

ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



Parish Church of St Guthlac
Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

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



Sunday 28th November 2021
Advent Sunday

MORNING PRAYER

Sunday 28th November 10:30am

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

Advent Benefice Carol Service on Sunday 28th November 6.30pm at St Marys
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Collect and Readings for Advent Sunday

The Collect

Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;
that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

First reading: Jeremiah 33.14-16

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and

righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'

Psalm 25.1-9

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3.9-13

Gospel Reading: Luke 21.25-36

Jesus said to his disciples: ²⁵'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.'

²⁹Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, ³⁵and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

ADVENT PRAYERS

This is the time to face the truth of our past, the shadows of the present, the promise of what is not yet.

We pray for those lives lost in the English Channel, the failure of state, compassion and humanity. The war, poverty, desperation and climate emergency which desecrates the homes that are abandoned in the hope of new life in the unfamiliar. We pray for the children, parents, sons, daughters, wives, husbands who perished in pain. Father forgive us all for our complacency.

We pray for Advent to be a new dawn in the hearts of us all, friends, neighbours and family to embrace the light that we anticipate in this time of preparation and anticipation.

We pray for unity, order and joy in all our churches across the community. May we delight in seeking the kingdom, finding the Christ in all and making him known in our hearts and the souls of those we care about. Amen

Weekly prayer for roads in the parish – **Stoughton 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

Bryan Harpin's funeral is to be held at Great Glen Crematorium on Tuesday December 7th. This will be followed by a memorial service at St. Guthlac's at 1:15pm.

Edith 'May' Cluely. Matthew will be taking the funeral of Edith May Cluely of Asquith Boulevard / Hendon Grange. Family welcome the presence of anyone who knew her on Wednesday 8th December, 3:30pm at Gilroes Crematorium.

Confirmation Congratulations - Congratulations and all our best wishes to Matthew and Clare's daughter, Constance Gough, who will be confirmed by the Bishop of Leicester on Sunday 5th December, in an evening service at St Anne's, Letchworth Road. She has been worshipping at St Guthlac's as well as attending the Youth Group and Church Club over the past few years. We wish her well. Do pray for Constance and, in the weeks to come, encourage her in her faith.

Looking ahead - your next step in Christian faith? During this season of Advent you may be thinking about how to take the next step forward in your Christian faith. If you are not already baptised then please do talk to Adrian about this important marker of commitment and God's grace. Our next service of baptism in the benefice will be at St Mary's will be on Sunday 6th February 2022. If you are baptised but not yet confirmed, then, again, please talk to Adrian or Matthew about the significance of receiving God's blessing through this special service.

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%.

Rediscovering Advent, Reclaiming Christmas

We often complain about the way in which Christmas has become commercialised and the true meaning of our celebration has been lost. One important way to counter this trend and to make sure that we ourselves are keeping the focus in the right place, is to **rediscover Advent** as an important season of the year, and in its own right.

Advent marks the beginning of the Christian year and can be seen as a time of preparation in a similar way to Lent. The colour used in church changes to purple, as a sign of this 'work of the heart', the inward and spiritual preparation that we take on so as to be ready once again, for the celebration of Christ's birth.

This year Advent Sunday falls on 28th November and the benefice choir will be leading us in a special Advent Service in St Mary's at 6.30pm. This is the best possible way to begin the journey towards Christmas, so do please join us.

This year there will also be four weekly **Advent Meditations** open to everyone - each Tuesday, 7.30pm at St Guthlac's (31st November, then 7th, 14th and 21st December). Each will be hosted by a member of our Ministry Team and will provide 45-60 minutes of prayers, reflections and music to help us keep hold of Advent as the pressures of the holiday season begin to take over.

Our **Advent Fellowship Group** will also meet on three Thursday mornings at the Vicarage, 5 Church Lane – 2nd, 9th and 16th December from 10-11.30am. Each week we will be looking at some of the different names of Jesus from the Bible, and sharing stories, prayers and coffee & cake! Everyone is welcome but please sign up first by using the list at the back of

the church or by leaving a message on the Vicarage answerphone (0116 270 4268).

There are also many books and resources online to help you take a few minutes for **daily reflection and prayer** through Advent. You might like to take a look, for example, at the Archbishop of York's Advent Book for 2021 – *“Music of Eternity: Meditations for Advent with Evelyn Underhill”* by Robyn Wrigley-Carr - which comes highly recommended. It's available from Christian Resources at St Martin's House in the city centre (0116 261 5222).

Tearfund are offering daily email devotions called 'Christmas in your global neighbourhood' at

https://www.tearfund.org/forms/advent-email-sign-up-form?tf_source=209720

Alternatively you might like to use a book that I have found particularly helpful: *“Waiting here for you – an Advent journey of hope”* by Louie Giglio. I have seven copies, each available for free or for a donation to Tearfund – just ask!

I hope you'll be able to rediscover Advent and so reclaim Christmas this year.

Adrian

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

St. Guthlac's Services, Sunday at 10.30am

5 th December	Eucharist	Revd A McCullough
12 th December	Advent & Gift service	Revd Adrian & Cecilia
19 th December	Eucharist	Revd Janet Gasper

Christmas Services

Wed. 15 th Dec. 7.30pm	9 Lessons & Carols (St. Guthlac's)
Sun. 19 th Dec. 6.30pm	9 Lessons & Carols (St. Mary's)
Fri. 24 th Dec. 4pm	Crib service at St. Guthlac's
Fri. 24 th Dec. 8pm	First Eucharist of Christmas at St. Guthlac's
Sat. 25 th Dec. 10.30am	Benefice service at St. Mary's
Sunday 26 th Dec	No 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

New Bishop of Loughborough announced.

The Queen has approved the nomination of the Reverend Malayil Lukose Varghese Muthalaly (known as Saju), as the new Suffragan Bishop of Loughborough. He succeeds the first-ever Bishop of Loughborough, the Right Revd Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani who became Bishop of Chelmsford earlier this year.



Bishop-elect Saju said: "It is an honour and a joy to be invited to become the next Bishop of Loughborough and I am looking forward to getting to know the people of Leicestershire.

"My priorities in ministry are profoundly relational. If I have felt anointed in anything, it is in forming friendships, gathering God's people, and creating hospitable and loving spaces in which people can grow in faith, hope, justice and love.

"I have a deep desire for the flourishing of all people, particularly the poor, those at the margins of our world. I grew up in a leprosy hospital in the city of Bangalore, India, where my mother worked as a nurse. From my earliest memory, my heart has bent towards those who live in poverty."

For the last seven years, Bishop-elect Saju has been the vicar of St Mark's and St Mary's Island, Gillingham, in the Diocese of Rochester, Kent. He will be moving, with his wife and four children, to the diocese in the spring.

Bishop of Leicester, the Rt Revd Martyn Snow said: "We are delighted that Saju is coming to join us in the Diocese of Leicester where we cherish the wide diversity of our worshipping communities and are looking to strengthen parishes and help them do more with their local schools. We look forward to the energy and enthusiasm Saju brings, knowing that he will be a Bishop who is first and foremost a disciple committed to listening and learning as he joins us in our vision of seeking the Kingdom of God."

Fond Farewell: Last week we said a fond farewell to the Revd Canon Dr Stephen Foster who has supported the parishes of Knighton with his ministry for several years. There were many words of appreciation from Fiona Wingate and Revd Adrian Jones, and Stephen was presented with gifts from both parishes as a mark of our gratitude. We wish him well as he seeks his 'new direction'. *Adrian*

A huge thankyou...

Whilst really wanting to slip away unnoticed last Sunday and last Wednesday evening, it didn't seem to work out like that! The reason being that folk were extremely kind both in their words, messages and in what I was given... all of which I really don't think I deserve!

I have always felt, either in a Parish, University or Cathedral, that lovely folk are so difficult to say goodbye to. At the end of the Faure Requiem on Wednesday, tears were welling up and I was glad I was facing a wonderful choir rather than the congregation!

Anyway, as my life necessarily takes a new direction, I am still around and I would ask for your prayers in the coming weeks and months. So many thanks for your generosity in the words and in what I was so kindly given.

Love and prayers,
Stephen

Revd Canon Dr Stephen Foster's final sermon at St. Guthlac's, Sunday 21st November 2121

Quid est veritas?...or Ti estin aletheia?...or What is truth?

This verse (John 18.38) which immediately follows the Gospel reading for today is spoken by Pilate, in answer to our Lord saying that 'everyone that is of the truth hears my voice.'

Pilate answers...'What is truth?'

As a Roman following Greek thought Pilate was probably reflecting on the common idea that absolute truth is very hard if not impossible to pin down. In simple terms, when we think we have got something sorted, 'cast iron' and immutable, some new discovery comes along that asks us to think again. Sadly, for some, the alternative is to turn away from the discovery made, and 'bury their heads in the sand'.

So, Greek sceptics amongst others in the Classical world argued that an absolute final 'truth' could simply not be grasped. In our present age, the discoveries of science at least show us that in many ways the truths we learn today often supplant the things we thought to be true yesterday.

But, Aletheia the Greek word used by St John for 'truth' in the text literally means 'unconcealed', 'not hidden'.

On Jesus' lips, the use of 'aletheia' seems to indicate absolute revealed truth and knowledge related to his own person. He is the absolute truth of God Himself revealed gloriously in his own person. Yet even here, Pilate answers 'What is truth?'

Sadly, inspite of what Jesus says to him, Pilate remains in a fog, as a type of Roman sceptic...any truth for him and his like being (at the very least) hard to grasp, and in the person of Jesus impossible to recognise. Yet, for us Christians, Jesus stands before him and indeed us as the absolute revealed truth of God Himself. The irony is that such revealed absolute truth we find in Jesus 2000yrs later is totally lost on Pilate who

literally stands in front of Jesus at this very moment in the story. Pilate, despite all he is told, still answers... 'What is truth?'

A slight aside is that, this verse forms part of the earliest fragment we have of a New Testament text. It is a papyrus codex written on both sides, the size of a credit card. It was discovered in 1920 in Egypt, and dates somewhere between 125 and 175AD. (Some scholars, and I'm one if them, think this fragment is from as late as 200AD!) Therefore the fragment formed part of a copy of the Gospel which is at the very least one step removed from any autograph or 'original'. It is housed at Manchester University where I taught and have gazed on it lovingly many many times.

But, back to the main point. Pilate answers... 'What is truth?'

Our conviction is that we believe that Jesus is truly the Son of God, that he lived and died and rose again.

I believe, with all my heart... and with all my head... that truth stands before us in Jesus Christ, that he lived, died and rose again.

Our reaction... my reaction to the realisation of such truth in my head and heart, is to do my best to love God with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength, and my neighbour as myself.

So you may be wondering...'If that's the case, Stephen...what is your problem? Why are you taking 'a step back?'

Well, first of all, let me say that my problem is not with the wonderful people of St Mary's or St Guthlac's. I have been honoured to help in some small way in the Benefice over a number of years.

My problem stems from being a liberal, Anglo- Catholic, academic...a liberal Anglo-Catholic, academic. None of these are 'flavour of the month' in the present Church of England...indeed quite the reverse. I was told by a priest-friend who was a National Selector for Ordination, of which I used to be one myself...

'Stephen, you yourself would not be selected these days for Ordination.'

Pilate answers... 'What is truth?'

My problem, and I say this only for myself, 'me myself and I', is that the quest for ever greater truth in for example, biblical scholarship, my own much loved academic discipline, has, with other academic disciplines at the very least been 'put on the back burner' by the Church.

Secondly, the Anglican Church as defined by the 16th century scholar Richard Hooker where truth was ascertained through Scripture, Tradition and Reason, and now added to by Experience, is now largely set aside.

Thirdly, the Anglican Church which was a broad Church, sometimes uncomfortably, but still a broad Church, embracing different ecclesiologies under the same umbrella and serving the nation, has become much more of one type only. This broad Church with its national responsibility of a Parish Church serving a community is being stretched hugely.

Pilate answers... 'What is truth?'

So for now, the truth is that I need to take a step back after nearly 44 years of ordained ministry as a Parish Priest, theologian, and musician. As a priest, I feel I need to return to my roots, think and pray, and see where the Lord leads... see what the Lord has in store for me under the guidance of the Holy Spirit... and move forward again from there.

Lastly, in every Parish/Cathedral/University of which I have been a part, and as in this Benefice, I truly believe the Lord puts wonderful wonderful folk in front of me and then says... 'As my gift to you Stephen, learn from them.' He has done so here in his faithfulness.

I hope he carries on doing so, as this is part of what I understand to be, the privilege of priesthood.

AMEN.

CHRISTMAS HAMPER PRIZE DRAW IN AID OF MALAWI

This Christmas we are once again inviting donations to support health clinics in Malawi. If you make a donation and would like your name to be entered in the prize draw for the Christmas Hamper, please enter your name on the list in the welcome area, where you will also find the hamper and container for donations. Please note that if you made a donation whilst ordering goods from the virtual fayre, you will already be entered into the draw. Thank you for your continued support of this excellent project.

A Christmas Carol Crawl. Join us at **6:45 pm Thursday 9th Dec** for a Christmas carol crawl around South Knighton starting from St Guthlac's. It will take about an hour with warming refreshments on return. Please bring your own mug and a torch might be useful to see the words. Come prepared for all weathers. Look forward to seeing you there. *Fiona & Steve*

Our Christmas Gift Service for 2021 - As usual we're having a Christmas Gift Service this year, on **Sunday 12th December at 10.30am**. Cecilia and I will lead All Age Worship, with something for everyone on the theme of **"Presents, Presence and...Prizes!"** Everyone is invited to join us, and, if you can, to bring a gift that can be donated to the Leicester charity 'Open Hands', supporting disadvantaged and vulnerable families and individuals across the city. The gifts can be toys for children or toiletries for adults, but all new and unopened please, and preferably in a gift bag so that they can be looked at but are still clearly gifts. Please don't include any food or perishable items!

This is a great opportunity for us to respond to God's generosity with our own - so do please join us to worship and give if you can. *Adrian (see also notice on next page for further information)*

Food donations for Open Hands this Christmas

As I previous years we will be collecting food for Open Hands in the run up to Christmas. There will be an opportunity to present your donation as part of the **All Age Worship service on 12th Dec**, but if you are not able to come that day, please bring your items on one of the preceding 2 Sundays. Due to generous donations from the public the basic food store is now fully stocked for this year, so Open Hands are now hoping to be able to add extra, more festive items to their regular food hampers given out at Christmas time. The following things would be gratefully received, thank you:

Christmas Donations for Open Hands



Festive Crisps



Cheese Crackers



Chutney



Nuts



Instant Coffee



Instant Hot Chocolate



Sparkling Soft Drink,
e.g. Schloer



Bottled Water



Chocolate Coins



Chocolate Snowballs/
mini chocolates



Chocolate Santa or
similar



Tubes of Sweets/
Chocolate Orange



Chocolate
Selection Box



Christmas Cake
Slices or Yule Log



Mince Pies



Christmas Pudding



Box of sweet biscuits
(family size)



Pulling Crackers

Please ensure that all donations are in date and will not go out of date before Christmas 2021.

Thank you!

Eco-Tip of the week

How to green your laundry habits

Laundry is one of those routine chores most of us do without even thinking about. Clothes, towels and bedding pile up. We throw them in the washer, slosh some detergent on top, then toss them in the dryer when they're done.



But laundry can make a **big** impact. There's the amount of water and energy it takes to run a washer and dryer. There's the impact of detergents on waterways and the plastic waste from laundry product containers and dryer sheets. And did you know that every time you wash fabrics made from synthetic materials (typically 60% of our laundry items) they shed countless microplastics that drain with the water and end up in rivers, lakes and the sea?

Here are some ways to reduce the environmental impact of doing your washing:

- Wash your clothes less often! This will extend the life of your clothes as well as saving energy and water. Use your eyes and nose to indicate whether an item really needs to be washed, and spot clean where this can avoid having to wash the entire garment. Hang clothes up to air after wearing rather than automatically putting them in the laundry basket after a single use.
- Wash full loads only and use a cool setting
- Air dry your laundry whenever you can
- Choose an eco-friendly detergent and try to avoid additional laundry products such as tumble drier sheets, softeners and scented ironing water which are heavily marketed but can be done without
- Choose natural fibres when buying new items
- Consider buying a mesh bag designed to catch microfibres (eg Guppyfriend Bag)



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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>



St. Mary Magdalen

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

On

Saturday 27th November 2021

11.00 am until 2.00 pm

in

**THE KNIGHTON PARISH CENTRE,
BRINSMEAD ROAD, LEICESTER LE2 3WG**

STALLS TO INCLUDE:

CHRISTMAS GIFTS + CARDS & CRAFTS

TOILETRIES + CAKES + BOOKS + JEWELLERY

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES + JAMS & CHUTNEYS

PROSTATE CANCER CRAFT STALL

RAFFLE + GRAND TOMBOLA

Refreshments available:

Soup & bread roll + Tea + Coffee

Free Admission

Registered Charity No. 1130823



Knighton Christmas Tree Festival

Saturday 4th December 10 am - 5 pm

Sunday 5th December 12 noon - 5 pm

St. Mary's Church, Brinsmead Road, LE2 3WG

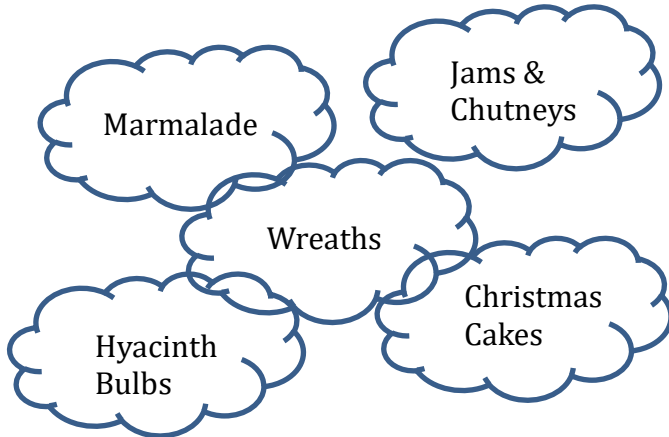
£2 Admission- children free

All profit going to Headway Leicester
and the church community garden project

Light Refreshments and Raffle
Event supported by Knighton Ward Fund



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.

If you would like a copy of the catalogues 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 note 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.