

ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



Parish Church of St Guthlac
Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

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



Sunday 5th December 2021
Second Sunday of Advent

HOLY COMMUNION

Sunday 5th December 10:30am

This Sunday Revd Aphro McCullough will be presiding and preaching at a service of Holy Communion.

Collect and Readings for the Second of Sunday of Advent

The Collect

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power
and come among us,
and with great might succour us;
that whereas, through our sins and wickedness
we are grievously hindered
in running the race that is set before us,
your bountiful grace and mercy
may speedily help and deliver us;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honour and glory, now and for ever.
Amen.

First reading: Baruch 5.1-9

¹Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on for ever the beauty of the glory from God. ²Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting; ³for God will show your splendour everywhere under heaven. ⁴For God will give you evermore the name, 'Righteous Peace, Godly Glory'. ⁵Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look towards the east, and see your children

gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. ⁶For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. ⁷For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. ⁸The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. ⁹For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

Benedictus

Second Reading: Philippians 1.3-11

Gospel Reading: Luke 3.1-6

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; ⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

ADVENT PRAYERS

As we enter the second week of Advent, we pray that the light of God's coming may dawn on all who live in darkness and the shadow of death. Let us pray to the Lord.

For those who feel without worth...come Lord Jesus
For those who find themselves abandoned...come Lord Jesus
For those who live in fear....come Lord Jesus
For those who mourn....come Lord Jesus

We pray particularly for those afraid to heat their homes this winter. We pray for a national resolution to the energy cost crisis.

We pray particularly for those who have no home, those who sleep rough and those vulnerably housed, we pray that we may see with the eyes of Christ, the need.

We pray in the brokenness and darkness of the night, the dawn light is coming. Hope and redemption for all.
Maranatha. Come Lord Jesus, Come.

Weekly prayer for roads in the parish – **Stoughton Drive South.**

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 UPDATED

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 there will also be four weekly **Advent Meditations** open to everyone - each Tuesday, 7.30pm at St Guthlac's (30th 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.

Sadly, because of the uncertain news about the new variant of the corona virus, we have had to cancel our **Advent Fellowship Group** which was due to run on Thursday mornings.

There are however 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

St. Guthlac's Services, Sunday at 10.30am

12th December Advent & Gift service Revd Adrian & Cecilia

19th December Eucharist Revd Janet Gasper

Christmas Services

Wed. 15th Dec. 7.30pm 9 Lessons & Carols (St. Guthlac's)*

Sun. 19th Dec. 6.30pm 9 Lessons & Carols (St. Mary's)

Fri. 24th Dec. 4pm Crib service at St. Guthlac's*

Fri. 24th Dec. 8pm First Eucharist of Christmas at St.
Guthlac's*

Sat. 25th Dec. 10.30am Benefice service at St. Mary's

Sunday 26th Dec No services

***Please book your place at this service:** email

churchwardens@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk or leave a message

on 07919 262 399, at least 24hrs in advance. Thank you.

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.

MAKE YOUR CHRISTMAS GREETINGS GO FURTHER. As in previous years, members of the congregation may like to make a donation to Bishop Christopher's Malawi charity instead of exchanging Christmas cards with one another. **A large card for everyone to sign is at the back of church together with a box for donations.** If you have not already been entered into the hamper draw add your name to the list too. Thank you.

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*

Food donations for Open Hands this Christmas

If you are not able to come to the gift service on 12th December and would like to donate, 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!

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*

Eco-Tip of the week

Get involved in planning decisions



Make sure you look out for planning decisions published about the neighbourhood. Look at and respond to the published proposals. If you engage with the process it demonstrates to planning officials and developers that people in the area are active, care engaged and cannot be taken for granted. Any building is therefore likely to be more environmentally and community sympathetic. Likewise make sure you report trees being removed. Often a tree should be assessed first and the developer may not be allowed to remove it.



CONTACT DETAILS

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Revd Aphro McCullough

Revd Janet Gasper

Reader: Fiona Wingate

Ordinand: Cecilia Adjadje

Churchwardens:

David Hunt
Tina Jarvis

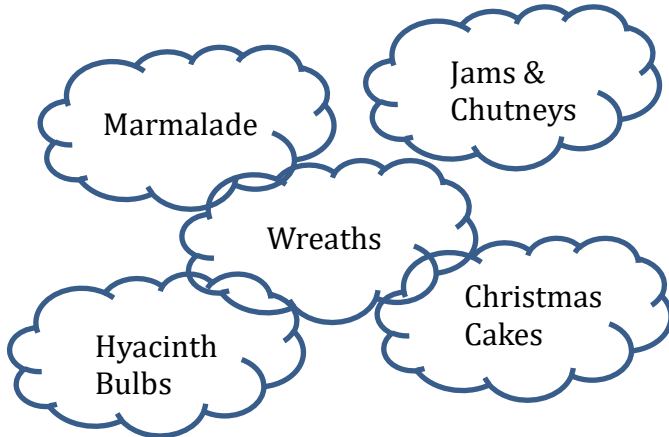
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Knighton Benefice Magazine: Nigel Siesage
stmaryknighton.magazine@gmail.com

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>

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.