

ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



Parish Church of St Guthlac
Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

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



Sunday 12th December 2021
Third Sunday of Advent

Christmas All Age Worship & Gift Service

Sunday 12th December 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 disadvantaged people in Leicester. The gifts can be toys, toiletries and food, including festive treats (but no perishables), but all new and unopened please, and preferably in a gift bag so that they can be looked at but are still clearly gifts.

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*

Collect and Readings for the Third of Sunday of Advent

The Collect

O Lord Jesus Christ,
who at your first coming sent your messenger
to prepare your way before you:
grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries
may likewise so prepare and make ready your way
by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the
just,
that at your second coming to judge the world
we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;
for you are alive and reign with the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

First reading: Zephaniah 3.14-20

Canticle: Isaiah 12.2-6

Second Reading: Philippians 4.4-7

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Reading: Luke 3.7-18

John said to the crowds coming out to be baptised by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The axe is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." "What should we do then?" the crowd asked. John answered, "The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same." Tax collectors also came to be baptised. "Teacher," they asked, "what should we do?" "Don't collect any more than you are required to," he told them. Then some soldiers asked him, "And what should we do?" He replied, "Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely – be content with your pay."

The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Christ. John answered them all, "I baptise you with water. But one more powerful than I

will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” And with many other words John exhorted the people and preached the good news to them.

ADVENT PRAYERS

'Even now the Axe is lying at the root of the trees' *Luke 3*

This week we sit between the advent focus of John the Baptist this Sunday and Mary, mother of Jesus next Sunday.

We are reminded that John as Prophet spoke Truth to Power. He paid the sacrifice of death speaking out to corrupt immoral political leadership.

Next Sunday we read the Magnificat of Mary, Mary's song, we pray this pray of compassion and justice against the corruption, inequality that we see amongst those with power and how readily the powerless need God's mercy to redress to systems we build to reward privilege and greed whilst penalising poverty and destitution.

'He Has Brought Down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly, he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty'.

Come Lord Jesus Come, Lord, Emmanuel, Christ Be With Us.

Weekly prayer for roads in the parish – **St Andrew's Drive.**

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 revqough@gmail.com or Jane administrator@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk

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%.

St. Guthlac's Services, Sunday at 10.30am

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. **10.00am** 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.

Looking Ahead - after Christmas and January 2022:

Please note that there are no services at St Guthlac's on Sunday **26th December**, although the Cathedral is offering a live broadcast of its Sunday worship that day - please see their website for details.

On Sunday **2nd January** we start our usual pattern of Sunday services once more, with a Eucharist.

On Thursday **6th January** we will (God willing) resume our regular midweek Communion service at 9.30am, celebrating the Epiphany.

CONTACT DETAILS

Vicar: Revd. Adrian Jones 0116 2704268
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Revd Aphro McCullough

Revd Janet Gasper

Reader: Fiona Wingate

Ordinand: Cecilia Adjadje

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Knighton Benefice Magazine: Nigel Siesage
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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 Guthlac's Virtual Christmas Fayre

Completed orders will be available for collection from the Welcome Area on **Saturday December 11th between 10am and 12 noon.** There will also be a few freshly baked cakes available to purchase.

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.

The City of Leicester Singers are singing Carols and Messiah Choruses at St James the Greater Church on **Saturday December 18th at 7pm.** Tickets £10, under 16's free available from Visit Leicester, www.cityofleicestersingers.co.uk supporting Rainbows Hospice for Children and Young People.