

ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



Parish Church of St Guthlac
Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

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



My soul magnifies the Lord!

CHRISTMAS EDITION

**Sunday 19th, 26th December 2021
& 2nd January 2022**

HOLY COMMUNION ADVENT 4

Sunday 19th December 10:30am

This Sunday Revd Janet Gasper will preside and preach at a service of Holy Communion.

Collect and Readings for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

The Collect

God our redeemer,
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of your Son:
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour,
so we may be ready to greet him
when he comes again as our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

First reading: Micah 5.2-5a

Canticle: Magnificat

Second Reading: Hebrews 10.5-10

Gospel Reading: Luke 1.39-45(46-55)

At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy

Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favoured, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!"

And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me – holy is his name. His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants for ever, even as he said to our fathers."

SUNDAY 26TH DECEMBER - NO SERVICE

Collect and Readings for the First Sunday of Christmas

The Collect

Almighty God,
who wonderfully created us in your own image
and yet more wonderfully restored us
through your Son Jesus Christ:
grant that, as he came to share in our humanity,
so we may share the life of his divinity;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

First reading: 1 Samuel 2.18-20, 26

Psalm 148

Second Reading: Colossians 3.12-17

Gospel Reading: Luke 2.41-52

⁴¹Every year the parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' ⁴⁹He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' ⁵⁰But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

SUNDAY 2ND JANUARY – HOLY COMMUNION

Collect and Readings for the Second Sunday of Christmas

The Collect

Almighty God,
in the birth of your Son
you have poured on us the new light of your incarnate Word,
and shown us the fullness of your love:
help us to walk in his light and dwell in his love
that we may know the fullness of his joy;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

First reading: Jeremiah 31.7-14

Psalm 147.13-21

Second Reading: Ephesians 1.3-14

Gospel Reading: John 1.(1-9)10-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.

Through him all things were made; without him nothing was
made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the
light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness
has not understood it.

There came a man who was sent from God; his name was
John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so
that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the

light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'" From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No-one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known.

PRAYERS FOR THE FINAL SUNDAY OF ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

We pray that Omicron and the devastation of broken plans and isolated family members may be mitigated.

We claim the truths of light and the promise of the Christ child being born-renewing each of us with hope, love and faith.

May we be beyond ourselves and our humanity to live differently as people who have experienced something of the divine.

May our relationships know grace, mercy and compassion.

We pray specifically for our political leadership, for a renewed moral vigour and commitment to integrity, leadership and vision. Without vision the people perish (Proverbs 29:18).

We pray particularly for those unable to afford to eat, heat their homes, or may be without shelter this Christmas time.

We pray for those facing their first Christmas alone without loved ones. We pray that they may be comforted by the presence of the Holy Spirit.

May we enter 2022 with a newfound confidence and optimism.

Weekly prayer for roads in the parish – **Sycamore Close & St. David's Crescent.**

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

Twenty Five Years of Ordained Ministry in the Church of England

I was ordained deacon on December 15th 1996 (Third Sunday of Advent) at Leominster Priory (Hereford Diocese) and priested the following year. I had been a Reader for sixteen years before Ordination serving in Worcester and Hereford Dioceses. As a Reader I had done Chaplaincy work at Worcester Cathedral and been Chaplain to the Mothers Union .I served my title in the Leominster Team Ministry, focussing ministry in four villages

and was also Chaplain to the Air Training Corps Squadron in Leominster.

I moved to the Deanery of Kington and Weobley to take up the post of Associate Priest in the Weobley Group (eight parishes) and shared ministry with my incumbent, two Readers and several retired clergy living in the group. In 2001 I was appointed Rector of the Baxterley group of parishes, four ex mining villages in North Warwickshire (Birmingham Diocese). They were a challenging group, had been vacant for nearly three years . In 2005 I was asked to take on the neighbouring parish of Kingsbury, nearly doubling the population of the group (8000 people) but also extending our resources. I moved to Kingsbury Vicarage and we began to learn how to function as a group of five. We had a lot of Funerals. Marriages and Baptisms. There were 4 schools and ministry to uniformed organisations. Gradually the group was happy to work together whilst retaining individual loyalties. I set up a Children's workshop, Pastoral Care Group and trained two Readers.

I retired from Stipendiary Ministry in 2013 and we moved to Market Harborough . I finished off my MA in Christian Spirituality with London University (Heythrop College) and from 2015 - 2018 I was part time non stipendiary minister to 8 villages north of Market Harborough. In 2019 we moved to Knighton and I became part of the Ministry Team here. I thank the Lord for all the support I have had from my family and all the clergy and lay people with whom I have shared ministry over the years .

Rev Janet Gasper

Newsletter-this edition covers the next three Sundays. Information for the next newsletter should be received by Thursday 6th January.

Christmas Services

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*
Fri 24 th Dec 11.30pm	Midnight Communion at St. Mary's
Sat. 25 th Dec. 8am	Holy Communion at St. Mary's
Sat. 25 th Dec. 10am	Benefice service at St. Mary's:

All Age Worship followed by a short Holy Communion

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.

Important Safeguarding Information

There has been sad news this week that highlights the need to keep especially children and those more vulnerable safe from harm. At any time of year though, we may have a concern about the safety and wellbeing of a child, young person or vulnerable adult – or perhaps we need, ourselves, to face a safeguarding issue that is causing us distress.

Each church has a Safeguarding Co-ordinator who ensures that we are following agreed procedures carefully, but you can also talk to our vicar, the Revd Adrian Jones, or to the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer, Rachael Spiers, about any concerns. There is also a service called Safe Spaces, run by trained volunteers, for anyone who feels they have experienced abuse in the life of the church.

Revd Adrian Jones 0116 270 4268 or 07919 262399

adrian.jones@zoho.com

Rachael Spiers (DSA) 07930 819 279

Safe Spaces 0300 303 1056 safespaces@victimsupport.org.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.



HAPPY CHRISTMAS



CONTACT DETAILS

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FOR THE NEWSLETTER Please send material to be included
in the next newsletter by **noon Thursday Jan 6th** 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>

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

A huge thank you to everyone involved with the Christmas Fayre 2021. This includes those who have been involved in the production and organisation but equally importantly, those who have so generously supported St Guthlac's by submitting an order. We have made the fabulous sum of **£800 to support the running of the church** and there are still a few items left for sale. In addition the hamper raffle donations raised £95 and the Christmas card £102, an amazing **£197 for Malawi!**

Beer, Carols, Music, 1 minute preach & Free Mulled Wine

I have been invited to help lead outdoor public carols in the top edge of the Benefice on Allandale Road. Can you come along and join in? It would be great to see you there. Thursday 5-6pm 23rd December at The Classroom Micro Pub. *Matthew*

Benefice Magazine The next issue of the magazine will be issued in January. The deadline for copy is **3 January**. Even if you haven't previously, please give some thought to contributing - your thoughts on the season, reports on the many events of November and December, your favourite hymns and carols, any aspect of church life - the floor is yours. Send your material to stmaryknighton.magazine@gmail.com. Thank you.
Nigel

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.