

ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



Parish Church of St Guthlac
Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

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



'Wedding at Cana' by He Qi

Sunday 16th January 2022
The Second Sunday of Epiphany

Sunday 16th January 10:30am

This Sunday Revd Janet Gasper will be presiding and preaching at a service of Holy Communion.

Sundays in January and February: “*Women of the Bible*”

As we move from Epiphany towards Lent some of our 10.30am Sunday morning services are going to look more closely at some of the women of the Bible -often overlooked or under-appreciated.

Each time we will hear what the Bible says about one individual, and listen to a sermon that unpacks what we can learn for our own Christian lives today from the story and example of this specific woman; examples include Anna, Phoebe and Miriam.

All the members of our Ministry Team will contribute, and no doubt the different perspectives will be both interesting and inspiring.

During February we will also have the opportunity to hear about a recent report presented to our Diocesan Synod, called “*Women: the state of play*”. The report explores how women’s ministry has been received and appreciated in the Diocese of Leicester over recent years, and has some challenging conclusions for us all. In discussion together, we may begin to see some ways our own attitudes or approaches might need to change.

I’m sure that every Sunday will offer something valuable, so please do take this chance to fill in some gaps in our appreciation of all God’s (Bible) people!

We begin this Sunday (16th), with a service that remembers the prophetess Anna.

Adrian

Readings for this Sunday's service

Psalm 122 Song of Praise and Prayer for Jerusalem

A Song of Ascents. Of David.

¹I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!"

²Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

³Jerusalem—built as a city that is bound firmly together.

⁴To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the LORD.

⁵For there the thrones for judgment were set up, the thrones of the house of David.

⁶Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you.

⁷Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers."

⁸For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, "Peace be within you."

⁹For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your good.

Gospel Reading: Luke 2.36-38

³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage,³⁷ then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day.³⁸ At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

The Collect & readings for the Second Sunday of Epiphany

The Collect

Almighty God,
in Christ you make all things new:
transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace,
and in the renewal of our lives
make known your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 62.1-5

Psalm: 36.5-10

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12.1-11

¹Concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. ²You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. ³Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says 'Let Jesus be cursed!' and no one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to

another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

Gospel reading: John 2.1-11

On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."

"Dear woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come."

His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons.

Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim.

Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet."

They did so, and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realise where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now."

This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him.

PRAYERS

²⁰ Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. ²¹ But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God. *John 3*

We pray for our national character and leadership. We pray for integrity to rein.

We pray for truth in all our own hearts.

We pray for moral crisis of our time, climate emergency and for the church to take a meaningful lead.

We pray for all those locally, our neighbours, friends and families afflicted by Omicron and the fear it leaves. For all who have lost their confidence, social contacts or physical health.

We pray in this season of Epiphany to know the power and love of Jesus Christ as God, redeemer, brother and friend.

Weekly prayer for roads in the parish – **Alexandra 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@stguthlak-knighton.co.uk

St. Guthlac's Services

Sunday at 10.30am

23 rd January	Morning Prayer & Church Club	Revd Adrian Jones
30 th January	Eucharist	Revd Matthew Gough
6 th February	Eucharist	Revd Janet Gasper
13 th February	All Age Worship	

Every Thursday 9.30am Holy Communion

Online Compline Night Prayer 8pm each Wednesday

All Welcome. Online joining details are:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://leccofe.zoom.us/j/7467674408?pwd=NHROZ2F0Mmt5Wk5sd2NMc1JtREpaUT09>

Or Phone In: 0131 460 1196 (standard call charge)

Meeting ID: 746 767 4408 Passcode: hope

PLANNED GIVING SCHEME Regular giving

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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, Planned Giving Scheme Secretary: email: churchwardens@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk.

If you are a taxpayer and gift aid your giving, our church can claim an additional 25%.

CONTACT DETAILS

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Revd Janet Gasper

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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>

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.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2022, 18th – 25th January

‘We Saw His Star in the East...’

The story of the Magi visiting the Holy Family in Bethlehem is one very familiar to us. Indeed, we have recently celebrated Christmas; the Feast of Incarnation and Epiphany. The Magi have sometimes been seen as a symbol of the world's diversity – different religions and cultures – that comes to pay homage to the Christ-child. The story might therefore represent the unity of all created that God desires. The Magi travel from far-off countries, and represent diverse cultures, yet they are driven by the same hunger to see and know the new-born king and are gathered into the little house in Bethlehem in the simple act of giving homage. In this we can find a metaphor for Christian unity: that is, of different Christian peoples drawn together in their common search to recognise Christ, to know him and to worship him and witnessing to wider need for unity and to overcome injustice.

This text has been chosen by the churches of the Middle East, the history of which was, and still is, characterized by conflict and strife, tainted with blood and darkened by injustice and

oppression. Since the Palestinian Nakba (the exodus of Palestine's Arab population during the 1948 war) the region has seen a series of bloody wars and revolutions and the rise of Islamic extremism. The story of the Magi also contains many dark elements, most particularly Herod's despotic orders to massacre all the children around Bethlehem who were two years old or under (Matt 2:16-18). The cruelty of these narratives resonates with the long history and difficult present of the Middle East.

After encountering the Saviour and worshipping him together, the Magi return to their countries by a different way, having been warned in a dream. The communion we share in our prayer together must inspire us to return to ourselves, our churches and our world by new ways. But what does this mean in practice? Serving the Gospel today requires a commitment to humankind, especially the poorest, the weakest and those marginalized. It requires from the churches transparency and accountability in dealing with the world, and with each other. This means churches need to cooperate to provide relief to the afflicted, to welcome the displaced, to relieve the burdened, and to build a just and honest society. This is a call for churches to work together so that we can all build a good future according to God's heart, a future in which all human beings can experience life, peace, justice, and love.

Our partner churches in the South Leicester Christian Partnership are St Mary's, Christchurch, Stoneygate Baptist, St Thomas More RC, Leicester Quakers, Clarendon Park Congregational and St John the Baptist.

We Saw His Star in the East...

United Service for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

St John the Baptist Church, 4a Clarendon Park Rd, LE2 3AD
on Sunday 23rd January at 6.30pm

Lunchtime Pilgrimage (17-21 January)

Day 1 'in person'	Mon 17th	Noon	Stoneygate Baptist Church 315 London Road, LE2 3ND
Day 2 'in person'	Tue 18th	Noon	Christchurch 105A Clarendon Park Rd, LE2 3AH
Day 3 'in person'	Wed 19th	12:30	Leicester Quakers 16 Queens Road Leicester, LE2 1WP
Day 4 'in person' & Zoom	Thur 20th	Noon	St Mary Magdalen Church Brinsmead Rd, Leicester LE2 3WD Zoom: Meeting ID: 990 5466 4809 Passcode: unity
Day 5 Zoom	Fri 21st	Noon	Hosted by St Thomas More Church Zoom: Meeting ID: 826 7479 3441 Passcode: magi

Churches Together South Leicester - <https://together.ourchurchweb.org.uk/southleicester>