

ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



Parish Church of St Guthlac
Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

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



Sunday 30th January 2022
The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

Sunday 30th January 10:30am

This Sunday Revd Matthew Gough 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!

Adrian

The Collect & Readings for the Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

The Collect

God our creator,
who in the beginning
commanded the light to shine out of darkness:
we pray that the light of the glorious gospel of Christ
may dispel the darkness of ignorance and unbelief,
shine into the hearts of all your people,
and reveal the knowledge of your glory
in the face of 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: Ezekiel 43.27-44.4

Psalm: 48

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 13.1-13

Gospel reading: Luke 2.22-40

Readings for this Sunday's Service

Galatians 3

Law or Faith

3 You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly exhibited as crucified! ²The only thing I want to learn from you is this: Did you receive the Spirit by doing the works of the law or by believing what you heard? ³Are you so foolish? Having started with the Spirit, are you now ending with the flesh? ⁴Did you experience so much for nothing?—if it really was for

nothing. ⁵ Well then, does God supply you with the Spirit and work miracles among you by your doing the works of the law, or by your believing what you heard?

⁶ Just as Abraham “believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness,” ⁷ so, you see, those who believe are the descendants of Abraham. ⁸ And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, declared the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “All the Gentiles shall be blessed in you.” ⁹ For this reason, those who believe are blessed with Abraham who believed.

¹⁰ For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who does not observe and obey all the things written in the book of the law.” ¹¹ Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law; for “The one who is righteous will live by faith.” ¹² But the law does not rest on faith; on the contrary, “Whoever does the works of the law will live by them.” ¹³ Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”— ¹⁴ in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

The Promise to Abraham

¹⁵ Brothers and sisters, I give an example from daily life: once a person’s will has been ratified, no one adds to it or annuls it. ¹⁶ Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring; it does not say, “And to offsprings,” as of many; but it says, “And to your offspring,” that is, to one person, who is Christ. ¹⁷ My point is this: the law, which came four hundred thirty years later, does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to nullify the promise. ¹⁸ For if the inheritance comes from the law, it no longer comes from the promise; but God granted it to Abraham through the promise.

The Purpose of the Law

¹⁹ Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring would come to whom the promise had been made; and it was ordained through angels by a mediator. ²⁰ Now a mediator involves more than one party; but God is one.

²¹ Is the law then opposed to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could make alive, then righteousness would indeed come through the law. ²² But the scripture has imprisoned all things under the power of sin, so that what was promised through faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

²³ Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. ²⁴ Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵ But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, ²⁶ for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. ²⁷ As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

Matthew 15. 21-28

The Canaanite Woman's Faith

²¹ Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." ²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." ²⁴ He

answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.”²⁶ He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.”²⁷ She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.”²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

PRAYERS

We pray for peace. We pray for weapons to be turned into ploughshares. We pray that the greed and corruption that drives the use of weaponry against humanity be exposed. We pray against the powers and principalities that deny the inherent value of the divine within each of us. We pray for justice and truth to prevail abroad and at home.

We know that we live in a broken system. But extreme poverty, hunger, food banks and unaffordable heating is not inevitable. Our focus on refugees, homelessness, hungry children and families shame our unjust systems which perpetuate evil which degrades the image of God which in we are made.

For our final days of Epiphany, revealing of Christ, and Candlemas celebrated this week, we pray once again for the light to be apparent in our lives, churches and taken to our communities as the light of the world stepping into darkness. We may have the courage to trust in following and holding such light ourselves.

Weekly prayer for roads in the parish – **Bankart 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

St. Guthlac's Services

Sunday at 10.30am

6 th February	Eucharist	Revd Janet Gasper
13 th February	All Age Worship	
20 th February	Eucharist	Revd Janet Gasper
27 th February	Matins	David Hunt
	& Church Club in Holbrook Hall	

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

Morning Prayer to mark 'Candlemas', the Presentation of Christ in the Temple - In the Church's calendar, we remember on 2nd February each year how Mary brought the infant Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem forty days after he was born, to be presented to the priests and for her own purification according to Jewish law. Since the fifth century the festival has been traditionally marked in churches with the lighting of candles - hence the common name 'Candlemas'. **This year we will mark Candlemas on Wednesday 2nd February with Morning Prayer at St Mary's at 9.30am, lasting for about 20 minutes.** Everyone is welcome.

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, 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%.

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Looking ahead – Adrian's forthcoming 'Extended Study Leave'

I'm pleased to say that Bishop Martyn has given me his permission for a period of Extended Study Leave (or 'Sabbatical' as it used to be called) in 2022, between 25th April and 25th July.

This will give me a break from normal parish responsibilities for a while, and the opportunity to reflect, read, research and come back renewed! Please don't imagine that it's a sign I'm leaving... quite the opposite in fact! - I'm hoping that this time will give me lots of ideas and material to use back in our churches to refresh our worshipping life for a long time to come.

During my extended study leave I'll be looking at ways in which spirituality and discipleship 'on the margins' can nurture and support the life of Christian communities in more 'mainstream' urban and suburban areas. They're should be lots for me to tell you about, and plenty of ideas to try.

On a practical note, although I'll still be at home with the family in the vicarage most of the time, the aim is to break from normal parish responsibilities such as visiting, taking services, and being part of meeting. Thankfully, Matthew will be able to pick up the reins, with assistance from the other members of the Ministry Team, during this time.

I've discussed my Study Leave with both PCCs in the benefice and I'm grateful for their support. As you would imagine, we will plan carefully to ensure that all aspects of church life are maintained while I'm on my sabbatical.

Although we've some time to go yet, do please ask me any questions you may have about what I'll be doing, or about the arrangements for the churches here.

Adrian

Shaped by God Together - update

SBGT JOURNEY TO MINSTER COMMUNITIES



In October 2021 our diocesan Synod agreed the new minster communities framework for our diocese. This is a journey that we will all take and by 2026 we hope that new framework will be fully implemented across the diocese. But this will happen differently for each area and context, all with support from the diocese.



There are three main 'stages' to this journey and the formal creation and move into a minster community is only one part.

Stage One – We are asking communities to think and pray about where God has placed you. Think about what you can offer to and gain from a Minster Community. Alongside this continue to promote vocations, work with schools and children and young people and partner with others locally.

Stage Two – this is the formal part of the process in which your Minster Community will form.

Stage Three – Now you are in your new Minster Community you can continue your conversations and start working together.

These three stages will happen at different points for different parishes and communities.

For some, particularly those in the pilot areas, they will be

entering stage two fairly early in 2022

giving them more time in stage three. For others stage one will be their focus until implementation of their minster community can take place.

But we are all on this same trajectory, all following the same journey of change. Shaped By God, together



Shaped by God Together - update. *Adrian writes:* "This update, and the diagram opposite, describe the next stages in the Shaped by God Together process that will change how all local churches in the Diocese of Leicester are grouped together in coming years, as 'Minster Communities'. You will see that nothing is planned quickly for most churches in 2022, while the pilot projects get underway. It'll be the autumn before we have any indication of proposals for St Guthlac and St Mary Magdalen. In the meantime we are all encouraged to look for ways in which we can work more closely with all our neighbouring churches."

Intercessors: Can you help? We currently only have a few intercessors for Sunday services.

Intercessors can read pre-prepared prayers from a published book or make up their own prayers. New intercessors will be given help and support. If we have a full complement of intercessors, each person would read the prayers once every two or three months.

Is this something you could do to help the church? If so please chat to Tina about it or email her.

Looking ahead - your next step in Christian faith? 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.

Looking ahead – baptism on 6th February

Congratulations and best wishes to our own Skye and Derry Roche who have both asked to be baptised in our All Age Worship at St Mary's on 6th February. It would be lovely to have friends from our church family with them for this special time, so do please join us if you can!

Adrian & Alison

Auntie's Birth: 100 Years of British Broadcasting – by Paul Kerensa | Leicester Comedy Festival

Thursday 3rd Feb 7.30 pm

The First Broadcast: The Battle for the Beeb in 1922. A one-man play written and performed by Paul Kerensa British Comedy Award-winning writer (Miranda, Not Going Out, TFI Friday).

100 years ago: Two rival voices in The Marconi Company unite art and science to create British broadcasting.

Book via the Comedy festival website:

<https://comedy-festival.co.uk/event/aunties-birth-100-years-of-british-broadcasting-by-paul-kerensa/>

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>

We are making our garden more wildlife friendly!

The St Guthlac's Eco group have made good progress with plans to improve the wildlife value of the garden

- Compost bins are now in place and can be used by those tending the garden for soft garden waste (excluding of course perennial weeds such as bindweed and mare's tail) as well as waste from flower arranging, tea bags etc
- A green council garden waste bin has been requested and will be available for twiggy waste. It will also be used by the gardener for hedge and grass clipping
- Some areas will be sown with bee friendly flower mixes
- Two additional trees will be planted shortly (details to follow)
- The area of grass between the two buildings will be left to grow long during the summer
- Bird boxes and insect hotels are planned

