

# ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



Parish Church of St Guthlac  
Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

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



# LENT

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2022**  
**First Sunday in Lent**

## Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March 10:30am

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

### ***“Doing Lent Gently” in 2022***



Often Lent is seen as a rather harsh and certainly penitential part of the church year – we are tough on ourselves as preparation for the joy of Easter. This spirit of self-examination, even criticism, and abstinence

has its place and can prove valuable – **however** – given that so much has already been sacrificed over the last two years, perhaps this Lent should be less about discipline and more about gentleness, with ourselves and each other.

A gentle Lent might help us draw closer to the gentle self-giving of Jesus himself, on his journey to the cross and beyond.

Here are a few suggestions for ‘*doing Lent gently*’:

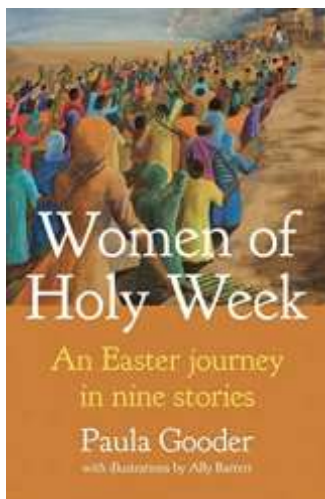
**Being still** – choose a time each day when you can be still and just sit for a few minutes, either in silence with a five-minute timer, or listening, eyes closed, to a favourite gentle song;

**Letting go** – think of something that takes time but makes little difference to anyone else, and just let go of it until Easter.... it could be the time you spend on Facebook, watching a TV soap, painting your nails or polishing the car. You could use the time for catching up on something long postponed.

**Simple giving** – identify a simple thing you can give to others once a week (or more, if easier) ... it could be writing a postcard each weekend to send on Monday, putting flowers in your window, or letting someone go ahead of you in the shopping queue.

**Join ‘Difference’** – this Lent, over five Wednesday evenings from 9<sup>th</sup> March, we are running ‘Difference’, a course (on Zoom) that equips Christians to cross divides, navigate disagreement and pursue a just and flourishing world. Through film, Bible study, prayer and discussion we are encouraged to develop the three habits of being curious, being present and reimagining – to build reconciliation and change in place of division. Please see below for joining instructions.

**Get reading** – follow up our Sunday series on women of the Bible by reading “*Women of Holy Week*” by Paula Gooder. This is an imaginative retelling, in nine stories, of the events of the last days of Jesus through the eyes of the women accompanying him. We’ll also have a special coffee morning to discuss the stories together, at 10am on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April at the Vicarage. Please phone Adrian Jones or Alison Roche on 0116 270 4268 if you’d like a copy of the book for £9.99 .



I hope there is something here to help you do Lent gently this year.

*Adrian*

## **LENT DIFFERENCE COURSE & COMPLINE**

Online Compline on Wednesdays will start at 7.30 pm during Lent. It will be before the Lent Difference Course which starts at 8.00. The Zoom link is unchanged and is the same for both compline and the Lent Difference course.

**Topic: Compline then Lent Course**

**Time: 7.30pm Compline 7.55pm Lent Course**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://leccofe.zoom.us/j/7467674408?pwd=NHRQZ2F0Mmt5Wk5sd2NMc1JtREpaUT09>

**Or Dial in- 0203 481 5240 United Kingdom**

**Meeting ID: 746 767 4408**

**Passcode: hope**

## **The Collect & Readings for the First Sunday in Lent**

### **The Collect**

Almighty God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness,  
and was tempted as we are, yet without sin:  
give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit;  
and, as you know our weakness,  
so may we know your power to save;  
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: Deuteronomy 26.1-11**

## **Psalm 91.1-2,9-16**

### **Second Reading: Romans 10.8b-13**

### **Gospel reading: Luke 4.1-13**

<sup>1</sup>Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, <sup>2</sup>where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. <sup>3</sup>The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.' <sup>4</sup>Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone."' "

<sup>5</sup>Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. <sup>6</sup>And the devil said to him, 'To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. <sup>7</sup>If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.' <sup>8</sup>Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."' "

<sup>9</sup>Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, <sup>10</sup>for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you", <sup>11</sup>and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."' "

<sup>12</sup>Jesus answered him, 'It is said, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."' <sup>13</sup>When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

## **PRAYERS**

As we begin this Lenten season, may we embrace a pilgrimage of the heart. As we see twisted broken and burning bomb sites in the Ukraine, may we see the ashes in our own lives. May we

turn to Christ afresh. May we be encouraged by the spring of blossom and flowers bursting forth from bare branches and dull earth. May we seek in the cracks of the grey concrete pavements, the hints of God's Kingdom on earth being true, coming in part and still yet to come.

We pray for the people of Ukraine. We pray for the restoration of peace and safety. Jesus commanded us to pray for and love our enemies. As Putin has made war against the West, may we be wise and discerning and seek to see him and the Russian people through the eyes and heart of Jesus. Lord forgive us our hypocrisy, judgement and certainties in our own righteousness.

You convict us to embrace widows and orphans as true religion and the sacrifice of a contrite heart. May those struggling to feed families, afford to heat homes or may have no home be welcomed by us as if welcoming Jesus as a friend. We pray for the lonely, the bereaved and isolated that as a church we may be a place of belonging and love for all who wish to shelter and seek sanctuary in the embrace of God. Amen

Weekly prayer for roads in the parish – **Dovedale Road and Dovedale Court flats.**

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](mailto:revgough@gmail.com) or Jane [administrator@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk](mailto:administrator@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk)*

## **St. Guthlac's Services**

### **Sunday at 10.30am**

|                        |                                  |                    |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 13 <sup>th</sup> March | Morning Prayer                   | Fiona Wingate      |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> March | Eucharist                        | Revd Adrian Jones  |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> March | All Age Mothering Sunday         |                    |
|                        | Revd Matthew Gough & Jean Gabbar |                    |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> April  | Eucharist                        | Revd Matthew Gough |

**Every Thursday at 9.30am    Holy Communion**

**Stamps for the Leprosy Mission:** One of my 'lockdown' jobs was to sort out the many packets of used stamps which had accumulated at the back of St Guthlac's church before the pandemic happened. In January, I sent off a large envelope full of stamps, both UK and foreign, and postcards which you had all kindly supplied, to the charity The Leprosy Mission, and I've just received a thank-you letter, addressed to our church community. 'You are transforming lives .... the money raised from the sale of these stamps will cure people of this debilitating disease and restore hope and livelihoods, now and for future generations. Thank you for your kindness and compassion.' Although letter writing is out of fashion these days, and stamps not so frequently used (except at Christmas!) please keep on collecting them for this charity. They can be left for me at the back of the church - but please help me by cutting a narrow border around each stamp! You can also donate coins, bank notes and medals to this charity, as well as postcards. Thank you. Margaret Bonney

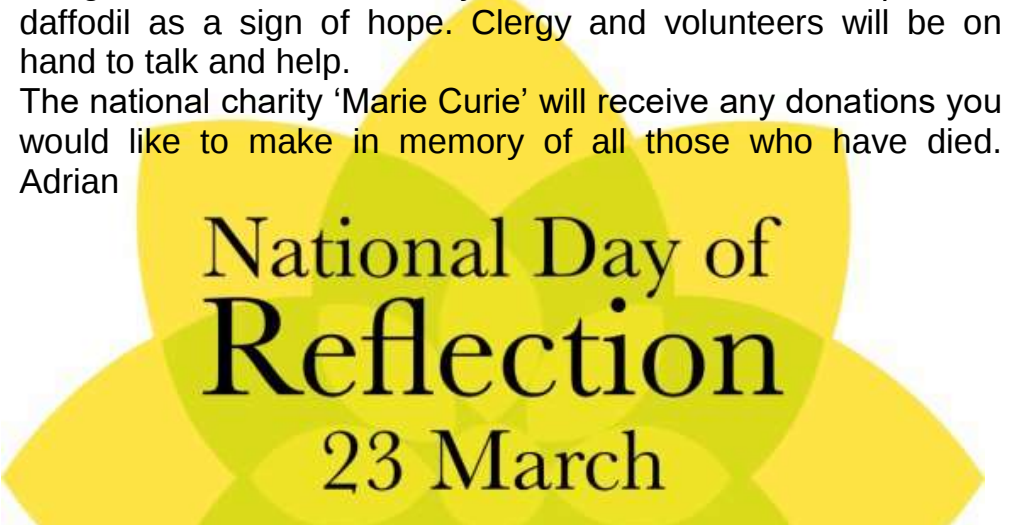
## **The National Day of Reflection—Wednesday 23rd March**

The 23rd March will be the second anniversary of the start of the first national lockdown in response to the Corona virus pandemic. Back in 2020 we had little idea about the way in which this new virus would reshape our daily lives in the days to come, would galvanise the world's scientists to discover and develop vaccines at unprecedented speed, and would challenge our health professionals to the extreme. Few of us would have suspected the scale of loss and pain, through bereavement, illness, separation and isolation that we would face as a country, but also as families and individuals.

While life now is beginning to return to 'normal' many of us still need the opportunity to reflect, grieve and pray in the face of all that we have experienced. Doing this together will help us to find healing and hope for the future.

On 23rd March, St Mary's will be open during the day from 11am to 1pm for all of us, if we would like this opportunity. At noon we will mark the national silence and have a few prayers. There will also be the chance to leave your own written prayers, to light a candle in memory of a loved one and to place a daffodil as a sign of hope. Clergy and volunteers will be on hand to talk and help.

The national charity 'Marie Curie' will receive any donations you would like to make in memory of all those who have died.  
Adrian



National Day of  
Reflection  
23 March

**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.

### **Doesn't time fly?**

It's already time to prepare the next Benefice Magazine. People often thank me for it, but the thanks are entirely due to those of you who contribute. So please keep our readers happy by contributing something now, ideally by 3 March. In the height of the pandemic, the regular listing of events in the magazine was inevitably discontinued. I plan to revive it now, so please let me know of any significant public events in the Benefice scheduled for the next 6 months.

Nigel Siesage

Copy should be sent to [stmaryknighton.magazine@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryknighton.magazine@gmail.com)

**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](mailto:churchwardens@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk).

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

*giftaid it*

How am I to live out my faith?  
What could God be saying to me?  
What opportunities are there to serve God?

To explore these questions further...

# Everyday Calling

with Bishop Saju

Saturday March 26th 10am—3pm

Lunch included

Grand Hall, St Martin's House



Day will include seminars on:

- How to set up a social action project
- Exploring ordained or lay ministry
- How do I hear from God?
- Training opportunities

Time to chat to people in a range of callings eg

- Church Army
- Street Pastors
- Spiritual Directors
- Schools projects

To book a place email:

[claire.stapleton@leicestercofe.org](mailto:claire.stapleton@leicestercofe.org)

(Please state any dietary needs)

## ***South Knighton Community Events: March Event A Talk by Dr Ian Cross about his time working for Medecins Sans Frontieres***

***March 5th 7.30pm-10.00pm Holbrook Hall***

Entry: £5.00 which includes a donation to MSF, additional donations welcome on the night. No need to book. Please bring your own nibbles and drink

Dr Ian Cross, formerly a Leicester GP, spent a number of years working as a doctor for the international organisation, Medecins Sans Frontieres. He will recall his experiences working on the front line to save lives in countries across the world. Ian has appeared on a number of TV programmes including Victoria Derbyshire and you can read his MSF blog [here](#)

## CONTACT DETAILS

**Vicar: Revd. Adrian Jones**      0116 2704268  
adrian.jones@zoho.com      07919 262 399

**Assistant Curate: Revd Matthew Gough**  
revgough@gmail.com      07754 961997

**Revd Aphro McCullough**

**Revd Janet Gasper**

**Reader: Fiona Wingate**

**Ordinand: Cecilia Adjadje**

**Churchwardens:**

**David Hunt**  
**Tina Jarvis**

churchwardens@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk

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

**FOR THE NEWSLETTER** Please send material to be included  
in the next newsletter by noon next Thursday to  
[administrator@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk](mailto:administrator@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk)

Don't forget to visit the St. Guthlac's Facebook page and  
website <https://www.stguthlac-knighton.co.uk>



**FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 2022**  
**'Choose The World You Want' Exhibition**

**We need your imagination!**  
**Churches together in Clarendon Park and Knighton**

**Photographs, poems, pictures of your art work ....**  
**what might you come up with?**



**Please send your entries to [acbrindle@gmail.com](mailto:acbrindle@gmail.com)**  
**by 6th March**

<https://churches-together.co.uk/what-we-do/faith-in-action/> Churches Together South Leicester