

# ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



Parish Church of St Guthlac  
Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

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



**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2022**  
**Third Sunday in Lent**

## Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March 10:30am

This Sunday Revd Adrian Jones 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*’:

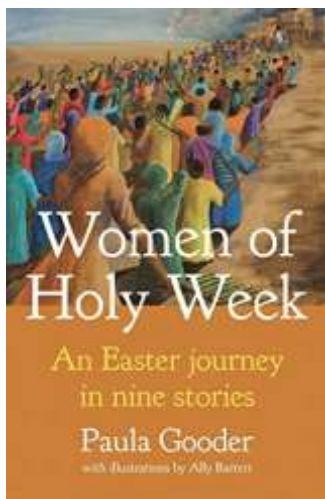
**Being still** – choose a time each day when you can be still and just sit for a few minutes, either in silence with a five-minute timer, or listening, eyes closed, to a favourite gentle song;

**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**

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

### **Sunday at 10.30am**

|                        |                                  |                    |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 27 <sup>th</sup> March | All Age Mothering Sunday         |                    |
|                        | Revd Matthew Gough & Jean Gabbar |                    |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> April  | Eucharist                        | Revd Matthew Gough |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> April | Palm Sunday - All Age Worship    |                    |
|                        | Revd Adrian Jones                |                    |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> April | Easter Day – Eucharist           |                    |
|                        | Revd Janet Gasper                |                    |

**Every Thursday at 9.30am      Holy Communion**

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

### **The Collect**

Almighty God,  
whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered  
pain,  
and entered not into glory before he was crucified:  
mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross,  
may find it none other than the way of life and peace;  
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 55.1-9**

### **Psalm 63.1-8**

### **Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10.1-13**

### **Gospel reading: Luke 13. 1-9**

<sup>1</sup>There were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup>He asked them, 'Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? <sup>3</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup>Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them - do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.'

<sup>6</sup>Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none.

<sup>7</sup>So he said to the gardener, "See here! For three years I have

come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?" <sup>8</sup>He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup>If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down."

## **PRAYERS**

*"Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in thee." St Augustine of Hippo, Egypt*

As we survey the world's suffering, our faith may struggle. In this time of Lent, may we honestly see the world and our lives are not as God intended. May we strive to work afresh for peace in our own hearts, our relationships and our world. May we know the Lord more in our lives and that we are incomplete and in need of Christ.

We appeal to our loving Lord and Father for peace in Ukraine. We appeal for the Prince of Peace to reign in the hearts of those shaping the conflict and with the power to stop it. We pray for the Russian Orthodox Church. We call upon Patriarch Krill to speak truth and justice into the war and the drivers of war. We bring to mind the words of Pope Francis, 'wars are always unjust. Because the one who pays is the people of God. Our hearts cannot help but cry in front of the children, the women killed, all the victims of war. War is never the way. The Spirit that unites us asks us as pastors to help the peoples who suffer from war'.

Lord give us the courage to open our churches, our homes and our lives to the anticipated flux of Ukrainian refugees. Help us overcome fears of scarcity and security. As we know that we worship a God of grace who pours out his grace daily on an undeserving people, may we share such grace with strangers,

remembering Jesus' words, 'that whatever you do for the least, you are doing for me'. Amen

Weekly prayer for roads in the parish – **Elmsleigh Avenue & Llewellyn Court.**

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@stguthlack-knighton.co.uk](mailto:administrator@stguthlack-knighton.co.uk)*

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)

# Pause



Many of us find ourselves dashing around without time to rest or to pause, even on a Sunday.

Make some time to hear the still small voice of God at a relaxed, informal Communion service at **St Mary's - 7.30pm on Sunday 20th March.**

Our theme is

## ***"Rage and Hope"***

There will be music, readings and quietness, before an opportunity to share Communion together if you wish.

*You're welcome to bring your own cushion, and a favourite mug for tea or coffee.*

More information from Adrian Jones  
0116 270 4268 or 07919 262 399



## War in Ukraine – how to help

We have all seen terrible scenes from the war in Ukraine on our televisions and naturally we feel moved to want to help those suffering.

Firstly, please make sure you are **praying** for the civilians caught in

the invasion and those who have had to become refugees. We have a prayer here or there is “A Prayer for Ukraine” later in this Newsletter:

*Heavenly Father, hear our prayers for our brothers and sisters in Ukraine.*

*Lord, we ask for peace for those who need peace, reconciliation for those who need reconciliation and comfort for all who don't know what tomorrow will bring. Lord may your Kingdom come, and Your will be done.*

*Lord God, we ask for you to be with all – especially children - who are suffering as the crisis in Ukraine deteriorates. Lord for those who are anxious and fearful. For those who are bereaved, injured or who have lost their lives. And for those who have lost homes and loved ones. Lord hear our prayers.*



Secondly, please consider **giving** to the relief appeal launched by the Disasters Emergency Committee.



You can give online here:

<https://donation.dec.org.uk/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal> or by sending a cheque payable to *Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal* to DEC

Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal, PO Box 999, London EC3A 3AA, or by making a donation at a Post Office. The UK Government

will match public donations to this appeal pound-for-pound up to £25 million.

Lastly, you might consider **lobbying** your local MP or Government Ministers to make changes to our immigration regulations so that Ukranian refugees can be helped quickly and efficiently. You might like to find out more about joining with others and sponsoring a refugee family coming to Britain – see the Leicester Community Sponsorship Group [www.leicester-csg.co.uk](http://www.leicester-csg.co.uk)

*Adrian*

**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.

### **DIARY DATE: ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

This will take place in St. Guthlac's, on Sunday 24th April 11.45am, after the Sunday service. The agenda and reports from the PCC will be available two weeks prior to the meeting.

### **ELECTORAL ROLL**

If you are not currently on the electoral roll and would like to be entered on it, please contact Jane Wright

[administrator@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk](mailto:administrator@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk) for a form. Completed forms must be returned to Jane by 3<sup>rd</sup> April if you wish to be entitled to vote at the APCM. The 'Notice of Revision' posted on our website and the internal church noticeboard gives details of eligibility. Thank you.

# A Prayer for Ukraine

*from Christian Aid*

Lord of all people and all nations,  
we lift before you the people of Ukraine and the people of  
Russia,  
each girl and boy, each woman and man  
living in fear of what tomorrow might bring.

We long for a time you spoke of through your prophet Isaiah,  
when weapons of war would be beaten into ploughshares,  
when nation will no longer lift up sword against nation.  
We cry out to you for peace.

Protect those who only desire and deserve to live in security  
and safety;  
comfort those who fear for their lives and the lives of their loved  
ones;  
change the hearts of those set on violence and aggression;  
fill earthly leaders with great wisdom to find paths to peace.

Please Lord come and have your way in your world.  
May your will be done here, on earth as it is in heaven.  
May your peace reign. Now and always.

We lift this prayer to you, our God,  
who is able to do more than we can ever ask or imagine.  
In the name of Christ our saviour.  
Amen

## **Caring for each other at church during infectious times**

As you'll know we are no longer subject to Government legal regulations and restrictions relating to Corona virus. Our Worship Committee met recently, on behalf of the PCC, to discuss what precautions we should discontinue or keep at St Guthlac's. We were agreed firstly, that when we come to church we should continue to have the highest regard for the safety and wellbeing of other people as well as our own comfort.

We have also agreed that we should gradually increase the number of chairs in the church, and that from Easter we will resume having refreshments after the service. The choir will once again be able to process to their places, we will place a collection plate at the back of the church and we will stop recording those present at each service. For the moment we do *not* feel it is the right time to resume offering the wine to the congregation as part of our Communion services. The priest officiating at Communion will continue to sanitise their hands and wear a mask as now.

Other matters are very much down to each person's own conscience, but can I please ask you, when you come to church:

- to consider continuing to wear your face covering;
- to consider sanitising your hands on the way into church;
- to avoid crowding together when finding a seat and after church to give people a little more space than usual;
- **not** to come to church if you have any symptoms of covid-19 or a positive lateral flow test in the last 24 hours;
- to be understanding of those people whose response to the hazards of the virus is different to your own.

Thank you for your understanding and co-operation with these precautions and changes – this way we can remain both safe and welcoming!

*Adrian*

## **Celebrate Easter 2022!**

This year we are celebrating the resurrection of Jesus - the first Easter - across both churches in our benefice. Do join us at any of the following services:

|                                 |                                                       |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> April   | Palm Sunday All Age Worship at St Guthlac's, 10.30am  |
| Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> April   | Palm Sunday Sung Eucharist at St Mary's, 10.30am      |
| Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> April | Maundy Thursday Communion at St Guthlac's, 7.30pm     |
| Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> April   | Good Friday All Age Worship at St Guthlac's, 10.30am  |
| Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> April   | Good Friday Meditation at the Cross, St Mary's at 2pm |
| Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> April   | Good Friday Reflection at St Mary's, 7.30pm           |
| Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> April   | Sunrise Celebration at St Guthlac's, <b>5am</b>       |
| Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> April   | Easter Day Sung Eucharist at St Guthlac's, 10.30am    |
| Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> April   | Easter Day Sung Eucharist at St Mary's, 10.30am       |

|                                                                                                                |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Choir Practice</b> Our next rehearsal is on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm-8.30pm in church.</p> |
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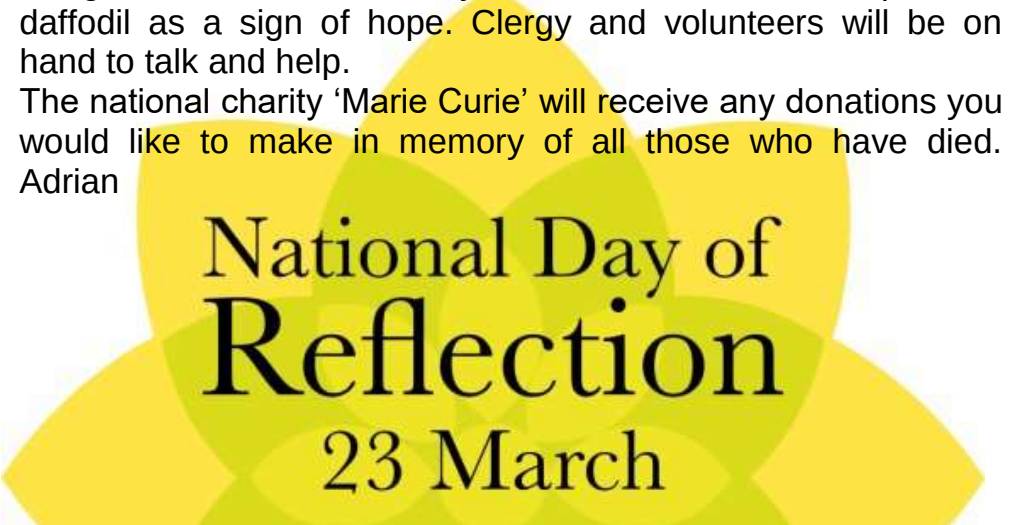
## **The National Day of Reflection—Wednesday 23rd March**

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

## 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>