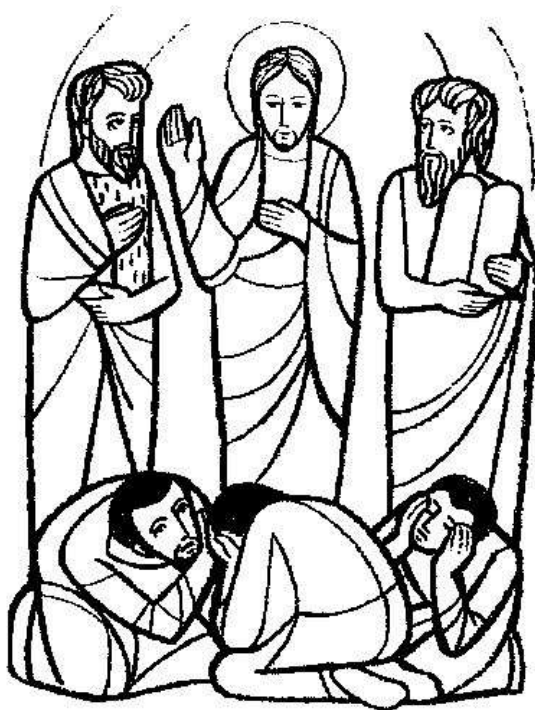


ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



Parish Church of St Guthlac
Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

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



Sunday 19th February 2023
Sunday next before Lent

Sunday 19th February 2023

This Sunday at 10.30am Revd Janet Gasper will be presiding and preaching at service of Holy Communion.

The Collect & Readings for Sunday next before Lent

Almighty Father,
whose Son was revealed in majesty
before he suffered death upon the cross:
give us grace to perceive his glory,
that we may be strengthened to suffer with him
and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

First Reading: Exodus 24.12-18; **Psalm 2**

Second Reading: 2 Peter 1.16-21

Gospel Reading: Matthew 17.1-9

PRAYERS

Praying for the World: Pray for all those affected by the devastating earthquake which hit Syria and Turkey almost two weeks ago. Pray that aid would get to the most vulnerable, especially those cut off by conflict in northern Syria. Pray that governments and people across the world will be generous in their support for the aid appeal.

Praying for the Church: Please pray that all Christians might have a renewed focus on our shared faith and the worship, mission and discipleship that flow from it. Pray for all those who seek to bring harmony where there are disagreements, and for our bishops in Leicester, +Martyn and +Saju, as they seek to be pastors to the whole diocese.

Praying for those in need: Please pray for all those who are in need at the moment, those who are unwell in body, mind or spirit, those who are anxious and worried as well as those facing new challenging circumstances.

Also, give thanks for those who are recovering and who have found God's peace.

Please remember those who have died recently, and pray for their families and friends. We also remember all those whose anniversaries fall at this time.

Weekly prayer for roads in the parish – **Birkdale Avenue**

For further prayer requests which can be included in the weekly prayer list or anonymized and prayed for in private, please contact Revd Adrian adrian.jones@zoho.com or Jane administrator@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk

Vic Ironmonger - We now have details of Vic's funeral, which will be held at St Mary's on Tuesday 28th February at 11am. Everyone is welcome to come and pay their respects of course. Please do continue to support Margaret and Lesley, and remember them in your prayers.

British Red Cross: Turkey – Syria Earthquake Appeal

More than 40,000 people are now known to have died after last week's earthquakes in southern Turkey and Northern Syria. Without shelter, water, fuel or electricity there are fears that many survivors could yet lose their lives.

There will be another opportunity to donate to this appeal on Sunday at St Guthlac's.

Please help

St. Guthlac's Services

Sunday at 10.30am

26 th Feb	Morning Prayer & Church Club	Cecilia Adjadje
5 th March	Eucharist	Revd Adrian Jones
12 th March	All Age Worship	
19 th March	Eucharist for Mothering Sunday	
26 th March	Morning Prayer & Church Club	Fiona Wingate

Every Thursday at 9.30am Holy Communion

Virtual Compline 8.00pm Wednesday evenings

There is an online Compline every Wednesday 8.00 pm, **all are welcome**. You can also join using a phone. You can join the meeting from 7.50 pm.

On the computer click: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81118183080>

On the phone dial: 0203 481 5240 and follow the instructions.

You will be asked for a meeting ID. Put **811 1818 3080** followed by #

Blessing your donations & the Collection Plate

Now many people do planned-giving through their direct debit, it seems inappropriate to hand the collection plate round during a service. The collection plate now will be at the back of the church.

Please leave your donation as you come into the service. A steward or member of the congregation will take up the plate to the altar for all donations to be blessed during the 3rd / offertory hymn or at a suitable point in non-Eucharist services.

Lent 2023

Lent is the traditional part of the Christian year that covers the weeks before Easter, and acts as a preparation for the sombre reflection of Good Friday and the joyful celebration of Easter Day.

This year the start of Lent, **Ash Wednesday**, is 22nd February, and as usual, everyone is encouraged to come to our special benefice Communion service at 7.30pm, at St Guthlac's Church. The choir will lead us in a reflective service with traditional hymns, and we will offer 'ashing' if you wish - the marking of a small cross in ashes on your forehead, symbolising repentance and a turning back towards God.

Lent is also a time for growing in faith through spiritual 'disciplines' – perhaps you will give up some luxury and keep the money for charity, or take up a special practice for these six weeks, such as a weekly donation to the foodbank or reading a Christian book.

There are two opportunities for you to join other members of our churches in a weekly discussion group during Lent as well. We shall be using a booklet called ***“Exploring God's Mercy: five images of salvation”***, written by the Bishop of Oxford, the Rt Revd Steven Croft. You can join a group on Wednesday mornings, at 10.30am in the small Cottage Room in the St Mary's Parish Centre, OR at 2.30pm on Thursday afternoons, at the home of Janet Edwards. Please sign up on the list at the back of the church so that we have an idea of numbers coming. I'll be in touch with everyone to make sure that you know where to go! Our group meetings begin on Wednesday 1st March and Thursday 2nd March.

Let's pray that Lent will be a time that God speaks to us all, and that, as he helps us understand our weaknesses afresh, we might also find more loving understanding of each other.

Adrian

Ash Wednesday Benefice Communion Service
St Guthlac's Church
Wednesday 22nd February at 7.30pm
All welcome

The Church of England and Same-Sex Relationships: Recently we saw the General Synod of the Church of England (the representative and governing body) debating the Bishops' proposals for the blessing of same-sex relationships by ordained clergy, in church. You may well have seen reporting in the media on the rather heated exchanges and the deep divisions that exist between Christians on this issue.

Some of us can watch the arguments in a slightly detached way, as other people getting worked up about something that seems clear to us, or is not that significant. Others of us, though, may feel bewilderment and confusion in the face of complex arguments about reason, tradition, compassion, inclusion and Biblical faithfulness. Others, again, may feel deep pain and hurt, because the debate actually touches on real life experience - our own, our friend's, or perhaps that of someone in the family - and what for some is doctrinal or theoretical is, for us, personal and every-day. Any one of us might benefit from a quiet, considered conversation about the issues and, perhaps, our own experience and concerns.

If such a confidential conversation would help you, then do please let me know - over the next few weeks I'll be keeping time aside specifically for this. Alternatively, you might prefer to talk to my wife, Revd Alison Roche, who also has previous direct experience talking through these matters.

On our part, there's no agenda, apart from the questions or experiences that you might like to talk over, and the support that either of us might be able to give you in confidence. If you think this might help, please don't hesitate - you can catch us after church, on the phone or by email: Adrian 07919 262399 or adrian.jones@zoho.com and Alison 0116 270 4268 or a.m.roche@btinternet.com

If you'd prefer a confidential small group to discuss some of the background issues, Biblical evidence and where the Church of England is going on these matters, then, again, please let me know and I'll certainly organise something at a convenient time for everyone. *Adrian*

Everyday Faith – *making key Bible passages our own*

Christian growth means moving from a 'Sunday Faith', limited to church on just one day, to 'Everyday Faith', allowing God to shape our whole lives and all our relationships.

Prayer and reading the Bible have always been key parts of Everyday Faith. Our ancestors, who had limited access to the printed word and perhaps struggled with reading more than we do, were used to memorising Bible passages that would later help them in times of trouble and challenge – a skill that we have mostly lost.

We can, however, get to know key Bible passages so well that their familiar words will return to us when most needed.

At the back of church this Sunday there is a small booklet in which we've printed out a selection of important Bible passages that all Christians should feel familiar with. Please do take one home with you and give one to your friends. This Lent you might like to take up the habit of reading your booklet each day, and letting these wonderful words soak in.

Adrian

Holbrook Oasis

at St. Guthlac's Church,

Wednesdays 1.30-3.30pm

Companionship, Conversation, Refreshment, Relaxation

Open to all, especially young families, people living alone, older persons and if you are new to Leicester. Tea, coffee and cakes provided. Email; churchwardens@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk

Winter Open Hands Appeal

A huge thank you to all those who donated so generously to this appeal. Together with the Gaulby group of churches an enormous mound of contributions was collected and this has now been delivered to the Open Hands Compassion Centre for sorting and distribution. The staff asked me to pass on grateful thanks to both congregations. **Lesley Meakin**

Caring for each other at church during infectious times

Our Worship Committee, on behalf of the PCC, continue to discuss the precautions we should take at St Guthlac's. We would urge everyone to continue thinking about the best ways to ensure that illnesses are not spread at church, for instance staying at home if you feel unwell. Please also continue to be understanding of those people whose response to the hazards of the virus is different to your own.

Following a successful trial at our midweek Communion, we will now be offering the wine as well as the bread to everyone at Sunday morning Eucharists - if you would like to take it. "Simultaneous Communion" means that the priest will take each wafer one at a time and dip the edge into the chalice of wine, before placing it in the Communicants hands as usual. This allows for the sharing of wine from a Common Cup, but without the hazards of each person actually using the Cup themselves.

The priests officiating at Communion will sanitise their hands before taking the bread and wine to the congregation. They will not wear a mask as they now mix normally at all other times.

The Wardens and I would be very pleased to have your feedback on this way of receiving, so do please let us know what you think when you've tried it out a few times.

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

Adrian & Churchwardens

Join us as we explore 'the Art of Living' Our new Wednesday morning small group continues to meet weekly in the Cottage Room of the Parish Centre, at 10.30am for coffee, prayer, support and a closer look at the wisdom of the Bible. For the next few weeks we'll be discussing 'The Art of Living' as described in the Book of Proverbs, so why not join us when you can, and nurture your Christian faith as the new year unfolds? To find out more please chat to me or just come along! *Adrian & Cecilia*



As part of our EcoChurch project, our church loo is twinned with a latrine in Malawi.

We would now like to twin the toilets in Holbrook Hall with other latrines in Malawi.

There is a collection jar at the entrance to the church where donations, large or small can be made.

Please look at the framed certificate on the windowsill next time you use the church facilities. By twinning our toilets, we are recognising our good fortune in having excellent sanitation, and showing that we care about others living in very different circumstances. By donating £60 to twin your toilet, you help fund a project in a community that will enable families to build a basic toilet, have access to clean water and learn about hygiene – a vital combination that saves lives. If you would like to consider twinning your own toilet, please visit the toilet twinning website where Tap twinning is also available. Both cost £60, which I think you will agree would be money well spent!

Water Aid Your donations in the Water Aid jar have raised **£65.15**, which will be forwarded to the charity. Many thanks. As you will see from the article above, the PCC have decided that for the time being, future donations will be used to fund latrines in Malawi.



World Day of Prayer Friday 3rd March

A service for everyone

prepared by Christian Women of Taiwan

2.00pm at St Thomas More Church

7.30pm at Clarendon Park Congregational Church

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: churchwardens@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk. If you are a taxpayer and gift aid your giving, our church can claim an additional 25%.

Use your phone to scan the QR Code below and make a donation towards the work of St. Guthlac's Church. Thank you.



CONTACT DETAILS

Vicar: Revd. Adrian Jones
adrian.jones@zoho.com

0116 2704268
07919 262 399

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

stmarysknighton.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

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

Newsletters on Line

Both St Guthlac's and St Mary's current and backdated newsletters are available online.

St Guthlac's <https://www.stguthlac-knighton.co.uk>

St Mary's <https://www.stmarysknighton.co.uk>

QUIZ EVENING

FRIDAY 17th MARCH at 7pm

Please join us for our relaxed quiz evening with a 2 course buffet supper. Rest assured there will be no sport or pop music questions and everyone will be able to score some points!

Do invite family and friends to come along and make up a team with you, but couples and people on their own can team up on the evening (maximum team size 4)



Tickets £8



Tickets from Lesley Meakin

Bring your own alcoholic drinks

Tea and coffee on sale

Raffle

Proceeds to church funds