

ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



Parish Church of St Guthlac
Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

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



Sunday 26th February 2023
First Sunday of Lent

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This Sunday at 10.30am Cecilia Adjadje will lead a service of Morning Prayer. Church Club will be taking place in Holbrook Road.

The Collect & Readings for the First Sunday of Lent

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: Genesis 2.15-17; 3.1-7; **Psalm 32**

Second Reading: Romans 5.12-19

Gospel Reading: Matthew 4.1-11

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 – **Blankley Drive**

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.

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%.



St. Guthlac's Services

Sunday at 10.30am

5 th March	Eucharist	Revd Adrian Jones
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12 th March	All Age Worship	Tina Jarvis
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19 th March	Eucharist for Mothering Sunday	
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26 th March	Morning Prayer & Church Club	Fiona Wingate
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2 nd April	Palm Sunday Eucharist	Revd Janet Gasper
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Every Thursday at 9.30am	Holy Communion	
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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.

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



The British Red Cross acknowledges with grateful thanks the recent generous donations given in the bucket collections for the **TURKEY / SYRIA EARTHQUAKE DISASTER** on Sundays 12th and 19th February 2023: St. Mary's Church £423.04. and St. Guthlac's Church £153.00.

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

Wednesday Morning Group: Our small Wednesday Morning Group continues to meet each week at 10.30am in the small lounge (or 'Cottage Room') in the parish centre. During Lent we'll be looking at a series of Bible studies called "Exploring God's Mercy", by Steven Croft, the Bishop of Oxford. Everyone is welcome to join us for coffee/tea, discussion and prayers. Adrian



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.

Mothers' Union Fellowship

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, 28th February when Valerie Thomson will talk to us about her life in Jordan. We'll gather in the Parish Centre Lounge at 1.30 for a 2.00pm start. As always, non-members are very welcome to join us. LP



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

St Guthlac's Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2023

This year's meeting will be held on **Sunday 16th April at 11.45am**, following morning service. Please do make a note of this date in your diaries. Election of Churchwardens, 2 Deanery Synod representatives and 4 PCC members will take place at the meeting. Please speak to me if you would like to be nominated for any of these roles or would like further information on any of the roles. New faces will be very welcome. **Lesley Meakin PCC secretary**

Your Benefice Magazine

I shall start compiling the next magazine in the first week of March, with a view to publishing in mid-March. I do my best to cover the full range of activities, plans and thoughts at both our churches, but I depend on hearing about these things from you, the readers. I can't, for instance, attend every event, so a paragraph or two, plus a picture, would be very welcome. So would advance notice of events planned for the rest of the year.

All contributions are appreciated. Don't be shy. Please send your contributions, preferably in Word, to

stmaryknighton.magazine@gmail.com.

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**](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

**You are invited to come along to our Tea and
Talk evening for March.....**

**“FROM CLASSICAL TO
STAGE AND SCREEN”**



**AN ORGAN RECITAL BY
GEOFFREY HAMES
DIPL.CM**

Tuesday 14th March at 7pm

St Guthlac's Church, Holbrook Rd LE2 3LF

Free event and refreshments: Do join us!