

ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



Parish Church of St Guthlac
Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

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



**Sunday 10 December 2023
Second Sunday of Advent
Nativity Gift Service**

sunday 10th December

This Sunday at 10.30am, Tina Jarvis & Revd Cecilia Adjadje will be leading the Nativity Gift Service.

Readings for the Gift Service

Luke 1:26-38 (International Children's Bible)

Matthew 1:20-25

Luke 2:8-14

Matthew 2:9-10

The Collect and Readings for the Second Sunday of Advent

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power
and come among us,
and with great might succour us;
that whereas, through our sins and wickedness
we are grievously hindered
in running the race that is set before us,
your bountiful grace and mercy
may speedily help and deliver us;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honour and glory, now and for ever.
Amen

1st Reading: Isaiah 40.1-11;

Psalms 85.1-2,8-13;

2nd Reading: 2 Peter 3.8-15a;

Gospel Reading: Mark 1.1-8

St Guthlac's Church Family News

Praying for the World: This week please pray for those who are losing hope in situations of terrible suffering and challenge. Pray especially for those in Gaza, Israel and the rest of Palestine, who are tempted to think that violence is the only way ahead. Pray that they will be turned to the way of peace as well as justice, through the inspiration of the kindness and fragility of other human beings.

Praying for the Church: With others across our Diocese, please pray this week for the people and leaders of the churches in the Deanery of Sparkenhoe East, including Groby & Ratby, Glenfield & Newtown Linford, and Anstey & Thurstaston with Cropston (led by our former curate, Matthew Gough). Please pray that all these churches would have true wisdom in the use of their resources and their buildings and in the callings of their people.

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 – **Stoughton Road.**

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

Thanks: I would like to thank all my friends for their cards, good wishes and prayers of support. It means so much. I am making slow but steady progress.

With love, June Ardley

More Thanks: On Wednesday 8th November 2023, I organised a Charity Dinner for the Leicester Samaritans. 49 of us met up at the Taste Restaurant in Leicester College. Michael Gasper said a welcome and the Revd Janet Gasper said grace. We then sat down to a delightful meal served by the students. They were friendly and worked hard and that added to a lovely atmosphere.

I was supported by so many people from St Mary's and St Guthlac's Churches and so many in the community. The total raised was **£575**. Thank you for those who donated. I was so happy with the result.

Molly Clarke

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

There will be **NO Oasis on Wednesday 27th December**. Oasis will meet on all other Wednesday afternoons in December and January.

"A Brighter Building" fundraising Update.

A VERY big thank-you to everyone who has pledged and donated to our decorating project. Our target is £20000 and so far, including Gift Aid, we have reached just over **£15000**, an incredible result in only just 2 months. Keep the donations coming and before long we will be able to start to Brighten our Building. *David Hunt, Treasurer*

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.

Choir for the Service of Nine Lessons & Carols

If you would like to join us to sing at our Service of Nine Lessons & Carols on Wednesday 20th December, please speak to Janet Edwards or join us on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm. Thank you.

Make your Christmas Greetings go further. As in previous years, members of the congregation may like to make a donation to Bishop Christopher's Malawi charity instead of exchanging Christmas cards with one another. A large card for everyone to sign is in the welcome area together with a box for donations. Thank you.

EcoTip for December

Recycle right this Christmas (and beyond!) Since more waste ends up in landfill over Christmas than during the rest of the year, it's a great time of year to review and improve your own recycling set up at home. Different boroughs offer different recycling provisions, but you can find out exactly what you can recycle at home by entering your postcode here: recyclenow.com/recycling-locator

Mothers' Union Fellowship

Our next meeting is on **Tuesday, 12th December** in the Lounge from 1.30pm - not our usual fourth Tuesday which is Boxing Day. You will remember that we said that we would have a "Bring and Share" lunch. I will supply some drinks. LP

Come and join us at
St. Guthlac's Christmas Fayre

Saturday 9th December 9:45 am – 1:00 pm

St Guthlac's Church, Holbrook Rd, Knighton LE2 3LF

CAKES

PRESERVES

JEWELLERY

TOMBOLA

GIFTS

WREATHS

**CHRISTMAS
STALLS**

**CHILDREN'S
KNITWEAR**

Free entry

Refreshments

Live Music

**Cash and Card payments
accepted**

Wanted for Christmas Fayre please: Homemade cakes will be very welcome, please bring on the day of the fayre. Thank you.

Carols on the Corner. 19th December 6:45pm. Come along and join the local community as we sing a few carols on the corners around South Knighton. Starting at 6:45pm outside Withers Salon on the corner of Knighton Church Road and South Knighton Road, we'll be back at St Guthlac's by about 7:30pm for some refreshments. All are welcome. Dress for the weather and consider bringing a torch to make reading the carols sheets easier. Look forward to seeing you there.
Steve

Open Hands donations: A very big thank you to all who have so generously donated bedding, curtains, towels and kitchen equipment to Open Hands. They are so very grateful for everything and have been overwhelmed by your generosity. Let's pause the collections during December, then when you all start your Spring Cleaning activities in January. I'll be in touch again for items which are much needed by this local charity. Margaret Bonney

Ed: Instead, please give below!

Open Hands donations: Nativity Gift Service on 10th Dec 10.30am. This year we would again very much welcome your donations for Open Hands, who are continuing to provide much needed support for people in need here in Leicester. Please see next page for the items which are being requested. Please note that the date of our collection means that we would not meet Open Hands' deadline for receiving Christmas foods and treats, so we are not asking for these to be brought this year. Our donations of more basic items will be very welcome to keep supplies available to clients of Open Hands in the New Year. Your donations can be brought before 10th Dec if this suits you better. Thank you.

Food



Urgent



Fully Stocked



Tinned Fruit



Dry Pasta



Jar Sauce



Vegetarian Meal



Meat Meal



Cereal



Tinned Tomatoes



Tinned Vegetables



Tinned Pulse Beans



Dried Pulse Beans



Tinned Fish



UHT Milk



Jams/Spreads



Biscuits



Rice



Squash



Tinned Soup



Flour



Pasta/Noodle Pot



Instant Coffee



Bread Delivery Only



Fridge/Freezer Items Delivery Only



Sugar



Small box of tea bags

Toiletries



URGENT



Fully stocked



Face Cloth



Shampoo



Conditioner



Mens Shower Gel



Ladies Shower Gel



2-in-1 Shampoo and Conditioner



Shaving Products



Men's Deodorant



Baby wash/shampoo



Nappy Bags & Wipes



Bar Soap



Pump action soap



Ladies Deodorant



Sanitary Towels



Adult Toothpaste

CONTACT DETAILS

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

0116 2704268 or 07919 262 399
(rest day normally Friday)

Curate: Revd Cecilia Adjaje

Revd Aphro McCullough

Revd Janet Gasper

Reader: Fiona Wingate

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

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

St. Guthlac's Services

Sunday at 10.30am

10 th December	AAW Nativity Gift service	Tina Jarvis & Revd Cecilia Adjadje
17 th December	Eucharist	Revd Janet Gasper
24 th December	Morning Prayer	Fiona Wingate
31 st December	NO SERVICE AT ST. GUTHLAC'S	

OR ST. MARY'S

Every Thursday at 9.30am Holy Communion

Every Tuesday 9.30am at St. Mary's Holy Communion

Virtual Compline 8.00pm Wednesday evenings

There will be **NO Compline on Wednesday 20th December**. There will be virtual Compline services on all other Wednesdays in December and January at 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 #

Grow in your faith this Advent: During the busy-ness of Christmas preparations, it's easy to lose sight of what the season is all about. We can keep our focus and grow in our faith, however, if we take some time together to look at the themes of Advent. This year we are running a short, four week Advent group, to give us exactly this opportunity. We will meet on Wednesday mornings, from 10.30 - noon, in the 'Warm and Welcome' room (the Cottage Room) of the Parish Centre. Each week we'll start with tea/coffee and biscuits before discussing one of the traditional themes of the season: Hope, Joy, Peace, and Love. Please do join us whenever you can—we start on 29th November, and will be led by Revd Janet.

St Guthlac's Church:

Advent & Christmas Services and Events

Advent midweek Communion: Each Thursday, at **9.30am** Our midweek Communion service will have an Advent theme, and help to keep us focussed on our personal and spiritual preparation for Christmas celebrations.

Christmas Gift Service: Sunday 10th December 10.30 am
An interactive, informal service, suitable for all ages, that will help us look ahead to the birth of Jesus. Gifts and toys will be collected for people in need in Leicester, working together with the Open Hands charity.

Advent Reflections Group – week three: Wednesday 13th Dec. 10.30am –12 noon We give time to listen and then discuss the themes of Advent. The third of four special times to pause and be with God. – come any Wednesday you can. We meet in the Welcome Room at St Mary's Parish Centre on the corner of Brinsmead Road and Church Lane. Refreshments every week.

Advent Reflections Group – week four: Wednesday 20th Dec. 10.30am –12 noon (see above).

Traditional Carols and Readings: Wednesday 20th Dec. 7.30 pm A traditional service celebrating the birth of Jesus with Bible readings and poems, alongside Christmas carols and choral music, led by the St Guthlac's Church Choir.

Crib Service: Sunday 24th December 4.00 pm

Join us for an informal service, particularly suited for children, where youngsters are encouraged to help tell the Christmas story by placing the nativity figures in the stable.

First Communion of Christmas: Sunday 24th December 8.00 pm

Together we celebrate the miracle of Jesus' birth with Holy Communion, carols, readings and prayers.

Christmas Morning Communion: 10.30 am

We join together to celebrate Christmas Day with a service of Holy Communion for All.

Please Note: On Sunday 31st December there will be no service at St Guthlac's or St Mary's. A service of Sung Eucharist will be held, as usual, at the Cathedral, at 10.30am.

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%.



The City of Leicester Singers

**St James the Greater Church
London Road, Leicester
Saturday December 16th 2023
7.00 p.m.**

Conductor - Richard Archer
Accompanist - John Pye
Featuring
Leicester Recorder Players

Joy to the World



Supporting Parkinson's UK

Tickets £10 and £5 (free from choir members, at the door)
www.cityofleicestersingers.co.uk

COLS



A Very Warm Welcome



Drop in for a hot drink and a chat

Come and join us in our
Warm and Welcome Space,
at Knighton Parish Centre,
on the corner of Brinsmead Rd
and Church Lane (LE2 3WG)
Every Monday and Thursday afternoon
2.00—4.30pm.

Open to all — you'll have a very Warm Welcome!

Tickets available from Margaret Bonney

BENEFICE MAGAZINE

The next edition of the magazine will be published in mid-January. Please consider making a contribution on any subject that might be of interest and relevance to our readers in our two parishes. Take the opportunity to give notice of any events coming up in February and March.

I have travel commitments in January, so I have to be firm about the deadline for copy, which is **2 January 2024**. Please send your copy to stmaryknighton.magazine@gmail.com.

Thank you, Nigel Siesage (Editor)

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland - Prayers and statements on violence in Israel and Gaza

Churches and Christian organisations are responding with prayers and statements to the violence in Israel and Gaza:

O God of all

Of Abraham, Sarah, Hagar, Isaac, and Ishmael:

Our hearts are broken in pieces

at the suffering and murder of your people.

Our voices cry for peace and for justice.

Comfort those who grieve,

Console and heal the injured,

Be close to those in fear,

Restrain with your mighty hand those who perpetrate violence.

Send us your wisdom in all that we say and do,

That our voice may always seek justice, peace and security for all.

Amen.

Revd Peter Colwell, Deputy General Secretary, CTBI

CTBI Inter Faith Theological Advisory Group

The violence that we have witnessed in Israel and Gaza over the last two months has been very distressing. How should we respond as Christians and Churches who are committed to dialogue, reconciliation, justice and peace? The CTBI Inter Faith Theological Advisory Group has produced a short resource that offers reflection and pointers for discussion out of a context of ecumenical and inter faith relations: you can download “Torn in Two” – Responding to the Israel-Palestine Conflict, here:

<https://ctbi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Torn-In-Two-Responding-to-Conflict-in-IsraelPalestine-FINAL.pdf>

CHRISTIAN AID CHRISTMAS APPEAL

This year, Christian Aid are making their Christmas Appeal on-line, rather than through the traditional envelopes in pews. Please do follow-up the article below by visiting the website and donating as you can:

https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christmas-appeal?gclid=CjwKCAiAx_GqBhBOEiwAIDNAZiqKSjeCmRdW3Iq3q7ClcsoN-iyI8sFtTMgFrzrps1juNDjDq1B6cRoCr8kQAvD_BwE

Every woman deserves the chance to break out of poverty...

And in Bangladesh, young women have become a guiding light in their community - leading the way out.

Kurigram, in Northern Bangladesh, is one of the country's poorest and most disaster-prone regions. Life, here, is challenging. And for women, opportunities are even more limited.

Looking back, 21-year-old Kakoli Khatun, who lives in Kurigram, remembers, 'I didn't have any dreams a few years ago... To do something, I had to ask for money from my brothers and father.'

But now, Kakoli splits her time running a successful business, while studying for a college degree.

Kakoli has found community in an extraordinary group of gifted women – artisans and entrepreneurs – who've set up a business to sell their beautiful craftwork online. These women have become a powerful force change in their communities.

Your gift could enable someone like Kakoli to shape their future.

This Christmas, will you help young women shine?

Advent Read

The Promise and the Light by Katy Morgan



Advent reading helps us to bring our attention and reverence to the Bible story of Jesus' Nativity and the true meaning of the Christmas season. Some people study daily readings and commentaries or academic books about significant themes. If you don't have time to do this, why not read '*The Promise and the Light*' by Katy Morgan.

'*The Promise and the Light*' is written as a series of vivid and dramatic first-person accounts. It tells the stories of Mary, Joseph and Zechariah as they experience the events of the first Christmas. Written in a lively and engaging style it is suitable for all the family.

You can either borrow the book or buy a good quality secondhand copy. See Tina or Jean if you want a copy. We also have a variety of other Advent books you can borrow. If you have a good Advent or Christmas book that you do not need this year and you are happy to lend it to others, please bring it along to St Guthlac's.

What sort of book did you find helpful?

There will be an opportunity to meet to discuss this book and others you've read during Advent & Christmas on **Tuesday 9th January at 7.00pm** (with tea & cakes).