

ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



Parish Church of St Guthlac
Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

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



Sunday 17 December 2023
Third Sunday of Advent

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

The Collect and Readings for the Third Sunday of Advent

O Lord Jesus Christ,
who at your first coming sent your messenger
to prepare your way before you:
grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries
may likewise so prepare and make ready your way
by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just,
that at your second coming to judge the world
we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;
for you are alive and reign with the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen

1st Reading: Isaiah 61.1-4,8-11;

Psalms 126;

2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5.16-24;

Gospel Reading: John 1.6-8,19-28

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 for the people and leaders of the churches in Desford & Kirby Muxloe, Leicester Forest East & St Crispin Braunstone Town with Thorpe Astley, and Markfield, Thornton, Bagworth, Stanton under Bardon & Copt Oak.

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 – **Toller 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

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%.



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.

NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS Wednesday 20th December 7.30pm at St. Guthlac's. Take part in a joyful service celebrating the good news of Jesus' birth, told through bible readings and carols.

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.

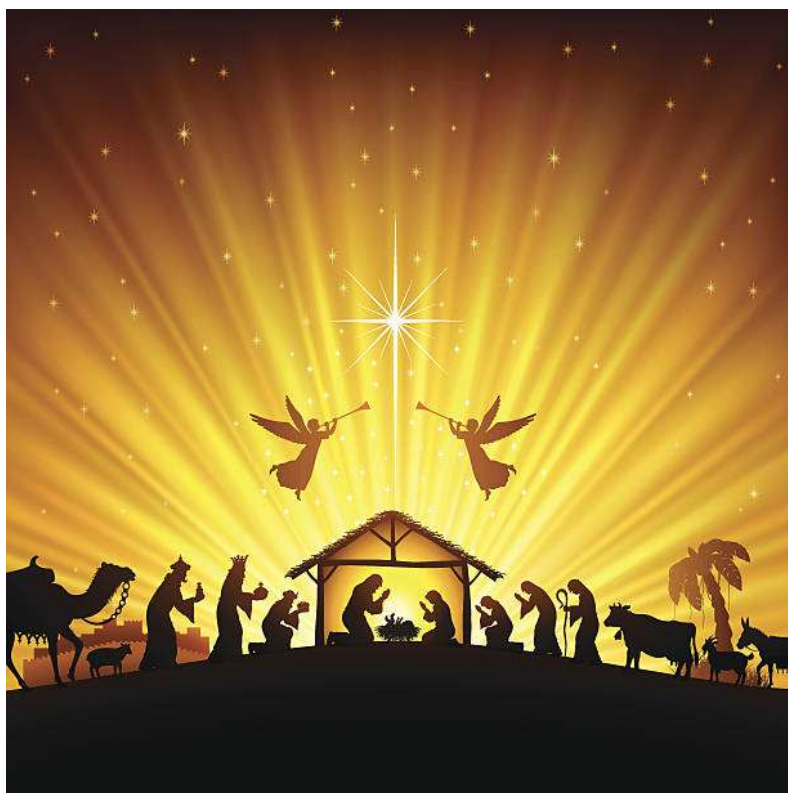
Please leave your donation as you come into the service. A steward or member of the congregation will take up the plate to the altar for all donations to be blessed during the 3rd / offertory hymn or at a suitable point in non-Eucharist services.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE A big thank you to all who helped at or supported the Christmas Fayre. There are still a few things left for sale in the welcome area. Details of amount raised to follow.

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



CONTACT DETAILS

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

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

Curate: Revd Cecilia Adjadje

(rest day normally Friday)

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

17th December Eucharist Revd Janet Gasper

24th December Morning Prayer Fiona Wingate

31st 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.

Advent Reflections Group – week four: Wednesday 20th Dec. 10.30am –12 noon The fourth of four special times to pause and be with God. We meet in the Welcome Room at St Mary's Parish Centre on the corner of Brinsmead Road and Church Lane. Refreshments.

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.

A Very Warm Welcome - please note that our Warm Welcome Room at St Mary's Parish Centre will be having a Christmas break and will re-open on Monday 8th January 2024.

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)



Tickets available from Margaret Bonney

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_GqBhBQEIwAIDNAZiqKSjeCmRdW3Ig3q7ClcsoN-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).