

ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



Parish Church of St Guthlac
Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

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



"Nativity" by He-Qi

Sunday 24 December 2023
Fourth Sunday of Advent
&
Sunday 31st December 2023
First Sunday of Christmas

sunday 24th December

This Sunday, Fiona Wingate will be leading a service of Morning Prayer at 10.30am. Fiona and Tina will be leading the Crib service at 4pm. The First Eucharist of Christmas will commence at 8pm and will be led by Revd Janet Gasper.

There is **NO SERVICE** at either church on **Sunday 31st December**.

The Collect and Readings for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

God our redeemer,
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of your Son:
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour,
so we may be ready to greet him
when he comes again as our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen

1st Reading 2 Samuel 7.1-11,16;

Magnificat;

2nd Reading: Romans 16.25-27;

Gospel Reading: Luke 1.26-38

The Collect and Readings for the First Sunday of Christmas

Almighty God,
who wonderfully created us in your own image
and yet more wonderfully restored us
through your Son Jesus Christ:
grant that, as he came to share in our humanity,
so we may share the life of his divinity;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen

1st Reading: Isaiah 61.10 - 62.3;

Psalms 148;

2nd Reading: Galatians 4.4-7;

Gospel Reading: Luke 2.15-21

Prayers from Churches Together for 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

ST GUTHLAC'S CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

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 – **Westminster Road & Woodland 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

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%.



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.

"Christmas Greetings from the Vicarage" - Adrian, Alison, Skye and Derry (and Dotty the dog) send the warmest Christmas greetings to all our friends at St Mary's, St Guthlac's and in the benefice - have a wonderful celebration and a peaceful New Year!"

CHRISTMAS FAYRE A big thank you to all who helped at or supported the Christmas Fayre. We raised over **£2,100** for church funds and in addition, **£241** for the mobile health clinic in Malawi, a wonderful result. There are still a few things left for sale in the welcome area.

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. We have raised **£95** to date. Thank you.

Updated message from June Ardley

I am now back home in my flat and continuing to progress slowly. I would like to wish all my friends at St. Guthlac's, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. June

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

"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.

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

24th December Morning Prayer Fiona Wingate

31st December NO SERVICE AT ST. GUTHLAC'S
OR ST. MARY'S

7th January All Age Worship

14th January Eucharist

Every Thursday at 9.30am Holy Communion

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

No service on Tues 26th Dec. or Tues 2nd Jan.

Virtual Compline 8.00pm Wednesday evenings

There is an online Compline service 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 #

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)

St Guthlac's Church: Advent & Christmas Services and Events

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.

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?qclid=CjwKCAiAx_GqBhBOEiwAIDNAZigKSjeCmRdW3lg3q7ClcsoN-iyI8sFtTMqFrzrps1juNDiDq1B6cRoCr8kQAvD_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.

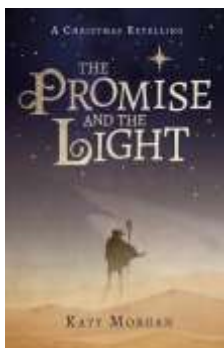
Kakoli has found community in an extraordinary group of gifted women – artisans and entrepreneurs – who've set up a business to sell their beautiful craftwork online. These women have become a powerful force change in their communities.

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).



HAPPY CHRISTMAS