

ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



Parish Church of St Guthlac
Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

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



Sunday 9th March 2025
First Sunday of Lent

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This Sunday at 10.30am, Fiona Wingate will lead an All Age Worship service.

The Collect and Readings for the Sunday next before 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

1st Reading: Deuteronomy 26.1-11;

Psalms 91.1-2,9-16

2nd Reading: Romans 10.8b-13;

Gospel Reading: Luke 4.1-13

Praying for each other this month: Please pray for other members of our church community especially, in March, those whose surnames begin with I, J, K and L. Pray for a strong sense of identity as followers of Jesus, with all the blessings and challenges that brings.

Praying for the World: In this time of disturbance, unpredictability and anxiety across the world, please pray for the Godly wisdom and sound leadership of all those in authority, and especially those who have power to change life for so many others, for better or for worse. Remembering that God is still on his throne, pray that Christians everywhere may trust in his continued good purposes for us all and seek to work for the good of everyone, particularly the vulnerable.

Praying for the Church: Please pray for the health and wellbeing of Pope Francis during his current illness. Please pray too for the Church of England and all those tasked with choosing a new Archbishop of Canterbury (see separate item). In our own diocese please pray, together with others in many churches, for the people and leaders of the parishes churches of the Deanery of Framland, and for the Roots intercultural worshipping community here in the City.

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, especially **Yolanda Courtney**, 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 – **Elms Road & Elms Court.**

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@stguthlacknighon.co.uk



The World Day of Prayer is always the first Friday in March. The service this year has been prepared by Christian women of the Cook Islands and will be used first on the international dateline in Samoa. As the earth rotates, the wave of prayer sweeps around the world, ending at sunset in American Samoa.

Our local services on 7th March are at 2pm at St. Mary's and 7.30pm at Stoneygate Baptist Church.

Yolanda Courtney: Yolanda's funeral will be at St Guthlac's on Tuesday 18th March at noon. The dress code is comfy and relaxed, maybe something 'jolly' and cheerful, jolly being a Yolanda word. There will be a private service at the crematorium at 1pm. This will be followed by the **reception from 2pm at Leicester Guildhall**, Guildhall Lane, LE1 5FQ, to which all are welcome, but **please let David Hunt know** if you will be attending the reception for catering purposes. Thank you.

There will be charity collection boxes at both St Guthlac's and Leicester Guildhall in aid of Dementia Research UK & Cats Protection Leicester and County Branch.

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

St. Guthlac's Services

Sunday at 10.30am

16 th March	Eucharist	Revd Janet Gasper
23 rd March	Morning Prayer	
30 th March	Mothering Sunday	NO SERVICE AT ST GUTHLAC'S
	Benefice Eucharist at St. Mary's	
6 th April	Eucharist	Revd Adrian Jones
Every Thursday at 9.30am		Holy Communion
Every Tuesday 9.30am at St. Mary's		Holy Communion

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.

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 #

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
stmarysknighton.magazine@gmail.com

FOR THE NEWSLETTER: Please send material to be included in the next newsletter by noon on 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>

St. Guthlac's Spring Fayre. Saturday 17th May 2025. 11:00am – 2:00pm

Spring will be soon be upon us, so our thoughts turn to our Spring Fayre. **Please put the date in your diaries.**

Nearer to the time we will be requesting donations of various items – details to follow.

We are hoping to have a format similar to last year and plants were particularly popular. If you are able to plant seeds, take cuttings or pot up surplus plants from your garden or your neighbours' that would be fantastic. We can provide plant pots if needed.

If you think you are able to help us on the day it would be great to hear from you!

Anne Hunt

Electoral Roll Every six years we are required to compile a completely new Electoral Roll and 2025 is one of those years. This means that everyone who wishes to be included on the Roll, whether they are on the current Roll or not, needs to make an application. Forms will be available from March 16th and must be returned by **APRIL 20th** at the very latest, in order for names to be included on the new Roll, which will take effect on April 27th.

It would be wonderful if all those eligible would join the roll, as the number on the roll directly impacts on the number of PCC members we are allowed to appoint. Thank you.

Jane Wright, Electoral Roll Officer

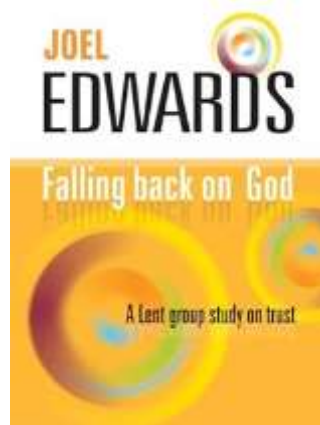
Getting the most out of Lent 2025

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. There are many ways in which you can make it a special time to nurture and grow your Christian faith, and I would encourage you to make the most of the season. Here are some ideas:

Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday**, which is the 5th March this year. Every year we have a special benefice Communion service at 7.30pm – in 2025 the service is at St Guthlac's. Christians have often prepared for this rather serious service by skipping a meal or reducing what they eat on Ash Wednesday – meaning that we become much more aware of our physical needs and wants, at the same time as considering our spiritual weaknesses, in the light of God's deep understanding and forgiveness. Our service includes the opportunity for "ashing" – when, if you wish, the priest marks each forehead with a small cross of ash made from last year's Palm crosses, as a sign of our turning back to God in repentance.

In Lent 2025 there will also be weekly opportunities for you to join other members of our churches in a **Lent discussion group** that will encourage and build your faith.

You can join the **Wednesday morning group**, at 10.30am in the small Cottage Room in the St Mary's Parish Centre, beginning on 5th March. We will be looking at "Falling back on God" – a Lent study for groups, following the theme of 'trust' in the Psalms, and written by Joel Edwards. There's no need to buy the book, which is about £8, but if you would like to then please let Adrian know.



OR you might prefer the **Thursday afternoon group**, which will meet at the home of Janet Edwards at 2.30pm, beginning on 13th March. The group will be led by Tina Jarvis and discussion will centre on sections of the book *“Wild Bright Hope: reflections on faith.”* Please see the separate item for more details.

OR you might like to join the **Thursday evening group**, that will meet in the Narthex of St Mary’s at 7.30pm, starting on 13th March, led by Revd Janet Gasper. This group will follow the Lent book "Healing Wounds" by Erik Varden.

Christians have traditionally used lent as a **time of discipline and training** – either by giving up something pleasurable so that more time can be given to prayer or Bible reading, or more money can be given away, *or* by taking on a task for the benefit of others. Perhaps this year you might consider reading a chapter a day (making 40 in all) of the Gospels of Mark and then Luke? Then you might also consider putting aside one tin or packet of food each day from Ash Wednesday onwards (not including Sundays) as a donation to our local foodbank? 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*

Letter from Bishops Martyn and Saju

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,
As we begin another Lent, we are writing with a brief request.

Prayer and Fasting

A number of people have written to us to suggest that, in view of all that has been happening in the Church of England, we should devote ourselves to prayer and fasting for the diocese and wider church. Initially, we were unsure about this – after all the safeguarding crisis is absolutely not about the church – it is first and foremost about victims and survivors of abuse. However, on reflection, we have concluded that it is right to invite the diocese to spend this season of Lent in prayer and fasting, acknowledging the multiple challenges that we face and the effect they are having on the morale and wellbeing of many people in our churches.

Our proposal is to ask at least one person to sign up for each day of Lent – you can do this by clicking

<https://forms.office.com/e/JEVdAuRBx6> and selecting a date.

How you spend the day is entirely up to you. You might choose to take an individual retreat, or you might choose to gather with others in your church, or you might simply mark the beginning and ending of the day in prayer. However you choose to do it, you might find the following themes helpful.

Monday: prayer for all victims and survivors of abuse, and for all those who work to make our churches safe for children and vulnerable adults.

Tuesday: prayer for all who are anxious or lonely, particular those who feel they can no longer be part of the Church of England.

Wednesday: prayer for the appointment of a new archbishop, and for all those dioceses seeking to appoint a new bishop, and for all bishops, priests, deacons and lay ministers that we may persevere in our calling.

Thursday: prayer for parish and diocesan finances, that God would supply all our needs, and make us generous in giving to others.

Friday: prayer for the *Living in Love and Faith* process that we may learn to live well together in our differences.

Saturday: prayer for all those exploring their vocation to ministry in the church – and for many more people to come forward in response to God's call.

Sunday: thanksgiving for all God's good gifts, particularly the gift of God's Son Jesus Christ – may we be formed in the character of Jesus Christ. Prayer for the Bishops' Lent Appeal for the Leprosy Mission.

May you have a blessed and holy Lent, and be ready to be renewed in joy at Easter.

Yours in Christ,

The Rt Revd Martyn Snow, Bishop of Leicester

The Rt Revd Saju Muthalaly, Bishop of Loughborough

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%.



<https://givealittle.co/c/b277f14e-1e30-43b5-ac10-c822f0a70286>



The new Archbishop of Canterbury

The Archbishop of Canterbury is a key leader within the Church of England and the wider Anglican Communion, which is made up of churches in over 165 countries. The Archbishop is also the Diocesan Bishop of Canterbury, supported by the Bishop of Dover.

The process to nominate the next Archbishop of Canterbury is underway, and we want to hear from you. Whether you are based in England or anywhere in the Anglican Communion, your views matter. This consultation invites you to share your thoughts on what qualities, values, and vision the future Archbishop should embody. This public consultation runs alongside consultation with key stakeholders from in and around the Church. Your feedback will play a vital role in shaping the decision-making process as we seek God's guidance for the next Archbishop of Canterbury.

Ways to submit your views

The consultation closes on **28 March**, so please ensure your response is submitted before then.

Online submission

Complete the online consultation form:

<https://www.cofe.io/ABC106Survey>

Postal submission

You can also send your input by post to the address below:

Canon Stephen Knott

The Archbishops' Secretary for Appointments

Canterbury Crown Nominations Commission (CNC)

Lambeth Palace

London

SE1 7JU

Why your input matters

This is a unique opportunity to influence the future of leadership within the Church. We encourage people and communities across the Anglican Communion to take part. Every response helps us better understand the qualities that the next Archbishop should have to meet the needs of the Church today and in the years to come. The themes that emerge through this consultation will sit alongside the 'Statement of Needs' produced by the Diocese of Canterbury, as well as other information provided by the National Church and Anglican Communion. This information will inform the Canterbury Crown Nominations Commission (CNC) of the needs of the mission of the Church of England and the wider Anglican Communion.

A prayer for the Canterbury CNC process:

If you pray, please do hold this important process of discernment – and all those involved – in your prayers:

*Heavenly Father,
shepherd of your Church,
send us a faithful pastor
to lead with wisdom, courage, and love,
proclaiming your Gospel,
celebrating the sacraments,
and guiding your people in unity and truth.
Strengthen your Church, we pray,
and direct us in your ways;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

Conserving Canterbury Cathedral



A lecture by

Jonathan 'Jo' Deeming

Surveyor to the Fabric of Canterbury Cathedral

Monday 17 March 2025 6.30pm

The University of Leicester

Sir Bob Burgess Learning and Teaching Centre, Freeman's Common

Admission free. Registration in advance required.

**For details and to register, visit the Leicester Lit&Phil website at
www.leicesterlitandphil.org.uk**

Lent Reflections Group: Wild Bright Hope

Thursdays 2.30 – 4.00

@

Janet Edward's Home



Wild Bright Hope gathers together a range of lively, up-and-coming writers who write passionately about what gives them hope. Chapters include 'A beautiful and messy awakening', 'A vision for hope in politics', 'Wild paths of peace' and 'A journey through a supper table'.

Wild Bright Hope urges us not only to embrace a more hopeful perspective but also considers how we might play a part in bringing in the kingdom of God. The book costs about £10.

Meetings begin on **Thursday 13th March up to and including 10th April.**

Thursday 13th 2.30 will focus on Chapter 1: Seeds of Unity

If you are not sure where Janet lives, want a lift getting there, need help getting the book or if you have any other questions please contact Tina churchwardens@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk

Free Film Night

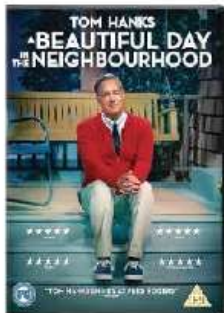
at St Guthlac's Church



Holbrook Rd

LE2 3LF

All welcome!



A Beautiful Day in the Neighbourhood

(Cert PG, 104 mins)

Tues 11th March 7.00pm

The film is based on a true story. Fred Rogers (Tom Hanks) is an American young children's TV presenter and Presbyterian minister who meets journalist Tom Junod (Matthew Rhys), a jaded cynical magazine writer. Tom has been reluctantly assigned to write a profile of Fred Rogers.....

**Free refreshments and the
chance to socialise**