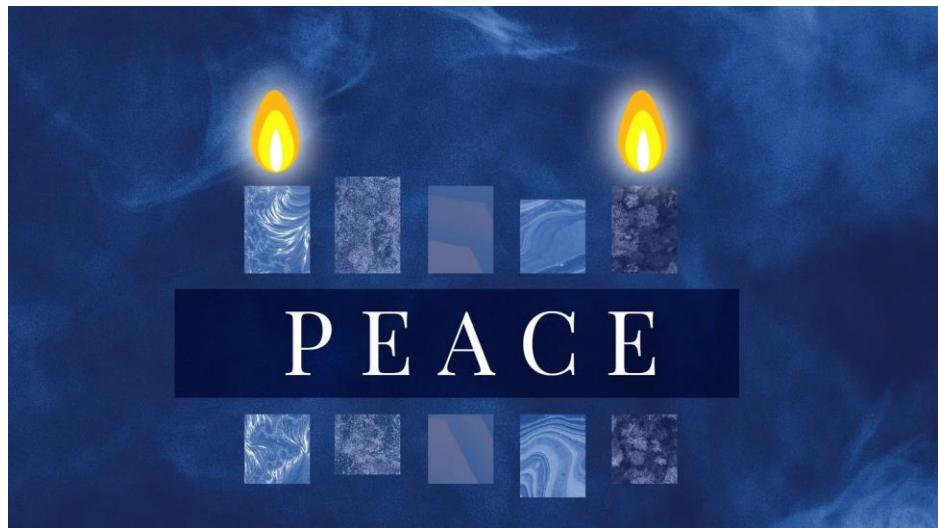


ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



Parish Church of St Guthlac
Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

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



**Sunday 7th December 2025
Second Sunday of Advent**

Sunday 7th December

This Sunday at 10.30am, Revd Aphro McCullough will preside and preach at a service of Holy Communion.

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 11.1-10;

Psalm 72.1-7,18-19;

2nd Reading: Romans 15.4-13;

Gospel Reading: Matthew 3.1-12

Praying for each other this month: December is the month when, together as a church family, we pray for those whose surnames begin with U, V, W, X, Y and Z! This group may include some friends but please also bring before God all of this alphabetical collection, even if you don't know their names. Pray for the fruit of the Holy Spirit to be seen in their lives as they come close to God during the festive celebrations.

Praying for the World: Once again, different parts of the world have been struck by natural disaster, made more severe by our human impact on the climate. Please pray for the victims of the

cyclone that has recently hit Indonesia - pray that they will receive all the help they need to get through these challenging days and to rebuild houses, communities and livelihoods.

Praying for the Church: As the Church listens to John the Baptist's call to repentance this week, please pray that we would all have a humble heart approaching 2026. There are many important issues for the national Church to resolve, and it seems that we are not good at setting priorities or simply getting on with things! Pray for our Archbishops, Bishops and General Synod - that they might find a sense of expectancy and restlessness in the year to come, that will spur us on and give us all encouragement. Locally, please pray with others across our diocese for the people and leaders of the churches in Leicester Forest East & St Crispin Braunstone Town with Thorpe Astley, for Markfield, Thornton, Bagworth, Stanton under Bardon & Copt Oak, and Broom Leys.

In particular please pray this week for **June Rich** and **Katherine Swanson**.

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**.

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

Dale McCullough

Aphro is pleased to report that Dale's health has improved. She would like to thank everyone for their prayers and support.

Minster Community proposal writing stage

Following the hard work that each of the seven working groups (WGs) undertook, the coordinating group used the summaries generated by the WGs to take to the Sensemaking day at St Hugh on 27th Sept. The process of sensemaking led to additional thoughts being added to the summaries. We also had the chance to discuss: the stresses and tensions, larger insights, opportunities and gaps.

The next stage in the process of forming a Minster Community is '**writing the proposal**'. Once drafted this will be circulated to PCCs for comment and eventually taken through various stages within the diocese before coming back to the PCC for approval.

To write the proposal we need a 'writing group'. This needs to be a group of no more than 4-5 people. With the existing members of the co-ordinating group, we need no more than 1 or 2 additional volunteers to join the writing group. The writing group volunteers will each need to write sections of the proposal, to comment on the drafts of the proposal as they are generated and to contribute to editing the proposal to get it to its final stage. This will involve meeting several times over the course of the 3 months Jan to March 2026.

If you have writing and editing skills and you feel you would like to volunteer to be a member of the writing group, **please contact Fiona.** Please can you give examples of how you use/have used your writing and editing skills. This is so that in the event that we have more than 2 volunteers we are able to match these up to existing skills and fill the gaps.

Thank you for your contribution to the formation of the MC3 Teal Minster Community. We would not have been able to get to this stage without your focus, commitment and help.

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

EcoTip for December: Celebrate a simpler and greener Christmas.

As Advent begins, let us turn our gaze to the true meaning of Christmas - God with us, Emmanuel. The humble birth of a child in a stable may seem distant from the way we celebrate today, but it offers a profound reminder of simplicity. This season, let's reflect on the story that we wish our actions and choices to tell. Consider A Rocha UK's blog on journeying towards a zero-waste Christmas arocha.org.uk/journeying-towards-a-zero-waste-christmas. May our hearts and our celebrations align with the simplicity and beauty of the Christmas story.

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.

Communion at Home: If you find that coming to church on Sundays or for our midweek services is just too difficult, you might appreciate the opportunity for receiving Communion at home occasionally. Please let Adrian know if this would be helpful and we'll see what can be arranged.

St. Guthlac's Services

Sunday at 10.30am

14 th December	Nativity Gift Service	Revd Adrian Jones & Fiona Wingate
21 st December	Eucharist	Revd Cecilia Adjadjie & Revd Janet Gasper
28 th December	NO SERVICE AT EITHER CHURCH	
4 th January	Eucharist	Revd Janet Gasper
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 17th December
or Christmas Eve 24th December.**

There will be virtual Compline services on all other Wednesdays in December and January at 8.00pm including Wednesday 31st December 2025. **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	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 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>

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>



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

Saturday 6th December 9:45 am – 1:00 pm

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

CAKES

PRESERVES

JEWELLERY

TOMBOLA

GIFTS

WREATHS

CHRISTMAS

CHILDREN'S

STALLS

KNITWEAR

Free entry

Refreshments

Live Music

Cash and Card payments
accepted

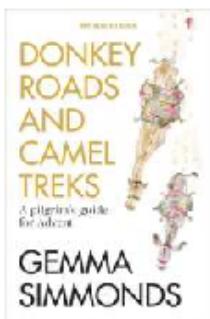
Advent resources 2025

If you are wondering how to observe the coming Advent season, you might like to consider using one of these books, an online Advent resource or maybe both!



Listening to the music of the soul

- The Archbishop of York's 2025 Advent book
- Bishop Guli Francis-Dehqani helps you explore Advent themes through the bible and her own personal experiences
- You will find hope and transformation in your journey towards Christmas
- Available to buy on line for around £11



Donkey roads and camel treks

- The BRF Advent book for 2025
- Gemma Simmonds helps you navigate the true meaning of Advent through the eyes of a pilgrim
- Take time out from the busyness of the season and be encouraged to grow in faith
- Available to buy on line for around £10

Copies of both books are available in the welcome area for you to look at. Please leave them for others to see.

Online reflections from the Church of England are also available:

- **Daily Advent reflections on the Everyday Faith app:** Daily 'O Come Emmanuel' reflections are available with audio on the Everyday Faith app (the new daily devotional app from the Church of England) from 1-24 December.
- **Twelve Joys of Christmas meditations:** These funny and profound reflections are also available by email and the Everyday Faith app (with audio). You can sign up for Joy of Christmas emails here [Sign up to The Joy of Christmas | The Church of England](https://www.churchofengland.org/joy-of-christmas)

Donations for Open Hands at our Gift Service on 14th Dec As usual, we will be collecting much needed food donations at our Gift Service, for distribution by Open Hands to our needy neighbours. Please note that Christmas treat items are **NOT** requested, as our collection will be made after the deadline of 30th November for Christmas hamper donations (although there are collection points for these in Sainsbury's and Asda in Oadby, and the London Rd Co-op, if you would like to add something before 30th Nov). The items pictured would be especially welcome at our gift service Thank you.

Open Hands 

SOME OF THESE ITEMS ARE
AVAILABLE TO BUY ON



Food

Needed For our Essentials Hub

URGENT



Tin of Soup



Tinned Fruit



Jar of Sauce



Vegetarian Meal



Meat Meal



Rice



Cooking Oil



Tinned Vegetables



Tinned Pulse Beans



Dried Pulse Beans



UHT Milk



Bottled Water and Soft Drinks



Jams/Spreads



Sugar



Tinned Tomatoes



Squash



Tinned Fish



Tea Bags Small
(40s and 80s)



Flour



Small Coffee



Cereal



Bags for Life



Biscuits



Pasta

Christmas Tree Festival 2025 Cards and Notelets

These exclusive cards with designs by members of our congregations will be available from mid-November. To order, sign on the list in St Mary's or email knightonctf24@gmail.com, stating the number of packs required. Please distinguish between cards and notelets.

Christmas Card Angel of the Annunciation by Sue Sansome (*after William Morris*)



Packs of 8 cards (6 ins x 4 ins with envelopes)
£6

Message inside reads

With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year

Notelets by Deborah Martin



Packs of 5 different designs (5ins x 5ins with envelopes)
£4

Blank inside

Proceeds go to the Christmas Tree Festival's two charitable objectives this year: the Bridge, Homelessness to Hope, and the Place of Peace in St Mary's churchyard.

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%.

Use your phone to scan the QR Code below and make a donation towards the work of St. Guthlac's Church. Thank you.



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

St Mary Magdalen:

Christmas Services and Events

Christmas Tree Festival: Sat. 29th November (10am-5pm) & Sun. 30th November (12.30pm—5pm)

Festival Carol Service: Sun. 30th November 5pm

Carols & Christingles: Sun. 14th December 4pm

Parish Carol Service: Sun. 21st December 6.30pm

Carols & Crib Service: Wed. 24th December 4pm

Midnight Communion: Wed. 24th December 11.30pm

Christmas Day: Thurs. 25th December 9am

Christmas Day Celebration:

Thurs. 25th December 10.30am

Please note: there will be no morning services on Sunday 28th December, but on Sunday 4th January they run as usual, at 9am and 10.30am.

St Guthlac's Church: Christmas Services and Events

St Guthlac's Christmas Fayre:

Sat. 6th December 9.45am – 1pm

Christmas Gift Service: **Sun. 14th December 10.30am**

Traditional Carols and Readings:

Wed. 17th December 7.30pm

Crib Service:

Wed. 24th December 4.00pm

First Communion of Christmas:

Wed. 24th December 8.00pm

Christmas Morning Communion:

Thurs. 25th December 10.30am

Please Note: On Sunday 28th December there will be no service at St Guthlac's.



CANTAMICI choir presents a Concert of Christmas music



St. Denys Church, Church Road, Evington, LE5 6FA
Saturday 6th December 2025 at 7pm

A large car park is available opposite the church!

The choir has toured the UK and Europe many times and has performed at St. Denys previously.

Tickets only £10 available at the door and includes quality refreshments.

Raffle tickets, for the chance to win quality prizes, will be available to purchase on the night.

All welcome!

For more information, Tel: 0116 271 3812 or 07803 828454



**st denys church
evington**