

ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



Parish Church of St Guthlac
Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

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



**Sunday 21st December 2025
Fourth Sunday of Advent
&
Sunday 28th December 2025
First Sunday of Christmas**

Newsletter 685

Sunday 21st December

This Sunday at 10.30am, Revd Cecilia Adjadjie & Revd Janet Gasper will preside and preach at a service of Holy Communion. Next Sunday, 28th December, there will be no service at either church. Please see page 13 for details of the Christmas services at both churches.

The Collect and Readings for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

O Lord Jesus Christ,
who at your first coming sent your messenger
to prepare your way before you: 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: Isaiah 7.10-16; **Psalm 80.1-8,18-20;**

2nd Reading: Romans 1.1-7; **Gospel Reading:** Matthew 1.18-25

The Collect and Readings for Christmas Eve

Almighty God,
you make us glad with the yearly remembrance
of the birth of your Son Jesus Christ:
grant that, as we joyfully receive him as our redeemer,
so we may with sure confidence behold him
when he shall come to be 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 7.1-5,8-11,16; **Psalm 89.2,20-27;**

2nd Reading: Acts 13.16-26;

Gospel Reading: Luke 1.67-79

The Collect and Readings for Christmas Day

Eternal God,
who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of
your one true light:
bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth,
to see the radiance of your heavenly glory;
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: Isaiah 9.2-7;

Psalm 96;

2nd Reading: Titus 2.11-14;

Gospel Reading: Luke 2.1-14(15-20)

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 63.7-9;

Psalm 148;

2nd Reading: Hebrews 2.10-18;

Gospel Reading: Matthew 2.13-23

Christmas Prayer Litany: "In This Small Place Made Glorious"

God of unimaginable love,
on the first Christmas you became one of us.

**We celebrate your love for every person
in every place and time.**

God of all humanity,
you offered your peace to anyone
who would be satisfied with your presence.

**We celebrate your peace in your Church
and accept your commission to share it in all the world.**

God of the shepherds,
you announced your arrival among us to the poorest, the most
humble.

**We celebrate your good news to each of us and to
everyone,
right here where we are.**

God of the manger,
you came to us through your Son in a small and simple place.

**We celebrate your presence with us this day
in this small place made glorious by your being in it.**

God of deliverance,
you came to be one of us in order to deliver all of us.

**We celebrate your protection and mercy
toward all who are sick or in trouble.**

God of birth,
when you became as we are,
you opened yourself to each of us,
no matter who or what we are.

**We celebrate this day your Kingdom
and that we are welcome in it right now and always.
Keep us close, now and in the life to come.**

God of Christmas,
bless us as we once again celebrate
your coming into your creation.

Amen.

~ written by Brad Offutt for the 2008 Christmas services at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Port Townsend, Washington. Posted on **In the Courtyard.** www.inthecourtyard.com

Praying for the Church: Please pray for our discipleship and all our journeys of faith this season. Give thanks for God's loving presence with us, and pray that those who are going through difficult times will know that God is 'hidden in the dark' with them.

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 all roads in the parish.

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

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.

Are you ready to confirm your faith in 2026?

As the New Year arrives on the horizon, you may be feeling that you'd like to take another step on your own journey in faith, or perhaps mark a return to a deeper experience of Christian faith and life in recent times. In the Anglican tradition, one way to confirm your faith in this way is a service of 'Confirmation', in which the Bishop asks for God's Holy Spirit to bring a special blessing to each person now moving forward in their Christian belief.

Towards the end of April, a Confirmation service will be held at Leicester Cathedral, and so now is the time to consider if 'being confirmed' is something you would like to do. Preparing for confirmation takes a few regular meetings with one of the clergy, as part of a small group, to consider the essentials of Christian belief and, in particular, how they have an impact on the way we live our daily lives – these meetings are based on discussion and friendship and there are no tests!

If you think that confirmation may be for you in 2026, then please have a word and find out more from Adrian, Cecilia, Janet or Aphro.

Twelve Joys of Christmas – It's easy to find that after the focus of the Big Day, the twelve days of Christmas that follow feel a little shallow. This year help is on hand through a small booklet called '*Twelve Joys of Christmas*'. Written by Nicholas Papadopoulos, Dean of Salisbury, this booklet gives us a short reading, reflection, prayer and challenge to grow, for each day from Christmas Day to Epiphany. You can find out more at www.cofe.io/TheJoyOfChristmas or you can buy a booklet for just £1 at the back of the Church – please put your money in the collection plate. This is an ideal New Year's Resolution! *Adrian*

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

28 th December	NO SERVICE AT EITHER CHURCH	
4 th January	Eucharist	Revd Janet Gasper
11 th January	All Age Worship	
18 th January	Eucharist	
Every Thursday at 9.30am		Holy Communion
Every Tuesday 9.30am at St. Mary's		Holy Communion

There will be no 9.30 am service on Thursday 25th December & Thursday 1st January at St. Guthlac's, and on Tuesday 30th December at St. Mary's.

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 07919 262 399

adrian.jones@zoho.com (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>

save the date!



**DIOCESE OF
LINCOLN**



Join the East Midlands Young Adults Pilgrimage to



August 1 - 9, 2026

For those aged 18-35, from across the East Midlands and beyond, with limited seats on the coach for those over 35! To find out more contact: revgough@gmail.com or clay.roundtree@lincoln.anglican.org

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>

Christmas Greetings from the Vicarage: A sincere 'thank you' to everyone who has been part of our Church community life this year, whatever part you've played. Life is rarely straightforward, but we share a trust that God is good, and a hope that His future for us, supporting each other, is a bright one, even when present circumstances are challenging.

"Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching."
(Hebrews 10.23-25)

We would like to wish all our friends in the Church family a very happy Christmas and a peaceful 2026.

Adrian, Alison, Skye and Derry

Christmas Greetings June Ardley is doing well and would like to wish all her friends at St Guthlac's a very Merry Christmas and a happy new year.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE A big thank you to all who helped at or supported the Christmas Fayre. We raised over **£2,300** for church funds and in addition, **£330** for the mobile health clinic in Malawi, a wonderful result. There are still a few things left for sale in the welcome area.

St Guthlac's Church:

Christmas Services and Events

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.

St Mary Magdalen:

Christmas Services and Events

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.

Coffee Morning



On Saturday 24th January 2026

From 10 - 12 noon

In St. Mary Magdalen Church

Stalls to include

Unwanted Christmas Gifts,

Cakes, Books, Jigsaws,

and a Raffle

Just come along

Everyone Welcome

Free Film Night

at St Guthlac's Church

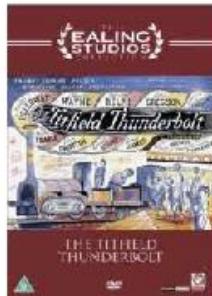


Holbrook Rd

LE2 3LF



All welcome!



The Titfield Thunderbolt

(Cert U, 80 mins)

Tues 13th January 7.00pm

Angered by British Rail's decision to close down their local branch line, a group of villagers make a bid to run the service themselves, making use of an antique locomotive liberated from a local museum. They are backed by a monied member of the community who is attracted by the lack of licensing hours on trains. This puts them into direct competition with the local bus company!

**Free refreshments and the
chance to socialise**



*HAPPY
CHRISTMAS*