

# ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



Parish Church of St Guthlac  
Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

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



**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2026**  
**Second Sunday of Christmas**

## **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January**

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

### **The Collect and Readings for the Second Sunday of Christmas**

Almighty God,  
in the birth of your Son  
you have poured on us the new light of your incarnate Word,  
and shown us the fullness of your love:  
help us to walk in his light and dwell in his love  
that we may know the fullness of his joy;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
Amen

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Jeremiah 31.7-14;

**Psalms 147.13-21;**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** Ephesians 1.3-14;

**Gospel Reading:** John 1. (1-9)10-18

**Praying for each other:** As we enter January, please begin afresh our cycle of prayers for each other by praying for all those in our church family and community whose surnames begin with A, B, C and D. Pray that a New Year will mean a growth in faith, hope and love for our friends.

**Prayers for the World:** As we start a New Year, please pray that there will be a sense of positive renewal and hope in the face of the major challenges all nations face: climate change, on-going conflicts, extremism, migration, and increases in both mental and

physical health issues. Pray for real willingness to work together to tackle these problems.

**Praying for the Church:** Please pray for all those of us in our diocese who are involved in the process of forming Minster Communities. 2026 will be a key year of decisions and all the PCCs will need the wisdom and discernment that God gives. Pray too for the clergy and other licensed leaders whose roles may be directly affected by these changes.

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](mailto:adrian.jones@zoho.com) or Jane [administrator@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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>

## **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](http://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](mailto:churchwardens@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk)

### **Eco Tip for JANUARY. Make 'enjoying nature' your priority.**

From bird watching to writing about or drawing something that inspires you in nature, growing your own fruit or vegetables, or exploring an area of outstanding natural beauty in the UK, be sure to fall in love with nature in a new way this coming year and allow it to lead your thoughts towards God our Creator. Further ideas can be found at [arochoa.org.uk/ideas-to-enjoy-nature/](http://arochoa.org.uk/ideas-to-enjoy-nature/)

**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.

**Christmas thanks** - Many thanks for all your cards gifts and good wishes to us all this Christmas. I'm praying that 2026 brings peace and harmony for us all. Adrian and family.

**Make your Christmas Greetings go further.** £150 has been raised for Malawi. Thank you.

## **St. Guthlac's Services**

Sunday at 10.30am

11<sup>th</sup> January                      All Age Worship

18<sup>th</sup> January                      Eucharist

25<sup>th</sup> January                      Morning Prayer

1<sup>st</sup> February                      Eucharist

Every Thursday at 9.30am                      Holy Communion

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

## **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 #

## **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 3<sup>rd</sup> / offertory hymn or at a suitable point in non-Eucharist services.

## CONTACT DETAILS

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

07919 262 399  
(rest day normally Friday)

**Curate: Revd Cecilia Adjadje**  
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(rest day normally Friday)

**Revd Aphro McCullough**  
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**Revd Janet Gasper**  
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**Reader: Fiona Wingate**  
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**Churchwardens:**  
**David Hunt**  
**Tina Jarvis**

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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](mailto: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>

## 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 27<sup>th</sup> 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.



***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](mailto:revgough@gmail.com) or [clay.roundtree@lincoln.anglican.org](mailto:clay.roundtree@lincoln.anglican.org)*

### ***Embrace the Difference: Unconscious Bias Training Wednesday 14 January, 6pm-9pm – St Martins House***

A training workshop to help us examine our biases, understand how they become embedded, and explore God's design in diversity. Come and be equipped with knowledge and skills to help you better engage with people from all cultures.

*This training is free and a meal will be provided.*

Sign up by emailing the Intercultural Worshipping Communities project administrator: [Dinta.Chauhan@LeicesterCofE.org](mailto:Dinta.Chauhan@LeicesterCofE.org)

***Bishop's Chaplaincy Lecture - Lord Alan Beith***  
***Wednesday January 28, 5.30pm-8pm – St Andrew's, 53***  
***Jarrom Street, Leicester***

Law lies at the heart of the Christian and Jewish traditions, and underpins the British constitution itself. Yet today, critics call it 'rule by judges' and others argue that unjust laws need not be obeyed. In a world of shifting values and contested authority, does law still matter?

Join us for the Bishop's Chaplaincy Lecture, delivered by Lord Alan Beith, who will explore the place of law in public life, the tensions it now faces, and why it continues to matter.

Lord Alan Beith served as the Liberal Democrat MP for Berwick-upon-Tweed from 1973 until 2015, when he entered the House of Lords. He was the Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrats for 17 years and served variously as the Party's spokesperson for Constitutional Affairs, Treasury Affairs, and for the Lord Chancellor's Department. He has been a Methodist circuit lay preacher for 60 years, and founded the Historic Chapels Trust, which cares for Nonconformist and Roman Catholic churches and chapels which are no longer used for worship.

Open to all, the lecture is followed by a Q&A session. [Book a free spot here](#)

# *Coffee Morning*



*On Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> 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*

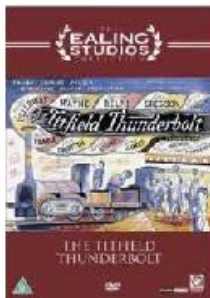
*Everyone Welcome*

# **Free Film Night** **at St Guthlac's Church**

**Holbrook Rd**

**LE2 3LF**

**All welcome!**



## **The Tittfield Thunderbolt**

**(Cert U, 80 mins)**

**Tues 13<sup>th</sup> 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**