

ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



CHURCH OF ST GUTHLAC

Holbrook Rd, Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF
<http://www.stguthlac-knighton.co.uk/>

Minister: Revd Richard Bonney 2125677
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Churchwardens:

David Hunt

Tina Jarvis

4 January 2015 Epiphany
10.30 am All Age Worship

WELCOME TO ANY OF YOU VISITING US FOR THE FIRST TIME!

Please announce yourself to one of our welcomers and sign in the welcome book so that we get to know you by name! Also, please introduce yourself to Revd Richard or one of the Churchwardens. St Guthlac's is YOUR local church. We feel part of the local community and we hope that you will feel part of the church community. **We have a welcome sheet:** please ask for one if it is not handed to you on arrival.

Newsletter No 136

FORTHCOMING SERVICES AND MEETINGS

Wednesday 7 January, 7.30 pm	Choir Practice
Thursday 8 January, 9.30 am	Holy Communion
Thursday 8 January, 6.45pm	Knighton Players rehearsal
Friday 9 January, 11 am	Memory Cafe
Sunday 11 January, 10.30 am	Communion for All: Baptism of Christ

PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL We have been asked to keep **Bill Ibbs** and **Jean Arnison** in our prayers. Please also pray for the souls of **James Mason**, **Malcolm Richardson** and **David Hogg**. For other prayer requests, please speak to the Revd Richard.

EBOLA CRISIS APPEAL (DISASTERS EMERGENCY COMMITTEE AND CHRISTIAN AID) Christian Aid envelopes are in the pews for you to support this appeal. The explosive spread of Ebola in West Africa is not just killing the infected but ripping apart health services, devastating communities, and destroying people's ability to support themselves. More than 4500 people have died and over 10,000 have been infected by the Ebola virus. The outbreak is not only a health crisis, but also a humanitarian crisis with global dimensions.

COVER IMAGE from:

<http://www.believingoutloud.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/resolutions.jpg>

THE REVD RICHARD WRITES I expect that some of us have used the period of Christmas and the New Year to make some sort of New Year Resolution: we will do XXXX differently this year, won't we? The cover image reminds us that all too often this spirit of resolution doesn't endure for long, and we forget what it was that we decided to do during the first week of the new year.

We probably can't afford to do this as individuals. We certainly can't afford to do so as a Church. In the US there is an organization called 'Smart Church Management' ('not an oxymoron'). I was reading their booklet entitled 'Are we there yet? A Road Map for Implementing Church Strategy'. The Bible is clear that God has a plan. The complexities of His plan are more than our human minds can comprehend, but he has things under control. An important part of God's plan involves establishing churches that will train up His people to do the work of His ministry. In their perspective, 'the discipleship and ministry rests on the pastors, but the administrative side of the church rests on those who have been given the responsibility to manage church resources (cf. 1 Corinthians 12: 28, 'gifts of healings, helps, administrations...'). God gives the church resources – people, time, money – and people give of their time to volunteer and tithe on their income. So managing God's resources is a huge responsibility that should not be taken lightly.' 'Every Church', they continue, 'has a part of play in God's plan and should take time in prayer to seek God's vision for their particular body of believers and work toward seeing that vision come to pass.' The Church's vision statement gives everyone a shared goal. In developing this, we ask questions such as Who

are we? Where does God want to us to go? What do we want this Church to look like? Where do we want to be 1, 5, 10 years from now? Once we have vision and mission statements, these become the cornerstone for decision making. Strategic plans help to map out the steps process and timeline to get from the present state of the organization to the desired future state. The strategic planning process identifies what needs to be done (vision and strategic plan), how it gets done (organizational goals) and who will do it (volunteer job descriptions). This structured process helps to ensure the vision is implemented throughout the entire organization.

Goals are important: they provide direction, clarify job roles, give volunteers something to strive for, and help make the vision attainable. It is suggested that goals should be set annually (and why not at the beginning of the New Year, as a form of Church New Year Resolution)? This gives the Church the same direction for the next twelve months and if there is a group of people with responsibility for ensuring goal completion (let us say, the PCC), then it is likely that the goals may be attained. But one extra thing is needed.

Many hands make light work: we need to increase the number of church volunteers by a significant amount (say 20%) in order to decrease the excessive burden placed on some of our most active volunteers. **The tasks that we do need to be listed and broken down into manageable units so that specific jobs do not look too daunting and thus serve to discourage new volunteers from coming forward.** We also need to make it clear that no new volunteer will be left without a mentor to ensure that they know what they are doing. **We also need to place a time limit on how long people are asked to serve on specific tasks so that they do not give the appearance of becoming life sentences,** again serving as a dreadful warning to people not to volunteer their time and talents. **The ‘many hands make light work’ initiative should become our absolute priority in 2015 because on its success depends our future as a volunteer Church.**

Remembering those who are hungry

‘Bread for myself,’ wrote a great Russian thinker [Nikolai Berdyaev (1874-1948)] ‘is a physical question; bread for my neighbour is a spiritual question.’ My neighbour’s lack of bread, my neighbour’s struggle for the means of life, is spiritually speaking my question. I am not being fed if my neighbour is struggling, nor is my neighbour fed when I am hungry. – *Dr Rowan Williams, Chair of Christian Aid and Master of Magdalene College, Cambridge.*

‘Lord, **when did we see thee hungry, and fed thee;** thirsty, and gave thee drink? And when did we see thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and covered thee? Or when did we see thee sick or in prison, and came to thee? And the king answering, shall say to them: Amen I say to you, **as long as you did it to one of these my least brethren, you did it to me**’ (Matthew 25:37-40).

Keeping in touch with the EARS model. I have asked for a number of copies of Chris Howson's article to be placed on the table at the back of the Church. In this he describes in more detail the EARS model, which could be of considerable interest and potential importance in developing and shaping the future ministry of St Guthlac's. Please take a copy and reflect on it, as well as making suggestions about possible changes for our consideration. The slips and pencils are also on the table at the back of the Church for your suggestions.

PARISH WALK TODAY, 4th January, starts from St Guthlac's Church at **2pm**. A circular walk about 4 miles mostly on footpaths and pavements (one short stretch which will be muddy). Refreshment stop included! Simon Britton

CHURCH URBAN FUND. Anyone still wishing to make a donation in lieu of Christmas cards is asked to do so **today** so that we can forward the donations to CUF. Thank you.

OPEN HANDS Thank you for the generous donations made to Open Hands at the nativity gift service.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE Thank you to everyone who helped or supported this event. We have raised in excess of **£1030**.

KNIGHTON REMEMBERS WORLD WAR I EXHIBITION for further information see <http://www.leicester.anglican.org/blogs/details/knighton-remembers-exhibition>

WARNING OF TELEPHONE SCAM Parcel Delivery Service. Royal Mail and the Trading Standards office are making people aware of the following scam: A card is posted through your door from a company called PDS (Parcel Delivery Service) suggesting that they were unable to deliver a parcel and that you need to contact them on 0906 66119** (a premium rate number, partially censored). If you call the number and you start to hear a recorded message you will already have been billed £315 for the phone call. If you do receive a card with these details, then please contact Royal Mail Fraud on 020 7239 6655. For more information, see the Crime Stoppers website (external). Please be aware that the premium rate number may change but nevertheless please do not call any number stated on a card from PDS. Please make sure your colleagues, family, friends and neighbours are aware of the above.

We wish all our readers a very Happy New Year. If you are travelling, then please travel safely!

FOR THE NEWSLETTER Please contact us at the latest by 9 am Friday for material to be included in the next weekly newsletter. administrator@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk

