

ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



CHURCH OF ST GUTHLAC

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Churchwardens:

David Hunt

Tina Jarvis

**11 January 2015 The Baptism of Christ
10.30 am Communion for All**

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 137

FORTHCOMING SERVICES AND MEETINGS

Monday 12 January, 7pm

Wednesday 14 January, 7.30 pm

Wednesday 14 January, 7.30 pm

Thursday 15 January, 9.30 am

Thursday 15 January, 6.45pm

Sunday 18 January, 10.30 am

Sunday 18 January, 6.30 pm

Memory Café advisory group meeting

Choir Practice (entry via choir vestry)

South Leicester Christian Partnership meeting (Welcome Area)

Holy Communion

Knighton Players rehearsal

Matins

SLCP Christian Unity service at St Mary Magdalen

PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL We have been asked to keep **Bill Ibbs** and **Jean Arnison** in our prayers. Please also pray for the soul of **Rachel Stevens** who has died recently and keep **Bishop Tim and Wendi** in your prayers. For other prayer requests, please speak to the Revd Richard.

EBOLA CRISIS APPEAL (DISASTERS EMERGENCY COMMITTEE AND CHRISTIAN AID) Christian Aid envelopes are available 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. Last week in the Newsletter I discussed the importance of our strategy for recruiting more volunteers: **Many Hands make Light Work. I have asked for copies of this document to be made available on the table at the back of church: please read this very carefully because it is of central importance for the success of our church.**

Believers helping each others' belief

Today I want to talk about us helping each other along our spiritual journey. I would be very interested in hearing people's responses to this suggested strategy. An American minister in a small church writes: 'After a few hit-and-miss attempts, our church has discovered a simple five-step process that can work for any small church. And it looks suspiciously similar to what Jesus, Paul and many other early church leaders did.'

1. Meet With Every New Believer.

‘Pastors of big churches can’t do this. It’s one of the advantages of pastoring a small church—the personal touch.’

2. Determine How They Learn and Grow.

‘I recently met with a new believer who had no Bible knowledge whatsoever. I learned about his schedule, his temperament and his learning style. I determined the best way for him to start growing in his newfound faith was to read the Gospel of John. I told him to start by reading one chapter a day, then chew on it. If he wanted to re-read the same chapter the next day, he could do that until he was ready to move to the next chapter.’

‘When I followed up on a Sunday morning about 10 days later, he was only on John 5. “I sat with John 3 for a few days,” he told me with great joy. “That conversation Jesus had with Nicodemus was really good!” I smiled. He was getting it. God’s Word was doing its work. Since then, he and I catch up regularly. He read through Acts the same way. Now he’s moving slowly through Romans. I answer questions when he needs help. I’ve never met anyone else for whom I’d recommend that style of discipleship. But it’s the best way for him, for now. People learn and grow in different ways. Let’s use the personal touch we have as a small church to help people in the way that suits them best.’

3. Connect Them With a Mature Believer and the Right Resources.

‘Right now, there are a handful of new believers in our church who meet regularly with mature believers to learn, grow and be discipled. Each one of them does it differently, depending on their circumstance. One of those discipleship/mentoring relationships is between two people who enjoy book clubs. So that’s what they do. I recommend a good Christian book to suit their needs. They read it at the same pace then meet once a week to talk about it. I take a few moments about once a month after Sunday service to hear how they’re doing. When they finish reading one book, I recommend the next one. They’re both growing in faith and their relationship.’

4. Help Them Plug Into an Active Ministry That Utilizes Their Gifts.

‘This is the most neglected step of most discipleship programs. We fill people’s heads with Bible knowledge but don’t activate that knowledge within real-world ministry. This is dangerous for the believer and the church.’

‘The longer I pastor, the more convinced I am that the number-one reason for pastoral stress in the church is people with a lot of Bible knowledge who are doing little—if any—practical, hands-on, outside-the-church-walls ministry.’

‘It’s never the new believers that drive us crazy; it’s the know-it-all saints. They always seem to know how to run the church but never lift a finger to help do it. Then they leave because they’re “not being fed.” The best solution to that? Teach people how to pick up a spoon and feed themselves! The Apostle Paul taught us

that “knowledge puffs up, but love builds up”. That’s what happens when we cram bible knowledge into people’s heads without helping them activate it with their hands and feet.’

5. As People Mature, Call On Them to Start Leading Others.

‘Discipleship is never finished. Even the most mature believer has something to learn. The best way for a mature believer to keep learning is to teach others as they do ministry together.’

I would be interested to hear of people’s reactions to these suggestions.

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.

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.

SOUTH KNIGHTON COMMUNITY EVENTS invite you to an evening of song. This will be led by David Toseland and will be held in Holbrook Hall on **7th Feb**. Everyone welcome. Ann Allsop

BABY EQUIPMENT NEEDED for prospective grandparents! Richard and Margaret are expecting a happy event in May - birth of 1st grandchild, all being well. If anyone has any of those many large items needed by small babies, eg cots, pushchairs, high chairs, which they no longer need, please think of moving them on to us! We would be most grateful for any offers. 2125677

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**. The Fair Trade stall raised £180.

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

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