

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

25 January 2015 Conversion of St Paul

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.

FORTHCOMING SERVICES AND MEETINGS

Tuesday 27 January, 7.30 pm	PCC (Welcome Area)
Wednesday 28 January, 7.30 pm	NO Choir Practice
Thursday 29 January, 9.30 am	Holy Communion
Thursday 29 January, 6.45pm	Knighton Players rehearsal
Sunday 1 February, 10.30 am	All Age Worship

PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL We have been asked to keep **Chris Bean** and **Revd George Dunseth** in our prayers. Please also pray for the souls of **Frank Nicholl**, **Sandie Funnell-Bailey** and **Rachel Stevens** who have 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.

CHURCH URBAN FUND. £363 has been raised in lieu of sending Christmas cards. 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**. The Fair Trade stall raised **£180**.

THE REVD RICHARD WRITES **Can we walk by on the other side? Should we walk by on the other side? I believe that as a Church we should all reflect on, and commit to, the 2014 Sanctuary Summit Communiqué otherwise known as The Birmingham Declaration (15 Nov. 2014).** It reads: ...We can no longer just watch in silence as millions flee Syria only to be warehoused in refugee camps and thousands drown in desperate attempts to reach the Western world across the sea. This is a matter of life and death. We commit ourselves to work together to ensure that our great country continues to be a safe place for those fleeing persecution and a welcoming place for all people who come here to study, work or join family and who will work alongside us to build a just and fair society.

We commit ourselves today to a core set of principles and 'asks' that will strengthen our collective efforts to protect the rights of strangers amongst us. Through these commitments we seek accountability and justice. We are asking our Parliament and our Government to take necessary steps to deliver that change. These commitments tackle the causes and consequences of the very vulnerable position refugees and migrants find themselves in. They are within the scope of the international protection framework that Britain has been signatory to

for decades. Recognising that we all have a role to play, we are asking our Government to do all they can to ensure that:

1. All asylum seekers, refugees and migrants should be treated with dignity and respect. We ask that the debate on immigration is conducted with care for the dignity of people who are vulnerable, who do not have a voice in the public domain and who have to suffer the consequences of inaccurate and inflammatory language. We appeal to all politicians and to the media to conduct the pre-election debate responsibly, sticking to the facts and bearing these principles in mind.

2. A fair and effective process to decide whether people need protection should be in place. We ask for a high standard of decision making on refugee protection cases. After years of very public failure, we demand a system that is fair and efficient and ensures protection for those who need it. People should have access to good quality legal advice and representation during the process, publicly funded when they are unable to pay. Not everyone is entitled to refugee status in Britain, but they are entitled to a fair process to determine if they are in need of protection.

3. No one should be locked up indefinitely. We seek an end to the indefinite detention of asylum seekers and migrants. No one should be deprived of their liberty with no judicial oversight. Indefinite detention is unacceptable, costly and ineffective. We ask for a reasonable time limit to be introduced and other safeguards put in place to ensure the lawfulness and fairness within the system.

4. No one should be left sick or destitute in our society. It cannot be right that people are left destitute in modern Britain, banned from working but denied support. Until they are granted protection and can work, asylum seekers should receive sufficient support to meet their essential living needs while in the UK. We are asking that those whose cases have taken more than six months to resolve, or who have been refused but are unable to return home, should receive permission to work. All of them should be allowed free access to NHS services

5. We should welcome the stranger and help them to integrate. People should integrate, and we should help them to do so. We are asking for support for asylum seekers to be welcomed and befriended on arrival. To help them integrate and participate in the local community they should be able to learn English, with free tuition provided where needed.

We make a commitment to take action on these principles and 'asks' together and translate them into collaborative actions in our organisations and communities locally and nationally in the run up to the next general election and beyond. We commit ourselves to work strategically together. We will come back next year to check our progress against these principles and 'asks' and make plans for what needs to be done in the future, together.

<https://sanctuarysummit2014.wordpress.com/the-birmingham-declaration/>

KNIGHTON REMEMBERS WORLD WAR I EXHIBITION for further information see <http://www.stguthlac-knighton.co.uk/>

LENT COURSE BOOK. The Worship Committee has selected the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book 2015 by Desmond Tutu. Copies will be available to borrow or purchase. There will be two discussion meetings: on **Sunday 22 March** at 4 pm in the Welcome Area, and on **Sunday 19 April** at the same time, same place: both meetings will last about an hour and refreshments will be served.

KNIGHTON MOTHERS' UNION are looking forward to welcoming Ruth Fryer, Deanery Leader, to our meeting on **Tuesday 27th January**. Ruth is going to talk about her experiences during her recent trip to Nepal. We extend a warm welcome to all who would like to attend this meeting, which will be held in the Parish Centre Lounge, Brinsmead Road, beginning at 2.30 p.m.

MESSY CHURCH at Stoneygate Baptist Church on **Friday 30th January** 3.30pm-5.45pm. Children of all ages are welcome but must be accompanied by an adult. The theme is New Start and includes the story of Noah's Ark. The session ends with a meal.

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 February**. Everyone welcome. Ann Allsop

MEMORY CAFES CELEBRATION EVENTS. The Knighton Memory Café and Holbrook Memory Café are celebrating their second year in Leicester for people who have a diagnosis of dementia and their carers. The Memory Cafes provide information on living well with dementia and enable their carers to have a better understanding of the condition. A range of activities are undertaken each month. Two celebration events are planned for the two memory cafes in February. Holbrook Memory Café **13th February 2015** – St Guthlac's Church, 1.30 - 3.30pm Knighton Memory Café **25th February 2015** – St Thomas More Community Rooms, Knighton Rd, Leicester, LE2 3HN – 1.30 – 3.30pm

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 or email mmbonney@gmail.com

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS: AVOIDING THE LONGEST SERMON EVER? A 31-year-old pastor in Mount Dora, Florida, recently set the record for the longest sermon ever preached. Pastor Zach Zehnder of Cross Church began his quest on Fri. Nov. 7, and by Sunday had preached for 53 hours and 18 minutes.

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

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