

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

15 February 2015

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 142

FORTHCOMING SERVICES AND MEETINGS

Sunday 15 February, 6.30 pm

Sung Evensong: St Mary Magdalen

Wednesday 18 February, 7.30 pm

Ash Wednesday Holy Communion

Thursday 19 February, 9.30 am

Holy Communion

Sunday 22 February, 10.30 am

Communion for All

PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL We have been asked to keep **Dorothy Wollaston, Aileen Orme, Saty French, Mary Hind,** and **Gerry Markwick** in our prayers. Please also pray for the souls of **Violet Magee, Philip Tyler, Roy Freeman, Frank Mee** and **Canon David Galilee**. 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 4,500 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: Contemporary print of a forcible conversion of a Protestant by a Catholic dragoon (France, 1686)

THE REVD RICHARD WRITES Last week, when talking about the role of Le Chambon-sur-Lignon and surrounding area as 'a haven for Jews fleeing from the Nazis and their French collaborators', I quoted the Yad Vashem testimony which referred to the Protestants' 'history of persecution as a religious minority in Catholic France'. This week, because rather surprisingly South Korean television are interviewing me on the subject, I am thinking very much of that history of persecution. It led many Protestants (Huguenots) to flee France especially after 1685 when their religious freedom was denied by Louis XIV, who revoked the concessions granted by his grandfather Henri IV under the terms of the edict of Nantes of 1598. The cover illustration – part of the Protestant propaganda campaign at the time – shows the forced conversion of a Huguenot as a result of the threatening conduct of a dragoon. The policy of billeting troops on Protestant households to achieve their conversion was the technique used to enforce (Catholic) religious uniformity in France during the 1680s.

Many Protestants fled abroad and some rulers, such as William III and Queen Mary after the Glorious Revolution, welcomed them and guaranteed that their respective 'trades and ways of livelihood'. As a result, some of the Huguenots prospered and within a generation or two had become very wealthy. Silk weavers, who brought with them the latest techniques were one category of Protestant migrant who did well for themselves. So too did clock makers. Some of the most celebrated 'English' clockmakers, such as Simon de Charmes, whose clocks sell at fabulous prices today were in fact Huguenots. Though the Huguenots did well

for themselves, they were not (as is sometimes said, including by the Bank of England itself) the founding fathers of the Bank of England in 1694. Huguenot holdings in the Bank never exceeded 10 per cent, and out of 24 directors of Francophone origins in the Bank's first half century, 13 were descendants of immigrants from Walloon Flanders, and only five were of relatively recent French origins. The Houblon family, who had substantial holdings in the Bank and provided many of its directors, were fourth-generation immigrants from Lille in 1567 (Lille was then part of the Spanish Netherlands). Only one original Bank Director (Theodore Janssen) was a first-generation Huguenot immigrant. The Bank of England website needs to correct its facts!

<http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/education/Pages/museum/exhibitions/huguenots.aspx>

France's loss was England's gain, and this has often been the story of immigration. Of greater importance, however, was England's (and Scotland's and Ireland's) welcome in terms of asylum. The world's great religions are in agreement that there should be no coercion in matters of personal faith. Unfortunately, some of the more extreme fundamentalists on the fringes of the faith make sure that such coercion does indeed happen. As Christians we tend to think that 'we' are somehow 'better' than those of other faiths in which such coercion is sometimes practised. **The Huguenot migration from France reminds us that it was not so long ago that Christians were every bit as intolerant as fundamentalist groups active in the world today. And it was not just Catholics being intolerant of Protestants;** in Ireland some of the very same Huguenots who had experienced intolerance first hand became the first 'Orange men' and meted out some of that same intolerance to Catholics. The only difference was that whereas in France the minority Protestants had been the underdogs in Ireland the minority Protestants ruled the roost. And Ireland has continued to suffer into modern times as a result.

MEMBERS OF THE ST. GUTHLAC CONGREGATION: MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK We are endeavouring to compile a complete list of activities undertaken by members of the congregation which enrich the life of the church. There is a huge amount which the congregation of a volunteer church undertakes and we would like to celebrate the wealth of help and thank all those who give in whatever way. Please will everyone who feels they help in any way, however small, let Tina have a note of the activities they undertake. Delivering leaflets, cleaning the church, growing plants to sell at the fayres, giving lifts to members of the congregation, helping run Bubbles, preparing services and gardening are just few things that you might be involved with. Thank you. PCC.

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

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

MEMORY CAFES CELEBRATION EVENTS. The Knighton and Holbrook Memory Cafés are celebrating their second year in Leicester for people who have a diagnosis of dementia and their carers. They 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. The celebration for the Knighton Memory Café is on **25th February** at St Thomas More Community Rooms, Knighton Rd, Leicester, LE2 3HN, 1.30 – 3.30pm.

PARISH WALK The next walk will start from St Mary's on 1st March at 2pm.

MAY FAYRE Thank you to everyone who has volunteered so far, we will now be able to go ahead with the fayre. There is still help needed so if you are able to help in any way please sign the list in the welcome area. There will be a short meeting for all helpers after church on Sunday **March 1st** to run through the finer details to ensure everything is covered. If you have any queries about what you have signed up to do, please speak to Lesley, Ann, Anne or Jane.

KNIGHTON PLAYERS will be performing Sinbad on **Friday 20th March 7.30pm and Saturday 21st March 2.30pm and & 7.30pm** in the Parish Centre. Tickets (adults £6, children £4) are available from Jane Wright (St. Guthlac's), Tanya Willis (St. Mary's), or knightonplayers@ntlworld.com.

RAFFLE Could you provide a **raffle prize**? If so, please contact Jane Wright or Judi and Bernard Stone Tel: Thank you

LENT COURSE BOOK. The Worship Committee has selected the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book 2015 by Desmond Tutu. 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.

SURPLUS BOOKS On the small table at the back of church are several bibles and old Sunday School books (mainly ladybird bible stories) which are surplus to requirements. If anyone can find a good home for them please feel free to take as many as you want, before they are disposed of.

MISSING! If anyone has borrowed the enamel plates, plastic fruit, chicken etc. from the Knighton Players props box in Holbrook Hall, please can they return them ASAP as they are needed in the current production. Thank you.

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