

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

29 March 2015

10.30 am Communion for All: Palm Sunday

7.30 pm God so loved the world

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 148

FORTHCOMING SERVICES AND MEETINGS

Monday 30 March, 7.00 pm

Worship Committee

Wednesday 1 April, 7.30 pm

Choir Practice

Thursday 2 April, 9.30 am

Holy Communion for Maundy Thursday

Thursday 2 April, 7.30 pm

Holy Communion for Maundy Thursday

Friday 3 April, 10.30 am

All Age Worship: Good Friday

Sunday 5 April, 10.30 am

All Age Communion: Easter Sunday

Wednesday 8 April, 7.30

NO CHOIR REHEARSAL

Thursday 9 April, 9.30 am

NO SERVICE

Sunday 12 April, 10.30 am

Communion for All and Holy Baptism

PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL We have been asked to keep **Saty French, Ann Spring, Dorothy Wollaston, Jan and Bob Newell, Gerry Markwick, Sammy Davis, Margaret Sharpe, Marjorie O'Neill** and **Veronica Brown** in our prayers. Please also pray for the souls of **John Orton, Paul Veryard** and **Caroline** who have died recently. For other prayer requests, please speak to the Revd Richard.

ST GUTHLAC'S CHURCH EXTENSION COMMENDED IN 2014 CIVIC SOCIETY AWARDS The Newsletter of the Leicester Civic Society states: 'St Guthlac's Church South Knighton was built by Stockdale Harrison in 1912. A small scale building, it provided no room for any modern facilities. The ingenious answer to this problem was to reconstruct the west façade at the end of an entirely new west bay that the casual visitor would be unaware was not a part of the original building. This purely local effort just shows what can be achieved by sympathetic alterations to our historic built environment. Commended.' There is a photograph of the Church by Peter Jones with the caption: 'Edwardian charm in suburbia. St Guthlac's Church, Holbrook Road, South Knighton.'

THE REVD RICHARD WRITES Let's face it. I don't think it very likely that St Guthlac's will become one of the large 'megachurches' of the type that they have in the United States. And I don't think that this sort of model would be suitable for us in any case. We are praying for growth, and we expect to grow. But we are always likely to be a medium-sized church. We can seek to be 'lean and focused'. We already know some of the skills that members of our congregation have, so this can lead us to undertake certain tasks which we will be able to achieve better than others. If we already know, as we do, some of the things what you are passionate about, gifted for and already involved in, then we can discover together how to turn regular responsibilities and unique giftedness into ministry opportunities. Developing good intergenerational relationships within the church are a means of making sure young people keep the faith and do not drift away through boredom or the false allure of other distractions. We should also recognize that smaller churches have a great opportunity to become an integral part of the local fabric of their communities and reach out to the people on the margins who often are not attracted to larger congregations.

Number one in the list of benefits that accrue particularly to smaller churches is the quality which is said to be easily recognized but difficult to define: 'authenticity'. Now one way of looking at this is to say that we should be true to ourselves and that our lives should live up to the convictions we proclaim. Small churches more often than large ones truly function as a family, with all the blessings and challenges that this brings with it. So authenticity in one sense means 'genuineness' and in another 'hospitality'. We must be the people we proclaim ourselves to be. Most important of all, it means 'authenticity' in meeting God in worship. In worship we have the opportunity not only to open our hearts to hear from God but to give ourselves to God. Whenever we authentically meet with God in worship, something always happens. We never walk away the same. What happens is more than just a feeling. To some degree, a personal transformation takes place. The essence of authentic worship is sensing the presence of God and then responding with our whole heart. When Isaiah took in the majesty, power, and holiness of God, he responded by saying, 'Here am I. Send me!' (Isaiah 6:8).

Any conversation about authentic worship must also ask, 'What is authentic to God?' First, to be authentic to God we must be true to who he is: *triune*. God is three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. So often in our songs and prayers we neglect to name God for who he is and how he acts in worship. Much of our worship expresses an ambiguous God or Lord who is largely passive, waiting for us to give him praise. But the Father is active, calling us to worship; the Son is engaged in perfecting our worship, and the Spirit empowers worship's every breath.

Second, to be authentic to God we must be true to his *creation*. Third, to be authentic to God we must be true to his *church*. God's saving purpose extends well beyond the walls of our local congregations. It includes a church of all times and all places. Authentic worship embraces the timeless wisdom of those who have come before us and shares in the joys, sufferings, and gifts of the global church. **In particular at this time we have to walk and pray with the suffering Christians of the Middle East.** Authentic worship is about us. But it is also about God, his creation, and his church. How authentic is our worship? In what ways can we ourselves become more genuine or authentic?

Drawing upon 'Smaller Churches Have at Least Five Advantages: Do You Know Them?' By Brandon O'Brien; *The Church You've Always Wanted: Where Safe Pasture Begins* by E. Glenn Wagner (Zondervan, Grand Rapids Michigan, 2002); <http://worship.calvin.edu/resources/resource-library/worship-that-is-authentic-to-god-paul-ryan/>

Cover image:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/20rCxnCgrp3WPSnTP3DTBvB/week-6-holy-week-jesus-experiences-extreme-separation-from-god-death>

EASTER FLOWERS Church will be decorated for Easter on **Easter Saturday 4th April starting at 9.30am**. Please sign up on the planner if you can offer to decorate a windowsill. New helpers very welcome. Please bring flowers if you are able (we usually have a yellow and white theme) but additional flowers and foliage are usually available. If you would like to donate towards Easter lilies there is a collection basket at the back of church. Thank you.

SENIORS' SATURDAY FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP Sat 11th April 12.15 pm Senior members of the congregation are invited to the welcome area for lunch (soup, sandwiches and dessert) and conversation. Please sign up if you would like to come and indicate whether you require a lift. Cost £4.

LENT COURSE BOOK. The Worship Committee has selected the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book 2015 by Desmond Tutu. The second discussion meeting will be on **Sunday 19 April** at 4 pm in the Welcome Area; it will last about an hour and refreshments will be served.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING This will take place at **12 noon on Sunday 26th April** and will be followed by a bring and share lunch. Activities will be provided in the welcome area to entertain the children whilst the APCM is in progress. Please make a note in your diaries!

MAY FAYRE Monday 4 May. Toys and plants please Please bring along any unwanted, saleable children's toys, games, books and accessories as soon as possible. Please also bear the plant stall in mind when dividing your perennials and sowing your seeds!

CALLING ALL SIDESMEN! Thank you to you all for your service during the last year. Sidesmen will be re-elected at the AGM on 26th April, so if you don't wish your name to go forward, please let Lesley know.

NEW FACES ON THE PCC Please consider standing for election to the PCC at the AGM! There are several vacancies to fill for 3 or 2 year terms. Being on the PCC gives you the chance to help develop the work and worship of the church as well as to contribute to the smooth running of St Guthlac's. People of all age groups and interests will have something to contribute but younger adults are particularly invited to consider joining the committee to give balanced representation. No particular experience is required. Typically there are 9 or 10 meetings per year lasting 2 hrs. For further information or to fill in a nomination form please see Lesley. Thank you.

THANK YOU for your generous donations of prizes for the raffles held at the 3 productions of Sinbad in the Parish Centre last week. The total raised was £284.05p.

QUIET GARDENS SCHEME There are some pink leaflets available with details of this year's scheme. If you would like to try a session, why not see if you can get others to join you and share transport?

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