

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

19 April 2015

10.30 am Matins

4pm Second Lent Book Discussion

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 151

FORTHCOMING SERVICES AND MEETINGS

Wednesday 22 April, 7.30 pm

Choir Rehearsal

Thursday 23 April, 9.30 am

Holy Communion

Sunday 26 April, 10.30 am

Communion for All followed by APCM of St Guthlac's and Faith Lunch in Holbrook Hall

PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL We have been asked to keep **Margaret Adamson, Saty French, Ann Spring, Dorothy Wollaston, Jan and Bob Newell, Norman England, Laurie Jarvis, Margaret Tonkin, Sammy Davis, Marjorie O'Neill and Veronica Brown** in our prayers. Please also pray for the soul of **Matthew Welch** who has died recently. For other prayer requests, please speak to the Revd Richard.

THE REVD RICHARD WRITES Our Annual General Meeting of the Conventional District is an important occasion and I urge you strongly to attend, participate and join us for the faith lunch afterwards. The APCM is a time for reflection and renewal as a Church community. This year, it happens also to be held on 26 April, the occasion of Vocations Sunday. This is an entirely accidental, but fruitful convergence. We need to be a Church which nurtures Vocations. On Sunday 14 June, when the gospel is the parable of the mustard seed, we will reconsider and reaffirm our commitment to the Shaped by God agenda of the Diocese, which includes the three commitments to seek the growth of God's kingdom in 1) the depth of discipleship; 2) the number of disciples of Jesus; and 3) loving service of (and to) the world. Vocations Sunday is about the first of these things, the growth in the depth of our individual and collective discipleship. In what follows I draw upon the words of Christina Rees and Francis Dewar.

God invites everyone to make some contribution to the life of the world, some piece of gift-work or service to others, that only you can do because of the particular person you are, your gifts, your wounds, your personal background and history. It will be something that expresses the unique essence of what you are, which God calls out from you to be a gift to others. This may be something you do in your spare time. Or it may be at your place of work: if it is, it probably won't be in the job description. It may, for example, be the way you do some part of your work. Notice that *in the case of personal vocation, the calling of God is sensed within you, in your heart.*

In order to build up the body of Christ on earth, God does call some people to a variety of ministries for which they have to be selected and trained. These include the priesthood, reader ministry, being missionaries, counsellors or youth workers. Such calls often involve thoughts and desires that just won't go away, and also encouragement from other people who can sometimes see our potential more clearly than we can ourselves.

Usually, though, God's call involves recognising what we love to do and what we're already good at, and looking for opportunities to use our time and talents in our homes, communities, churches and places of work – or even abroad! If, for instance, I am a good listener, perhaps I could use my talent to visit people who are housebound or help out with a reading scheme at a local school. If my passion is arts and crafts, there might be a call for my talent and skills in a Sunday school or at a community centre, or creating new works of art for my church. If I really care about helping young people, I could volunteer my time and other resources for church or community projects that are aimed at this age group.

Where service to God is concerned, it is often the case of being able to see a need and then being willing to respond. No matter what the call, though, it will always be the case of being – and becoming – the hands and feet of Christ, seeing with his eyes and allowing his compassion to inspire and motivate all that we do. That's what's at the heart of true discipleship, and that's a call for all of us, for all of our lives.

On the Chester Diocese website a lay pastoral worker writes: 'I had been receiving "whisperings" that I should consider training as a licensed Lay Reader. Whenever it was mentioned I felt 'queasy' but would then think of Jonah when he was called – I should be confident that if the Lord was calling me to such a ministry He would give me the confidence I seemed to lack... The annual Called to Serve event was near so I went. I am so glad I did! I chose to join the Reader and Pastoral Worker workshops – guess what? The Pastoral Worker experience filled me with excitement, joy and confidence – this was my calling.'

Cover image: <http://s3.amazonaws.com/churchplantmedia-cms/stpaulutheranca/he-is-risen-from-studiojru.jpg>

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.

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.

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 held **TODAY** at 4 pm in the Welcome Area; it will last about an hour and refreshments will be served.

MOTHERS UNION At our meeting on **Tuesday, 21st April**, our group leader Lorna Pollard will entertain us with one of her travel talks, entitled '**Chile – that long thin country**'. Thank you for stepping in, Lorna. The meeting is an evening one, commencing at 7.30 p.m. in the Parish Centre. All are welcome.

PARISH QUIZ The next Parish Quiz will take place at the Parish Centre on **Friday, 24th April** 7.30 pm. Tickets cost £2 and can be obtained from either Tanya Willis, Jane Salt or Carolyn and Andrew Oldershaw. Make up a team of no more than 6 people or, if you come along on your own, we will put you together with others to make up a team. Bring your own drinks and nibbles. There will be a raffle with some great prizes, proceeds to go to church funds. This is always a fun night and new teams and individuals will be warmly welcomed.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING This will take place at **12 noon** on **Sunday 26 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!

PARISH WALK The next walk will be on **Sunday 3 May** starting from St Guthlac's Church at 2pm. Further details in due course.

MAY FAYRE **Monday 4 May. The fayre will soon be upon us and we need to stock our stalls! It would be wonderful if everyone was able to help us.** Please bring bottles of anything and any unwanted, saleable children's toys, games, books and accessories as soon as possible. Plants and cakes can be brought to church on Sunday 3rd May or on the day. Any further offers of help on the day will be welcomed with open arms! Thank you.

CHANGE TO ADVERTISED SERVICES There may need to be a change to advertised services when Richard and Margaret's grandchild arrives. Two different services have been planned which don't require a priest to officiate, and these will also be available for use in future in case of absence.

BUSY BEES Busy Bees are hoping to run from July 22nd - 24th, 9.30am to 3pm, at Stoneygate Baptist Church, if there are enough helpers available. If anybody is able to commit some time to help, during those dates, please contact Judi Stone. Thank you.

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