

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

17 May 2015

10.30 am Matins

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 155

FORTHCOMING SERVICES AND MEETINGS

Tuesday 19 May, 7.30 pm	PCC meeting
Wednesday 20 May, 7.30 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday 21 May, 9.30 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 24 May, 10.30 am	All Age Communion: Pentecost

PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL We have been asked to keep, **Ann Spring, Marjorie O'Neill, Dorothy Wollaston, Jan and Bob Newell, Janet Hubbard, Brenda Harrison, Saty French, Christopher Bond, Samantha Hough-Farmer, Kate Adams and Norman England** in our prayers. Please also pray for the soul of **Fred Rayner** who has died recently. For other prayer requests, please speak to the Revd Richard.

LEGACIES. We welcome all legacies, however large or small, and we promise to use your gift to make a difference in our parish. Please consider leaving a proportion of your estate as a gift in your Will to our parish. For confidential advice to anyone at St Guthlac's, please contact Mark Wyatt mswyatt350@ntlworld.com <http://www.parishresources.org.uk/legacies/resources-on-legacies/>

THE REVD RICHARD WRITES There are an estimated 26,000 children living in poverty in Leicester and more than 16,000 in Leicestershire is a startling fact to emerge from a reading of ***How do you get by? The Bishop [of Leicester]'s Commission on Poverty. Voices of Leicester and Leicestershire (2015)***, p. 6. Among the recommendations of the Commission are firstly that **the Church embraces its ability to make a difference.** 'We recommend the Church at local level embraces its unique capacity and ability to make a positive impact on and difference to the lives of people in Leicester and Leicestershire and recognises this is an expectation from many people. We recommend the Diocese promotes capacity building in terms of human resources to support activity at local level. This could be through harnessing individuals' existing expertise, developing mechanisms through which these may be shared, and enabling further training of local Church and community members.'

A second recommendation is **that Churches understand their local neighbourhoods.** 'We recommend local churches work to understand their local neighbourhoods, using the toolkit provided in this report, which includes examination of Parish Spotlights (provided by the national Church, drawn from census and other data and available on the Diocesan website). We also recommend hospitable listening events such as were used powerfully in this Commission's work. We recommend conducting an audit becomes an annual activity undertaken by PCCs or steering groups. We recommend this resultant understanding is disseminated throughout the local Church community and woven into local Church life at all levels – through study, theological reflection,

prayer, preaching and acts. We recommend the Diocese provide support and central expertise to amplify and share these efforts.'

A third recommendation is that Churches provide a welcoming drop-in space on a regular basis. 'We recommend that Churches provide unconditional welcoming, hospitable, drop-in space on a regular basis. Here guests may be honoured, mutual listening and learning may take place, relationships developed and people facing loneliness and isolation may find companionship. In so doing we recommend that local Churches consider how inclusive they are to people 'on the edge' – for example those with poverty, mental health or behavioural issues – and ask themselves what is needed to recognise the insights and gifts they bring, rather than see them as problems. We recommend that the Diocese supports and sustains these local initiatives, promoting activity and sharing good practice between Churches.'

A fourth recommendation is that Churches investigate how local support can be organised, including use of buildings. 'We recommend local Churches investigate how local support is provided, for example whether community groups are already running support programmes or food banks, or to what extent local authorities, police, charities or other organisations are already engaged in supporting people in poverty. Where such activity and networks exist, we recommend Churches broker the mutual sharing of concerns, ideas and future plans. Church buildings are valuable shared spaces where such dialogue can take place and all voices can be heard. We recommend the Diocese, from a position of political and financial neutrality, should take a strong lead in brokering dialogue across all stakeholders – councils, voluntary sector organisations, service providers, employers and the financial sector – to develop joint strategies concerning financial inclusion and fair finance and addressing the deep concerns expressed in this report. We also recommend the Diocese provides central support to sustain and support local initiatives and develop deepening ongoing awareness of what will continue to be a shifting scene. We also recommend the Diocese actively promotes the collation and building up of shared expertise and knowledge across sectors, agencies and partners, giving starters of initiatives easier access to what they need.'

A fifth recommendation is the Churches should broker creative enterprises. 'We recommend that Churches broker the promotion of different creative enterprises and practical ideas – for example sharing of gardens to grow vegetables, cooking clubs, pooling occasional use tools and other items, help with form filling in, Wi-Fi access, transport schemes and community shops. We recommend the Diocese promotes the development of different creative enterprises at local level and works to facilitate the sharing of good practice between Churches and, where needed, facilitates partnerships to support this work.'

A sixth recommendation is that the Churches should work to provide signposting, support and advocacy. 'We recommend that Churches, preferably in partnership with other stakeholders, work to develop local strategies for helping people find help quickly and effectively, enabling engagement and appropriate support and advocacy. This might include local community champions, embedded in their neighbourhoods, with relevant skills and knowledge, who are easily accessible and known to be available. They might, for example, be located in a library, surgery, church or Sure Start centre. We recommend the Diocese leads, in collaboration with others, in developing a simple one-stop electronic portal for easy access to up-to-date information about a number of crucial areas, including food and shelter. This must be well-maintained and publicised among all providers and obvious outlets.'

<http://www.leicester.anglican.org/site-includes/uploads/wygwam/150202PovertyCommission.pdf>

Cover image: <http://www.churchyear.net/daliasc.jpg>

REQUEST FOR SILENT MEDITATION DURING COMMUNION

Please use the time during the choir anthems for prayerful contemplation whilst others are taking communion. Thank you

MAY FAYRE Monday 4 May. A very big thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make this event such a success. We were blessed by some good weather which brought out our friends from the neighbourhood. **We raised an amazing £1100!** There are just a few items left for sale at the back of church.

SAMARITANS Molly Clarke will be doing a sky dive in aid of the Leicester Samaritans on Saturday 18th July. There is a sponsorship form at the back of church if you would like to support her.

TO ALL JAM, CHUTNEY AND PICKLE MAKERS. Bottles and Jars going free to a good home. If anyone would like bottles and jars with metal lids please let me know. Happy to deliver to you or bring to church. Fiona Wingate

CHANGE TO ADVERTISED SERVICES Two different services have been planned which don't require a priest to officiate, and these will be available for use in future in case of Richard's absence.

BUSY BEES Busy Bees are hoping to run from July 22nd - 24th, 9.30am to 3pm, at Stonegate 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