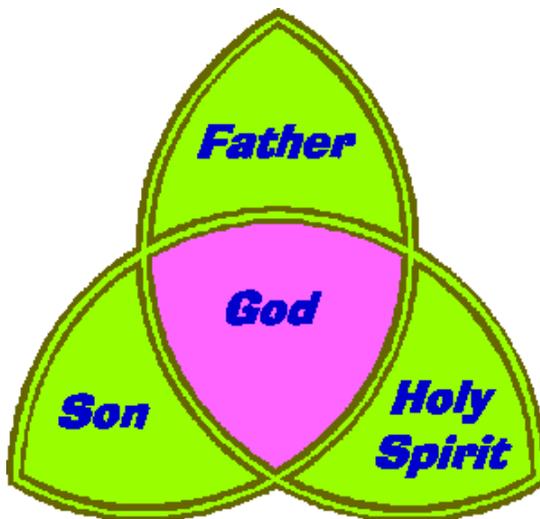


ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



CHURCH OF ST GUTHLAC

Holbrook Rd, Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

<http://www.stguthlac-knighton.co.uk/>

Minister: Revd Richard Bonney 2125677

rjbonney@gmail.com

Churchwardens:

David Hunt

Tina Jarvis

14 June 2015

10.30 am Communion for All: Shaped by God Sunday

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 159

FORTHCOMING SERVICES AND MEETINGS

Wednesday 17 June, 7.30 pm

Choir Rehearsal

Thursday 18 June, 9.30 am

Holy Communion

Sunday 21 June, 10.30 am

Matins

PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL We have been asked to keep, **Ann Spring, Marjorie O'Neill, Dorothy Wollaston, Jan and Bob Newell, Phillip Squires, Brenda Harrison, Helen, Saty French, Christopher Bond, Samantha Hough-Farmer, Kate Adams and Louisa** in our prayers. Please also pray for the souls of **Janet Hubbard, Grace Mason, Allan Nicholls and Freda Cabanuik** who have died recently. For other prayer requests, please speak to the Revd Richard.

THE REVD RICHARD WRITES 'Prayer is one of the most dangerous things that anyone can do', Archbishop Justin Welby pronounced at the end of April this year. Speaking at a 24-7 Prayer 'Boiler Room' in Guildford, UK, he said that when we meet Jesus in prayer we are 'introduced to our true identity'. In his talk the Archbishop said: 'The question of "Who am I? Who am I really? What is my true identity..." [is] at the heart of most philosophy; it's at the heart of most religion of all faiths everywhere; finding who one is – either to escape it, or to be it, or to become it completely, or to change it. And the incredible thing about meeting Jesus [in prayer] is we are introduced to our true identity, and we spend the rest of our lives discovering what that means in practice.'

This is why I am tremendously excited to be having as our guest preacher **TODAY** the Revd Chris Webb OSB, Spiritual Adviser, Diocese of Leicester. At a meeting earlier this year, I asked Chris to talk a little about the differences between Jewish and Christian spirituality bearing in mind that one of his email addresses is 'Pray.the.psalms@gmail.com'. I recalled that in my training I came across a little devotional Psalter prepared by Douglas Caiger in 1994 which substituted a more New Testament vision of God for Psalms which appeared to him to have a Jewish vision inconsistent with the Christian viewpoint. The main elements of Caiger's *Pray with the Church* were described in the newsletter last week. Douglas Caiger noted that he was 'greatly indebted' to Christopher Wansey's *New Testament Psalter*. On 3 November 1962, *The Tablet* noted that 'Last August, round about the same time that a heated controversy was going on in the columns of *The Times* on the value of the more "bloodthirsty sections of the Old Testament" as lessons for Morning and Evening Prayer in Anglican churches, it was learned that an Anglican clergyman, the Rev. Christopher Wansey, of Woodford in Essex, had had similar doubts about the value of some of the psalms: fourteen church study groups in his parish had been through the psalter and had found that eighty-four of the one hundred and fifty psalms "were not fit for Christians to sing" (*The Tablet* quoted the report that appeared in the *Church Times*). Mr. Wansey described the offending eighty-four as "**full of tribal jealousies, bloodthirsty threats and curses, whinings and moanings . . . shocking in themselves and time-wasting to God and man.**" Notwithstanding the Book of Common Prayer, which divides up the psalter so that all one hundred and fifty psalms are got through in the course of each month – an easier option than St. Benedict gave his monks, since he regarded devoting a whole week to the psalter the greatest possible concession that could be made to human weakness – Mr. Wansey has

supplied the deficiency caused by this thorough-going censorship of the psalter with what are described as “New Testament psalms”, such as the Beatitudes from the Sermon on the Mount and St. Paul’s famous passage on charity in his first epistle to the Corinthians.

We do not know whether Mr. Wansey, and those among Anglicans and other Protestants who share his views, would have expected to receive some support for their attitude from Catholic quarters’, *The Tablet* article continued, ‘but in the latest number of the *Nouvelle Revue Théologique*, the monthly published under the direction of the Jesuits of Louvain, a Belgian Dominican has suggested purging the liturgical psalter of all or part of fourteen psalms. This is not nearly such a far-reaching proposal as Mr. Wansey’s, but it is startling enough. The Dominican is Fr. E. Bernimont, of Liège, who writes: “It is clear that, side by side with so many psalms of unchanging richness and beauty, others are of plainly poorer inspiration or workmanship whereby the same echoes are not awakened in our case as happened in the case of those for whom they were first intended; and with some of them it is very difficult to harmonise them with Christian thought and sensibility.” Apart from removing the repetitions, such as Psalm 107 which appears elsewhere in Psalms 56 and 59, **“the greatest difficulty, and that which is most commonly felt”, writes Père Bernimont, “comes, one knows, from the psalms of vengeance and cursing”,** and after discussing various ways of coping with these difficulties he comes down finally in favour of their suppression, at least as far as liturgical use is concerned. The final coincidence with Mr. Wansey’s views comes at the end of Père Bernimont’s article, which is called *De l’inégale valeur des Psaumes*, where he suggests introducing more lyrical passages from the Old Testament in addition to those that have already found their way into the Breviary at Lauds, as well as some from the New Testament, including St. Paul’s passage on charity which Mr. Wansey has also chosen.’ **We expect the Revd Chris Webb to give us a different perspective on the Psalms and on prayer in general today.**

MEMORY CAFÉ FUNDING: SPARE FOREIGN COINS There are Memory cafés at St Guthlac’s and St Thomas More where people with dementia and their carers can come for support, guidance and information in a friendly and supportive environment. St Guthlac’s café (called Holbrook) meets on every 2nd Friday and St Thomas More café (called Knighton) meets on every 4th Wednesday of the month 1.30- 3.30pm. We have been running for over a year. Stimulating reminiscence activities are provided, such as Singing for the Brain, Arts & Crafts and other memory activities. The sessions also provide a really valuable opportunity for carers to meet and support each other. The cafes are run under the guidance of the Alzheimer’s Society. They provide a leader, arrange visiting presenters, make contact with people needing assistance and give training for volunteers. The cost, for two cafes, is £250 a month. The first year’s funding came from the Church Urban Fund (Near Neighbourhood Fund). We now need to find funding to continue. As part of this funding drive, **we would like to collect all spare foreign coins** that banks will not exchange. If you have any coins please donate them and leave them in the box at the back of the church. We can arrange to convert them into sterling.

Cover image: <http://i20.photobucket.com/albums/b214/4HisChurch/trinity.gif>

MOTHERS UNION There are still a few places available on our Summer outing to Stoneywell Cottage, Ulverscroft, on **Tuesday 23rd June**, so please let us know if you would like to join us. Friends welcome.

CONCERT Grace Pepper and Suzanne O'Neill-Turner (nee Christie) are organising a music concert on **Saturday 27th June**, 7.30 pm at St Mary's church, with proceeds going to Cancer Research UK. Tickets are available from Grace or the Parish Office. Adults £4 in advance/£5 on the door and children £2.50 in advance/£3.00 On the door.

SEMP TREASURE HUNT Monday 29th June based around the New Walk area starting at Victoria Park Gates Granville Road from 6pm. We will meet up afterwards at the Old Horse on London Road for a cold buffet. The cost is £6 which includes the treasure hunt and buffet or £1 for the treasure hunt only. Numbers by 22nd June to Robert Pike. A great mission opportunity to invite your friends and families along!

CREATIVE BLOOMS. Join us for a relaxing afternoon of flower arranging with a difference and maybe a chance to show off your skills too! To be held on **SATURDAY, AUGUST 1ST**, in the Parish Centre at 2.30 p.m, to 5.00 p.m. There will be a raffle and a mystery prize. Tickets available now at £4.00, to include tea, coffee and biscuits, from Deborah Martin, Lorna Kirk and Margarete Booton. Proceeds to St. Mary's church funds.

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.

KNIGHTON PLAYERS are looking for a **new Producer** for their next production in March 2016. If you think you can help, please contact David Hunt on knightonplayers@ntlworld.com for more information.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK An excellent total of **£1367.81** was raised including £827.81 from the street collection (an increase on last year). A big thank you to everyone who collected or donated. You really do make a difference to people like Loko. Lesley

PLANNED GIVING Thank you to those people who have responded to the recent planned giving mailing. If you are still thinking about responding or would like further information, please speak to Mark Wyatt. Thank you.

RECYCLING FOR CHURCH AND HALL There is now an orange wheelie bin for recyclables, kept next to the general waste bin outside the hall. This is to be used for paper, cardboard, glass bottles and jars, food and drink tins and plastic food/drink containers (rinsed). Please put all suitable recyclable items in the plastic basket at the back of church or place directly into the orange bin. 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