

ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



CHURCH OF ST GUTHLAC

Holbrook Rd, Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

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Minister: Revd Richard Bonney 2125677

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Churchwardens:

David Hunt

Tina Jarvis

12 July 2015

10.30 am Sixth Sunday after Trinity: 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 163

FORTHCOMING SERVICES AND MEETINGS

Thursday 16 July, 9.30 am

Holy Communion

Sunday 19 July, 10.30 am

Morning Prayer (RJB away)

PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL We have been asked to keep **Pamela, Ann Spring, Marjorie O'Neill, Dorothy Wollaston, John McVey, Mirriam Norris, Phillip Squires, Helen, Saty French, and Kate Adams** in our prayers. Please also pray for the souls of **Ronald Smith** and **Dorothy Pridmore** who have died recently. For other prayer requests, please speak to the Revd Richard.

THURSDAY MORNING HOLY COMMUNION. During the summer these services will continue as usual except for two dates when Revd Richard is unavailable: Thursday 23 July; and Thursday 20 August.

THE REVD RICHARD WRITES This week we have commemorated the tenth anniversary of the 7/7 bombings on 7 July 2005, the worst terrorist attack yet experienced in mainland Britain.

Today will look more closely at Rowan Williams' arguments about the relationship between the faiths and our own Christian discipleship, which are to date the most profound Anglican statement in this area. His two speeches delivered abroad, at al-Azhar university on 11 September 2004 and at Islamabad on 23 November 2005, which we will consider next time, encapsulate what it is to be a Christian and how Muslims and Christians may develop greater understanding. At al-Azhar, on the third anniversary of 9/11, Archbishop Williams mentions that 'without the contribution of Egypt, Christian theology would have been infinitely poorer, for many of the greatest minds of [the early Christian] period were natives of Alexandria. And one of the great concerns of these thinkers and their successors was this: if Christians say that the eternal Word and power of God was fully present in Jesus, son of Mary, can we avoid saying this in such a way as to imply that God is subject to a physical process, or that God has a second being alongside him?'

These Christian thinkers and their successors developed a doctrine which tried to clarify this, Williams suggests. 'They said that the name "God" is not the name of a person like a human person, a limited being with a father and mother and a place that they inhabit within the world. "God" is the name of a kind of life – eternal and self-sufficient life, always active, needing nothing. And that life is lived eternally in three ways which are made known to us in the history of God's revelation to the Hebrew people and in the life of Jesus. There is a source of life, an expression of life and a sharing of life. In human language we say, "Father, Son and Holy Spirit", but we do not mean one God with two beings alongside him, or three gods of limited power. Just as we say, "Here is my hand, and these are the actions my one hand performs", but it is not different from the actions of my five fingers, so with God: this is God, the One, the Living and Self-subsistent, but what God does

is not different from the life which is eternally at the same time a source and an expression and a sharing of life. Since God's life is always an intelligent and purposeful life, each of these dimensions of divine life can be thought of as a centre of mind and love; but this does not mean that God "contains" three different individuals, separate from each other as human individuals are.'

Archbishop Rowan continues: 'But in no way does the true Christian say that the life and action of God could be divided into separate parts, as if it were a material thing. In no way does the true Christian say that there is more than one God or that God needs some other in order to act or that God promotes some other being to share his glory. There is one divine action, one divine will; yet (like the fingers of the hand) there are three ways in which that life is real, and it is only in those three ways that the divine life is real – as source and expression and sharing. It is because of those three ways in which divine life exists that Christians speak as they do about what it means to grow in holiness.'

The Christian also says, argues Rowan Williams, something which may again be a source of disagreement with Muslims. 'God is a loving God, as we all agree; but, says the Christian, God does not love simply because he decides to love. He is always, eternally, loving. His very nature, his definition is love. And the interaction and relation between the three ways in which God lives, the source and the expression and the sharing, is eternally the way God exists. The three centres of divine action, which we call Father, Son and Spirit, pour out the divine life to each other for all eternity, a sort of perfect circle of giving and receiving. And the only word we can use for that relationship of pouring out and giving is love. So as we grow in holiness, we become closer and closer in our actions and thoughts to the complete self-giving that always exists perfectly in God's life. Towards this fullness we are all called to travel and grow.'

'Whenever a Muslim, a Christian or a Jew refuses to act in violent revenge, creating terror and threatening or killing the innocent', Williams contends, 'that person bears witness to the true God. They have stepped outside the way the faithless world thinks. A person without faith, hope and love may say, If I do not use indiscriminate violence and terror, there is no safety for me. The believer says, My safety is with God, whose justice can never be defeated. If I defend myself, I seek to do so only in a way that honours God and God's image in others, and that does not offend against God's justice. To seek to find reconciliation, to refuse revenge and the killing of the innocent, this is a form of adoration towards the One Living and Almighty God.' Next week: Rowan Williams' address in Pakistan.

<http://rowanwilliams.archbishopofcanterbury.org/articles.php/1299/archbishops-address-at-al-azhar-al-sharif-cairo#sthash.IxXkJmKc.dpuf>

Cover image: <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/e/e1/Ecologia.jpg>

MOTHERS' UNION – a reminder that our Festival Service takes place on **Tuesday, 28th July** in St. Mary's at 2.30 p.m., followed by a Strawberry Tea in the Parish Centre.

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 £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.

MEMORY CAFÉ FUNDING Spare foreign coins are been collected to help meet the monthly cost of £250 for the two local memory café's 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. Thank you.

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