

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

19 July 2015

10.30 am Seventh Sunday after Trinity: Morning Prayer

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 164

FORTHCOMING SERVICES AND MEETINGS

Thursday 23 July, 9.30 am

NO Holy Communion (**RJB away**)

Sunday 26 July, 10.30 am

All Age Communion (RJB returns)

PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL We have been asked to keep **Pamela, Ann Spring, Marjorie O'Neill, Dorothy Wollaston, Mirriam Norris, Phillip Squires, Helen, Saty French,** and **John McVey** in our prayers. Please also pray for the souls of **Ronald Smith** and **Leonard King** 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 Last week we 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 for a second time 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 second speech delivered abroad was at Islamabad on 23 November 2005, and sought to explain the Christian faith to a Muslim audience.

Rowan Williams begins with the most obvious features of Christian prayer. 'We pray "through Jesus Christ our Lord". And the best-known of all Christian prayers begins with the words "Our Father in heaven". These belong together. Probably the most important Christian belief is that we are given the right to speak to God in exactly the same way that Jesus did, because the life, the power, the Spirit, that filled Jesus is given to us also.' 'Because the eternal word and wisdom of God has completely occupied his human mind and body, we say that in him this word and wisdom has "become flesh", has been "incarnated". Because the word and wisdom of God is seen in the Jewish Scriptures of the Old Testament as like a "child" of God – and also because these scriptures often call the kings of God's people who rule according to wisdom the "sons of God" – we are able to say that Jesus is God's Son. And from the very first, Christian teachers have said that this language must not be thought of in any physical way.'

Jesus thus shows us what a human life is like when it is lived as it should be, Archbishop Williams continues. 'But he does more. Because of his perfect obedience and goodness, he is able to offer himself to rejection and death, so that by his death there may be a restored relationship of love between God and humanity. Christians say that Jesus, as he goes to the cross, accepts all the suffering that is the consequence for human beings of their rebellion and weakness. He "pays the price" of human wickedness. Because he accepts this suffering as an act of love, he changes what is possible for human beings. They need no longer despair that they can never obey or love God.' 'And because God brings him back from death to meet again with his followers, we know that his life

is not a thing of the past. He is still alive, eternally alive. He calls people to be with him just as he did in his life on earth. And so day by day he creates that community of fellowship with him which gives human beings the possibility of living differently, living in obedience to God. In the words of our Scriptures, he “breathes” into his followers the power of the Holy Spirit, so that they are drawn back to God and God’s ways. Because he rose from death “on the first day of the week”, according to the gospels, Sunday has always been a special day for Christians. And the Easter season is the greatest of all Christian festivals.’

The books contained in the Bible are of very diverse character, Williams accepts. ‘Unlike the Qur’an, this is not a text delivered in a brief space of time to one person. The Bible is, we believe, a book that speaks with one voice about God and his will and nature; but it does so – to use a popular Christian image – like a symphony of different voices and instruments of music, miraculously held together in one story and one message about God, a story whose climax is Jesus. Sometimes parts of the Bible are hard to understand; sometimes different passages seem to contradict each other. This is not surprising, when you remember that the books of the Bible were written over a period of more than a thousand years. But every word has been discussed and thought about for another two thousand years, and Christian teachers have found that there is always a deep unity of thought, once it is agreed that the life of Jesus is the centre of the picture and that it makes sense of all the rest.’ ‘We do not think that God dictates the Bible to its writers, but that he works with and in their human minds to communicate his purpose, to tell us what we need to know in order to be set free from our mistakes and sins. Christians have spent much energy on the study of the Bible’s texts and how they came to be composed.’

Archbishop Rowan seeks to reveal the mystery of Communion to his audience: ‘Practically all Christian communities meet for the ritual meal of bread and wine called the Holy Communion and sometimes referred to as the “Eucharist” (thanksgiving) or “Mass” (sending out in mission). Many churches meet every day for this, most of them at least once a week. The ceremony has its origins in the action of Jesus the night before his crucifixion, when he said the blessing over the bread and wine at the table, saying that they were his “body and blood”.’ ‘The suffering Jesus endures will therefore be like food and drink for his friends – it will give life and strength. When they bless bread and wine in his name, the sharing of this food and drink will be an occasion for God’s new life to enter into them afresh.’

‘What the Christian hopes and prays for’, Williams contends, ‘is that at the end he or she will be brought by the grace of God’s Spirit to see the glory of God as it is shown in the face of Jesus, and to be so united with his prayer to the Father that we never fall away. All that the observer might see in a Christian meeting for worship is directed towards this. We seek to let the life that was alive in Jesus Son of Mary be alive in each one of us through the gift of God’s Spirit. And we pray that this life will, through us, bring healing and peace to all the world.’

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.

THANK YOU to everyone who supported our musical concert. We raised £524.50 for Cancer Research UK. Grace & Suzie

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.

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

<http://rowanwilliams.archbishopofcanterbury.org/articles.php/1087/what-is-christianity>

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