

ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



CHURCH OF ST GUTHLAC

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Churchwardens:

David Hunt

Tina Jarvis

9 August 2015

10.30 am Tenth Sunday after Trinity: All Age Communion

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 167

FORTHCOMING SERVICES AND MEETINGS

Thursday 13 August, 9.30 am

Holy Communion

Sunday 16 August, 10.30 am

All Age Communion

PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL We have been asked to keep **Val Thomson, Pamela, Ann Spring, Marjorie O'Neill, Dorothy Wollaston, Saty French, Rex Mason** and **Barbara Greet** in our prayers. Please also pray for the souls of **John Adams, Mirriam Norris** and **Betty Pidcock** 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 Thursday 20 August when Revd Richard is unavailable.

THE REVD RICHARD WRITES. **The most famous turbulent priest of the Church of England at present, Giles Fraser, has been at it again, this time challenging some of the language of the government's anti-terrorism or 'Prevent' strategy. Here is some of what he has to say:**

'The Church of England is the longest-running "prevent" strategy in history. If not from its inception, then certainly from the end of the English civil war, the big idea of the C of E was to prevent radicalisation – precisely the sort of radicalisation that led to religious people butchering each other throughout the 1630s and 40s. Its strategy was to discourage two things: big expansive politically minded theology – the sort of theology that has ambitions to change the world – and religious passion (or "enthusiasm" as it was dismissively described).

'From the end of the 17th century, a new mood of religious inclusivity would dominate. Increasingly suspicious of theological dispute, the idea was to kill off God – or at least God-talk – with religion. People would all pray together, using the same form of words (the aptly described Book of Common Prayer), but be discouraged from discussing the ideological side of religion. Religion itself – going to church and so on – was reclaimable as a part of the much-needed project of national togetherness. It cemented all that one-nation, big-society stuff. But God had to be kept out of it as much as possible. Thus the formation of the English dinner party rules: no discussion of God, sex or politics. And under pressure not to "do God", the wet non-committal English clergyman became a figure of fun – at best, a local amateur social worker, and at worst, a social climbing hypocrite... Thus God is defeated by religion. Indeed, one could even say that, for the English establishment, that is precisely the purpose of religion. They trap Him in boring services so that people won't notice the revolution for which He is calling.

'...I condemn absolutely any theology that calls for or encourages violence. If people are doing that, arrest them. But "non-violent extremism" is, by definition,

neither of those things. And attacking it is simply an attack on thinking big, thinking differently and arguing passionately. It comes from a now defunct C of E mindset (now defunct even within the C of E, thank God) that assumes it's the job of religious people to be pastorally nice, softly spoken and uncontroversial. But that's not Jesus. And like him, I believe in pulling the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly. And I believe there is an authority greater than yours – one I would obey before I would obey the laws of this land.'

SEVENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF HIROSHIMA AND NAGASI. The 70th anniversary of the atomic strike on Hiroshima was on Thursday 6 August. We prayed the prayer devised by the Diocese at our morning Eucharist (the festival of the Transfiguration).

Lord God, you are the Father of all the families of the earth, and call the nations to live in peace and unity.

We remember with sorrow the devastating destruction and death unleashed on this day upon the city of Hiroshima, and later upon the city of Nagasaki.

We pray for the people of Japan, and all whose lives are disfigured by war. We pray for ourselves,

the often unwise stewards of the powers of the universe.

Transfigure the lives and cities scarred by conflict

by the revealing of your glory

and move us by your uncreated energies

to advance your sovereign purpose of peace.

This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ,

our light and our salvation. Amen.

CONGRATULATIONS to Molly Clarke who has safely completed her sky dive! If you have sponsored her, please put your sponsorship money in the container at the back of church and mark yourself off on the sponsorship form. Any cheques should be made payable to Leicester Samaritans. It is not too late to add your name if you haven't already sponsored Molly!

MEMORY CAFÉ FUNDING Spare foreign coins are been collected to help meet the monthly cost of £250 for the two local memory cafés 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. Any other suggestions to help funding the two cafés gratefully received.

CHURCH WEBSITE This has a fault and is waiting for its Webmaster to return from France!

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

CREAM TEA AND TREASURE HUNT Sat 29th August 2.30-5pm Please join us for a cream tea and/or a treasure hunt at St. Guthlac's and in the surrounding area. Treasure hunt £2 adult, £1 child, £5 family.

RIDE AND STRIDE: Saturday 12th September, 10:00 – 18:00. The annual event is here again. St Guthlac's will be open for the day to welcome visitors to our church. Everyone can get involved however active and help raise funds for the Leicestershire Historic Churches Trust and St Guthlac's because half of what you manage to raise goes to a church of your choice. We are looking for people to take turns to greet people visiting St Guthlac's - a rota is available at the back of church. As in 2014 there will be a group from St Guthlac's cycling to some of the churches. If you feel like taking part but don't want to go too far, why not visit our partner churches in the South Leicester Christian Partnership and Southern Edge Mission Partnership. For more information, ideals for routes, sponsorship forms and lists of churches in the county that are open on the day please contact me. I do hope you'll try take part in this fantastic event. Fiona Wingate.

RICE AND SHINE – IT'S HARVEST TIME: Have you ever wondered what you can do with just one bag of rice? You would be surprised. This is the challenge this harvest – come along and find out but in the meantime we need to you spend these long lazy summer days thinking about what **you** could do with rice? We're looking for great ideas and we know that all the people of St Guthlac's have lots of those whatever their age. **St Guthlac's will celebrate Harvest with a social gathering on the evening of the 12th September and on Sunday 13th September with an All Age Worship service in the morning and sung Evensong at 5:00 pm at St Guthlac's led by the joint choirs.** We will once again be collecting harvest gifts during the Harvest All Age Worship for the Open Hands organisation which supports people in need within Leicester. **Please bring dry goods, cereals, packs of milks but please no fresh produce.** We look forward to welcoming you at harvest and finding out what you're doing with rice.

GENERAL SYNOD ELECTIONS: The General Synod is the national assembly of the Church of England. It considers and approves legislation affecting the whole Church of England, authorises new forms of worship, debates matters of religious and public interest and approves the annual budget for work of the church at a national level. Every 5 years it holds elections for members of the laity to represent the congregations at the national level. The synod meets between 2 and 3 times a year, in London and York, and there are no minimum attendance requirements it is what you can do. Member of the General Synod brings with it ex-officio membership of the Diocesan Synod and is held for a 5 year term. Nominations are now open until 12 noon on the 4th September. If you think this might be something that you would like to know more about please contact me. Fiona Wingate.

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