

## ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



### **Gambaku or Genbaku: Memorial Dome of Hiroshima**

[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/b0/Gambaku\\_Dome\\_of\\_Hiroshima.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/b0/Gambaku_Dome_of_Hiroshima.jpg)

Part of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park and designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1996.

### **CHURCH OF ST GUTHLAC**

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

Minister: Revd Richard Bonney 2125677

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Churchwardens:

David Hunt

Tina Jarvis

**16 August 2015**

**10.30 am Eleventh 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 168

## **FORTHCOMING SERVICES AND MEETINGS**

Thursday 20 August, 9.30 am

**NO Holy Communion**

Sunday 22 August, 10.30 am

All Age Communion

**PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL** We have been asked to keep **Ann Spring, Marjorie O'Neill, Dorothy Wollaston, Saty French, Ann Potter, 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.

### **THE REVD RICHARD WRITES. On Thursday 6 and Sunday 9 August we remembered the atomic strikes at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, seventy years ago.**

Tsutomu Yamaguchi, who died in 2010, was the only Japanese man officially to survive the atomic bombings of both Hiroshima and Nagasaki. (Though there are thought to be 165 survivors of both bombings, Yamaguchi was the only one to be recognised as such by the Japanese government — and then only in 2009.) He also in later life became a vocal advocate for nuclear disarmament. The 29-year old had been on a three-month assignment for Mitsubishi Heavy Industries at Hiroshima, and was eagerly awaiting a return to his wife Hisako and their son Katsutoshi in Nagasaki. But something happened at 8:15 on the morning of August 6, 1945. When a US B-29 bomber launched the world's first ever nuclear attack, the sky burst into a light like that 'of a huge magnesium flare'. Yamaguchi, who was less than two miles from that actual explosion, was severely burned, temporarily blinded, and rendered permanently deaf in his left ear. He was lifted from the ditch in which he had dived and thrown into a nearby potato patch.

Somehow the city's train station was still operating. He and two colleagues spent one last night in the ruined city before making their way home. Bridges had been ripped to shreds, and so Yamaguchi had to swim across a river filled with dead bodies. But he made it home to Nagasaki. By then, the whole world knew what had happened at Hiroshima — 80,000 killed instantly, tens of thousands dying as US President Harry Truman announced his intention to end World War II by 'harnessing the basic power of the universe'. His friends could not recognise him, such were his injuries and his trauma. His mother thought he was a ghost. But still he persisted, and somehow made it to his Mitsubishi office three days after enduring the horror of Hiroshima. At around 11 in the morning on August 9, as he recounted to a company director just what had happened, the next bomb was dropped.

Though this atomic bomb was more powerful than the last, Yamaguchi was not badly hurt. His wife and son also survived the attack, but their home was destroyed. In 2006, standing before the United Nations, he said: 'Having experienced atomic bombings twice and survived, it is my destiny to talk about it.' He told the Mainichi newspaper in the last year of his life: 'My double radiation exposure is now an official government record. It can tell the younger generation the horrifying history of the atomic bombings even after I die. I could have died on either of those two days. Everything that follows is a bonus.'

Like many of the roughly 260,000 survivors of the atomic explosions, Mr Yamaguchi suffered agony for much of his life, as his daughter explains. 'Until I was about 12, he was wrapped in bandages for his skin wounds, and he went completely bald', says Toshiko, now 60. 'My mother was also soaked in black rain [the famously radioactive rain that fell after both bombings] and was poisoned. We think she passed on that poison to us.' Yamaguchi's children, like many second-generation 'explosion affected people' (*hibakusha*), have also been plagued by health problems. His son, Katsutoshi, died of cancer in 2005 aged 59. His daughter Naoko has, in Toshiko's words, been 'sickly' all her life. His wife died in 2008, aged 88, of kidney and liver cancer after a lifetime of illness. 'I suffer too from a terribly low white blood cell count, so I worry about what will happen to me', Toshiko adds.

At first Yamaguchi raised his family and declined to play any part in the anti-bomb activities that fill the lives of some survivors because 'he was so healthy, he thought it would have been unfair to people who were really sick'. But as he got older, things changed. 'I can't understand why the world cannot understand the agony of the nuclear bombs', he says, speaking through his daughter. 'How can they keep developing these weapons?' In his eighties, he finally wrote a book about his experiences, and was invited to take part in a documentary called *Nijuuhibaku (Twice Bombed, Twice Survived)*, about the double A-bomb victims. A film shows him weeping bitterly as he describes watching bloated corpses floating in the city's rivers and encountering the walking dead of Hiroshima, whose melting flesh hung like 'giant gloves'. The film was screened at the UN in New York, where Mr Yamaguchi, by then wheelchair-bound, pleaded with the audience to fight for the abolition of nuclear weapons. 'As a double atomic bomb survivor I experienced the bomb twice, and I sincerely hope that there will not be a third', he said. Mr Yamaguchi believed that God 'planted a path' for him. "'It was my destiny that I experienced this twice and I am still alive to convey what happened', he said before his death in 2010.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/asia/how-i-survived-hiroshima-ndash-and-then-nagasaki-1654294.html>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/asia/nagasaki-anniversary-meet-tsutomu-yamaguchi-the-man-who-survived-both-hiroshima-and-nagasaki-10447342.html>

**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

**FOR THE NEWSLETTER** Printing will take place on Thursday next week so please contact us at the latest by **10pm Wednesday** for material to be included in the next weekly newsletter. **administrator@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk**

**CREAM TEA AND TREASURE HUNT Sat 29<sup>th</sup> 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. If you require a lift please phone Ian Fraser

**DECORATING CHURCH FOR HARVEST** Please sign up on the planner if you are able to help decorate church for Harvest by doing a windowsill arrangement on Saturday 12th Sept, starting at 9.30 am. No particular level of skill is required! There is usually plenty of foliage available for those who don't have much in their own garden. Thank you.

**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, ideas 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.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Molly Clarke who has safely completed her sky dive! 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 you name if you haven't already sponsored Molly!