

ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



<http://jts.co.uk/90kg-rice-challenge>

CHURCH OF ST GUTHLAC

Holbrook Rd, Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

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

Minister: Revd Richard Bonney 2125677

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Churchwardens:

David Hunt

Tina Jarvis

13 September 2015

10.30 am All Age Worship: Harvest Thanksgiving

5.00 pm: Harvest Evensong

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 172

FORTHCOMING SERVICES AND MEETINGS

Tuesday 15 September, 7.00 pm	Worship Committee
Wednesday 16 September, 7.30 pm	Choir Practice
Thursday 17 September, 9.30 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 20 September, 10.30 am	Matins

PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL We have been asked to keep **Ann Spring, Marjorie O'Neill, Dorothy Wollaston, Saty French, Norman England, Sharon Eckersley** and **Rex Mason** in our prayers. Please also pray for the souls of **Barbara Greet, Isabelle Georgina Watling, Agnes (known as Sheila) Bell Squires, Gwenneth Clarke, Denis McQuone, Vivian Hansley** and **Miriam Norris** who have died recently. For other prayer requests, please speak to the Revd Richard.

THE REVD RICHARD WRITES Where were our younger families over the Summer? By and large they were not to be seen. Does the period of the Summer need to mean a sustained absence from Church? How does this affect our younger worshippers' discipleship?

I was reading a piece written by Paul Donovan in October 2011 for the Catholic journal *The Tablet*, which gives food for thought. 'Many appear to attend church on a Sunday to feel part of a community, to meet friends or even to try to secure a place at the parish school. So how can a congregation of essentially spectators be transformed into active missionaries for the message of Christ?... The Church exists in order to evangelise, that is to say, in order to preach and teach. Sometimes people conceive evangelisation as assisting "inactive" [believers] to become "active" again, of getting them to come back to [church], of taking up again their identity as [Christians]. The Christian mission is much more than that. Christians are meant to be involved in and to reach out to the community.

'Churches playing a missionary role can actually make a big difference to our local communities. **A missionary Church enables Christians to implement the great vision to which we have been called – to support the homeless, the refugees, the young and the elderly, the weak and the strong, to create a caring community** that lives in an environmentally sustainable way. Christian churches should be beacons of how to live together and how to care for one another.

'I know there are many Christian communities operating out of this missionary model. There are, however, many who are operating out of a maintenance model, for whom there is a disconnect between faith and action. These churches are providing a service for their members; but rather than encouraging their members to be active participants, they have become spectators who are coming to church on a Sunday to feel part of a community, to meet friends, to fulfil an obligation or, perhaps, to ensure a place in the parish school. They offer a suitable and atmospheric venue for baptisms, weddings and funerals but they are not an evangelising presence in their communities.'

Last Sunday Leicester Cathedral hosted a Vigil of Remembrance and Solidarity for Refugees, for those who have lost their lives attempting to find safety and refuge. An estimated 3,000 people have lost their lives trying to cross from Africa and the Middle East to Europe and flowers were laid to remember them and stand in solidarity with all who are displaced. Britain has a long and generous history of welcome. While the overseas aid budget is helping to support vulnerable people this humanitarian crisis has escalated and we need to do more, now, to find humane and lasting solutions. Christians are commanded to love their neighbours and these desperate people are our neighbours. We can't just watch this on the television and think of it as nothing to do with us. We must support charities providing food, clothing, and shelter. We need to share more of this responsibility with others in Europe and be prepared to welcome more vulnerable people into our community. Pope Francis has called on every Catholic parish, convent, monastery and sanctuary in Europe to shelter a family, and asked bishops throughout Europe to urge their dioceses to do the same. The Vatican will open its doors to two refugee families as part of this initiative. Is it not time for our churches and this country to do more?

Finally, if you would like to join a fascinating tour of the Jain Centre in Leicester on Tuesday 6 October at 7pm sharp, please make yourselves known to Margaret or myself. The Centre closes at 8pm so the tour can only be a 'taster'.

TIME TO GET CREATIVE! Home-made jam and chutney is needed for sale at the Christmas Fayre. If you are wondering what to do with your crops of apples, plums etc, why not make a batch? For those of you who enjoy knitting, sewing, woodwork or other crafts and would like to put your talents to good use over the autumn, there will be a handicrafts stall for church funds at the fayre and all contributions will be very welcome.

WANTED BULB BOWLS Once again this year we intend to prepare bulb arrangements for Christmas. If you have any spare bulb bowls suitable for either one or three hyacinths, please hand them to me. Thank you, Ian Fraser

BELLS RANG FOR LONGEST SERVING MONARCH On 9th September 2015 HM Queen Elizabeth II became the longest serving Monarch in our history. This is a historic moment in the life of the United Kingdom and bellringers were asked by HM Lord Lieutenant to commemorate this event. Knighton ringers made their contribution starting at 6.30pm on the 9th.

COME, YE THANKFUL PEOPLE, COME! TONIGHT 5PM

We end our 2015 Harvest celebrations with a joyful service of Choral Evensong at St Guthlac's church. The choirs from both St Guthlac's and St Mary's churches will be joined by singing friends from all around Leicester and beyond to raise the rafters in thanksgiving for all the blessings God has given us this past year. We have invited our new friends from the Al Husayn mosque in Duxbury Road who gave us such a welcome to The Big Iftaar during Ramadan this July to join us in this service, and we hope to make them feel as 'at home' in our Harvest service as we were in the mosque. Please support us and enjoy a good sing, a time of quiet prayer and an uplifting sermon – not to mention another opportunity to buy the wonderful Malawi rice on sale. After the service, we can get to know each other better over refreshments. Margaret Bonney If you require a lift please phone Ian Fraser

KNIGHTON MOTHERS' UNION are thrilled to welcome Dr. Johannes Arens, Canon Precentor at Leicester Cathedral, as a Speaker at their September Meeting. His subject is 'King Richard III and Leicester Cathedral'. Please come along and join with us on **Tuesday, 22nd September, at 7.30 p.m.** in the Parish Centre.

COFFEE MORNING We will be holding a Coffee Morning and Cake Stall in memory of our friend Janet Hubbard on **Sat 3rd October 10.00am - 12.30pm** at the Parish Centre. All proceeds will go to Loros. Please support us if you can. Thank you. Sue Ardley..

HOLY HABITS. CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY FOR DAILY LIFE. BISHOP'S LAY CONGRESS St Martin's House, **Sat 14 Nov, 9.30am - 3.45 pm.** Four seminars to choose from and two main speakers with the presence of Bishop John Holbrook, interim Bishop of Leicester, throughout the day. FREE but entry by ticket only. Booking forms on the table at the back of Church.

FOR THE NEWSLETTER Please contact us at the latest by **10pm Thursday** for material to be included in the next weekly newsletter. **administrator@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk**