

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

20 September 2015

10.30 am 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 173

FORTHCOMING SERVICES AND MEETINGS

Monday 21 September, 7.00 pm	Memory Cafes Steering Group
Tuesday 22 September, 7.30 pm	SEMP PMAG @ St Christopher's
Wednesday 23 September, 7.30 pm	Choir Practice
Thursday 24 September, 9.30 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 27 September, 10.30 am	Communion for All

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

THE REVD RICHARD WRITES What an excellent Harvest Festival weekend! The Church looked delightful, thanks to our flower arrangers. We had a splendid Harvest Supper: thanks to all those who were involved in setting up (and taking down) the tables, the food and the washing up. And then two services on Sunday. We are grateful to Fiona and Margaret for masterminding the All Age Worship and the 90K rice challenge and for the generous response to this as well as our usual Harvest appeal. Finally, many thanks to Margaret, Janet and the choirs plus friends for the marvellous Sung Evensong in the evening and to Fiona once more for a second presentation to that congregation. A lot of work for those involved but a very satisfying result. Thank you indeed.

Some thoughts about Evensong, taken from a worthy publication in 1922 written by W.K. Lowther Clarke. 'Matins and Evensong, though dating from the Reformation in their present form, are yet derived from services which go back to the very first age of the Church, and even beyond that to the Jewish Synagogue. Let us now see exactly how Evensong was made up from the old Latin services of Vespers and Compline.

Cranmer, the Archbishop of Canterbury in Henry VIII's reign, and that of Edward VI, was a great scholar, and produced magnificent translations of the old prayers. But something more than translating was necessary; the services had to be simplified and improved. In order that the congregation might get to know the whole psalter, it was now divided into sixty parts, to be used at Morning and Evening Prayer on the thirty days of the month. At all the old services, except the midnight office, the lesson was very short, only a verse or two being read, and though changes were made to suit the seasons, yet very little Scripture was brought before the worshippers. To remedy this it was now arranged that two long lessons from Old and New Testaments should be read at each service. These were the greatest changes.

Each Evensong brings before us God's plan of salvation. We begin with the Old Testament, which looks forward to Christ. Next comes the *Magnificat*, which links

the two Testaments. It is the splendid song of the Blessed Virgin Mary before Jesus was born, and has been adopted by the Church as the great hymn of the Incarnation, in which God on high stooped so low. Let us always remember this in singing the *Magnificat*—that we are celebrating God’s coming to earth. After this the second lesson is read, from which we learn about Christ’s life on earth, or else how His Spirit worked in the first disciples. With our minds fixed on Christ and all He means to us, we join the aged Simeon in his hymn of praise: ‘Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace.’

Now we stand and say the Creed together. This is the Church’s summary of the truths we have been learning about. This is our belief, for which we will live and, if need be, die. The service draws to an end with the versicles, responses, and prayers. Before we start on this part there is a valuable incident which we are apt to miss. The priest turns and says, ‘The Lord be with you’, and we answer, ‘And with thy spirit.’ This serves to recall our attention, which is possibly wandering, and to remind us that Divine Worship is not a solo. Priest and people each need the other’s goodwill and prayers. One last thought. The collect for the week is also found in the Communion Service. It brings the office into relation with the greatest service of all, and recalls our Sunday morning Communion.

‘The service is well-nigh perfect’, Lowther Clarke concluded in 1922. ‘It is solid food for grown men [and women], and one of the greatest gifts which our part of the Church Catholic has to offer its sons [and daughters]’. Stephen Hough wrote in 2012: ‘Evensong hangs on the wall of English life like an old, familiar cloak passed through the generations. Rich with prayer and Scripture, it is nevertheless totally nonthreatening. It is a service into which all can stumble without censure – a rambling old house where everyone can find some corner to sit and think, to listen with half-attention, trailing a few absentminded fingers of faith or doubt in its passing stream... It reminds us that thresholds can be powerful places of contemplation; and that leaving someone alone with their thoughts is not always denying them hospitality or welcome.’

Note on the General Thanksgiving. The Book of Common Prayer of 1662 did not make many changes to the earlier text of 1552, but one of the most important was authored by Edward Reynolds, who was made chaplain to Charles II at the Restoration in 1660. In the same year he was elected warden of Merton College, and made bishop of Norwich. His contribution to the Book of Common Prayer is The General Thanksgiving, which is part of the office of Morning Prayer. This contains the phrasing: ‘We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all, **for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.**’ ‘The means of grace and the hope of glory’: were ever the blessings of the Christian life ever so concisely, so perfectly and so beautifully evoked?

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**

VISIT TO THE JAIN CENTRE. NUMBERS PLEASE! 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'.

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.

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24th at 7.00 p.m.

Over recent weeks there has been an upsurge of interest in the plight of refugees and asylum seekers. Many people want to help but do not know how best to do so. Leicester City of Sanctuary has therefore organised a public meeting next week, in the Cathedral to bring together the many people and groups who seem to want to respond by something positive. The vigil outside the cathedral demonstrated just how much goodwill there is in our community. This is a massive opportunity to share ideas and information.

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.

RIDE AND STRIDE My thanks to everyone who helped make Ride and Stride a success at St Guthlacs; to all who took turn to welcome visitors to the church, to Penny for arranging the refreshments and to everyone who worked during the day to prepare for harvest. All round it the church had an active and lively feel about it. Fiona.

CHRISTIAN AID The raffle at the harvest supper raised £57 for Christian Aid.

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