

ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



MALAWI RICE MISSION SUCCESSFULLY ACCOMPLISHED BY ST GUTHLAC'S!

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:

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4 October 2015

10.30 am All Age Worship

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 175

FORTHCOMING SERVICES AND MEETINGS

Wednesday 7 October, 7.30 pm	Choir Practice
Thursday 8 October, 9.30 am	Holy Communion
Friday 9 October, 1.30pm	Memory Café
Sunday 11 October, 10.30 am	Matins

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 soul of **Joyce Butterfield** who has died recently. For other prayer requests, please speak to the Revd Richard.

THE REVD RICHARD WRITES What do people in this nation know and believe about Jesus? What do they really think of us, his followers? Are we talking about Jesus enough? And when we are, are we drawing people closer towards him, or further away? These are just some of the questions which the Church of England, the Evangelical Alliance and HOPE commissioned Barna Group to ask. But this was not just for curiosity's sake. The belief, hope and prayer underlying this study – the first of its kind – would become a major catalyst for effective and focused evangelism in the years to come.

Definitions Self-identified Christians select 'Christian' when asked to identify from a list of options which religion, if any, best describes their religious faith. Self-identified Christians make up just over half of the English population (57%). Non-Christians select any other option than 'Christian' when asked to identify which religion, if any, best describes their religious faith. Non-Christians account for two in five adults among the English population (43%). Practising Christians identify as 'Christian' but also report praying, reading the Bible and attending a church service at least monthly (and often more frequently). About one in six self-identified Christians are practising (16%), about 9 per cent of the total adult population. Non-practising Christians identify as 'Christian' but do not qualify as 'practising' under the criteria above. **Beliefs about the Bible** Most English adults do not believe the Bible is God's word. These respondents believe that the Bible is best described as 'how people of the time understood the ways and principles of God' (15%), or as 'simply another book written by people that contains stories and advice' (28%). Only about two in five (39%) believe the Bible is God's actual or inspired word. **Beliefs about Jesus** Six in 10 English adults believe Jesus was a real person (60%). Adults 35 and older (62%) are more likely than those 18 to 34 (57%) to believe Jesus actually lived. Conversely, younger adults (25%) are more likely than those over 35 (20%) to believe Jesus was a 'fictional character from a book and not a real, historical person'. More than two out of every five English adults who are not practising Christians (40%) either do not believe Jesus was a real person who actually lived or they are unsure if he was real or not.

Belief in Jesus' divinity is not common. Only about one in five English adults holds the orthodox belief that Jesus was 'God in human form who lived among people in the 1st Century' (21%). The most common belief about Jesus is that he was 'a prophet or spiritual leader, not God' (30%). Most ethnic minorities believe Jesus was a real person but are divided on whether or not he is God. Four out of five believe 'Jesus was a real person who actually lived' (79%), but only 25 per cent believe Jesus was 'God in human form' – only slightly more than among whites (among Blacks, however, the proportion who believe in

Jesus' divinity is 52 per cent). Most ethnic minorities in England may adhere to non-Christian religions, such as Islam, which says Jesus was a prophet but not God.

Just under half of English adults believe in the resurrection of Jesus from the dead (43%). One in six believe 'the resurrection happened word-for-word as described in the Bible' (17%) while one-quarter believe the biblical story 'contains some content which should not be taken literally' (26%). • Black adults are much more likely to believe Jesus was raised from the dead (73%). A majority believes in a literal interpretation of Christ's resurrection (53%) while one in five believes the resurrection happened but 'the story in the Bible contains some content which should not be taken literally' (21%).

Non-Christians' Perceptions of Christians A majority of English non-Christians know a Christian. Approximately two in three non-Christians report that they personally know someone who is a follower of Jesus – that is, someone they perceive to be a 'practising Christian' (67%). Most of these Christians are either family members (34%) or friends (40%). One in three English adults do not know a practising Christian (33%). These individuals are more likely than average to be ages 35-44 (24%), Asian or Asian British (9%) – specifically Pakistani (4%), or live in East of England (14%) or London (16%). These individuals are less likely than average to be ages 55+ (19%), or Black or Black British (0%). Most non-Christians enjoy the company of the Christian they know (60%). Three out of five say they enjoy being around their Christian friend or family member always (28%) or most of the time (32%). Non-Christians attribute more positive than negative qualities to the Christian they know.

Non-Christians' Experiences of Evangelism More than half of English non-Christians who know a Christian (58%) have had a conversation with them about Jesus. Younger adults 18 to 34 (61%) are somewhat more likely than adults over 35 (54%) to report having had such a conversation. Two out of every five non-Christians say evangelism made them glad not to be a Christian (42%). Another two in five don't know how they felt about it (42%), while only 16 per cent felt sad, after the conversation about Jesus, that they did not share the Christian's faith. When Christians talk about Jesus, the response is mixed. One in five non-Christians say they, after such a conversation, felt open to an experience or encounter with Jesus. But almost half say they were not open to such an experience (49%) and six in 10 didn't want to know more about Jesus (59%). One in five did want to know more (19%); 16 per cent felt sad that they did not share the Christian's faith; nearly one-quarter felt more positive about Jesus (23%) or felt closer to the Christian with whom they had the conversation (26%).

These are just some aspects of the report. A national day of prayer is being planned for 3 January 2016 to pray that more people might love and follow Jesus. The report can be found at www.talkingjesus.org

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

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.

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

COFFEE MORNING in memory of our friend Janet Hubbard on **Sat 3rd October 10.00am - 12.30pm** at the Parish Centre. Stalls will include 'Good as New', bottle tombola, cakes and a raffle. All proceeds will go to Loros. Please support us if you can. Thank you. Sue Ardley.

VISITING THE JAINS! An open invitation to anyone who is interested in seeing around the Jain Temple in Oxford Street and talking to one of the leading members of this community. **Date: Tuesday 6 Oct at 7pm.** Did you know that Leicester had the UK's first Jain temple? It's a great privilege to be able to visit this ornate and colourful place of worship on our doorstep and to hear more about this ancient faith. Booking essential, so please contact Margaret Bonney on 0116 273 3459 (work number Tues to Thurs), 07947 409632 or email mmbonney@gmail.com

SOS CHARITY FASHION SHOW Fri 9th Oct 7.30pm Holbrook Hall in aid of The Carers Centre. Admission by ticket £5 from The Carers Centre 0116 2510999

CHOCOLATES AT HALF TERM We're supporting the Just Fair Trade shop in Leicester in promoting their autumn range of scrumptious fairly-traded chocolates. Please come with purses at the ready to buy chocolates and chocolate goodies after the morning services on Sunday 18 Oct and Sunday 25 Oct! Suspend the diets! Stave off the cold of autumn with a little treat for yourself! Share it with others, or keep it to yourself! Be tempted! And continue to support Fair Trade in Leicester.

CALLING ALL SINGERS! An open invitation to join the choirs of St Guthlac's & St Mary Magdalen's churches to sing extracts from Karl Jenkins' 'The Armed Man: A Mass of Peace' **during the evening service on Remembrance Sunday 8 November at 5pm**, at St Guthlac's church. Rehearsals: Weds 28 Oct & 4 Nov, 7.30pm to 8.15pm and Choral workshop on Sat 7 Nov, 11am to 4pm (please bring own lunch!) all at St Guthlac's church. 'The Armed Man' was commissioned for the millennium and it is dedicated to the victims of the Kosovo crisis. Singing it in the context of a service of Remembrance gives us the opportunity to recall all those of our local communities who died in conflict throughout the 20th century and the impact war has had on our society.

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.

MISSION THROUGH MUSIC (Southern Edge Mission Partnership). Two representatives are asked to attend a meeting on **Tuesday 17 November at 7.30pm at St James Vicarage**, to explore mission through music, with outreach to new people, and not necessarily the musical needs of the churches, being the focus. It is desirable that these representatives should be musical, but not necessarily the leaders of their church music. Please speak to Richard if you feel you can help. Thank you

HAVE YOU OR A RELATIVE OR FOREBEAR EVER COMPOSED ANY MUSIC? If so and it is suitable for a service (no heavy metal please!), please talk to Yolanda; we think we may have the makings of a Matins.