

## ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



**MALAWI RICE MISSION SUCCESSFULLY ACCOMPLISHED BY ST GUTHLAC'S!**

### **CHURCH OF ST GUTHLAC**

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David Hunt

Tina Jarvis

**18 October 2015**

**10.30 am Communion for All: St Luke the Evangelist**

### **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 177

## FORTHCOMING SERVICES AND MEETINGS

Wednesday 21 October, 7.30 pm	Choir Practice
Thursday 22 October, 9.30 am	Holy Communion
Thursday 22 October, 7.30 pm	South Leicester Christian Partnership AGM (Welcome Area)
Sunday 25 October, 10.30 am	Communion for All

**PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL** We have been asked to keep **Mike Vickers, Ann Spring, Marjorie O'Neill, Dorothy Wollaston, John and Flo McVey, Saty French, Jon King, Vera Gosling, Pippa Kirby-Girdlestone, Rex Mason, Norman England** and **Sharon Eckersley** in our prayers. Please also pray for the souls of **Joan Siesage, Gordon Sealy** and **Joyce Butterfield**, Jane Wright's mum, whose funeral took place on 13 October. For other prayer requests, please speak to the Revd Richard.

**THE REVD RICHARD WRITES** Today is the celebration of St Luke the Evangelist and I remain a passionate advocate of the author of both the gospel and the Acts of the Apostles (and 32% of the New Testament in Greek), particularly for the distinctive parables in his gospel: according to Joachim Jeremias, one of the greatest theologians to study the parables, there are 12 which are unique to Luke. Another commentator remarks: 'It is in the parables that Luke's genius for storytelling, visible also elsewhere, is most memorable. The stories are thoroughly moulded in his style and suited to his purposes. Sometimes it is possible to discern a possible origin for the stories in other gospels or elsewhere. But so thoroughly has he formed them that it is no longer possible to decide on their origin, whether and how many of them he received from the oral tradition from Jesus or via Jesus.'

The concept of 'Salvation' is itself emphasised most in Luke among the gospel writers. The verb 'to save' occurs, of course, in the other gospels, but 'salvation' only in John 4:42, 44 and in Luke (5 times in the gospel, 9 times in Acts). 'Saviour' occurs twice in Luke, twice in Acts and once in John (4:42). In the Old Testament, and especially frequently in the second part of Isaiah, God is the Saviour of Israel. This thought is so frequent that salvation is conceived as something awaiting Israel. To other nations it comes only through Israel. In Luke also the Saviour is primarily God, who has sent his salvation to his people, but – and this is in itself an important sign of Luke's Christology – the title is also transferred to Jesus: 'a Saviour is born to you this day' (Luke 2.11), and in Acts 5.31 'God has now raised him up to be leader and Saviour', or 'only in him is there salvation, for of all names in the world given to men, this is the only one by which we can be saved' (Acts 4.11-12).

Luke is the only evangelist to mention the women who follow and minister to Jesus (8:1-3), and the Women of Jerusalem who mourn for Jesus on the way to Calvary (23:27). Mary is also mentioned as present among the disciples at

Pentecost (Acts 1:14). Most especially, Mary is presented as the model of discipleship. In Mark 3:31-35 Jesus' family and his mother are contrasted with the crowd sitting round Jesus. They remain outside, while those around Jesus are complimented, 'Here are my mother and my brothers. Anyone who does the will of God, that person is my brother and sister and mother'. To this passage Luke makes a series of small but significant changes in 8:19-21, which must be regarded as deliberate: the contrast and the implied criticism are removed. His mother and brothers 'came looking for him, but they could not get to him because of the crowd'. Jesus does not 'look at those sitting in a circle round him' before declaring 'My mother and brothers are those who hear the word of God and put it into practice', so by implication he includes his mother and brothers in the blessing. The passage is made more significant by its change of position: Luke places it immediately after a series of parables, so that Mary and his brothers are the first who hear his word and put it into practice.

Luke's version of the Beatitudes is also instructive. Whereas Matthew's beatitudes are concerned with spiritual attitudes, 'poor *in spirit*', 'hunger and thirst *for justice*', 'clean *of heart*', Luke's lack these qualifications. Of his four beatitudes three concern those who are actually afflicted, without any reference to their religious attitude, the poor, the hungry and those who weep. It is to these that the Kingdom belongs and will bring relief. Only in the last of Luke's beatitudes does any specifically religious note enter, to those who are outcasts 'for the sake of the son of man'. Until then Luke has been pointing to a social, not a religious, class. This lesson is reinforced by the four 'woes' with which Luke balances these beatitudes; here again it is a social class which is envisaged, or at least those who enjoy the pleasures and good repute of the world, without any clause excusing those who do so innocently: 'Alas for you who are rich... who have your fill now... who laugh now... when the world speaks well of you' (6:24-26).

Drawing upon: [users.ox.ac.uk/~sben0056/newbooklets/lukespirit.doc](http://users.ox.ac.uk/~sben0056/newbooklets/lukespirit.doc)

**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.

**BOTTLE TOMBOLA** we will be having bottle tombola at the Xmas Fayre. We would be grateful if you could start collecting full bottles for the stall. Thank you.

**TWO OLD WOODEN PEW CHAIRS** currently in the clergy vestry are available to go to a good home. Please speak to David Hunt if you are interested.

**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 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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

**FOR THE NEWSLETTER** Please contact us at the latest by **10pm WEDNESDAY** for material to be included in the next weekly newsletter. [administrator@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk](mailto:administrator@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk)