

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:

David Hunt

Tina Jarvis

25 October 2015

10.30 am Communion for All: Last Sunday after Trinity

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 178

FORTHCOMING SERVICES AND MEETINGS

Wednesday 28 October, 7.30 pm

Choir Practice

Thursday 29 October, 9.30 am

Holy Communion

Sunday 1 November, 10.30 am

All Age Worship

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** and **Norman England** in our prayers. Please also pray for the souls of **Joyce Butterfield** and **Joan Siesage** who have died recently. For other prayer requests, please speak to the Revd Richard.

THE REVD RICHARD WRITES The Church of England has become exasperated with the delay of the government in responding to its representations on behalf of refugees from the civil war in Syria and elsewhere. This is how the dispute is reported in Diomail:

The Church of England on 18 October published a letter sent to the Prime Minister in early September signed by 84 of its bishops calling for the Government to increase the number of Syrian refugees being resettled to this country "to a minimum of 50,000" over the next five years.

Referring to the situation in Syria as "one of the largest refugee crises ever recorded" the Bishops write that "a moral crisis of this magnitude calls each and all of us to play our parts."

Calling directly on the Prime Minister to increase his current offer to accept 20,000 refugees over the next 5 years to 50,000 the Bishops write:

"We believe such is this country's great tradition of sanctuary and generosity of spirit that we could feasibly resettle at least 10,000 people a year for the next two years, rising to a minimum of 50,000 in total over the five year period you foresaw in your announcement. Such a number would bring us into line with comparable commitments made by other countries. It would be a meaningful and substantial response to the scale of human suffering we see daily."

In addition to "recognising and applauding" the announcements made by the Prime Minister the Bishops offer help from the Church of England in encouraging their churches to provide welcome, housing and foster care to refugees as well as to support the Government in its ongoing efforts.

In their letter the Bishops also called for the creation of a National Welcome and Resettlement Board, mirroring the successful work of such boards created by Government in response to past refugee crises in the 1950s and 1970s. Since the writing of the letter the board has been created with the Bishop of Durham serving as co-chair of the board. [<http://www.refugees-welcome.org.uk/the-board/>]

Speaking on behalf of the bishops, the Rt. Revd. Paul Butler, Bishop of Durham said:

“The Archbishop of York recently said that the current situation has rightly been described as a refugee crisis but it is also a time of opportunity for us as a country and for our wider continent. The opportunity before us is to rise above narrow self-interest, however defined, and to embrace the highest parts of our humanity.

We recognise that both the Prime Minister and His Government responded to calls from the country for there to be a programme of resettlement and we are grateful to him for responding to those calls. However there is a real urgency to this issue with those increasingly being forced from their land as their homes are literally bombed into the ground. As the fighting intensifies, as the sheer scale of human misery becomes greater, the Government’s response seems increasingly inadequate to meet the scale and severity of the problem. It is disheartening that we have not received any substantive reply despite an assurance from the Prime Minister that one would be received. There is an urgent and compelling moral duty to act which we as bishops are offering to facilitate alongside others from across civil society.”

Has the UK forgotten the Past? Two commentators, Iain Levine and Izza Leghus, both grandchildren of Jews who sought and gained amnesty from Nazi persecution, wonder if they would be welcome in the UK today. “Our experience as refugees is not so distant that we’ve forgotten what it’s like to be demonized for seeking safety,” Jewish community leaders wrote to Cameron last week, calling for a response to the refugee crisis that allows people to take safe and legal routes to seek and find protection. Indeed, the language in a *Daily Mail* article from the 1930s about “German Jews pouring into this country” sounds disturbingly familiar. Instead of demonizing people seeking protection, UK leaders should listen to the voices of those who also were taken in not so long ago and are now an established part of British identity and diversity. Starting with the prime minister, the UK government should refer to people seeking protection respectfully and accurately, and take a leading role in a humane European response to this crisis.

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2015/08/13/dispatches-europes-refugee-crisis-has-uk-forgotten-past>

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.

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 service on **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.

MOTHERS UNION are proud to have our own Rev. Keith to talk to us next week. We feel sure that many would like to know the "warts and all" behind the spectacular pilgrimage that Keith undertook earlier this year. Now is the chance to find out! Be with us on the afternoon of **Tuesday, 27th October** at 2.30 p.m. in the Knighton Parish Centre. Friends welcome, and we only ask for a small entrance fee of £1.20 including a cup of tea/coffee and a biscuit.

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.

ARE YOU WILLING TO VISIT ONE PERSON IN OUR DISTRICT? Those of us who visit Care Homes and housebound people are conscious that there are others who would appreciate contact. If you feel you could consider this please contact Brenda Lee or Jean Gabbar to talk it over. 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.

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.

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**