

ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



**MALAWI RICE MISSION SUCCESSFULLY ACCOMPLISHED BY ST GUTHLAC'S!
SEE THE REVD RICHARD WRITES...**

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

1 November 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 179

FORTHCOMING SERVICES AND MEETINGS

Wednesday 4 November, 7.30 pm	Choir Practice
Thursday 5 November, 9.30 am	Holy Communion
Thursday 5 November, 7.00 pm	SEMP Edge Project (Welcome Area)
Friday 6 November, 7.00 pm	Youth Alpha (Welcome Area and church)
Sunday 8 November, 10.30 am	Eucharist for Remembrance Sunday
Sunday 8 November, 5 pm	Music and Prayer for Remembrance Sunday including excerpts from Karl Jenkins, <i>The Armed Man</i> .

PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL We have been asked to keep **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 **Tony Berkley, Joyce Butterfield** and **Joan Siesage** who have died recently. For other prayer requests, please speak to the Revd Richard.

THE REVD RICHARD WRITES During the preparations for our Harvest appeal for the Malawi Rice Mission, **Fiona Wingate** was in contact with **Bishop Christopher**, who served as bishop in Northern Malawi from 2000 to 2008. Here is what **Bishop Christopher** had to say about the work of **St Guthlac's** and the appeal to help Malawi:

'Thank you most especially for taking so much trouble to find answers to the questions with regard to the benefits arising for individual farmers through the Just Fair Trade arrangements. Whatever the minutiae of the arrangement, it does make us reflect on our appetite for cheap goods and the cost that might have for our brothers and sisters on the other side of the world seeking to make a better life for their families. As you so rightly say, being able to provide for your family from your own labours is so much more dignified than having to rely on handouts.

'You have certainly used this opportunity to make people reflect more deeply and inviting people from your local Shia mosque was an inspired way of broadening people's horizons and understanding. Well done! Maybe this can be the beginning of a friendship between the two communities that can blossom. It is so important that committed Muslims and Christians learn to understand and respect one another and work together especially given the tragedy unfolding in Europe and the plight of those remaining in refugee camps in the Middle East. I am so glad to hear that while being a learning experience your weekend of harvest was also a good celebration.

'I have an ongoing project in Malawi that I have been supporting since I made a return visit last year. **One of the places I visited is so remote that they have no access to health care of any kind. During my time as Bishop with support from friends here in the UK we ran a monthly visit of a mobile clinic to that village and two others equally remote.** We were blessed with a priest who had

many years experience as a Medical Assistant before his ordination. It was not unusual for him to see 200+ patients in a day treating respiratory infections, dysentery, malaria etc and giving simple health and hygiene instruction. This fell into abeyance when I left but on my return visit the people pleaded with me to help them again. It is not ideal but it's all they have. Perhaps the most important thing they receive is the feeling they are of value, that they matter, it gives them hope and dignity and a feeling of worth.

'On my return I approached several friends who knew of my time in Malawi and through their generosity we have been able to fund a monthly visit to two villages. You may be assured that it is not only the people from one village who benefit for once people hear news of it they will come from neighbouring villages prepared to wait for hours for help. I have enough funds left in hand for two more visits. Forgive me if St. Guthlac's already has many commitments of giving but if there was any way that you might be able to contribute to this project I would be most grateful and I know the people of Mfula and Chamalala would share with me in that.

'I look forward very much to my next visit to St. Guthlac's.' **The Revd Richard adds: I am very glad to report that not only did we support in full the Malawi Rice Challenge, so that farmers there are helped by the Just Fair Trade arrangements, but we also have some additional funds which we propose to send to Bishop Christopher to support health care for the people of Mfula and Chamalala. *If any members of the congregation wish to add to the donation to Bishop Christopher's project, would they please contact me as soon as possible.***

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.

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 (yolanda.courtney@ntlworld.com).

CHOCOLATES AT HALF TERM This initiative was very successful in yielding funds for Fair Trade: the final figure will be announced shortly. Please continue to support Fair Trade.

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.

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 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 at 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.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE Sat 5th Dec 10pm-1pm. Please make a diary note!

Items we are now collecting include:

Full bottles of anything for the bottle tombola

Bulb bowls suitable to be filled with one or three hyacinth bulbs

Homemade preserves and pickles

Handicrafts

CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE As this worked well last year it has been decided to raffle a Christmas Hamper again this year. If you would like to donate an item towards the hamper, please indicate what you would like to give on the list in the welcome area. As the hamper will be displayed at the Christmas Fayre, **items need to be brought to church by 29th November please. Thank you.**

MAKE YOUR CHRISTMAS GREETINGS GO FURTHER. The PCC would like to suggest that members of the congregation make a donation to a charity instead of exchanging Christmas cards with one another, as in previous years. **If you have a suggestion as to which charity we should contribute to this year, please speak to a member of the PCC. Thank you.**

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**