

ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



Rabbi Mark Solomon, who will address us on Sunday 22 November

CHURCH OF ST GUTHLAC

Holbrook Rd, Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

<http://www.stguthlac-knighton.co.uk/>

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Churchwardens:

David Hunt

Tina Jarvis

15 November 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 181

FORTHCOMING SERVICES AND MEETINGS

Wednesday 18 November, 7.30 pm	Choir Practice
Thursday 19 November, 9.30 am	Holy Communion
Thursday 19 November, 6.45pm	Knighton Players rehearsal
Friday 20 November, 7.00 pm	Youth Alpha (Welcome Area and church)
Sunday 22 November, 10.30 am	Communion for All. Guest preacher Rabbi Mark Solomon

PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL We have been asked to keep **Jean Swanson, David Pallot, Ann Spring, 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, Marjorie O'Neill** and **Joan Siesage** who have died recently. For other prayer requests, please speak to the Revd Richard.

THE REVD RICHARD WRITES Next Sunday, as part of Inter-Faith week in Leicester, I have been invited to address the Progressive Jewish congregation at their Sabbath, while Rabbi Mark Solomon will visit us on Sunday. He will chant from the Hebrew Scriptures and from the Psalms.

On 24 October 2011, Christians Aware held a fifth session on the Psalms offered as part of their Faith Awareness programme. The speaker was Rabbi Mark Solomon and his topic was 'Jewish Psalm Singing'.

The central and distinctive feature of this session was the Rabbi's singing and chanting. Rabbi Mark is Interfaith Consultant for Liberal Judaism. He is Rabbi to the Liberal and Reform congregations in Edinburgh and Leicester, each of which he visits once a month. He is also Cantor at the Great Synagogue in Sydney, Australia (where he was born and grew up). This was his third visit to Christians Aware in Leicester.

He distributed two handouts: one entitled 'Psalms in Jewish Worship', the other, 'Transliteration of Selected Hebrew Psalms'. Here's some of the content of the former: Psalms are known in Hebrew as *Tehillim*, 'praises'. Jewish liturgy does not include the practice of public reading of the whole book of Psalms in a liturgical cycle. Instead, set groups of Psalms, and individual Psalms, are used at fixed times in the liturgy. The Masoretic accents for the Psalms in printed Hebrew Bibles may originally have indicated a method of chanting (as does the different system of accents used for other books of the Bible), possibly going back to the Levites in the Temple, but if so, this method of chanting Psalms was lost long ago. Reading of the whole book of Psalms, either in one sitting, or over the cycle of the week or month, is a popular devotional practice among pious Jews. In certain periods, societies for the recitation of Psalms existed in Jewish communities. The recitation of Psalms was believed to protect from sickness and harm, and Psalms were traditionally recited by a sickbed and beside a body awaiting burial. Particularly popular is Psalm 119 with its eightfold alphabetical structure, and often the verse sets out the letters of a person's name, followed by verses spelling the words *kera saten*, 'tear the adversary', as a prayer for recovery from illness. One of the oldest Psalm groupings is the list of Psalms for the days of the week, chanted by the Levites in the Temple: Sunday, Psalm 24; Monday, Psalm 48; Tuesday, Psalm 82; Wednesday, Psalm 94; Thursday, Psalm 81; Friday, Psalm 93;

Shabbat, Psalm 92. Nowadays these are recited traditionally at the end of the morning service.

Another ancient grouping is *Hallel* ('Praise'), consisting of Psalms 113-118, chanted before the reading of the Torah in the Morning Service on the Three Pilgrim Festivals (Passover, Pentecost and Tabernacles), the New Moon and Hannukah and at the Passover *seeder* (festive meal, when the 'Great *Hallel*', Psalm 135, is also read). The general theme is thanksgiving for God's acts of salvation. Different chants are used for each festival, and at Tabernacles the palm branch is waved in time with the words of certain verses of Psalm 118. On New Moon and the latter days of Passover a slightly abridged version of *Hallel* is read, the reason given (regarding Passover) that our rejoicing is diminished by the suffering of the Egyptians in the Red Sea.

Rabbis in the Talmud assert that one who recites Psalm 145 three times every day is assured of a place in the World to Come, because it combines alphabetical structure with the verse, 'You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living creature.' (*Berakhot* 4b). Since ancient times, this Psalm has been framed by Psalms 84:5 and 144:15 at the beginning and 115:18 at the end, and this composition, known from the first word as *Ashrei* ('Happy') is said twice in the morning service and at the opening of the Afternoon Service.

Rabbi Mark explained that chanting is repetitive, each verse of the Psalm chanted exactly the same way as every other. This is not the case with composed melodies. He demonstrated different styles of chanting (taking Psalm 95 as his example). First he performed it as a traditional Ashkenazi chant in 'Friday night' mode, which would be sung to welcome Shabbat; then as a chant written by Louis Lewandowski (1821-94), one which would be used by pre-war German congregations and in Liberal and Reform communities. The same chant is used for Psalm 113, one of the *Hallel* Psalms. He also sung Psalm 114 (another *Hallel* Psalm) sung to a folk melody, probably Central European. By this point, some of the Jewish friends in the audience were joining in, starting shyly, then becoming bolder and louder. In a synagogue with a strong musical tradition, the *Hallel* Psalms are each chanted to a different melody at the different festivals. This way they stay fresh throughout the year, unique to each of the festival days on which they are sung.

Psalm 91, known as the Psalm of Protection, is chanted at funerals, while walking the coffin to the grave. At weddings, Psalms are not chanted, but sung to composed melodies. The Rabbi demonstrated three different ways of singing Psalm 150, each varying in formality, which the couple can choose between. Psalm 100 is another that is often sung at weddings, as the bride walks down the aisle.

The Rabbi ended his presentation with two different settings of Psalm 23: one ancient, one modern (which would be sung by the family, seated together at table for the Sabbath meal). Then, for a big finish, he led (virtually) the whole audience in singing Psalm 133, verse 1 as a round. This is often sung by pilgrims to Jerusalem.

Source: http://equalitydiversityofficer.blogspot.co.uk/2011_10_01_archive.html

We greatly look forward to the visit of Rabbi Mark Solomon next Sunday and the insights he will give us on the relationship between Judaism and Christianity. There will be an informal kosher faith lunch afterwards: if you would like to stay to meet the Rabbi in fellowship, please sign the list held by Brenda.

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.**

AFTERNOON TEA Father Christmas & the pink fairy invite you to join them for afternoon tea, readings and carols at the Parish centre on **Sat 12th Dec 3-5.30**. Tickets available soon.

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.

MALAWI RICE APPEAL This was more successful than we could ever have hoped, and thanks to the generosity of our congregation, and our visitors from the Shia mosque, we raised a magnificent £363 for Malawi. Of this, £243 went straight back to the Malawi farmers via the Just Fair Trade shop and £120 (pure 'profit' on the 90 bags of rice) has been sent to Bishop Christopher to help fund a monthly visit of a mobile health clinic to Mfula and Chamalala in Northern Malawi - villages which are so remote that they have no regular access to health care. We hope we can continue to help Bishop Christopher with this vital work.

FAIRLY TRADED CHOCOLATE STALL My very grateful thanks to all you chocoholics who supported this over half term. I now know which of you are secret (or not-so-secret) chocolate consumers! We raised a total of £168 for the Just Fair Trade shop and it's fair trade producers. Many thanks from me for your generosity in both of these recent fundraising activities. Margaret

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.

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**