

## ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



**Rabbi Mark Solomon, who will address us today**

### **CHURCH OF ST GUTHLAC**

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Churchwardens:

David Hunt

Tina Jarvis

***22 November 2015***

**10.30 am Communion for All**

### **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 182

## **FORTHCOMING SERVICES AND MEETINGS**

Tuesday 24 November, 7.30 pm	PCC Meeting
Wednesday 25 November, 7.30 pm	Choir Practice
Thursday 26 November, 9.30 am	Holy Communion
Thursday 26 November, 6.45pm	Knighton Players rehearsal
Friday 27 November, 7.00 pm	Youth Alpha (Welcome Area and church)
Sunday 29 November, 10.30 am	Advent Sunday. Communion for All. Interviews with Mads Morgan and Ali Simpson-Smith regarding the SEMP Edge Project
Sunday 29 November, 6.30pm	Advent service at St. Mary's with St. Guthlac's & St. Mary's choirs & friends

**PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL** We have been asked to keep **Jean Swanson, David Pallot, Ann Spring, Dorothy Wollaston, John and Flo McVey** and **Saty French** in our prayers. For other prayer requests, please speak to the Revd Richard.

**THE REVD RICHARD WRITES** Yesterday, I was invited to address the Progressive Liberal Synagogue in their service. In the spirit of interreligious understanding and fellowship, we welcome to our service today Rabbi Mark Solomon. This is an important initiative between our two congregations marking Inter-Faith week. Rabbi Mark is Interfaith Consultant for Liberal Judaism; a Senior Lecturer at the Leo Baeck College and is the visiting rabbi for Edinburgh & Leicester Liberal Synagogues. He is also a distinguished cantor and will chant for us in the original Hebrew. (In last week's newsletter I extracted material from an address given by Rabbi Mark on the subject of Jewish Psalm Singing in 2011: please ask Jane for a copy if you missed his insights.)

It is impossible to discuss relations between Jews and Christians without recalling the events of the Holocaust and the role of Christian anti-Semitism in the long tradition of relations without respect or understanding on the part of the Christian communities of Europe. In our time, similar relations 'without respect' are shown by Daesh or so-called Islamic State in its dealings with the Yazidi people, Shia Muslims and others (including Sunni Muslims) who do not share their murderous ideology. All are threatened by this repulsive ideology. We stand firm with our brothers and sisters in Paris who have seen their way of life threatened, and temporarily torn apart, by the suicide attacks of 13 November.

The Archbishop of Canterbury commented the day after the attacks: 'The sorrow in Paris is heartbreaking and the evil of those who planned and perpetrated the Paris atrocities is beyond measure or words. We weep with the victims and with the bereaved. France is deeply wounded but will prevail with that courage and strength she has always shown. Wherever there is such wickedness Christ suffers afresh in the suffering of every human being. In solidarity let us be the source of consolation. The violence of this evil group brings terror to all, including in the Muslim world where its cowardly acts are opposed by many. This

is a global and generational struggle against an evil cult that chooses death and fear. We choose life and hope, to overcome their hate with the power of God's love. In solidarity across all faiths and none, and with all human beings, rather than in the victimisation of any, we will find the way to defeat the demonic curse of terrorism. Christians are called, like Jesus, to stand with the suffering and broken and to oppose evil and fear with all their strength.'

Bishop John Holbrook, the Acting Bishop of Leicester today described his shock and sadness following the attacks in Paris on Friday night: 'Tragically, once again we are mourning with the people of Paris following an appalling terrorist attack, and we are praying for all those whose lives have now been shattered by loss. Those behind such horrific acts would like to divide communities against each other, so it is vitally important today for us to hear the voice of the Federation of Muslim Organisations when they reiterate again their stance "against senseless violence and violent extremism in all its hideous guises", and the Muslim Council of Great Britain who are able to say "There is nothing Islamic about such people and their actions are evil, and outside the boundaries set by our faith". It should encourage us greatly to know that we stand together in our sorrow, and stand together against all violent extremism.'

As your minister, I was honoured to address the Friday evening vigil of Muslims at the Masjid al-Husayn. Their words are pertinent: 'We as a community are profoundly saddened by the loss of innocent lives in Paris, and our deepest condolences are with the family and friends of the victims, and the French nation. On the one week anniversary of the Paris terror attacks, we would like to invite you to a candlelight vigil to commemorate and remember those innocent lives lost Paris, Beirut, Iraq, Yeman, Afghanistan and all those places around the world who face terror and bloodshed on a daily basis. We would like to invite you to be one of our keynote speakers for the program to give a short 3-5 minute speech on your thoughts, about these terrible acts of terrorism and how we can support and work together as different communities in Leicester to take action to condemn the violence. Please also invite members of your congregation.'

Let us end with two prayers which are on the Church of England website as a comfort to all who believe in God:

God of Hope, we come to you in shock and grief and confusion of heart. Help us to find peace in the knowledge of your loving mercy to all your children, and give us light to guide us out of our darkness into the assurance of your love, In Jesus Christ our Lord.

Merciful God, hear the cries of our grief, for you know the anguish of our hearts. It is beyond our understanding and more than we can bear. We pray that justice may be done and that we may treasure the memory of their lives more than the manner of their death. For Christ's sake.

**KNIGHTON BRANCH MOTHERS UNION** are holding their next meeting on Tuesday 24th November, 2015, at 2.30 p.m. in the Parish Centre, when we welcome back Rev. Joe Smith who will speak on the Chaplaincy at Leicester Royal Infirmary. Friends and guests are very welcome to join with us.

**CHRISTMAS FAYRE Sat 5<sup>th</sup> Dec 10pm-1pm.** This is now only 2 weeks away! A reminder that next Sunday 29th Nov is the last chance to bring contributions towards the Christmas Hamper Raffle. Please also bring along some bottles for the bottle tombola. Homemade cakes and handicrafts will be very welcome on the day or on Fri 4<sup>th</sup> 2-4 pm . Your support on the day will also be much appreciated. If you have not already offered to help on the day and could man a stall for an hour or so please contact Lesley Meakin. Thank you.

**AFTERNOON TEA** afternoon tea, readings and carols at the Parish centre on **Sat 12th Dec 3-5.30.** Tickets available soon from Sue Ardley

**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** We raised a total of £168 for the Just Fair Trade shop and its 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**