

## ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



### **The Aleph and Omega: the first and the last**

This is an Advent symbol of Jesus from Rev 1:8 and 22:13: "I am the Alpha and the Omega' [the first and the last, the beginning and the end], says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty" (see also Isaiah 44:6).

<http://www.crivoice.org/cyadvent.html>

### **CHURCH OF ST GUTHLAC**

Holbrook Rd, Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

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

Minister: Revd Richard Bonney 2125677

[rjbonney@gmail.com](mailto:rjbonney@gmail.com)

Churchwardens:

David Hunt

Tina Jarvis

***29 November 2015***

**10.30 am Communion for All**

**6.30 pm Advent service at St Mary Magdalen with joint choir**

### **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.

## **FORTHCOMING SERVICES AND MEETINGS**

Wednesday 2 December, 7.30 pm	Choir Practice
Thursday 3 December, 9.30 am	Holy Communion
Thursday 3 December, 6.45pm	Knighton Players rehearsal
Friday 4 December, 7.00 pm	Youth Alpha (location tbc)
Saturday 5 December, 10 am	May Fayre
Sunday 6 December, 10.30 am	Advent 2 Communion for All: a Reflective Service

**PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL** We have been asked to keep **David Pallot, Ann Spring, Dorothy Wollaston, John and Flo McVey** and **Saty French** in our prayers. Please also pray for the soul of **Jean Swanson** who has died recently. For other prayer requests, please speak to the Revd Richard.

**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).

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

<b>TONIGHT, 6.30pm</b>	Advent service: Darkness to Light at St. Mary's with joint choirs
Sat 5 <sup>th</sup> December, 10am-1pm	Christmas Fayre
Sun 13 <sup>th</sup> December, 5pm	Christingle service
Sun 20 <sup>th</sup> December, 10.30am	Nativity Gift Service (Holbrook Hall)
Tues 22 <sup>nd</sup> December 7.30pm	Service of Nine Lessons and Carols
Thurs 24 <sup>th</sup> December, 4pm	Crib service
Thurs 24 <sup>th</sup> December, 8pm	First Eucharist of Christmas
Fri 25 <sup>th</sup> December, 10.30am	Christmas Morning All Age Eucharist
There is no service at St. Guthlac's on Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> December	

**THE REVD RICHARD WRITES** Today we welcome Mads Morgan and Ali Simpson Smith, who are contributing a presentation on the Edge Project and Pioneer Ministry. For the Edge Project, please read and 'digest' the sheet which accompanies the Newsletter this week. This is the restatement of the aims of the Project and why it continues to need our support.

Advent is the beginning of the Church Year for most churches in the Western tradition. It begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day, which is the Sunday nearest November 30, and ends on Christmas Eve (Dec 24). If Christmas Eve is a Sunday, it is counted as the fourth Sunday of Advent, with Christmas Eve proper beginning at sundown.

The word **Advent** means 'coming' or 'arrival'. The focus of the entire season is preparation to celebrate the birth of Jesus the Christ in his First Advent, and the anticipation of the return of Christ the King in his Second Advent. Thus, Advent is far more than simply marking a 2,000 year-old event in history. It is celebrating a truth about God, the revelation of God in Christ whereby all of creation might be reconciled to God.

Advent symbolizes the spiritual journey of individuals and congregations, as they affirm that Christ has come, that He is present in the world today, and that He will come again in power. That acknowledgment provides a basis for 'Kingdom ethics', for holy living arising from a profound sense that we live 'between the times' and are called to be faithful stewards of what is entrusted to us as God's people. So, as the church celebrates God's 'inbreaking' into history in the Incarnation, and anticipates a future consummation to that history for which 'all creation is groaning awaiting its redemption', it also confesses its own responsibility as a people commissioned to 'love the Lord your God with all your heart' and to 'love your neighbour as yourself'.

Our hope cannot be in circumstances, no matter how badly we want them or how important they are to us. God's people experience physical existence in the same way that others do. Christians get sick and die, Christians are victims of violent crimes, and Christians are hurt and killed in traffic accidents, bombings, war, and in some parts of the world, famine. We can claim no special dispensation.

If our hope is only in our circumstances, as we define them to be good or as we want them to be to make us happy, we will always be disappointed. That is why we hope, not in circumstances, but in God. He has continually, over the span of four thousand years, revealed himself to be a God of newness, of possibility, of redemption, the recovery or transformation of possibility from endings that goes beyond what we can think or even imagine (Ephesians 3:20).

During Advent, we groan and long for that newness with the hope, the expectation, indeed the faith, that God will once again be faithful to see our circumstances, to hear our cries, to know our longings for a better world and a whole life (Ex 3:7) And we hope that as he first came as an infant, so he will come again as King!

Drawing upon <http://www.crivoice.org/cyadvent.html>

**CHRISTMAS FAYRE Sat 5<sup>th</sup> Dec 10pm-1pm.** This is **NEXT SATURDAY!** Today is the last chance to bring contributions towards the Christmas Hamper Raffle. 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.

### **HELPING OTHERS THIS CHRISTMAS**

There are 3 ways in which members of the congregation are invited to support charities through St Guthlac's this Christmas:

- There will be a donation box available for those who would like to make a donation in lieu of giving Christmas cards to members of the congregation. This collection will go to help fund health clinics in Malawi, a scheme set up by Bishop Christopher.
- Our Christingle service in aid of the Children's Society will be on 13th Dec. Collection candles and envelopes are available and can be returned at the service or any time until Christmas.
- Gifts of non-perishable food will be collected at the Nativity service on 20th Dec and will be taken to Open Hands for their food bank. The delivery will be made after Christmas and given to individuals or families therefore tins and packs of everyday foods (especially tinned main meals, meat and fish, cereal and long life milk) rather than festive food are ideal.

Thank you for your support. PCC.

**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 intend to continue to help Bishop Christopher with this vital work (see notice above).

**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

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

**CHRISTMAS CONCERT** at St Mary's on **December 12th 7:30pm** organised by Suzie Christie and Grace Pepper. Please come and support us. Tickets are available at the parish centre office. 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](mailto:administrator@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk)