

## 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

**6 December 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.

## FORTHCOMING SERVICES AND MEETINGS

Wednesday 9 December, 2.00 pm	Funeral of Jean Spence Swanson Countesthorpe Memorial Park
Wednesday 9 December, 7.30 pm	Choir Practice
Thursday 10 December, 9.30 am	Holy Communion
Thursday 10 December, 6.45pm	Knighton Players rehearsal
Friday 11 December, 7.00 pm	Youth Alpha
Friday 11 December, 1.30pm	Memory Cafe
Sunday 13 December, 10.30 am	Advent 3. Communion for All. Presentation by Barbara Taylor on the work of the Children's Society.
Sunday 13 December, 5 pm	Make your own Christingle at the interactive Christingle 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.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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** “Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” The expert in the law replied, “**The one who had mercy on him.**” Jesus told him, “**Go and do likewise**” (Luke 10:36-37). We probably do not, as a general rule, pay enough attention to God’s mercy, or to use a variant translation, ‘compassion’. This is certainly the contention of Cardinal Walter Kasper, who has produced a study translated as *Mercy: The Essence of the Gospel and the Key to Christian Life*. Mercy, basically, derives from God’s creative act itself, which arouses in Him approval and joy (cf. Gen 1: 4, 10, 12, 18). God does not despise what He has made; he does not deny the work of His hands. ‘Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; our God is merciful’ (Psalm 116:5). Walter Kasper makes the point that God’s justice proceeds from his mercy: ‘If Mercy is the fundamental property of God, then this cannot be a mitigation of Justice, but the Justice of God must, rather, be conceived parting from his Mercy. Mercy is, then, the Specific Justice of God.’

When we talk about the Christian basis for hope, we have nevertheless to recognize that there are two apparently irreconcilable statements about the hope of salvation for all people. On the one hand, there is the incontrovertible statement that God wants the salvation of all men (1 Timothy 2:3) and on the other, a summary of other scriptural references, there is Final Judgement, in which some will go to eternal perdition and others to eternal salvation (Matthew 25: 31-46). Hell exists, and it is not empty; but we cannot say with certainty who is in hell and who is not. There is no theological Hope against or without Faith. One cannot hope against the most clear words of the Lord: ‘... and these shall go to eternal perdition, and the just to eternal life’ (Mt 25, 46) as though they were mere exhortations to be good.

For Kasper the only true response to evil, to tragedy, to natural catastrophes, is Hope, that is, the exercise of Mercy. Neither Reason nor Faith can tell us anything more. ‘The LORD is compassionate and merciful, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love’ (Psalm 103:8). Does God suffer as God, as Father, Son and Holy Spirit; or not rather as Son, and only in his human nature? Truly, the suffering is Christ’s and is circumscribed by his human nature. ‘As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job’s perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy’ (James 5:11).

Drawing upon <http://rorate-caeli.blogspot.com/2014/09/kaspers-perplexing-notion-of-mercy-is.html>

**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.

**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, in aid of the Brain Tumour Research Campaign. Please come and support us. Tickets are available at the parish centre office. Thank you.

**EDGE PROJECT: TOASTIES VOLUNTEER URGENTLY NEEDED.** Please contact Ali Simpson-Smith (Richard has details) if you feel able to volunteer for this role on a fortnightly basis.

### **HELPING OTHERS THIS CHRISTMAS**

There are 3 ways in which members of the congregation are invited to support charities though 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 many thanks from me for your generosity in both of these recent fundraising activities. Margaret

**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)