

ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



Parish Church of St Guthlac
Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

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



**Sunday 23 August 2020 Eleventh Sunday after
Trinity**

A PRAYER FOR THE CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy,
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS Please remember those whom we have been asked to keep in our prayers. Please remember those who have died recently and keep their family and friends in your prayers. For other prayer requests, please contact a churchwarden.

PRAYERS FOR BEIRUT Please remember in your prayers the people of Beirut and all Aid Workers and Charities working in the capital and throughout Lebanon.

PRAYERS FOR HEALTH CARE WORKERS Please pray for all our local doctors, nurses, care workers and support staff, especially **Amy and Dan Barnes** and **Katherine Swanson**.

MALAWI In your prayers, please take time to remember the people of South America, the Middle East and Africa as cases of Covid-19 start to soar in all three areas. Thank you. *Fiona*

The Leicester Lockdown - When will services begin again in church?

In a recent conversation with other local ministers we were all agreeing how difficult it is to plan ahead at the moment. We simply don't know how the pandemic will progress from this point on, and although we are all hoping that the trends keep moving in the right direction we also see the news about significant spikes in infections both in the UK and in other countries. The upshot of this is that I would love to be able to present you with a cast-iron plan for the future weeks and months.... but I can't! All our plans have to be provisional and we have to be ready to change them in the light of events, and also in the light of what we learn about worshipping and meeting together under these difficult circumstances.

What I can give you though is our 'direction of travel' and our intentions as they stand at this point:

- PCC meet to review risk assessments, agree dates and provisional pattern of services - *completed*
- spring clean the church ready for use - Wednesday 2nd September (see below)
- open the church building for private prayer – Sundays 6th and 13th September
- PCC review re-opening so far – 15th September
- open the church for Morning Prayer – Sundays 20th and 27th September, 4th October
- PCC review re-opening so far – 29th September
- provisionally set to open the church building for a service of Holy Communion on Sunday 11th October

We are also hoping to re-open Holbrook Hall to groups from the community once again in September, although details of how this will be done have yet to be finalised.

There is much still to be organised ahead of our services, and it is clear for example, that because of the need for social

distancing we may find it hard to accommodate the number of people who typically came to a morning service before the pandemic. Please do look out for more details about the services in future newsletters.

There is a similar plan to move towards re-opening of the church building at St Mary's too, and details of that are in the St Mary's newsletter and on the website.

Meanwhile we will continue to produce our Virtual Worship each week and of course the Newsletter will be emailed or posted out to everyone for whom we have contact details and permission.

Best wishes *Adrian*

Can you help with spring cleaning? As you'll see we are aiming to smarten up the inside of the building on the morning of **Wednesday 2nd September**, starting about 9.30am. Everyone is welcome to join me! Volunteers should bring a face covering and gloves, please. There is no need for special cleaning materials as there is no reason to think that the church has any virus contamination, but if you are able to bring your own dusters polish etc that would be helpful. Obviously, many hands will make light work, but please don't think about coming along if you are in a 'vulnerable group'. You can just turn up on the day but if you already know that you can come then do please let me know ahead. Thank you! *Adrian*

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Josie Childs: Sadly we received news this week that Josie died on Tuesday 11th August 2020. Her funeral will be on Wednesday 2nd September at 12pm, and will be available to see on the internet at the same time - please contact Annette Toone (Josies sister)

A message from Sue Stanley & Dave Wood:

“We would like to thank everyone for your support following the passing of our Dad, and especially to the large number of people who came to St Marys churchyard on the morning of the funeral to pay their respects. This was a very moving experience and brought great comfort to the family.

The family-only funeral was very memorable, and hopefully Dad would have loved it, despite the restrictions. If you wish to watch the service it is available, if you have internet access, at www.obitus.com Username; **Kali4037** Password; **908694**. This will be available until 26th August 2020.

Because of his infectious friendship and inspiring love, a celebratory memorial service will be held at St. Mary Magdalen church, Knighton, once restrictions allow. With this in mind we are preparing a scrapbook of memories of Dad from all those who have been touched by his Love and Kindness during his long and fulfilling life. If you wish to provide a short personal memory of Dad, humorous or sad, philosophical or whimsical, serious or naughty, we would be most honoured. These can be sent to us via post or email and can include photos or clippings if you wish. This will give our family an insight into “Ray Wood” rather than “Dad”.

Dad had requested no flowers, however he was heartily involved with Menphys for over 50 years therefore donations, if so wished, can be made on the just giving page;

www.justgiving.com/InMemoryofRayWood , or cheque made payable to “Menphys Ltd.” posted to ourselves. If you have already donated may we Thank You for helping to help others.

Kind Regards

Sue Stanley & Dave Wood

Collect & Reading for the Eleventh Sunday of Trinity

The Collect

O God, you declare your almighty power most chiefly in showing mercy and pity: mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace, that we, running the way of your commandments, may receive your gracious promises, and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen

Romans 12:1-8

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect. ³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Matthew 16:13-20

¹³When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' ¹⁴And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' ¹⁵He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.' ²⁰Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

"When the penny drops..."

Revd Canon Dr Stephen Foster

At the time of writing, in my trombone primer, I am up to a page entitled 'Lip Slurs'. In common with all brass instruments, through lip tightening and supported breath pressure you can play a whole series of notes without moving the slide in my case or in other cases, like the French Horn, Trumpet or Tuba, without pressing a different valve. Well, it is fair to say that from a lower note going higher my lip slurring is pretty good. But, from a mid range note going into the upper register, the 'upstairs' sound is as if I am strangling a chicken! The penny certainly hasn't dropped.

To get an unknown number of essential things to come together before my lip has the strength of a wet dish cloth is presently eluding me.

As a 'basso profundo' singer, a similar number of techniques had to be learnt and come together to access the top of my voice. But once 'the penny dropped' it became a joy to sing 'up there' and the mission then was to help other struggling basses to be able to do similarly.

The reason I set the scene in this way, is that both in Matthew and Mark's Gospel...(remembering that Matthew had Mark's work in front of him as he composed his own work) half of Mark and more than half of Matthew is taken up with clues being given as to Jesus' identity as the Messiah, the Son of God. The disciples of the time are shown and are involved in various sorts of miracles, cleansings, teachings and controversies each giving clues as to who Jesus is.

In both cases, it is Peter at Caesarea Philippi who in a moment when he is able to put all the clues together, the 'penny drops' and he confesses his faith in Jesus as being the Messiah.

Then the material of both Gospels becomes really different. The penny having dropped, the twelve now learn to become what they are... followers or better still disciples, pupils of their master, the Messiah.

And it is the same for both Matthew/Mark's initial readers and for each of us today. At some point, the penny has to drop who this person introduced as Jesus of Nazareth really is, that he lived, died and rose again. Then we too learn to become what we are, disciples of the Son of God, disciples who eventually can teach others the truths of the faith.

Who do you say I am?

Revd Aphro McCullough

As many of you know mum was Greek and as I grew up I saw her pray every day, in the morning as soon as she got up and at night before she got into bed and I understood that she had faith in God and in Jesus. When I got older I rejected her kind of faith because I thought that the Orthodox way of using icons in worship bordered on idolatry and when I got even older I realised that the icon is a window through which we see God and Jesus and not in itself to be worshipped. I made a long journey of discovery and I'm still on it!

I'm telling you this because when I asked her one day, in my arrogance to prove how clever I was, "who is Jesus to you?" she replied "he is my best friend". End of conversation. My mum knew who Jesus was and when she died she did so with a smile on her face because she knew He was waiting for her on the other side.

In our Gospel reading for today Jesus asks the twelve who they think he is. Peter replies instantly "well you're the Messiah of course, the Son of the living God." This was dangerous talk but like the voice at his baptism and on the mount of transfiguration, Jesus confirms that what Peter has said is true. Wow, what a revelation, hard to keep it to yourself but that's exactly what Jesus tells his disciples to do. Don't tell anyone, not yet, it's not time.

For us of course, the opposite is true. The moment we recognise who Jesus is we are to tell everyone about it! Even now, locked down, fed up and miserable we are the church, and we have the hope embodied in Peter's words, "you are the Messiah, the Son of the living God". So, I leave you with the question, who is Jesus to you and who are you going to tell about it today? Amen

WORSHIP INFORMATION

BBC Radio 4 Sunday Worship 8.10am

BBC Radio 4 Daily Service each weekday 9.45am on long wave only

Catch up available for all these on the BBC Sounds app.

Virtual Sunday Service for the Knighton Benefice.

Please look out for the email giving the link to this week's Sunday Service which will be available on YouTube from Sunday.

Virtual Compline/ Night Prayer at 8pm on a Wednesday.

You can join by just **phoning up** and inputting the code **or** using **'Zoom'** online. If you would like to participate with a speaking part, please do contact Matthew by 4pm each Wednesday (revgough@gmail.com).



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

0800 804 8044

Are you in need of some daily hope during this lockdown?

We have a new FREE telephone line for you to ring to hear comforting hymns, daily prayers and reflections.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND 100 YEARS OF CONNECTIONS

For Phone only: telephone this number **0131 460 1196**

When promoted input Meeting ID: **746 767 4408**

For internet using Zoom:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://leccofe.zoom.us/j/7467674408>

Input Meeting ID: 746 767 4408

Don't forget to visit the St. Guthlac's Facebook page and website <http://www.stguthlac-knighton.co.uk/>

CONTACT DETAILS

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Revd Janet Gasper

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Churchwardens:

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Knighton Benefice Magazine: Nigel Siesage
stmaryknighton.magazine@gmail.com

RIDE AND STRIDE 2020: This annual event organised by the Leicestershire Historic Churches Trust to raise funds to preserve churches in our county is going ahead on **Saturday 12 September** between 10am and 6pm. There are a few changes this year but the format remains the same where we're encouraged to visit participating churches and through sponsorship and donations raise funds for the trust. It may not be possible for Welcomers to welcome at all churches this year and refreshments will not be offered, but those churches and chapels that have signed up to participate in Ride+Stride 2020 can be found on the trust's website (<https://www.lhct.org.uk/ride-and-stride/>)

Riders and striders may be able to find a cold tap to fill up a water bottle and also toilet facilities at some churches along your chosen route but again not all churches will be physically open. All participants must carry their own pen and hand sanitiser to sign in at each church or chapel on the day. Remember to take a face covering /mask with you to wear when you enter a church or chapel. As refreshments are not going to be served at the churches please ensure you take food and drink with you.

I would encourage you, if you feel able to take part even if only to visit your local church. Even though this year might be a very different from other years, I suggest it remains important to support the work of the trust. Visit their website for details of how the funds raised through Ride and Stride support churches and their communities across the county. I hope to have the sponsorship forms in the next few weeks. If you'd like a form please let me know. Fiona.

LEICESTER CITY OF SANCTUARY

St Guthlac's has supported *Leicester City of Sanctuary* over several years. Its mission is to welcome asylum seekers and refugees in and around Leicester, and support them to rebuild their lives, develop their skills and feel part of the community. St Guthlac's would like to support their autumn fund-raising campaign where every gift is matched £ for £.

Leicester City of Sanctuary have continued to be active throughout Lockdown including:

- Giving £1500 in emergency payments to people in need
- Providing over 100 online English as a Second Language classes in conjunction with University of Leicester
- Providing fresh vegetables from a local allotment run by an asylum seeker;
- Handing out toiletry packs; books, art materials and seeds
- Helping people find food banks
- Providing 15 WhatsApp exercise sessions
- Giving over 60 hours of individual help and support

Can you help them continue this good work?

We are collecting money through the St Guthlac's bank account, so please make a cheque payable to 'St Guthlacs PCC' (no cash please). Alternatively, you can pay by Direct Transfer: Sort code 20-49-08 account 53861341 Reference "COS" You can send a donation by post or drop your envelope through the door of 62 Elms Road (Matthew) but not at St Guthlac's Church please!

If you would like further information Shali Bullough, Coordinator, would love to hear from you.

Email: shali@leicester.cityofsanctuary.org or you can check out their website on www.Leicester.cityofsanctuary.org

NEWS OF MATTHEW'S ORDINATIONS AS A PRIEST

At last we have details of how Matthew, our curate, will be ordained priest! The service will be on the afternoon of Sunday 13th September at the Cathedral – I will be there to pray with Matthew and welcome him on everyone else's behalf into his new and expanded ordained role, but sadly because of the pandemic restrictions it is not possible to have members of our local congregations present to support him as we would have hoped.

We will be getting a special gift for Matthew to mark his ordination and if you would like to contribute then do please send a cheque (not cash please) payable to 'St Guthlacs PCC' . Alternatively you can pay by Direct Transfer: sort code 20-49-08, account 53861341, reference "Matthew's Ordination".

You can send a donation by post or drop your envelope through the door of 5 Church Lane, LE2 3WG (Adrian) or the St Mary's Parish Centre, Church Lane (but not at St Guthlac's Church please!). Thank you.

Matthew will preside at his first service of Holy Communion at St Mary Magdalen on Wednesday 16th September, at 7.30pm (more details to come).

Adrian

KNIGHTON BENEFICE MAGAZINE I shall shortly begin work on the September/October issue of the magazine. The deadline for copy is 31 August. I aim to continue the "Letters from Lockdown" section but material on any topic would be very welcome. Thanks, Nigel Siesage. Please send articles to stmaryknighton.magazine@gmail.com

PLANNED GIVING SCHEME

Regular giving is an integral part of our church life supporting our day to day costs, ministry and mission. A good way to achieve this is through a weekly envelope or a monthly bank standing order as part of our Planned Giving Scheme. Scheme details can be obtained David Hunt. If you are a taxpayer and gift aid your giving, our church can claim an additional 25%.

During the current Coronavirus pandemic please put aside your weekly offerings ready to bring to church when things return to something like normal. The costs of the church are largely unchanged even though we cannot meet, so your regular giving is extremely important to our collective 'health' and the mission of God here.

FOR THE NEWSLETTER Please send material to be included in the next newsletter by **Thursday 10pm** to administrator@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk

"Images of Knighton"

Entries Wanted
for
2021 Calendar
Competition



Have you got a photographic eye, or can you paint, draw, create (any medium) an image of Knighton?

Adult and under 18s categories

The panel of judges is made up of a local councillor, artists, photographer & Vicar

Free calendars to successful entrants

Please send high quality original jpeg images by -

Monday 14th September

to spireappeal@gmail.com

Queries to Rev. Gough-07754961997



St Mary's Knighton Spire Appeal