

ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



Parish Church of St Guthlac
Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

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



Sunday 30 August 2020

Twelfth 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*

How do we live as the Church *now*?

Worship

*“Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, **praising God** and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. “ (Acts 2.46-47)*

Over the summer weeks I've been reflecting on each of the 'holy habits', or characteristics, of the life of the early church, as shown to us by Luke in the Acts of the Apostles. The ninth 'holy habit' is worship, '*praising God*' – which the Bible consistently presents to us as the intentional act of laying out our appreciation of God's character and actions, which in turn arises from a loving and faithful heart. Worship is therefore something that we decide to do, but it is rooted in our experience of faith and God's goodness in our own lives.

There are times when worship feels easy and the natural thing to do – when we have such a sense of deep joy and gratitude that we cannot help but worship God. But there are also times when the last thing we *feel* like doing is worshipping God. Perhaps our circumstances or worries are weighing us down, or perhaps illness and death seem ever present; at such times we need each other and the encouragement of worshipping *together* to sustain us.

In the current pandemic we remain Christians who want to worship together, even while we are forced to remain apart. Though our buildings are once again beginning to open, tentatively, our meetings will not look like our traditional worship for some considerable time to come. How then do we put into practice this 'holy habit' in a corona virus world?

The first Christians certainly met together to worship God, as Luke tells us, but it's also clear that their faith spilled over into all aspects of life. They discovered that all of life can be worship when lived for love of God. Worship is not just confined to an

hour or two in church but we ought to offer it often, as a grateful response to God who is involved in all aspects of our lives; our work, rest, enjoyment of creation, service, eating, giving ... and meeting.

The current restrictions are perhaps a chance to learn some new things about worship, and even to learn some new ways to worship. Those of us who have access to the internet can find a whole range of different styles of worship in church to view or be part of, for example. There are many very good modern songs to help us worship – they are certainly not traditional hymns but nevertheless can bring us into the presence of God for worship in a fresh way that can invigorate our faith.

For all of us, this is a chance to *choose* to worship rather than just acting automatically because we're in church. Perhaps we're being called to make more of an *effort* and to put together some words of praise and thanksgiving ourselves? And certainly we have the opportunity to praise God through the day for every aspect of life – perhaps we could just pause after every routine task and simply say “Praise God from whom all blessings flow”.

In the meantime, keep safe and stay well. *Adrian*

Moving towards re-opening our church building

We're ready to begin steps towards re-opening St Guthlac's for services, and as you'll read here the first step is to open for private prayer. I know that the special requirements will make church feel unusual and may indeed put you off, but please remember that God himself is not shaped by our circumstances! The world is an imperfect place and we are imperfect people but we can worship God in all situations and he is pleased when we do. This is our first step on the road towards a 'normal' worshipping life together and it is right and good to feel some joy as well as a healthy awareness of all that we have to do to be safe. *Adrian*

ST GUTHLAC'S OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

St Guthlac's will be open for private prayer on **Sunday 6th and 13th September 10.30-11.30 am**. You can come at any time in this period. It will be wonderful to welcome people who want to spend some time in the church. This is a time of quiet prayer with God. There will be no one leading a service.

To do this safely we have carried out a risk assessment to ensure that we keep to the rules and guidance from the government and Church of England. Sadly, this means there are lots of rules. Mainly about things you can't do!

We have cleared away all hymn books and other documents and removed most of the chairs. We can accommodate 25 individuals, or household groups at a time, socially distanced in the main body of the church. There will be no toilets available.

- You must wear a mask.
- You will be asked to give your contact details by the Steward. The Steward only will write these down. These details will only be shared in the unlikely event that anyone develops symptoms. This is to protect everyone.
- You will be given a prayer card which you might find useful. Please leave this on the chair you use to show that no one else should use this chair during whole Prayer Period. This is to stop transmission of the virus from one person to another.
- Please do not pray out loud and there must be no singing!
- If more people than 25 come at any one time, you will be asked to queue outside (socially distanced). In this case we ask that everyone stays for a short time only to allow others to take their place.

There is no pressure to come or not to come. Whether you come or not please pray for everyone in our congregation and the wider community, as we make this important start in opening the church.

Can you help with clearing the church and cleaning?

We are aiming to clear the tables and chairs away and smarten up the inside of the building on the morning of **Wednesday 2nd September**, starting about 9.30am. Everyone is welcome to join in! 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' and please bear in mind that it involves moving furniture. You can just turn up on the day but if you already know that you can come then do please let Adrian know ahead. Thank you!

Collect & Readings for the Twelfth Sunday of Trinity

The Collect

Almighty and everlasting God,
you are always more ready to hear than we to pray
and to give more than either we desire or deserve:
pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy,
forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid
and giving us those good things
which we are not worthy to ask
but through the merits and mediation
of 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

Exodus 3.1-15

¹Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ²There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. ³Then Moses said, 'I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.' ⁴When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, 'Moses, Moses!' And he said, 'Here I am.' ⁵Then he said, 'Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.' ⁶He said further, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

⁷Then the LORD said, 'I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, ⁸and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁹The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.' ¹¹But Moses said to God, 'Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?' ¹²He said, 'I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.'

¹³But Moses said to God, 'If I come to the Israelites and say to them, "The God of your ancestors has sent me to you," and they ask me, "What is his name?" what shall I say to them?'

¹⁴God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM.' He said further, 'Thus

you shall say to the Israelites, “I AM has sent me to you.”¹⁵ God also said to Moses, ‘Thus you shall say to the Israelites, “The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you”: This is my name for ever, and this my title for all generations.’

Romans 12:9-21

⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are.

¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written,

‘Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.’ ²⁰No, ‘if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.’ ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Matthew 16:21-28

²¹From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, ‘God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.’ ²³But he turned and said to Peter, ‘Get behind

me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.'

Learning following the 'dropped penny...'

Revd Canon Dr Stephen Foster

In our multi faith, multi-cultural society I am often staggered by the certainty individuals show, and often in the early days of their new found faith. The foundation for such certainty for them can be the authority of Sacred Scripture, the new found doctrine of their particular religion, or how reasonable this or that faith appears when set alongside the other truths of life they have heretofore mused over.

Far from denying any religious enthusiasm from those times when in various contexts, the 'penny drops'...(indeed, throughout my Christian life there have been a number of such times encouraging excitement and energy,) we do need to be a little careful.

For Peter, after getting it 'wholly right' at Caesarea Philippi, in the first instance, hot on the heels of his moment of initial triumph, he then gets it wholly wrong as to what sort of Messiah Jesus was, and what the implications were going to be for his followers.

In reflecting on one of the Old Testament readings set for today, that from Exodus 3 and the Burning Bush, Moses, like Adam, Abraham, Isaac, Noah, Jacob, Samuel and others is called and here called by name (twice!) to investigate the presence and reality of God in the most personal of ways. But the Hebrew strongly suggests that Moses 'turns aside to see' FIRST, and then God speaks to him.

In my own faith and ministry, after various pennies have dropped I have tried to ground such 'tumbings' by 'turning to my own burning bush' and musing on how the dropped penny fits into the whole picture of my life of faith so far. My academic bent often helps but, if I were to be honest sometimes hinders me in this grounding. I can imagine that God's voice speaking my name several times might be out of his total exasperation with me!

But I do think God does give us the clues to Himself and his relationship with each one of us, and then expects us to use our minds and hearts to try to sort things out.

Like Peter, my natural enthusiasm has meant I have often got things wrong, but I do believe that the gifts God gives to each of us, help us to become insightful into his very being, encouraging in the building our own relationship with him, and quietly confident in our proclamation.

Perhaps the image of a burning bush' in our mind's eye can help us to personally interact with God knowing that in the context of holy ground, we can approach 'the holy' with whatever our musings happen to be, knowing that he will always react in love... and at least in my own case the occasional frustration!

A Reflection on today's Gospel, Matthew 16:21-28

Rev Janet Gasper

We find Jesus at a crossroads in this gospel reading – from that time on he began to show his disciples that he must go to

Jerusalem and suffer and die at the hands of the religious leaders and on the third day be raised. Peter has recognized Jesus as the Messiah and Peter pictures a figure of Glory and only hears Jesus words about suffering. But Jesus knows he must suffer and die and he is willing to make that choice and to start preparing his disciples for this. For Jesus it means continuing in the same loving direction as before. Peter is appalled that the Son of the Living God could suffer – he can't accept it and tells this to Jesus and Jesus has to help Peter make a 'U Turn'. Jesus words to Peter sound brutal: "Get behind me Satan. You are a stumbling block to me.". All those listening, and that includes us, are shocked but here is revealed the strengths and weaknesses that make Peter's humanity a model for all who try to follow and often feel they have failed. A little earlier Jesus had hailed Peter as 'the rock' on whom he will build his church. That the same rock should also be a stumbling block reminds us that Peter did not come fully formed but had to learn to exercise his vocation through a series of errors and misconceptions. The stumbling block must be put behind Jesus but those who want to become his followers must also get behind him. Jesus assures the disciples that those who take up the cross and follow will find their lives. This is 'a path of revelation' and 'becoming' in which they will discover new selves formed in the likeness of Christ. On the cross we see God in Jesus stretching out his arms to embrace the suffering of the world, choosing the costly way of love and service rather than the way of power and greed.

Next Tuesday the church commemorates Giles of Provence. In the 7th Century he set up a monastery in Provence on the pilgrimage route to the Holy Land. He cared for the wounded, the exhausted, those crippled by disease, happy even to take in lepers who were not permitted to enter towns. There was no respite and Giles never turned anyone away. Today we see this costly way of love and service taught by Jesus in those who

work for aid agencies: Christian Aid, Red Cross, UNICEF, Save the Children, Doctors serving with Medicin Sans Frontiers and emergency workers throughout the world. Our hearts go out to those trying to relieve the plight of those in Beirut who have lost everything in the explosion. We see edited highlights on our TV screen – they know the heart-breaking decisions that have to be made on the ground. Thank God that people are called to help in the extremities of life in this world and ask God to help us take the costly way of love and service in the way we care for family, friend and stranger.

Amen

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

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 DIOCESE OF ENGLAND SEARCH FOR GOD'S CALL **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/>

Whilst work is being carried out on the webserver it may be necessary to access the website via

<http://82.22.25.16/StGuthlac/>

CONTACT DETAILS

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Revd Aphro McCullough

Revd Janet Gasper

Reader: Fiona Wingate

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

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

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 stmmaryknighton.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.

"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