

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*

RE-OPENING OUR CHURCH BUILDING

It's good to be back in our building. Today we are opening the church for private prayer once again, and it's a very welcome step. 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 again on **Sunday 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.

MORNING PRAYER SERVICE

Sundays 20th September, 27th September & 4th October

In the light of the first two weeks of St Guthlac's opening for prayer, the PCC is meeting on Tuesday 15th September to consider if and how the church can be open for Morning Prayer Services from Sunday 20th September, instead of for individual prayer. If you have any comments about this please let Tina, David or Adrian know.

If the PCC decides to open on 20th September for a service, we will circulate people by an additional email and post as well as displaying a notice on the church noticeboard.

NEWS OF MATTHEW'S ORDINATION 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. The service will be live streamed on the [YouTube channel here](#) and then available to watch later as well.

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, 7.30pm. Please phone the St Mary's Church Office on 0116 2702705 to reserve a place if you would like to come and support him. *Adrian*

Ordination Service 3.30pm Sunday 13th September

Thankyou so much for your support and prayers over the last year and particularly welcoming my family especially over the period of Covid.

I am sorry that the invitation to the Ordination of Priests is so restrictive. However, if you would like to watch live or catch up on the recording, please access the Diocese YouTube channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/DioceseofLeicester>.

Matthew

NOMINATIONS FOR 2020 AGM

We are starting to plan for the AGM which was cancelled in April. Elections will take place for 2 churchwardens, 3 PCC members and 2 Deanery Synod representatives. If you would like to stand for any of these vacancies, or would like to find out more, please let me know. Thank you. **Lesley Meakin**

ELECTORAL ROLL.

If you are not currently on the electoral roll and would like to be entered on it, please contact Jane Wright at administrator@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk for a form. Please see the 'Notice of Revision' on our website or the external church noticeboard for eligibility. Completed forms must be returned to Jane by 3rd October if you wish to be entitled to vote at the APCM. Thank you.

Collect & Readings **for the Fourteenth Sunday of Trinity**

The Collect

Almighty God,
whose only Son has opened for us
a new and living way into your presence:
give us pure hearts and steadfast wills
to worship you in spirit and in truth;
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 14:1-12

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them.

⁴Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honour of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God. ¹¹For it is written, 'As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.'

¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Matthew 18:21-35

²¹Peter came and said to Jesus, ‘Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?’ ²²Jesus said to him, ‘Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.’

²³For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, “Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.” ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, “Pay what you owe.” ²⁹Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, “Have patience with me, and I will pay you.” ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, “You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?” ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.’

A Reflection on Matthew 18. 21-35

Revd Adrian Jones

“Everyone says forgiveness is a lovely idea, until they have something to forgive.”

It’s a quote from C.S. Lewis, and a good one.

Forgiveness is central to our Christian faith - but it is not the soft, fluffy, theoretical ideal that some would like to imagine.

There can be nothing more difficult to offer when we have been deeply injured, nothing more difficult to accept when we know we are guilty, but also nothing more transformative when graciously offered and gratefully received.

There is also nothing more difficult to understand, truly, until we ourselves are in the sad position of having been subject to a great wrong, injury or injustice, and yet knowing that the route to healing, restoration and peace for everyone involved will only start with our granting forgiveness. Only when we are on the spot, feeling the hurt but so conscious of Christ’s call to forgive, can we start to work through for ourselves what forgiveness really involves.

Unfortunately, or perhaps fortunately, because of our human brokenness and tendency to selfishness, no one of us escapes the hurt inflicted by others and that requires our forgiveness and no one of us can avoid being the person who inflicts such injury on others either. Normal human life is a classroom for forgiveness.

With this parable of the forgiving master and the unforgiving servant Jesus encourages his disciples to reflect on the forgiveness of God. The parable still, today, leaves us with many questions and it should stir us to look hard at ourselves – just as Jesus intended.

Here are some of the things that make me think as I read this parable today:

1. Jesus clearly wants us to ponder God's forgiveness shown to us, as we hear of the rich master's forgiveness shown to his servant. However, in the parable the first servant finds himself in trouble because he has enormous debts that he can't repay. We usually find Jesus talking about the forgiveness of sins... so in what way are our sins like debts? How does our wrong-doing put us in debt to God? How do we find ourselves trying to pay off this debt? Can we ever be successful?

2. The servant is in trouble and pleads with his master for more time to repay the debt. Does God want us to plead for forgiveness before he will grant it? What is God looking for in us when His heart is turned towards forgiveness?

3. The first servant fails to cancel the debt of the second servant, despite the mercy that has been shown to him by the master. As a consequence the first servant ends up worse off than when he started. Is it right to say then, that if we will not forgive others we have not truly understood our own forgiveness? What if we want to forgive but just find it so hard?

My final reflection from this parable is that perhaps we should see forgiveness as a way of life rather than an event; more like a river than a lake. When we seek to follow the way of Jesus, perhaps forgiveness is not so much a place we visit on the journey, but the power and direction that carries us all the time and that shapes each relationship and every encounter.

Amen.

"Forgive us our trespasses as..."

Revd Canon Dr Stephen Foster

From the rabbinical norm of three times, to Peter's suggestion of 'as many as seven times' to Jesus confirming times without number in his 'seventy seven' times...here, in today's Gospel and including the following parable, we have a very clear and

straightforward teaching on the necessity for the Christian to forgive others as many times as is necessary.

As we all know, it is perhaps the area of our faith which we wrestle with the most, especially as in the world's view, payback, retribution, a similar 'pound of flesh' for one taken is 'only just', 'only fair', and 'only right'.

We jump into Old Testament mode and quote 'an eye for an eye' etc.

(Strangely this is a misunderstanding of the text in a way, as an 'eye for an eye' was actually merciful, preventing an 'eye, and leg and arm' being symbolically taken in retribution!)

Furthermore, we are afraid that forgiving, in the way that Jesus tells us to, will make us appear weak in the world's eyes.

Beginning with this last point, I think the reverse.

Christian forgiveness makes 'the world' sit up and take notice and ask 'why?' because it is so unworldly.

There have been a number of cases in the media over the last few years where the murder of a loved one has been met with the family declaring the guilty one forgiven in spite of the shattering nature of what has happened to them. These declarations of forgiveness make the news because they are so unusual.

But, what a proclamation of the faith they are - and how graceful and strong they appear when so many others will be encouraging 'the other, more usual way'!

As I write, it is the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lady. The faithfulness of Mary as the 'theotokos', the Mother of God which entailed seeing her wholly innocent sinless Son die on a

Cross...her acceptance of same and presumably the forgiveness of those who were responsible again shines as a beacon we find hard to emulate.

But, as the title of this piece from the Lord's Prayer tells us...we can only ask for the forgiveness of God to the same extent as we are able to forgive all others, remembering that 'forgiving without forgetting' is not really forgiveness at all.

And if that isn't hard enough, the benchmark for our forgiving others in the image of Christ may well be encapsulated in the Parable of the Prodigal Son. (Luke 15:11-32)

Here, in what I prefer to call 'The Parable of the Forgiving Father', the father of the story does not wait for the Prodigal to deliver his well-rehearsed apology but runs out to greet him while he is still afar, and shows him in kisses and embraces that he is already forgiven!

Of course, the world of the other self-professed 'faithful' Son doesn't 'get' this and suggests the alternative, all too human view.

Lastly, in my ministry, where situations have arisen where folk have found it almost impossible to forgive the wrongdoing of another, this inability to forgive has eaten away at their very souls, and has destroyed their faith and in some sense their very lives.

Perhaps the starting point for us might be that we all need God's forgiveness and often the forgiveness of others, and in that truth, our first port of call in our dealings with others when such is necessary should be one of real forgiveness ready and waiting.

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

Churchwardens:

David Hunt

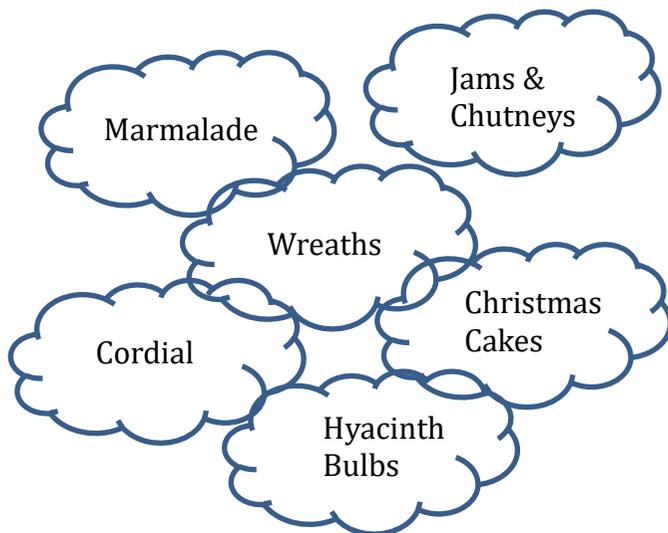
Tina Jarvis

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

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

St Guthlac's Virtual Christmas Fayre Home-made Christmas Gifts



Although St Guthlac's won't be able to hold a Fayre this year, we are pleased to be able to offer some of our popular makes and bakes..... We are aiming to have a sale of home-made items that can be ordered in November. They can then be either collected or delivered early December. The items available will be long lasting and can be made Covid-safe.

If you can help with making jams, chutneys or Christmas wreaths please contact Tina. Thank you.
0116 2707485 churchwardens@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