



**St Mary Magdalen
Church of England,
Knighton**

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Church**



**Newsletter for
Sunday 8th January
Epiphany**

Collect for this week

O God,
who by the leading of a star
manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth:
mercifully grant that we,
who know you now by faith,
may at last behold your glory face to face;
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.



DIARY

Sunday 8th January <i>Epiphany</i>	9.00am Eucharist (trad) 10.30am Sung Eucharist 10.30am All Age Worship at St Guthlacs
Monday 9th January	10.00am Social Committee meeting 7.00pm Bell ringing practice
Tuesday 10th January	9.30am Holy Communion (St Mary's) 12.30pm Funeral
Wednesday 11th January	8.00pm Compline (Zoom)
Thursday 12th January	9.30am Holy Communion (St Guthlacs) 12.30pm Church cleaning
Friday 13th January	7.00pm Choir Practice
Saturday 14th January	10.00am Coffee Morning
Sunday 15th January <i>2nd Sunday of Epiphany</i>	9.00am Eucharist 10.30am Morning Worship 10.30am Eucharist at St Guthlacs

Please check the online diary for updates and beyond the week ahead: www.stmarysknighton.co.uk

Sunday Club, for children at primary school, meets during the 10.30am service on both the second and third Sundays of each month. Everyone is welcome even if it's your first time here! Just ask one of the Welcome Team to point out our leaders, and then say hello :)

On the first Sunday we all stay together for All Age Worship, and on the fourth Sunday why not join us at 10.30 for the relaxed, cafe- style Church Club at St Guthlac's, Holbrook Road?

Listening to God's Word

Our Bible reading for **Sunday 8th January** is:

Isaiah 60.1-6 and Matthew 2.1-12

Church Family News

Sad news of the death of the Revd John Gates: Some of you will already have heard the sad news that our friend and former congregation member at St Mary's, the Revd John Gates, died on Christmas morning having been in hospital for a short time. John was a gentle leader and encourager who never failed to have a kind word and a good suggestion, and many of us will miss his cheerful and faithfully positive approach to the challenges of life.

This is a particularly difficult time of year for anyone to be bereaved and our thoughts and prayers go out to Barbara and their families, as they prepare for John's funeral, which will be at St Mary's on Thursday 26th January at 11.30am. Everyone is welcome of course. *Adrian*

Service of Prayer for Healing, with Holy Communion: . The next will be on **Friday 27th January**, 11am as usual.

Good news! Our new Warm Room :

Thanks to the valiant efforts of our decorating team we are nearly ready to open the Cottage Room (small lounge) in the Parish Centre, as a Warm Room. This is a space for those feeling the cold and the pinch financially, but also for everyone who would like a cuppa and a chat. BUT ...we need volunteer helpers who will staff the room, receive our visitors and give them a warm welcome. If you could help with volunteering for a couple of hours each week then please do let me know.

We would like to open on Thursday afternoons in the first instance, but if we have offers for other times too then we can extend our hours! Thank you in anticipation. *Adrian*

Thanks Doreen Macafee would like to thank all those who have been trying to contact her. She's had problems with her phone. Doreen is now likely to be long term at the Evington Centre, Blue team, room 3 and her phone number remains the same.

Chalking the Door: an Epiphany House Blessing.

“Chalking the door” is an ancient Christian tradition that is once again becoming popular. It is a way to celebrate and literally mark the occasion of the Epiphany and God’s blessing of our lives and home. Remembering how the Three Kings sought out Jesus at home and in his family, we ask for God's blessing on our own homes, families and all who visit us, as we start a New Year.

This year, our prayers are symbolised by using the markings 20+C+M+B+23. The numbers remind us of the year and the letters stand for the Latin phrase *‘Christus mansionem benedictat’* or “*May Christ bless the house.*” They could also stand for the legendary names of the Three Kings (Caspar, Melchior and Belthazar).



To 'Chalk the Door' this Epiphany, follow these simple steps: First gather your 'household' outside, by the door - all who want to share what you are doing. If you live alone, consider asking a friend or neighbour to join you. Then pray- using the prayer below, or something similar.

Peace be to this house and to all who enter here.

Amen

Loving God, bless this household we pray,

with faith, compassion and generosity;

with health, peace, love and joy.

May everyone who comes to our home this year

know that they are truly welcome,

And, as we share with both friends and strangers,

may we also know that Jesus is with us,

revealed to the world as your Son and our Saviour.

Amen.

Write the inscription - with a piece of chalk, mark the lintel of the door or porch, or a wall close to the door, with 20+C+M+B+23, as you do so saying 'May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the new year.'

To encourage you, there is a basket of free chalk at the back of the church! Do please take a piece on your way home today. Although the chalk will fade over the course of the year, God's presence and blessing will stay with us. *Adrian*

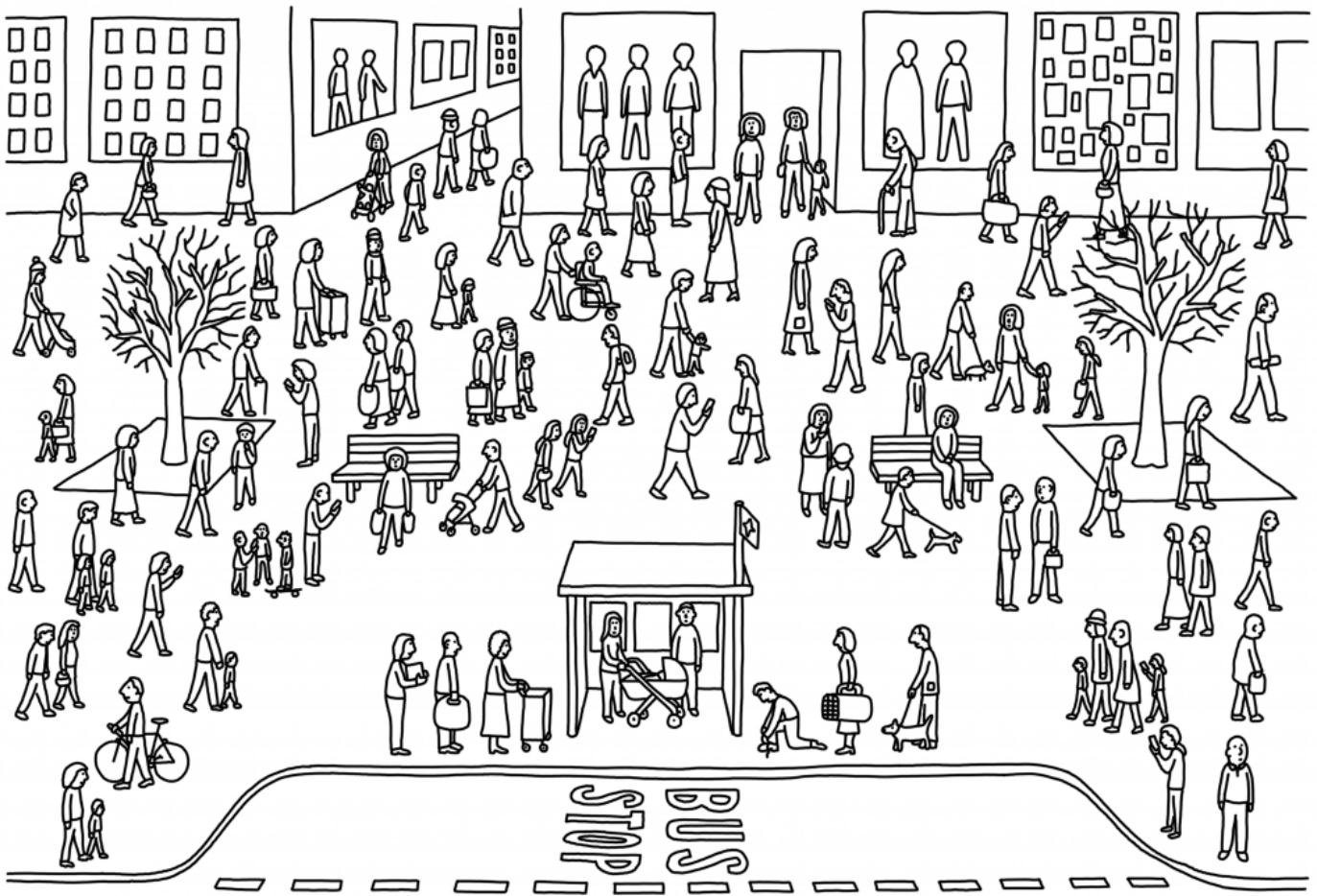
New Year - new growth? Perhaps, as 2023 starts, you're feeling that you want to see your Christian faith grow in the new year, in the company of supportive friends? You're invited to join our new Wednesday morning small group, where each week we will learn from the Bible together and pray for the challenges and opportunities of our daily lives. We will meet from 10.30am - noon, in the redecorated Cottage Room of the Parish Centre, starting with coffee/tea and cake! To find out more please chat to me or just come along! Our 'Wednesday Small Group' starts on 18th January. *Adrian*

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: We value the friendship and support of our fellow Christians in other churches across the city and so it is good that we mark, each year, the week of Prayer for Christian Unity - in 2023 it begins on 18th January. I'm pleased to say that at St Mary's at 10.30am on Sunday 22nd we will host, as preacher, the Rev'd Leigh Greenwood from Stoneygate Baptist Church, while I will be preaching for them. I hope that you'll put the date on your calendar and help to give Leigh a warm welcome. *Adrian*

Advance notice! This month has five Sundays, and as usual we'll be taking the fifth as an opportunity for a joint benefice service, where we join together with the congregation of St Guthlac's to worship, pray, learn, and get to know each other better. On **Sunday 29th January** we will join together at St Mary's for a Eucharist, and to hear Susan Littlemore, a speaker from **Christians Against Poverty** - see below for more information about CAP. As we aim to bring all our church members together in the one service on this Sunday, there won't be a 9am Eucharist at St Mary's that day.

Christians Against Poverty was founded in 1996 by John Kirkby. He believed God was calling him to sacrifice his career in finance and use his knowledge of the industry to help those in need. In his hometown of Bradford, John began to use his expertise to help ordinary people weighed down by debt and unable to make ends meet, to support families facing eviction and to bring hope to desperate people trapped by poverty. In partnership with local churches and other committed volunteers trained as debt counsellors, John expanded the network of CAP centres to other areas of the country. Today, as well as offering debt help, Christians Against Poverty offer practical advice about living well on a low income through Life Skills groups, and support people stepping into employment through CAP Job Clubs. Through this UK-wide network of projects, CAP have a vision of transformed lives, thriving churches and an end to UK poverty. All Christians and churches are invited to be part of this essential service of others.

THE NATIVITY



CartoonChurch.com

Free Film Night at St Guthlac's Church

Part of our monthly Tea and Talk series of events. All welcome!

SAVING GRACE (Cert 15, 90 mins)

Tues 17th Jan 7.00pm

Green-fingered widow Grace Trevethen (Brenda Blethyn) is faced with a cash-flow problem and wonders how she will be able to pay for the upkeep on her Cornish manor. The solution comes from the manor caretaker (Craig Ferguson): why not start growing and selling marijuana?

That's exactly what Grace does, with hilarious and unforeseen consequences.

Other actors are Martin Clunes, Tchéky Karyo and Jamie Foreman.

Free refreshments and the chance to socialise

Coffee Morning



On Saturday 14th January 2023

From 10 - 12 noon

In St. Mary Magdalen Church

Stalls to include

Unwanted Christmas Gifts

Cakes, Books and Raffle

Just come along

Everyone Welcome

Costly Gifts *by Paul Berchtold, December, 2013*

When wise men came to find the Child,
They brought with them costly treasure.
They gave gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
Presents for the new king's pleasure.

God is pleased when we bring to him,
Virtues that these gifts symbolize.
The gold of love, myrrh of sacrifice,
And incense as prayers before his eyes.

It's wise to give the gold of love,
Kindness in thought and word and deed,
It's often the little things that count,
A smile, a word, help one in need.

It's wise to give the incense, prayer,
Rising up as smoke sweet-smelling,
Not just prayer from our lips alone,
But deep from our heart, upwelling.

It's wise to give myrrh, sacrifice,
In everything to do our best,
To give with generosity,
In what we do we will be blest.

But be wiser. Unite with Christ,
He is the Gift. He is God's Son.
The best we give, it is nothing
Compared to Christ, what he has done.

Jesus gives us his boundless love,
He came to show us how to pray,
He gave his life in sacrifice.
He is the truth, the life, the way.

Christian Aid Christmas Appeal—a message from Christian Aid:

“The excitement and pleasure of Christmas dinner is one of our most cherished traditions...

In Malawi, it's something that families - like Fyness' - cherish too. But hunger has grown, due to the climate crisis. Sadly, many families will have little or nothing left to eat this Christmas. Hotter temperatures, drought, destructive downpours and floods are playing havoc with the growing seasons, causing food shortages. This year, many will struggle even to have their staple food of maize porridge. As Fyness tends to her bountiful garden, she remembers what a Christmas with no food is like. 'In the past, I was lacking food. I struggled to find food,' she says. Now, she's able to share the festive joy of a plate piled high; of plates filled with delicious chicken and rice as the special, once-a-year meal.

Your gift could enable someone like Fyness to grow food in ways that are more resilient to climate change. So please, reach out and share the greatest Christmas tradition of all – love.”

Envelopes will be available in church over the Christmas period. If possible, please Gift Aid your donation – it will add another 25% to your gift. Many thanks, *Eileen*

Online Compline on Wednesdays—8.00pm

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81118183080>

Meeting ID: 811 1818 3080

Dial by your location **0203 481 5240**

Contact details:

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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 monthly bank standing order as part of our Planned Giving Scheme. Scheme details can be obtained from Lorna Pollard, Planned Giving Scheme Secretary: email: stmarysknighton.giving@gmail.com or phone 01162704272. If you are a taxpayer and gift aid your giving, our church can claim an additional 25%. Cheques to **Knighthon PCC** please.

Prayers for this week

“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.”

(Colossians 4.2)

Praying for the world: Please pray for all those across the world who are trapped in poverty, and so are most vulnerable to illness, disease and the impact of climate change. Pray for all those who work to see everyone freed to live life in all its fullness.

Praying for the Church: As we prepare for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and remember the death of Pope Emeritus Benedict, please pray for all Christian leaders - for all moves towards greater co-operation and understanding. Pray especially for the Church of England ahead of the important General Synod in February.

Praying for the Parish: Please pray for the peace and well-being of all those who live on **Knighton Lane East, Pendlebury Drive, Larchwood Close, Chadderton Close, Dawson Way.**

Praying for those in need: Please pray for all those who are in need at the moment, those who are unwell in body, mind or spirit, and those who are anxious and worried. In particular please pray this week for **Doreen Macafee, Ann Beams, Diane Stockton, John Orme and Peter Relph.**

Pray as well for all those on our parish *'Continuing Prayer'* list, that they may know the power of God's healing love at work in their lives today. Also, give thanks for those who are recovering and who know God's peace.

Please remember in your prayers the families and friends of all those who have died recently. We especially remember **John Gates**. Remember too, all those whose anniversaries fall at this time.