



KNIGHTON



Benefice Magazine

Tree planting at St Guthlac's

The weather was thankfully very kind on Sunday 27th February, when adults and children from Church Club, helped and encouraged by members of the congregation, planted 2 trees in the St Guthlac's garden after Sunday worship. A James Grieve apple tree was planted in the area between the church and the hall.



This is an old variety of apple tree which is disease resistant and produces fruit every year. It is hoped that, before long, members of the congregation and community will be able to enjoy trying a new variety of apple, which is apparently very tasty and versatile (it can be stewed or eaten as it is), but can't be found in supermarkets. An additional flowering cherry was also planted next to the hedge at the bottom of Holbrook Rd, to complement the existing flowering cherries.

Tree planting is part of a wider plan to improve the St Guthlac's garden, which has been developed by the Eco task group and supported by the PCC, as we work towards Eco Church status. Composting has now begun, and we have subscribed to the Council garden waste bin scheme. Our mowing regime has been changed to allow some of the grass to grow long, and some areas will be sown with wild flower mixes. We hope the blossom on our new trees will benefit insects as well as being enjoyed by all who pass by.

Many thanks to Adam Goodall, who kindly advised on which trees to choose and sourced them, as well as doing the heavy digging on the day and supervising his young helpers. Special thanks go to all the young people who so enthusiastically helped with the digging and other tasks on the day. It was a real team effort, and it was wonderful to have the chance to linger and chat after the service. *Tina Jarvis*

Vicar's letter



Friends,

In our family we call them 'earworms' – those annoying fragments of songs or tunes that get stuck in your mind and go round and round all day long. The latest Vicarage earworm is “*We don't talk about Bruno*” from the hit Disney film ‘*Encanto*’ – but I've yet to discover who Bruno actually is!

We don't talk about several important matters in our two Knighton churches. Increasingly, it's becoming clear to me that if we continue *not* to talk, then our silence will catch us in a negative spiral of spiritual decline and leave the Christian message looking irrelevant and out of touch with the real life of those who live around us.

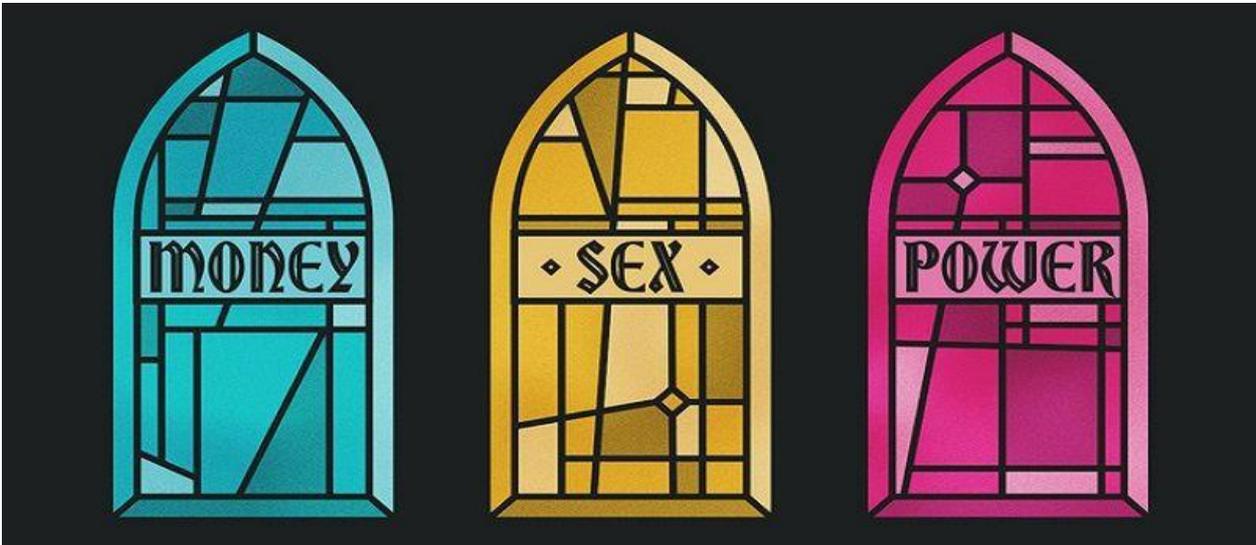
The key discussions that we tend to avoid, but really need to have, were neatly summed up in the title of a book by renowned Christian writer Richard Foster, back in 1985: “*Money, Sex and Power*”. Just by stating those three words I've probably made half of my readers turn the page!

If you're still with me then perhaps you recognise that these three areas are the key areas of Christian discipleship – which simply means the way in which we live out our Christian faith in our regular, daily lives. *Money, Sex and Power* are the three areas of life where our faith really makes a difference to what we do and how we live, as well as what we might quietly believe.

Money might include all the resources that we've been given by circumstance, nature and our own work; so money itself, but also time, skills, experience, inheritance, education, privilege and more. *What we need to talk about* regarding money is our tendency to keep it to ourselves as a way of ensuring our security. Boldly and frankly, I will say that this reflects our lack of love for our global neighbours, our excessive love for comfort and our lack of trust that God will provide for us.

We need to nurture the *virtue of generosity* - giving more so that our churches can do more to serve and share with others, for instance. It is a stark fact, for example, that in 2021 giving by the congregation to St Mary's failed to meet the church's running costs by over £3,000.

Sex is neat shorthand for all those issues that have become so important in our culture around gender, identity, relationships, and sex itself. *What we need to talk about* regarding sex is how we approach those who are



different from ourselves and how we deal with beliefs and practices that we find challenging. Again frankly, I will say that we often deliberately avoid others who are different from us and retreat behind traditional beliefs without really making much effort.

We need to nurture *the virtues of listening and learning*, so that we can all be changed by the grace of God to become closer to the people we were created to be.

Power does certainly mean paying attention to the ways in which we treat other people when we are the ones who have privilege, personality, experience and much more on our side. Critically though, it also points to our *failure to do what we could* for others and our lack of commitment to our church life together – a failure to use our power positively.

What we need to talk about in relation to power is how reluctant we are to take on roles in the church and how our critical attitudes prevent other people from doing that as well.

Frankly, I will say that often we fail to use the gifts we have been given for the sake of the church, and treat our Christian family as if it were just one leisure option amongst many.

We need to nurture the *virtues of commitment and involvement*, even when there is a cost to us and it means not doing other things.

These are certainly challenges, but being straightforward is perhaps the first step towards making positive changes. Lent reminds us that Christian life needs discipline and has a cost, but Easter reminds us that Jesus has trodden this path before us, and that this is the way to true joy and celebration, to life in all its fullness.

God holds out this possibility to all of us and I hope we can journey together.

Yours in friendship and Christ's service,

Adrian

War in Ukraine – how to help

We have all seen terrible scenes from the war in Ukraine on our televisions, and naturally we feel moved to want to help those suffering.



Firstly, please make sure you are praying for the civilians caught in the invasion and those who have had to become refugees:

Heavenly Father, hear our prayers for our brothers and sisters in Ukraine.

Lord, we ask for peace for those who need peace, reconciliation for those who need reconciliation and comfort for all who don't know what tomorrow will bring. Lord may your Kingdom come, and Your will be done.

Lord God, we ask for you to be with all – especially children - who are suffering as the crisis in Ukraine deteriorates. Lord for those who are anxious and fearful. For those who are bereaved, injured or who have lost their lives. And for those who have lost homes and loved ones. Lord hear our prayers.

Secondly, please consider giving to the relief appeal launched by the Disasters Emergency Committee.

You can give online here:

<https://donation.dec.org.uk/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal> or by sending a cheque payable to Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal to DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal, PO Box 999, London EC3A 3AA, or by making a donation at a Post Office. The UK Government will match public donations to this appeal pound-for-pound up to £25 million.

Lastly, you might consider lobbying your local MP or Government Ministers to make changes to our immigration regulations so that Ukrainian refugees can be helped quickly and efficiently. You might like to find out more about joining with others and sponsoring a refugee family coming to Britain – see the Leicester Community Sponsorship Group www.leicester-csg.co.uk.

Adrian



Fairtrade Church

St Mary's has been proud to be a Fairtrade Church for almost twenty years. Last autumn, the Fairtrade Foundation invited all Fairtrade faith groups (churches, synagogues, mosques, temples) to renew their commitment. Filling in the application form gave us an opportunity to review what we have done and think about what more we can do.

The two core requirements to be awarded Fairtrade Place of Worship status are

1. To use Fairtrade products wherever possible (at least tea, coffee and sugar) and share this information with the wider congregation.
2. To integrate Fairtrade into the life of your place of worship, at Fairtrade Fortnight or other times of the year, e.g. events, stalls and worship.

Over the years, we have endeavoured to follow these guidelines and grateful thanks are due to Cora Paul, for indefatigably tracking down tea, coffee and sugar for our Sunday morning refreshments, David Ardley, for maintaining our supplies of Communion wine, Alison Roche for advocating and ordering real Advent calendars and Easter eggs and hosting coffee mornings at the vicarage, the clergy for enthusiastically integrating Fairtrade into our worship and all members of the congregation involved in catering – and that's practically all of us, at some time or other - for



conscientiously using Fairtrade products as far as possible when providing food for social gatherings and cakes for coffee mornings.

What more can we do?

1. Continue to buy Fairtrade products wherever possible and encourage friends and family to do so, too.

The first Fairtrade certified products went on sale in the UK in 1994: the first was Green and Black's Maya Gold chocolate, followed shortly by Cafédirect coffee, Percol coffee and Clipper tea. There are now 4,500 Fairtrade products available, including sugar, bananas, chocolate, flowers, juices, oils, herbs and spices, fruit and vegetables, honey, clothes and gold. A wide range of these products can be found in supermarkets and we are very fortunate in Leicester to have the splendid JUST the Fairtrade Shop in St Martins / Silver Street – three floors of food, clothes, gifts, toys, cards and home items, presented most attractively – well worth a visit.

2. Find out more about Fairtrade from the Fairtrade Foundation website

<https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/> meet some of the farmers and growers and learn what a difference Fairtrade has made to their lives
www.fairtrade.org.uk/get-involved/current-campaigns/fairtrade-fortnight/meet-the-fairtrade-farmers/

3. Find out about the Fairtrade Foundation's campaign for Climate Justice:

<https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/get-involved/current-campaigns/fairtrade-and-climate-justice/>

“The world's wealthiest people caused the climate crisis – 50 percent of global emissions are the responsibility of the highest-earning 10 percent. But it's the communities our Fairtrade movement exists to support who are facing the worst realities of climate change right now. Increasingly unpredictable and extreme weather is forcing farmers and workers, often already on scandalously low incomes due to deeply unfair global trade, into serious hardship. In November 2021, 1.8 million Fairtrade farmers and workers challenged world leaders to Be Fair With Their Climate Promise at the COP26 UN climate summit. And more than 30,000 campaigners backed their call.

“Together we can still make a difference.”

(The Fairtrade Foundation)

Eileen McKellican

An exceptional baptism

There's always a special atmosphere in church when there's a baptism. And the baptisms in St Mary's on 6 February had an extra dimension. Not only were Skye and Derry being baptised in the same service, but Derry had boldly opted for total immersion.



Congratulations to the Skye, Derry, Alison and Adrian on a particularly happy occasion for all present.

Save the Saffron Brook - source of Life on Earth!

Our friends at Knighton Wild, with the City Council, local schools and river conservation trusts are leading stakeholders in the redevelopment of the Washbrook/Saffron Brook. It is going to be exciting over the next 12 months as we start to see plans for a lagoon at Knighton Park, leisure pathways along the waterway and the concrete embankments removed. For more details see <https://news.leicester.gov.uk/news-articles/2021/july/river-restoration-project-awarded-green-recovery-challenge-funding/>. They had a launch meeting at the Parish Centre in March and I was asked to share insights from my pilgrimage to its source.

The Saffron or Washbrook has intrigued me since living off Saffron Lane, and the little stream ran at the back of our garden - sometimes inhabited by ducks. I set up a local newsletter with a feature on how Saffron Lane was devastated by floods in the 1960s making people homeless and leading to the genius 1970s engineering at Knighton Park's surface reservoirs.

When moving to St Mary's Knighton I met a gentleman in his late 80s who told me that he grew up in Knighton Fields and used to play in the Washbrook at the back of St Mary's before the war with the



three Attenborough brothers. I liked to imagine young David fishing for tadpoles, examining the plant life splashing around in the river, while Richard would be dreaming up dramas. Perhaps along with their father's back garden, now the Arboretum, Knighton really fostered David's love for nature, inspiring his seminal work - Life on Earth.



If you travel to the Peak District's Tissington in Spring time, you will see the ancient well dressed up beautifully, honouring that age-old tradition of valuing the spiritual value of water - particularly valued in Tissington, as its pure water was thought to protect them from the

medieval plague which ravished all around.

There is a long Jewish biblical tradition of distinguishing 'living waters' hosting life, giving life and being revered accordingly from the 'dead waters' of Israelite dead sea and the undrinkable salt sea water.

Knighton village and St Mary's will have grown up around the importance of the Washbrook, vital to sustaining life. For the church, being built alongside the river will have had symbolism of Christ, who compared himself to living waters where streams of spiritual life can flow from our hearts.

So, my pilgrimage to the source of the powerful life-giving and destructive flood potential led me



to Leicester airport on the ancient Gartree Road for a pleasant walk back into Oadby. The source is not some miraculous bubbling underground spring worthy of Tissington's well dressing. Rather, the source is a series of farmers' irrigation channels which connect to feed a tiny brook which merges with

a humanmade lagoon on the outskirts of the Grange Farm Estate.

Nevertheless, if the little brook is to inspire the next generation of Attenboroughs, it is worth fighting for. We must never accept as normal the levels of raw sewage Severn Trent allow to fill it. Let's look forward to returning the heritage of the Washbrook as the host of living waters once more.

Revd Matthew Gough

Saint David

Archbishop of Menevia and Patron Saint of Wales

544 AD. Feast day, 1st March

Saint David was born about AD 446 at Mynyw, which was named St David's after him and was known as Dewi by the Welsh. His father was Saudde, son of Ceredig, who was the son of Cunedda, the great conqueror of North Wales (and kin of King Arthur), and his mother was Non, the daughter of Gynr of Caergawch. The twelfth century historian, Giraldus, says he was baptised at Porth Clais by Alvcas, Bishop of Munster, who had arrived from Ireland, and David was brought up at 'Henmeaen', probably the Roman station of Menavia.

David was educated under Iltyd at Caerworgon, and was later ordained

priest and studied the scriptures for ten years under Paulinus of Whitland in Carmarthenshire, who also disciple of St Germanus of Auxerre. After this, David retired to the Vale of Ewias where he raised a chapel and cell on the site now occupied by Llantony Abbey, and spent his time in prayer and study. He was a strict vegetarian and drank only water.



Legend states that he was advised by an angel to move from the shadow of the Black Mountains to the Vale of Rhos, and to found a monastery at Mynyw, his birthplace. On or near the site of this monastery now stands the Cathedral of Saint David. He continued to practise the same

austerities as before, and devoted himself to prayer, study and the training of his disciples.

He kept aloof from all temporal concerns and entreaties by Paulinus, but two holy men, Daniel and Dubricus, finally persuaded him to attend the Synod of Brefi, convened by Dubricus in AD 519 at Llandewi Brefi, Cardiganshire, to suppress the Pelagian heresy. He spoke so eloquently that he silenced the opponents, and by common consent he was elected primate of the Cambrian church (Dubricus resigned in his favour and retired to Bardsey Island). A legend states that as Saint David spoke, a snow white dove descended from heaven and sat on his shoulder, and the earth rose under him to become a hill, so he is usually represented standing on a hill with a dove on his shoulder.

St David declined the primacy at first, but eventually accepted it on condition that he could transfer the chair from the city of Caerleon and on the Usk to the quiet of Mynyw. Arthur Pendragon, who is said to be a nephew of the saint, agreed to this. At this time the heathens Hengist and Horsa had landed in Kent, and the Britons were driven into Wales, so David, fearful that the primacy could more easily fall into the hands of the English, probably thought the shores of the Pembroke coast would be safer.

He became a vigorous and hard-working prelate, convened a synod at Caerleon in AD 529, which exterminated the Pelagian heresy, and drew up a code of rules and regulations for the British church, a copy of which remained in St David's Cathedral until lost in an incursion by pirates. Giraldus says of St David, 'in his time in Cambria, the Church of God flourished exceedingly ...

monasteries were built everywhere ... Father David informed them by words and instructed them by example ... he was a guide to the religious, a light to the poor ... a rule to monks and a path to seculars'. It is also generally agreed that Wales was first divided into dioceses in his time. The historian, Geoffrey of Monmouth, states that David died in his monastery at Mynyw in AD 544, 85, soon after the death of Arthur in 542.

Many legends surround St David. In the monastery at Mynyw, the monks worked in the fields and tended bees. The latter became attached to one monk, and followed him on board ship on his way back to Ireland. He returned to the monastery and tried several times to embark on observed by his winged friends, but failed in the end. He asked for St David's permission to take them with him, and with the saint's blessing, they settled in their new home in Ireland

where bees, until this time, were unable to survive.



St David's Cathedral today

After studying with Paulinus, St David journeyed to Glastonbury, where he built a Lady Chapel. He is said to have founded twelve

monasteries on this journey. In fact, the noble English matron, Elswida, in the reign of Edgar, translated his relics in a AD 964 from St David's to Glastonbury. He was canonised by Pope Callixtus II in 1120.

23 ancient churches were dedicated to Saint David, including 13 in Pembrokeshire; and three kings of England, William the Conqueror, Henry II and Edward I, are said to have undertaken pilgrimages to his shrine

Helen Long

Notes

1. In Leicestershire one church is dedicated to St David at Broom Leys. Opened in 1965.
2. A mile south of St David's is St Non's Bay, named after David's mother St Non, and near it is a

Holy Well and chapel which is said to be St David's actual birthplace.

3. The Pelagian heresy is the 5th-century teaching of Pelagius and his followers that stressed the essential goodness of human nature and the freedom of the human will. Rejecting the arguments of those who claimed that they sinned because of human weakness, he insisted that God made human beings free to choose between good and evil and that sin is a voluntary act committed by a person against God's law. This was in conflict with the doctrine of original sin and the necessity of infant baptism.

An open letter from a friend of St Mary's choir

Dear Choir,

I can't help noticing that you do not process or wear robes any more. I am bothered by this because as a member of our Church for more years than I care to remember, processing and the wearing of robes has been a part of the service. You do not look like the St Mary's Choir I've come know and love.

If there is a good reason for this, I will try to understand - but surely a smart suit would be better if you dislike the robes.

A reverent way to start the service surely is to have the choir processing with the clergy following, and at the end of the service to lead the clergy down the centre aisle and after the dismissal, processing back to the vestry.

Please don't take this personally. I really admire the music you've been giving us recently.

Yours sincerely,

Aileen Orme.

Planned giving

Regular giving is an integral part of our church life, supporting our day-to-day costs, ministry and mission. These needs are not lessened during the pandemic. 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 from the Planned Giving secretaries of each parish (see Contacts pages). If you are a taxpayer and gift aid your giving, our churches can claim an additional 25%.



The National Day of Reflection Wednesday 23rd March

23rd March will be the second anniversary of the start of the first national lockdown in response to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Back in 2020 we had little idea about the way in which this new virus would reshape our daily lives in the days to come, would galvanise the world's scientists to discover and develop vaccines at unprecedented speed, and would challenge our health professionals to the extreme. Few of us would have suspected the scale of loss and pain, through bereavement, illness, separation and isolation that we would face as a country, but also as families and individuals.

While life now is beginning to return to 'normal', many of us still need the opportunity to reflect, grieve and pray in the face of all that we have experienced. Doing this together will help us to find healing and hope for the future. On 23rd March, St Mary's will be open during the day from 11am to 1pm for all of us, if we would like this opportunity. At noon we will mark the national silence and have a few prayers. There will also be the chance to leave your own written prayers, to light a candle in memory of a loved one and to place a daffodil as a sign of hope. Clergy and volunteers will be on hand to talk and help.

The national charity 'Marie Curie' will receive any donations you would like to make in memory of all those who have died.

Adrian

Service times

Normal pattern of Sunday worship at St Mary's

1 st Sunday	9am	Weekly Eucharist (contemporary language)
	10.30am	All Age Worship
2 nd Sunday	9am	Weekly Eucharist (traditional language)
	10.30am	(Sung) Eucharist
3 rd Sunday	9am	Weekly Eucharist (contemporary language)
	10.30am	"Fresh" Morning Worship
4 th Sunday	9am	Weekly Eucharist (traditional language)
	10.30am	(Sung) Eucharist
5 th Sunday		See announcements when relevant

Normal pattern of Sunday services at St Guthlac's

All at 10.30am

All Age Worship (2nd Sunday)

Holy Communion (1st and 3rd Sundays)

All Age Communion (5th Sundays)

Sung Morning Prayer (Matins) (4th Sunday)

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The Benefice Magazine

The magazine is published every two months. The closing date for copy for the next issue is **1 May 2022**, for publication in mid-May. **All contributions are appreciated.** Please send your contributions, preferably in Word, to stmaryknighton.magazine@gmail.com.

We would like to resume a rolling listing of forthcoming events in the Benefice. These could be either religious or social. Please send basic details of title, time, place and (where appropriate) ticket prices to the email address above.

Articles do not represent the opinions of the Parochial Church Council of either church. Typographical and other errors (and the occasional omission) are the Editor's responsibility.

Coffee Morning at St Mary's

There was a successful coffee morning at St Mary's on 10 March, with the usual exceptional display of home-made cakes, and a further demonstration of Matthew's talents as barista. Congratulations and thanks to all those involved.

