



# KNIGHTON



## *Benefice Magazine*

### **Flying teddies (b)ring fun and funds**

**O**n Sat 26th August 2-4pm at Knighton, the bell ringers held a Teddy Bear Parachuting and Zip Wire Fund Raising Day. In the morning we carried out further practice trials using a safety line, as in previous trials we had found the bears drifted quite far, even in the lightest breeze. The line allowed the bears to float down, but enabled us to pull them gently back towards the landing zone if they started to drift away.

The zip wire was much easier and the amount of space in the churchyard and the height of the tower at Knighton meant it was perfect for both parachuting and zip wiring.



We set up tables inside for bric-a-brac, a tombola, teddy check-in, treasure hunt tickets and cakes. However just before the 2pm start time it started to thunder and lightning, and the rain poured down. We were a little worried at this point that no one would come!

We needn't have worried as at 2pm, we had a stream of people queueing to book their teddies in, despite the rain persisting heavily for the first hour. The children delighted in not only their own teddy coming down, but also watching the others as well, and it provided great entertainment for children and adults alike.

All the while the tea, coffee and cakes were being sold and people came and visited the other stalls.

*Continued inside*

# A Curate's calling

## A remarkable journey of overcoming adversities

**N**o enduring success comes without sweat. No glory ever comes without a preceding story, and as the saying goes... there is no victory without a war.



A healthy baby girl named Cecilia was born into a loving family. At age 3, tragedy struck when I was diagnosed with poliomyelitis which affected my mobility. Indeed, that was the beginning of my challenge and setback. I refused to let these setbacks deter me. My determination and unyielding spirit helped me to go into self-discovery.

In my early days, many doubted my potential. With the support of my family and genuine friends, I turned my condition into an opportunity for growth. I extricated self from the shackles of mediocrity by keeping my

dreams alive. While passing through harrowing life experiences, a wellspring of resilience was matured within, helping me to weather difficult times. Despite the physical and emotional trauma, I gave my life to Christ and believed He will see me through. My continuous desire to service God and pursuing my education became my source of strength - which I may refer to as a ticket to get a better life. I graduated with my contemporaries from high school and university regardless of all odds. I can rightly say that it is an indubitable truism that with God on your side, nothing can stop you from birthing your dreams.

I, Cecilia, met the love of my life and helpmate, we got married and the union is blessed with 3 adorable children. Becoming an ordained deacon, wife, above all mother requires resilience and adaptability. For me each role gives room for personal and spiritual enrichment. I enjoy cooking, travelling, and making friends. My call to ordained ministry was not by chance, as I have always been zealous in the things of God way back in my local church in Nigeria. After my second degree in the UK, I decided to pursue my dream of serving God and humanity as a humble servant in God's vineyard. The journey was turbulent. The hurdles and bumps appeared insurmountable. The enemy came knocking on several occasions, but as a child of promise, I embraced all with the right mindset and attitude. The experience was challenging but the result is

beautiful. From the words of John Manson, “The purest ore is produced from the hottest furnace.”

My spiritual journey serving at St Mary’s and St Guthlac’s is indeed uplifting. The formation process has been a transformative experience for me, it has deepened my faith as well as helping me to discover my strengths and vulnerabilities. The most heartening experience is the warm welcome received from the congregation. That has given me a sense of belonging and unity. The spiritual and emotional support is also a source of inspiration for me. I am sincerely excited about serving God’s people with my gift and talents while learning from my vicar, Revd Adrian Jones.

Summarily, everyone on the voyage of success must be ready to go through the crucibles of life. There is ABILITY in disability. Always remember, NO PAIN NO GAIN, NO TRIAL NO TRIUMPH.

*Cecilia Adjaje*

## ***Lives shared – lives transformed”***

### **Summer in the Yorkshire Dales**

**D**o you leave God at home when you pack your holiday suitcase? Or perhaps you reach for a mini, travel-sized Jesus?



We all need a break from the usual routine and familiar scenes, but it’s all too easy to find that our faith is put on ‘hold’ when we’re on holiday. However, an annual break can also be the opportunity to refresh our Christian life and be inspired again by all that God has for us.

For the last seven or eight years, we’ve taken part of our summer holiday with other Christians of all ages and from all parts of the country, at Scargill House in beautiful Wharfedale, home to the Scargill Community. Our ‘Summerfest’ break for five days includes lively worship, interesting talks, sports, crafts & art activities, music & entertainment, trips out, and (always!) ice cream – set in

fantastic scenery. Somehow, we are so busy and yet come back relaxed and nourished every year!

The strapline of the Scargill Community is “*Lives shared- lives transformed*”, and perhaps this is the key to the restorative effects of Summerfest. The Community – who live there all year round – receive us with a deep hospitality and welcome, and quickly we are all bound together by our shared worship, fun and learning, and by our gratitude for the landscape and time away. We may be on holiday, but we find that God is still at work – in the coffee time conversations and new friendships, in the quiet of the hills, in the reflections of our speakers, recreation that re-creates us, and in the gentle sense of humour that wraps everything together.

As parents we relax because Scargill is such a safe and happy place for the children and young people, and it’s an important part of Summerfest that people of all ages share in so much of what is happening. Although we enjoy camping while we’re there, most people stay in the main house and accommodation, with all meals provided.



So... can we invite you to join us next year? Several members of St Mary’s, and others, have joined us recently at Summerfest – perhaps it would give *you* just the break you need as well?

Although dates for next summer aren’t yet available, the three Summerfest weeks run during August, and if you are interested then do talk to us soon, and we can keep you informed – do talk to Cecilia & Peter Adjadje, to Eileen McKellican or Lorna Pollard as well!

There’s also a whole range of retreats and special weeks at Scargill through the year, and opportunities for anyone, but especially young people, to volunteer or become a community member for a while.

<https://scargillmovement.org/>

We’ll gladly talk more and show you our holiday snaps!

*Adrian Jones & Alison Roche, Skye and Derry.*



# 'A brighter building'

## A new appeal for St Guthlac's

Over the last year we have all had to bear the consequences of the "cost-of-living-crisis" - everyone's budget has been squeezed, and some very tightly indeed. Our churches in the benefice have also been affected, by rising costs and changed patterns of giving – although our financial needs remain. Given the challenging times in which we live, it is more important than ever that everyone can find a welcoming space where we can worship God together and grow in the faith that gives us hope and security – and for many of us, that place is the local church.

Therefore, as part of our outreach and mission, the PCC of St Guthlac's are currently seeking to ensure that the church is once again '*A Brighter Building*' for meeting together and worship, with an appeal for the funds needed for essential repairs and re-decoration.

The interior of the church was last painted many years ago, and after the installation of the new heating system the intention was always to completely redecorate and make good. Now that some considerable time has gone by, we are also concerned that the building will deteriorate if we don't act soon; we know that spending money now will save higher costs in the future and want to nip any problems in the bud.

The other building issue is that two areas of flooring have become weak and potentially unsafe – you may have seen the 'hazard' tape in the chancel area but there is also an area in the vestry that needs attention. Both areas will need to be taken up before repair, and more, unforeseen, problems may then become apparent.

'*A Brighter Building*' is an appeal for £20,000, so that we can carry out these essential works. The congregation have responded with deep generosity so far, pledging and donating just over £12,000 - an incredible result in only 2 months. Now we want to move towards securing that target of £20,000 – a remaining £8,000 – by broadening the appeal to our friends and neighbours in the community and wider church family.

Please do, therefore, share the news of the appeal with anyone you think might be interested and want to support the life and work of the church in South Knighton and Stoneygate... and perhaps you might be able to contribute yourself? Our Appeal Donation Pack gives all the information you need to make either a one-off gift or a regular contribution – it's available at St Guthlac's or by contacting Tina Jarvis churchwardens@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk

We all need to be good stewards of everything that God has given us to use, including our money, and in our careful planning we can be encouraged by the words of St Paul in other challenging times: “God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4.19)

Thank you for supporting St Guthlac’s, and enabling us, together, to provide *A Brighter Building* for the future of our special church.

*Revd Adrian Jones and the St Guthlac's PCC*



## **Knighton Christmas Tree Festival 2023**

Saturday 2nd December 10 am – 5 pm  
Sunday 3rd December 12.30 pm – 5 pm

**SAVE THE DATES**

## **Flying Teddies** *(continued from front page)*

We laid a fantastic treasure hunt around the church yard, incorporating a secret path and hobbit's house, but sadly the rain seemed to keep ticket sales low. However, those that did it, really enjoyed it.

We made £381.85 during the event and received two additional donations of £200 towards new bell ropes, for which we are very grateful.



The event could not have taken place without the involvement and help of all the bell ringers at Knighton who made cakes, ran stalls, created clues for the treasure hunt, put harnesses on and off bears and reunited arriving teddies. But most of all to our three steeple volunteers, Jake, Paul and Callum who braved the top of the tower in fairly persistent rain, to ensure each bear had the best launch, while also untangling countless strings, and keeping the crowd entertained and informed about whose teddy would be jumping next.

All teddies arrived safely back with their owners. It was a good day.

*Rebecca Odames*

## Craft Workshops for the Christmas Tree Festival

Once again I am running free workshops to make items for the Christmas Tree Festival. This year's theme is pompoms - and we are going to need hundreds!



The first workshop to start off the pompom making will be on Tuesday, 26th September, 10.30-12.30 in St Mary's. Everyone is welcome and if you've never made pompoms before, it won't take long to learn. Wool will be available, but if anyone has double knitting wool they can donate, it would be very welcome. There will be a collection box in the church porch. If you can't attend this workshop but can make pompoms at home for us, any contributions will be welcome.

There will be a second workshop on Thursday 5th October, 10.00-12.30, to make gift tags. Other dates for workshops will be announced in the coming weeks.

On Saturday 4th November there will be a pompom wreath making workshop. This will offer people the opportunity to make their own wreath. A charge will be made for this.

For further details or to sign up for a workshop contact me on 01162727525 or sign up at the back of St Mary's.

*Deborah Martin*

### *People*

## Make A Difference Awards

Two women at the heart of their church communities in the diocese have been recognised for their loving service and care in the recent BBC Radio Leicester Make a Difference Awards.

Members of the public from across the county were invited to nominate individuals to say 'Thank You' and show recognition and appreciation for people who love to make life better for others.



Described as someone who always puts other before herself, Catherine Shenton, church warden at St Mary the Virgin in Thorpe Arnold, Melton, won the 'Great Neighbour' award for her kind and selfless dedication to people in her church and wider community.



Catherine said: "My everyday faith is what drives me to try to be there for people. I try to ring or visit those who I know are ill or lonely and it is such a joy to spend time with them.

"As well as the day-to-day duties of church warden, I am involved with the work of Churches Together in Melton Mowbray which gives more opportunities to serve the wider community," she added. "Jesus told us to love our neighbour and it is a great privilege to be able to do that in a small way."

A well-known face in the Beaumont Leys and Stocking Farm area of the diocese, Katie Wray founded the Christ the King Church Food Bank 12 years ago and has organised countless school holiday initiatives to feed families, as well as a scheme to provide Christmas presents to children most in need.

Katie was awarded the 'Volunteer' accolade for her tireless work. She said: "I am shocked to have won, and I am grateful for the nomination - this award is on behalf of the whole team of volunteers at the Food Bank who work so hard to make a difference in so many ways to the most vulnerable in our community.

"Personally, I feel an enormous range of feelings: Emotional, very honoured, and energised and more motivated to carry on doing God's work in our community. The recognition is humbling, and I believe it's God's way of thanking me and my amazing team for all the hard work, dealing with many difficult situations."



Katie was unable to attend the awards as she was on holiday, but that gave the opportunity to send valuable volunteers along to the finals instead.

She added: "There is no way I could deliver our services and work to the community without them, so I was happy they could be part of this."

Christ the King Food Bank provides emergency support to people referred by external agencies and since April 2022 has also become a distribution hub to other Food Banks across the City through the Food Bank Network.

In addition, each year it works with companies and supporters to provide 'Gifts for Kids' aiming to provide Christmas presents to some 300 children who would otherwise not have anything to open on Christmas Day. What is unique is that parents and carers are able to select a gift themselves and wrap it to make it more personal.

*This article was originally published in the Diocesan newsletter, Diomail, on 11 Sept 2023.*

## **Adriana Cook**

*This is an addendum to the Parish People article written about Adriana in the March 2011 Knighton Parish Magazine*

**A**dri Cook (nee Jansen) was born in Scheveningen, Holland. She was one of the first females in the Netherlands to qualify as a horticulturist after a 4-year degree course. Adri came to England to work at Blaby Rose Gardens and met John Cook —they married in 1952 at St. Andrew's Church, Aylestone.

In 1953 Adri and John moved to this area and became active parishioners at St Mary Magdalen Church. (John died in 1990).

Adri has one son (Michael, who lives in Derbyshire) and four daughters (Helena in USA, Doreen in Leicester, Linda in Wales and Yvonne in New Zealand), seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Adri and family were easily recognisable and renowned for cycling to church services and all events, having served for a few years as the first female churchwarden. She was always very involved in all aspects of church life and remains a regular member of the Mothers' Union, which she joined in 1953, and has been dedicated to all MU activities and outreach.

Adri willingly served on church committees and was a member of the Standing Committee. After the death of John, she took up bellringing at St Mary's and became Tower Captain as well as being a regular and enthusiastic member, ringing in churches all over the county.

As a passionate gardener, she would always have a plant stall at church bazaars and fund-raising events, helping at coffee mornings, flower arranging, cleaning or anything else to support St Mary's church and parishioners.

A keen advocate of safer cycling and prevention of crime, Adri was an active member of Spokes and the Police & Community Support Group. She also helped at the Knighton Park Sensory Garden Club and enjoyed walking with the U3A.

Adri continues to use a PC and has regular Skype contact with her family. All the family came together to enjoy a few shared holidays to celebrate Adri's key birthdays:

70<sup>th</sup> stayed on a barge on the Caledonian Canal, Scotland

80<sup>th</sup> stayed in a Hostel at Lake Bled, Slovenia

90<sup>th</sup> stayed at Manobier Castle, Wales.

Her new address is room 60, Graysford Hall, 11 Elmfield Avenue, LE2 IRB (phone number: 0116 464 8220) where she will be pleased to welcome her friends.

*Updated by a Rambling (Roving?) Parish Reporter Assisted by Linda: August 2023*

*Getting to know ...*

## **Tabitha (Tabz) Fogg**

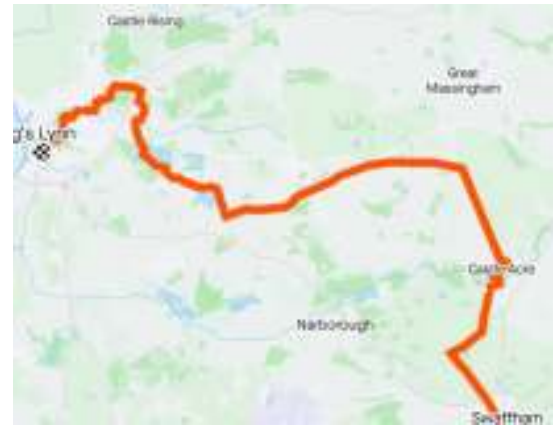


Tabz was elected to St Mary's PCC at the last annual meeting in April. She is married to Luke, and they have two young, lively children. She works for the Bishop of Leicester, and also Leicestershire Police, and is a keen jigsaw puzzler, singer, and amateur actor. Tabz also enjoys embroidery and board games, and is always up for a chat!

## Riding the Rebellion Way

*Continuing the Editor's cycle expedition through Norfolk*

**Day 2: Hingham to King's Lynn (40 miles)**



**A**lthough rain frequently threatened in the first half of the day, the ride was dry, and in the afternoon, occasionally sunny. Even more important for a cyclist, the winds were lighter and more favourable than on the previous day.

After the necessary substantial breakfast at the White Hart in Hingham, the Rebellion Way took me in a north westerly direction, through pleasant country, and including some off-road stretches where the route was not always as clear (or as dry) as in this picture.



Passing another of Norfolk's many round-towered churches at South Pickenham, I stopped for lunch at Swaffham with its large



marketplace and distinctive 18th century market cross (inadequately shown in my photo).

I am not aware of Swaffham having made any particular contribution to Norfolk's tradition of rebellions, but it is famous in mediaeval folklore for a large black dog called Black Shuck, which was said to ambush merchants on their way to large towns to sell their goods. He wasn't

troubling innocent cyclists as I passed through on my way to what was the undoubted highlight of this day's ride - Castle Acre.

This very attractive village, which I reached from the south over a footbridge by a ford, is blessed with the fine and well-preserved remains of a Cluniac priory, founded in 1090, and clearly very prosperous right up to its dissolution by Henry VIII.



In addition, there are extensive remains of the Norman motte and bailey castle, with the Bailey gate still standing in the centre of the village.

I would gladly have spent longer there - and indeed I have made a point of returning (by car with Sue) since.

The final leg of the day's ride included more off-road sections. If you've ever driven past King's Lynn in the direction of Hunstanton

on the A149, you may have noticed some ruins to the right of the road, isolated on a rise in the fields. The Rebellion Way took me right up to them. They are all that is left of the church of St James, Bawsey. The village has been long deserted; the church is thought to have been disused by 1517 and was in ruins by the 1770s.

A network of surfaced cycle paths brought me eventually to the centre of King's Lynn, where the long-threatened rain broke with a vengeance. I found my way to my accommodation, but a veil will be drawn over that, as my experience was not as satisfactory as the night before in Hingham.



*(In the next instalment: King's Lynn to Burnham Overy Staithe via Sandringham).*

*Nigel Siesage*

## Another successful coffee morning at St Mary's



**T**here was another excellent turnout of regular churchgoers and friends and neighbours old and new at the coffee morning held on 2 September at St Mary's. The event raised approximately £600, as well as clearly providing a lot of good company and the opportunity to exchange news. Congratulations to all those responsible for the organisation.

## Service times

### Normal pattern of Sunday worship at St Mary's

1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	9am	Weekly Eucharist (contemporary language)
	10.30am	All Age Worship
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	9am	Weekly Eucharist (traditional language)
	10.30am	(Sung) Eucharist
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	9am	Weekly Eucharist (contemporary language)
	10.30am	Morning Worship
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	9am	Weekly Eucharist (traditional language)
	10.30am	(Sung) Eucharist
5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	9am	Weekly Eucharist
	10.30am	Benefice Eucharist at either St Mary's or St Guthlac's See local announcements

### Normal pattern of Sunday services at St Guthlac's

*All at 10.30am*

1st Sunday	Holy Communion
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	All Age Worship
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	Holy Communion
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	Sung Morning Prayer (Matins)

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday

Benefice Service at either St Mary's or St Guthlac's  
See local announcements

## Contacts

### Benefice Ministry Team

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### Planned Giving

**R**egular giving is an integral part of our church life, supporting our day-to-day costs, ministry and mission. These needs were not lessened during the pandemic. A particularly good way to achieve this is through a monthly bank standing order or use a weekly envelope 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%.

Please notify the Editor if any of the details below need to be updated.

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Lesley Meakin

PCC Treasurer

David Hunt

Sacristan

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Parochial Church Council

The Vicar, the Associate Priest, the  
Church Wardens, the PCC Secretary,  
the PCC Treasurer, The Deanery  
Synod representative; and Chris  
Bullough, Yolanda Courtney, Jean  
Gabbar, Alison Welstead  
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Cheryl Brewer

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Lesley Meakin

Youth Group

Tina Jarvis

Knighton Players

David Hunt

Memory Cafe

Tina Jarvis

Community Cafe

Lesley Meakin

Tea and Talk

Tina Jarvis

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## From the Editor - help wanted!



I have a number of commitments in the first 3 months of 2024 and will find it difficult to produce the Magazine. If you think you might be interested in sharing the role during this period, or would at least like to know more, without commitment, please let me know.

Meanwhile, the next (November/December) edition will be issued in early November and the closing date for copy for will be **Tuesday 31 October. Don't miss this opportunity to advertise events in the Advent season.**

Please send your contributions, preferably in Word, to  
stmaryknighton.magazine@gmail.com.

I do my best to cover the full range of activities, plans and thoughts at *both* our churches, but that depends on hearing about these things from you, the readers. **All contributions are appreciated.**

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.