

St Mary Magdalen Church, Knighton

Sunday 13th September 2020

Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

**Join us in prayer and worship this Sunday and through
the week**

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.



Welcome back into St Mary's church building – step 2

Today we have our first service of Holy Communion in the church building since the spring – another encouraging step. Of course, as you'll expect by now, because of the precautions we have to take the service will feel different.

Firstly, in order to maintain social distancing, we have to limit the number of people who can attend each service; our current calculation is that we can seat 40 individuals, small households or 'bubbles' safely at any one time.

Secondly, the choir is still not able to lead us in worship and we can't sing any hymns, but there will be recorded music to help us praise God and reflect on what we are doing together.

For the moment, the standard form of all our services will follow these restrictions as well:

- when you arrive you may have to queue for a while - please maintain a distance of 2m from others;
- please wear a face covering as you queue and all the time you are in the church - we have some extras for those who cannot obtain their own;
- you will be welcomed, asked to sanitise your hands, given a service sheet and directed to a seat - please sit only in this place as we need to maintain distances and reduce movement;
- we can only offer Communion 'in one kind', that is, the bread but not the wine. Rather than come to the altar rail you will be asked to make one line in front of the priest at the nave altar, spaced 2m

- apart, and then receive your wafer;
- you should keep your face mask on until you have your wafer and then as you move away please consume the wafer moving your mask as little as possible;
 - the priest will take extra precautions through the service to ensure that the wafers are protected from possible contamination, and will wear a mask when social distancing is not possible;
 - after the service please keep your distance from others as you leave and do not linger in the building - sadly we can't offer refreshments;
 - please take your service sheet home with you;
 - you will be asked to sanitise your hands as you leave;
 - when we have all gone the church building will remain unused for 72 hours to eliminate any virus.;
 - if you should feel unwell with any of the symptoms of coronavirus in the two weeks following the service, as well as seeking medical advice, please leave a message at the Parish Office so that we can inform others if need be.

No doubt, over time, even these restrictions will begin to feel 'normal.' Please don't feel too put off by these necessary precautions – throughout history Christians have found themselves worshipping in many dangerous and unusual circumstances, making do with what they have and still praising God, as is our duty, calling and privilege.

Meanwhile we will continue to produce our Virtual Worship each week and of course the Newsletter will be emailed or posted out to everyone for whom we have contact details and permission.

If you would like to attend our Eucharist on Sunday 20th, or 27th then please do phone the parish office (0116 270 2705) and leave a message which includes the names of any other people who will sit with you because you are in the same household or bubble.

Best wishes

Adrian



Other important dates! Matthew will be ordained as a priest this afternoon (13th September) in our Cathedral by the Bishop. Please pray for him and his family as he takes this important step in his vocational journey. Matthew will remain as curate here but will be able to extend his role to include presiding at Communion and officiating at baptisms.

Following his ordination to this priestly role Matthew will preside at the Eucharist for the first time on Wednesday 16th September, at a special service beginning at 7.30pm. The preacher will be the Revd Susan Cooper. Please support Matthew either by praying at home or by coming along to share the service – just phone the Office as usual to book a place.



Thank you 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/DiocesefLeicester>

Matthew

And a change of date for the Annual Meeting: We have had to change the proposed date for our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) from 4th October to SUNDAY 11th OCTOBER at 11am, in the church building. This is an important occasion when we review together the year that has passed (2019!) and elect our PCC and Church Wardens for the next year – obviously, the meeting was postponed much earlier in the year.

As our Annual Meeting is open to the public we will make it possible for anyone at home to join through Zoom as well as coming to the meeting themselves. As we can only take 40 people or bubbles into the church building we will give priority to those who do not have internet access at home. It is important therefore to leave a message at the Church Office if you would like to come to the service on 11th (Eucharist) AND/OR if you would like to come to the Annual Meeting in the building rather than online.

Church Wardens: At the APCM we will give a huge vote of thanks to Ros Matthew who is stepping down as Church Warden and moving away (more on Ros' move elsewhere in the newsletter) – this leaves both our Church Warden roles vacant. Many of you will know how important this role is in the life of any church, and you can appreciate with so much in flux and change at the moment, that it is critical to have Wardens to assist the clergy and PCC. Please consider prayerfully who you can put forward for election and if you can stand yourself. Contact Adrian for

further details.

PCC Elections: This year our Deanery Synod representatives (Bob Rutland and David Stanyer) finish their terms of office, three other elected members of the PCC also finish their terms (Tanya Willis, Anne Squires and Mary Britton) and there are two places vacant from last year. As the PCC faces some important decisions over the coming months we do need to fill these gaps with people who have a heart for our church and are ready to discuss, learn and make decisions about the future.

Earlier in this year the PCC agreed to push ahead and discuss seven very significant developments in the life of the church – and to make key decisions about whether or not to go ahead in each case. These seven key proposals remain:

- to begin regularly using a large portable screen for some services in church;
- to establish a new Community Garden in the churchyard;
- To employ a part-time Pioneer Children and Families Worker;
- to create a new space for prayer in the All Souls Chapel;
- to create a larger multi-use space at the west end of the church;
- to take up the challenge of becoming an 'Eco-church';
- to adopt a fresh approach to our support for mission, development and relief in the wider world.

Our new PCC will make the decisions about each of these ideas. If you feel strongly about any of them then you should consider standing for election this year. Nomination forms are available from the Church Office – please leave a message with James. Thank you - *Adrian*



Ordinations 2020 Prayer Card

Please pray for all those to be ordained and especially those to be ordained in the diocese of Leicester at the Cathedral this September.

To be ordained priest on Sunday 13 September: Hazel Aucken, Ivan Bennett, Jon Berry, Wilma Colley, Sarah Collins, Mark Cooper, Matthew Gough, Ann Hall, Laura Jackson, Emily Sharman, Chris Szejnmann, Jon Tearne.

To be ordained deacon on Sunday 27 September: Nick Baker, Matthew Creber-Davies, Pauline Cummins, Paul Emberton, Ros Harper, Maria Jukes, Rob Leveritt, Dawn Matthew, Crystal McAllister, Bidy Saunders.

*God our Father, Lord of all the world,
through your Son you have called us
into the fellowship of your universal Church:
hear our prayer for all your faithful people
that in their vocation and ministry
each may be an instrument of your love,
and give to your servants soon to be ordained
the needful gifts of grace;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.*

Amen.

Pray also for their families, friends and all those who will support them
Pray for the communities where they will serve their curacy and for their training incumbents and context supervisors. Pray too for more vocations to all kinds of ministry. What is God's plan for you?

Listening to God's Word

Our Bible readings for Sunday 13th September are:

Genesis 50.15-21

Joseph reassures his brothers

¹⁵ When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, 'What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?' ¹⁶ So they sent word to Joseph, saying, 'Your father left these instructions before he died: ¹⁷ "This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly." Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father.' When their message came to him, Joseph wept.

¹⁸ His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. 'We are your slaves,' they said.

¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, 'Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. ²¹ So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children.' And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

Matthew 18.21-35

The parable of the unmerciful servant

²¹ Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, 'Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?'

²² Jesus answered, 'I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.'

²³ 'Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle

accounts with his servants. ²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. ²⁵ Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

²⁶ 'At this the servant fell on his knees before him. "Be patient with me," he begged, "and I will pay back everything." ²⁷ The servant's master took pity on him, cancelled the debt and let him go.

²⁸ 'But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. "Pay back what you owe me!" he demanded.

²⁹ 'His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, "Be patient with me, and I will pay it back."

³⁰ 'But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. ³¹ When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

³² 'Then the master called the servant in. "You wicked servant," he said, "I cancelled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. ³³ Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?" ³⁴ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

³⁵ 'This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'

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.

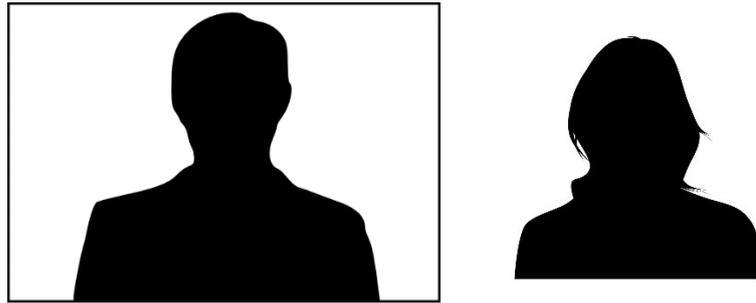
Here are some of the things that make *me* think as I read this parable today:

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.

Wanted!



New Church Wardens

Essential Qualities

- a heart for St Mary's Church – the people and the building – and our community
- a belief that God's future for us is bright
- the ability to work with others (inc. the Vicar!)
- a commitment for 1-3 years.

It could be YOU!

Don't be put off by:

- your age or gender
- being a 'newcomer'
- being an 'old hand'
- not being 'practical'
- not being 'spiritual'.

What to do next

- talk to God
- talk to your friends
- talk to Ros Matthew, any previous Warden or to Adrian.

Wanted!



New PCC members

Our Annual Meeting to elect Church Wardens and Church Council (PCC) members is scheduled for Sunday 4th October at 11.30am in the Church—God willing!

The PCC is the main decision making body in the parish and a portion of it's members are elected every year, usually for a three year term. It's chief responsibility, along with the minister, is to promote the mission of God in our community, through outreach, service, worship and care for the buildings and resources entrusted to us.

At this point in the growth and development of St Mary's, with the challenges that we face following the pandemic, it is important that we have Church Council members who can reflect all the views and experiences of our congregation and wider church family. You do not need to be an expert in anything but you do need to have the best interests of the church and the community at heart, being willing to listen, discuss and make key decisions.

Please consider if this might be God's calling to you, or to someone you know. More details coming soon!



SUPPORTED: Harley House care home was one of those helped by the people of Knighton

MP praises fund-raisers for helping care homes

MP Jon Ashworth has thanked residents of Knighton for supporting the area's care homes.

Saint Guthlac's Church, councillors and the community raised more than £2,000 to thank care workers in Knighton for their commitment and dedication during the pandemic.

Mr Ashworth, MP for Leicester South, pictured right, said: "Special thanks has to go to the curate, the Rev Matthew Gough, who led this fantastic initiative."

Mr Gough and his family stood at their door on Thursday nights and clapped for the NHS.

But with three care homes in his road, Mr Gough decided to stand outside one of the homes and clap for the carers too.

He said: "At that stage, few were talking about the hard work and sacrifices carers were making.

"Considering the risks carers were taking, when I stood clapping on my own, I felt convinced we ought to do more."

He linked up with Knighton councillor, Melissa March, and vicar Adrian Jones who agreed to hold a community fundraiser.

Coun March said: "As I have close



links with the care homes through my work, I was more than willing to help Matthew and Adrian to organise a fundraiser. The amount raised through the city council's Community Ward Fund and the generosity of members of the Knighton churches and community far exceeded my expectations."

"Having spoken to some of the care homes, many have been particularly touched by the gesture and the fact the community wanted to say 'thank you' in a special way."

With nearly £2,500 raised, each of the 12 care homes in Knighton received £200 to spend as they wish, with some care homes using the money for social activities such as shopping or a team night out over Christmas.

Well done to all involved!

"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

*Can YOU play an instrument on your own?
In a Group - all styles & levels are welcome
(but not WIND INSTRUMENTS)*

*To take part in a
Sponsored*

MUSICATHON

Supporting the Spire Appeal

Saturday 10th OCTOBER 2020

10am - 4pm in

**St Mary's Church Brinsmead Road Leicester
(subject to changing government restrictions)**

**Entry Forms and Sponsor cards available from the Parish Office
Church Lane Leicester Tel: 0116 2702705**

Contact details:

Vicar: Adrian Jones 0116 270 4268 or 07584 954414

Email: adrian.jones@zoho.com (day off normally Friday)

Assistant Curate: Revd Matthew Gough 07754 961997

Email: revgough@gmail.com (day off normally Friday)

Revd Aphro McCullough: 0116 283 7887

Email: aphro.mccullough@btinternet.com

Revd Canon Dr Stephen Foster

Email: safpta6@gmail.com 07966 376905

Revd Janet Gasper

Email: janet.gasper@hotmail.co.uk 0116 288 9646

Reader: Fiona Wingate

Email: Fiona.wingate@talktalk.net 07515 752954

Churchwarden: Rosalind Matthew

Parish Administrator: James Gutteridge 0116 270 2705

Email: office@knightonparish.co.uk

The Parish Office is now open again from 9.30am until 2.30pm, Tuesday to Friday. Please feel free to phone James or to email. If you need to visit the Office, please let James know you're coming and wear face coverings as per the Government guidelines. Thank you.

Keeping in touch and sharing worship together remotely.

On-line worship Each Sunday we aim to have a short recorded, reflective act of worship by members of St Mary's congregation on both the website and our Facebook page—do have a look and join in worship together.

Wednesday Compline (Night Prayer) - Each week we are meeting virtually for Compline at 8pm on Wednesday. It has proven to be a meaningful way to have fellowship and prayer together as well as being quite good fun, especially as we find our feet with the technology and with more people joining us every week.

You can join by just phoning up and inputting the code or using 'Zoom' online. It has been democratic with several voices joining in with a line of liturgy each. If you would like to participate with a speaking part, please do contact Matthew by 4pm on Wednesday.

To join by phone only, call this number **0131 460 1196** and when prompted input Meeting ID: 746 767 4408

To join by Zoom on the internet, go to this address and click 'Open Zoom' <https://leccofe.zoom.us/j/7467674408>

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 from Lorna Pollard, Planned Giving Scheme Secretary: telephone 01162704272 or email: stmarysknighton.giving@gmail.com. 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.

giftaid it

Please pray..... *"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. "* (Ephesians 6.18)

Praying for the World: Please pray for all those who work against injustice and on behalf of those who find it difficult to make their own voice heard in society. Pray that we are all more ready to listen to each other.

Praying for the Church: Please pray for all those helping our diocese become 'greener'. Pray for a deeper appreciation of God's gifts to us in creation, that we may be better stewards of the natural world, for churches working towards an EcoChurch award and for our diocese's progress towards Eco-Diocese status.

Praying for the Parish: Please pray for the peace and well-being of all those who live on Kew Drive, Highgate Drive, Hillcrest Road, South Kingsmead Road, Woodbank Road, Palmerstone Boulevard.

Praying for those in need:

We pray for all those who are unwell at the moment, whether in body, mind or spirit, and all those with troubling investigations and diagnoses. Please do continue to pray for **Gil Parsons, Charlotte Muddimer, Gary Joynes, Anne Squires, Ed Groves, Bob Newell, Sue Holligan** and their families. We pray for all those on our parish 'Continuing Prayer' list. May they know the power of God's healing love at work in their lives today.

We give thanks for those who have been healed and restored. We remember those who have died recently and pray for their families and friends. We remember all those whose anniversaries fall at this time.

Jesus said "Come to me, all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11.28.