



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



**Newsletter for  
Sunday 19th February  
Sunday next before Lent**

**Collect for Grace**

O LORD, our heavenly Father,  
Almighty and everlasting God,  
who hast safely brought us to the beginning of this day:  
Defend us in the same with thy mighty power;  
and grant that this day we fall into no sin,  
neither run into any kind of danger;  
but that all our doings may be ordered by thy governance,  
to do always that is righteous in thy sight;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Collect for this week**

Almighty Father,  
whose Son was revealed in majesty  
before he suffered death upon the cross:  
give us grace to perceive his glory,  
that we may be strengthened to suffer with him  
and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
Amen.

## DIARY

<b>Sunday 19th February</b> <i>Sunday next before Lent</i>	9.00am	Weekly Eucharist
	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>"Amazing Grace 250"</b>
	10.30am	Eucharist at St Guthlacs
Monday 20th February	7.00pm	Bell ringing practice
Tuesday 21st February	9.30am	Holy Communion (St Mary's)
Wednesday 22nd February <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	10.30m	Wednesday Small Group (Centre)
	7.30pm	Ash Wednesday Service (St Guth)
	8.00pm	Compline (Zoom)
Thursday 23rd February	9.30am	Holy Communion (St Guthlacs)
Friday 24th February	7.00pm	Choir Practice
Saturday 25th February	12 noon	Lent Lunch (Parish Centre)
<b>Sunday 26th February</b> <i>1st Sunday of Lent</i>	9.00am	Weekly Eucharist (trad)
	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Sung Eucharist</b>
	10.30am	Morning Prayer at St Guthlacs

**Please check the online diary for updates and beyond the week ahead: [www.stmarysknighton.co.uk](http://www.stmarysknighton.co.uk)**

**Sunday Club**, for children at primary and secondary 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

The Bible readings for **Sunday 19th February** are: **Exodus 24.12-18**  
**and Matthew 17.1-9**

The Bible readings for '**Amazing Grace 250**' are  
**1 Chronicles 17 and Ephesians 2.1-10**

## Church Family News

**Vic Ironmonger** - We now have details of Vic's funeral, which will be held at St Mary's on Tuesday 28th February at 11am and then at Great Glen Crematorium. Everyone is welcome to come and pay their respects of course. Please do continue to support Margaret and Lesley, and remember them in your prayers.

**Wednesday Morning Group:** Our small Wednesday Morning Group continues to meet each week at 10.30am in the small lounge (or 'Cottage Room') in the parish centre. During Lent we'll be looking at a series of Bible studies called "Exploring God's Mercy", by Steven Croft, the Bishop of Oxford. Everyone is welcome to join us for coffee/tea, discussion and prayers. *Adrian*

**Fairtrade Fortnight** Hi all. As we approach Fairtrade Fortnight, it is time to order your Fairtrade Easter Eggs again, ready to give to your friends and family. They are plastic & palm-oil free, and have a new design and activity booklet for 2023. Please sign up by Sunday 5th March either with me or on the form on the noticeboard at the back of church. They are £4.50 but I don't need the payment until I give you the eggs nearer to Easter. Thank you. *Alison Roche*

### 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**

## **The Church of England and Same-Sex Relationships:**

Last week saw the General Synod of the Church of England (the representative and governing body) debating the Bishops' proposals for the blessing of same-sex relationships by ordained clergy, in church. You may well have seen reporting in the media on the rather heated exchanges and the deep divisions that exist between Christians on this issue.

Some of us can watch the arguments in a slightly detached way, as other people getting worked up about something that seems clear to us, or is not that significant. Others of us, though, may feel bewilderment and confusion in the face of complex arguments about reason, tradition, compassion, inclusion and Biblical faithfulness. Others, again, may feel deep pain and hurt, because the debate actually touches on real life experience - our own, our friend's, or perhaps that of someone in the family - and what for some is doctrinal or theoretical is, for us, personal and every-day. Any one of us might benefit from a quiet, considered conversation about the issues and, perhaps, our own experience and concerns.

If such a confidential conversation would help you, then do please let me know - over the next few weeks I'll be keeping time aside specifically for this. Alternatively, you might prefer to talk to my wife, Revd Alison Roche, who also has previous direct experience talking through these matters.

On our part, there's no agenda, apart from the questions or experiences that you might like to talk over, and the support that either of us might be able to give you in confidence. If you think this might help, please don't hesitate - you can catch us after church, on the phone or by email: Adrian 07919 262399 or [adrian.jones@zoho.com](mailto:adrian.jones@zoho.com) and Alison 0116 270 4268 or [a.m.roche@btinternet.com](mailto:a.m.roche@btinternet.com)

If you'd prefer a confidential small group to discuss some of the background issues, Biblical evidence and where the Church of England is going on these matters, then, again, please let me know and I'll certainly organise something at a convenient time for everyone.

*Adrian*

## **Everyday Faith – *making key Bible passages our own***

Christian growth means moving from a 'Sunday Faith', limited to church on just one day, to 'Everyday Faith', allowing God to shape our whole lives and all our relationships.

Prayer and reading the Bible have always been key parts of Everyday Faith. Our ancestors, who had limited access to the printed word and perhaps struggled with reading more than we do, were used to memorising Bible passages that would later help them in times of trouble and challenge – a skill that we have mostly lost.

We can, however, get to know key Bible passages so well that their familiar words will return to us when most needed.

At the back of church this Sunday there is a small booklet in which we've printed out a selection of important Bible passages that all Christians should feel familiar with. Please do take one home with you and give one to your friends. This Lent you might like to take up the habit of reading your booklet each day, and letting these wonderful words soak in.

*Adrian*



Following the earthquake disaster in Turkey & Syria, we will have British Red Cross Disaster Relief Buckets outside church this Sunday. Please do give generously. Thank you. Lorna K

## Lent 2023

**Lent** is the traditional part of the Christian year that covers the weeks before Easter, and acts as a preparation for the sombre reflection of Good Friday and the joyful celebration of Easter Day.

This year the start of Lent, **Ash Wednesday**, is 22nd February, and as usual, everyone is encouraged to come to our special benefice Communion service at 7.30pm, at St Guthlac's Church. The choir will lead us in a reflective service with traditional hymns, and we will offer 'ashing' if you wish - the marking of a small cross in ashes on your forehead, symbolising repentance and a turning back towards God.

Lent is also a time for growing in faith through spiritual 'disciplines' – perhaps you will give up some luxury and keep the money for charity, or take up a special practice for these six weeks, such as a weekly donation to the foodbank or reading a Christian book.

There are two opportunities for you to join other members of our benefice churches in a weekly discussion group during Lent as well. We shall be using a booklet called ***“Exploring God's Mercy: five images of salvation”***, written by the Bishop of Oxford, the Rt Revd Steven Croft. You can join a group on Wednesday mornings, at 10.30am in the small Meeting Room (the Cottage Room) in the St Mary's Parish Centre, OR at 2.30pm on Thursday afternoons, at the home of Janet Edwards. Please sign up on the list at the back of the church so that we have an idea of numbers coming. I'll be in touch with everyone to make sure that you know where to go! Our Lent discussion groups begin on Wednesday 1st March and Thursday 2nd March.

Let's pray that Lent will be a time that God speaks to us all, and that, as he helps us understand our weaknesses afresh, we might also find more loving understanding of each other.



## **World Day of Prayer Friday 3rd March**

A service for everyone

prepared by Christian Women of Taiwan

2.00pm at St Thomas More Church

7.30pm at Clarendon Park Congregational Church

## **QUIZ EVENING FRIDAY 17th MARCH at 7pm**

### **AT ST GUTHLAC'S CHURCH**

Please join us for our relaxed quiz evening with a 2 course buffet supper. Do invite family and friends to come along and make up a team with you, but couples and people on their own can team up on the evening (maximum team size 4) Tickets £8 Tickets from Lesley Meakin

**[l.c.meakin@ntlworld.com](mailto:l.c.meakin@ntlworld.com) 0116 2103690**

Bring your own alcoholic drinks. Tea and coffee on sale. Raffle. Proceeds to church funds

YOU ARE INVITED TO A

# LENT LUNCH

SOUP, BREAD ROLL, CHEESE AND BISCUITS

TEA AND COFFEE



ON SATURDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2023

FROM 12 NOON TO 2 PM

IN THE LOUNGE ROOM AT THE PARISH CENTRE

TICKETS £5

AVAILABLE FROM

BERYL BONFIELD 0116 2702202 OR

CORA PAUL 07933 318153

*IN AID OF "RIPPLE EFFECT"*



# Amazing Grace 250

Join us at St Mary's, Knighton, for a celebration of 250 years of the famous hymn "Amazing Grace".



Using hymns and songs, story , preaching and the words of John Newton himself, we will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the world's most popular hymn, "**Amazing Grace**".

Do join us at 10.30am on Sunday 19th February.

Half the profits from the 2022 Christmas Tree Festival, **£2,277**, were presented to members of LAMP, a local community mental health charity.



Some of the 2022 Christmas Tree Festival Team and volunteers presenting a cheque for **£2,277. 83** to the Vicar for St. Mary's Church Community Garden Project.

## Contact details:

**Vicar: Adrian Jones** 0116 270 4268 or 07919 262399  
Email: adrian.jones@zoho.com (rest day normally Friday)

**Ordinand: Cecilia Adjadje** 07425 705221  
cadjadje@yahoo.com (Wed, Thurs, Sat, Sun)

**Revd Aphro McCullough** 0116 283 7887  
aphro.mccullough@btinternet.com

**Revd Janet Gasper** 0116 288 9646  
jgasper925@gmail.com

**Lay Reader: Fiona Wingate** 07515 752954  
fiona.wingate@talktalk.net

**Churchwarden: Sian Howard** 07932 557646  
sian.howard@tiscali.co.uk

**Churchwarden: Beryl Bonfield** 0116 2702202  
berylbonfield1945@gmail.com

**Parish Administrator: James Gutteridge** 0116 270 2705  
office@knightonparish.co.uk

**Music Co-ordinator and Choir Director: Michael Relph**  
michael.relph@icloud.com 07854 306 917

## 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](mailto: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 **Knighton PCC** please.

## Prayers for this week

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

(Colossians 4.2)

**Praying for the world:** Pray for all those affected by the devastating earthquake which hit Syria and Turkey almost two weeks ago. Pray that aid would get to the most vulnerable, especially those cut off by conflict in northern Syria. Pray that governments and people across the world will be generous in their support for the aid appeal.

**Praying for the Church:** Please pray that all Christians might have a renewed focus on our shared faith and the worship, mission and discipleship that flow from it. Pray for all those who seek to bring harmony where there are disagreements, and for our bishops in Leicester, +Martyn and +Saju, as they seek to be pastors to the whole diocese.

**Praying for the Parish:** Please pray for the peace and well-being of all those who live on **Southland Road, Portisdown Road, Ventnor Road South, Wimbourne Road, Ring Road, Ryde Avenue.**

**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 this week, please pray for **John Orme.**

Pray also for those on our 'Continuing Prayer' list, that they may know the power of God's healing love at work in their lives today - and 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 **Vic Ironmonger** and **Brian Martin** .

Remember too, all those whose anniversaries fall at this time