

St Mary Magdalen Church of England, Knighton

**Vicar - Revd Adrian Jones
Curate - Revd Neil Bullen**

28th January 2018
4th Sunday of Epiphany

Welcome to our Sunday Services

A warm welcome to everyone joining us at St Mary Magdalen this week, especially if you are here for the first time or visiting.

- Our worship follows the printed order of service and the readings and hymns are on an additional sheet. Large print versions are available from the sidespersons (the welcomers at the door).
- If you are using a hearing aid, please switch it to the T position so as to make best use of the hearing loop system.
- It is traditional to stand for the hymns and some of the prayers and readings, but if this is difficult for you then please do remain seated and comfortable.
- In the entrance area are toilets, and there is a crèche area at the back of the church.
- During the service there are activities in the entrance area for children of all ages, at Sunday Club.
- As part of each service we share Communion together and everyone is invited to come forwards to receive bread and wine as we remember the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. If you would prefer to come for a blessing then simply carry the service booklet with you.
- At 10.00am, non-alcoholic communion wine is available on request in the Lady Chapel (to the left) and gluten free wafers on request at the main Communion rail.
- Please talk to the sidespersons if you have any other questions and do please stay after the 10.00 am service for tea or coffee and introduce yourself to some of us.

Diary for the Week

Sunday 28th January 4th Sunday of Epiphany	8.00am 10.00am	Eucharist Sung Eucharist
Monday 29th January	2.00pm 7.30pm	Funeral Bell Ringing Practice
Tuesday 30th January	9.30am 11.30am 7.30pm	Eucharist Memorial Service Worship & Outreach Development Group
Wednesday 31st January Parish Office Closed	1.00pm 2.00pm	Tiny Tots (Narthex) Burial of Ashes
Thursday 1st February	10.00am	Thursday Morning Club (Centre)
Friday 2nd February		
Saturday 3rd February		
Sunday 4th February 2nd Sunday before Lent	8.00am 10.00am 11.30am	Eucharist All Age Service Eucharist

The next Service of Prayer for Healing with Communion will be held on **Friday 23rd February 2018**.

Neil, our Curate, is on a training weekend and then a well-deserved holiday until 30th January.

Listening to God's Word , Sunday 28th January 2018

Our Bible readings today are:

Ezekiel 47.1-9, 12

John 3.1-10

The sermon title today is **"Meeting Jesus: A Frightened Teacher"**

Contact details:

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(day off normally Friday)

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(Office open 9.30am - 2.30pm, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday). The Office is closed on Wednesdays.

CHERISHING THE PAST, SHAPING THE PRESENT AND PLANTING FOR TOMORROW

Last week I asked everyone who feels part of St Mary's to take part in a process that will help us to discover God's direction for us in the next stage of our life together. If you did not get a copy of my letter and response sheet then please do take one this week from the back of the church.

God speaks to each and every one of us so please do take this opportunity to let me know what you are thinking.

Adrian

ASH WEDNESDAY AND LENT:

This year Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine's Day, 14th February. As usual we will be having an evening service for the whole Benefice, this year at St Guthlac's. Please do think about coming - as well as marking the start of Lent, this service is a time for being honest with God and ourselves, a time for facing our weaknesses and frailties but also for receiving the assurance that God is with us within our struggles to give us strength and bring change.

Lent is often a time for Christians to take up a spiritual or practical challenge for 40 days until Easter - you can do this for example, through the Christian Aid 'Count Your Blessings' booklet (available at the back of church next week), the Tearfund Lent Devotional (found here www.tearfund.org/en/lent_2018/) or the 40Acts Generosity Challenge (at www.40Acts.org.uk). Some people prefer to read a Christian book divided into 40 short sections, such as the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book 2018, 'Say it to God: In Search of Prayer' by Luigi Gioia. If you'd like a copy for just £5 please let me know before 7th February.

Our Lent Group this year begins on Wednesday 21st February, in the morning 10-11.30am at the home of Doreen White, 2 Shanklin Gardens, and in the evening 7.30-9pm at the Vicarage, 5 Church Lane. Our theme is 'Singing the Faith' and we'll be exploring five great hymns and how they help us understand the events leading to Easter. Please sign up on the list at the back of the church if you'd like to come.

THE EUCHARIST EXPLAINED

If God has already forgiven our sins, why do we need a Confession in the service every week?

The Apostle Peter preaching to the household of Cornelius in Acts 10 says "everyone who believes in Jesus receives forgiveness of sins through his name.' At Communion we remember that Jesus himself told us his death would bring our forgiveness: 'This (wine) is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.' If Christians already have God's forgiveness then, why do we confess our sins to God at the start of each Eucharist service?

Firstly, it is because we follow the command of Jesus when he taught his disciples the Lord's Prayer: 'This then is how you should prayForgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation" (Luke 11.4).

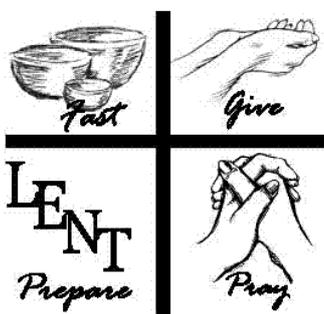
It is important to understand however that this is not the sort of confession that we need to bring us into a secure relationship with God, as will happen when we first come to a faith of our own. Rather, we are acknowledging to God, ourselves and before others that we need God's mercy and grace to live a life that is closer to his pattern for us, and to help us worship him as we should. Our prayer of confession every week is a way of recognizing and remembering our daily need for God's work in our hearts to change us and make us the people we are meant to be. As we approach Communion, our prayer is that any barriers that our sin has placed between ourselves and God will be forgiven and so removed.

As the Apostle John writes: 'If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.' (1 John 1.9)

Adrian

LENT LUNCH

A simple meal of soup, bread, cheese, biscuits and pickle,
followed by tea or coffee



On Saturday 24th February 2018

At 12 noon - Tickets £6 - available from Bernard and Judi.

In the Parish Centre
Church Lane, Knighton
Leicester LE2 3WG

WISDOM FROM THE WORLD CHURCH

"You know, Christians have power. We have the power, the power of prayers and the power of our testimony and the word of God; if we live them and practice them I think we can shake a mountain."

Taysir Abu Saada (born 1951 in the Gaza Strip) -former member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Yasir Arafat's personal driver. He founded the Christian Ministry 'Hope For Ishmael' after he converted to Christianity.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY - Women's World Day of Prayer The service is on **Friday, 2nd March** and this year has been prepared by Christian women of Suriname with the theme "All God's Creation is Very Good!" There are two services in our neck of the woods: 2pm at Christchurch, Clarendon Park Road and 7.30pm at Clarendon Park Congregational Church on the corner of Springfield Road and London Road. Despite the name the service has been prepared by women for everyone – central committee is, in fact considering changing the name to "World Day of Prayer". Do come and join us for one of the services.

You are invited to join us for....

A Taste of Faith: Islam

Tuesday 30th Jan 2018 7-9 pm St Guthlac's Church

Led by St Philip's Centre Leicester

A personal view of faith from a practising Muslim

Faith artefacts Snacks to share

Q and A forum

FREE EVENT

Donations accepted

For further information: email Margaret Bonney mmbonney@gmail.com

CHRISTIAN AID CHRISTMAS APPEAL: Many thanks to all who contributed to this appeal for the food crisis in South Sudan and Burkina Faso. We have sent **£391.70**, which will be matched, pound for pound, by the UK Government.

THANKS Many thanks to all who supported the Christingle Service on a very snowy, icy, and cold day. I am happy to report that we raised just over £300 (including Gift Aid) for The Children's Society. Anne Squires

#SleepOut Challenge Exceeds £1200

Well, all the cash is in, counted and banked, and between us we raised **£1245** (£1035 + £210 gift aid) for the Church Urban Fund Sleepout Challenge 2017. Thank you all so much for all your support which far exceeded all my hopes and expectations. I am humbled to think that just one night of discomfort for me has done so much to raise funds for and awareness of the plight for the homeless.

All the quilts, sleeping bags, blankets and pillows that were donated have been given to the Open Hands project working with the homeless and based at Trinity Life Church on Upper Tichborne Street in Leicester. I have received an Email of thanks from them for these donations.

With grateful thanks, *Neil*.

SAD NEWS We have received the sad news of the death of Elizabeth Plumber, daughter of a former vicar of this parish, the Revd George Laurence (1949-1953).

GET PLANNING FOR THE SUMMER! The spectacular Yorkshire Dales are home to Scargill House and it's Christian community, who welcome guests for holidays, conferences and retreats. For four summers now we have been to Scargill for a short holiday week called 'Summerfest', sharing their hospitality, creativity, learning, worship, fun and really good food together, as well as enjoying the dales countryside. It is a great opportunity to rest and to be refreshed, and so we would love to introduce some of our Christian family at St Mary's to Scargill in 2018. The holiday weeks are suitable for people of all ages, and although most people stay in the house, a camping option is available too. This year as a family we are booked into the week called 'Summerfest 2' which is 11th-16th August - perhaps you'd like to join us? We have put together a small display board at the back of church, with some Scargill brochures for you to take if you might be interested, but please do talk to us and we'll do our best to persuade you what a great break you could have! Reduced prices are sometimes available for those who might find the cost beyond their reach.

Adrian and Alison

RINGING FOR PEACE - ARMISTICE 100: On 11th November 2018, one hundred years after the Armistice was declared at the end of World War One, church bells will ring out all over the country in special peals, 'Ringing for Peace'. More than 1,400 of the casualties in the war were bell ringers and so the Council of Church Bell Ringers has set an ambitious target to recruit and train 1,400 new ringers in this centenary year, ready for supported ringing on Armistice Day. You might be one of them! If you would like an introduction to bell ringing at St Mary's and to talk about what is involved in being a ringer then please do talk to Jane Salt (Tower Captain) or Beverley Jarrom (Ringing Master).

MEMORY CAFÉ ST GUTHLAC'S KNIGHTON

This informal cafe is for people, living at home, with dementia and memory loss with their families/carers. The cafe provides an opportunity to meet up, share experiences and learn in a socially supportive and friendly environment.

There are a variety of activities such as talks, quizzes, craft and simple exercises. Refreshments are provided. The cafe is supported by the Alzheimer's Society. Meetings are on the second Friday of the month 1.30-3.00pm. If you know someone who would be helped by this cafe please let them know. For further information please call Nita Devabhai on 0116 231 6926

The next sessions will be

9 th February	Farzana from Parkwood Healthcare on healthy lifestyle
9 th March	Nisha Popat - Seated exercise and laughter
13 th April	Deirdra and Stephen Cusack - Group Singing
11 th May	Clare King from the British Red Cross

REF: £10 NOTES

Please note the last Sunday for old £10 notes is **Sunday 25th February**.

CAR PARKING On Sunday mornings, please do not park in front of the church or on the church path unless you need to do so for mobility reasons. Also, please do not block the paths.

GIVING SCHEME Regular giving can be made either by weekly envelope, periodic cheque or bank standing order. Details of the Scheme can be obtained from Lorna Pollard, Giving Scheme Secretary : telephone 0116 2704272 or e-mail: stmarysknighton.giving@gmail.com If you are a tax payer and gift aid your giving, our Church can claim an additional 25%.

CHEQUES FOR ST MARY'S Please note that any cheques for St Mary's must be made out to Knighton PCC.

Please send items for inclusion in the diary or notice sheet to James Gutteridge by **Thursday 12.00 noon**.

Contact James on office@knightonparish.co.uk or 0116 2702705. Knighton Parish Office, Church Lane, Knighton, Leicester LE2 3WG

Please pray.....

"I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people..." **1 Timothy 2.1**

Praying for the world: Pray for peace and the relief of suffering in Yemen.

Praying for the Church: Pray for **Bishop Stanley Hotay** and the people of our link Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. Please also pray with thanks for the **Rev'd Canon Sue Field**, the Leicester Diocesan Director of Ordinands, who is taking up an Archdeacon's post in Coventry.

Praying for the Parish : This week please pray for all those who live in **Southland Road, Portisdown Road, Ventnor Road South, Wimbourne Road, Ring Road, Ryde Avenue.**

We pray for those who are unwell at the moment.

Gracious God, who journeys alongside us when we are sick, anxious or troubled, we pray today for

**Joyce Garland
Helen**

**Alison Prior
Catherine**

May they know the power of your healing love, at work in body, mind and spirit. In the name of Christ the healer, hear us now. Amen

Please pray for those with ongoing illness, and for those whose names are on the prayer board in the Requiem Chapel.

Give thanks for those who have been healed and restored.

We remember those who have died recently and pray for their families and friends:

**Janet Wayne
Roy Linnit**

Pam Castleman

Jean Ewin

Please advise Adrian or Neil of anyone who needs to be added to our prayer list.

