



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



**Newsletter for
Sunday 22nd March 2026
5th Sunday of Lent
Collects for this week**

Most merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ
delivered and saved the world:
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross
we may triumph in the power of his victory;
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.

Gracious Father,
you gave up your Son
out of love for the world:
lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion,
that we may know eternal peace
through the shedding of our Saviour's blood,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



The Week Ahead..

Sunday 22nd March <i>5th Sunday of Lent / Passion Sunday</i>	9.00am Eucharist (trad) 10.30am Sung Eucharist 10.30am Morning Prayer at St Guthlac's
Monday 23rd March	11.30am Church cleaning 2.00pm-4.00pm Drop-In (Parish Centre) 7.30pm Bell Ringing practice
Tuesday 24th March	9.30am Holy Communion 2.00pm Mothers' Union Fellowship
Wednesday 25th March	10.30am Lent Discussion Group, Centre 8.00pm Online Compline
Thursday 26th March	9.30am Eucharist (St Guthlac's) 7.30pm Lent Discussion Group, St Guthlac
Friday 27th March	11.00am Healing Prayer with Communion
Saturday 28th March	
Sunday 29th March <i>Palm Sunday</i>	10.30am Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist

SUNDAY CLUB for children at primary and secondary school, meets during the 10.30am service twice a month. Every child of school age is welcome! Ask the Welcome Team to point out our leaders Alison Roche or Luke Fogg for a hello and a consent form if it's your child's first time. Here's what happens during each month:

1st Sunday - Worship for the Whole Church (children stay in the service for all ages)

2nd Sunday - Sunday Club 3rd Sunday - Sunday Club

4th Sunday - no Sunday Club but all are welcome to join us at the relaxed, cafe- style Church Club at 10.30am at St Guthlac's, Holbrook Road. [and if there's a 5th Sunday - a variety of things happen - check the newsletter or website]

Church Family News

Mothers' Union Fellowship. Our next meeting is on Tuesday, 24th March when we will welcome our Diocesan President, Ruth Fryer, who will give an illustrated talk about her visit to Tanzania last year. As always, non-members are welcome to join us in the Parish Centre at 1.30 for a 2pm start. LP

Real Easter Eggs

If you ordered Fairtrade Easter Eggs they have arrived! Please collect from me (or Adrian) at church over the next few Sundays. £5.50 cash per egg on collection. Thank you so much for being part of St Mary's being a Fairtrade church. Alison Roche



Easter Eggs Please buy and donate an Easter egg for the Church to give to the Goldhill Adventure Playground. This will be a lovely surprise for them. The box is in the Lady Chapel and the closing date is Sunday 22nd March. Thank you. *Beryl Bonfield*



Listening to God's Word:

The set readings on **Sunday 22nd March** are
Ezekiel 37.1-14 and John 11.1-45.

At our 10.30am service, our readings are Psalm 102. 1-2, 18-22 and Matthew 13.10-23.

Our theme at 10.30am is "**Listen then!**"

COMING UP What's happening at St Mary's on Sundays in March and April 2026

Our 10.30am Sunday services at St Mary's vary, week by week – we hope that this provides different types of worship that appeal in different ways and, perhaps, are appreciated by different groups of people. Everyone is welcome every week!

- **Sunday 22nd March** is our usual service of Sung Eucharist and we return to our Lenten theme *"Christ has no body now but yours"* as we consider what it means to be the *Ears of Christ* in the world today.
- This month we also have a fifth **Sunday, 29th March**, and so a joint benefice service, which this time is at St Mary's – it's also **Palm Sunday** so, although there is no Sunday Club, the service will include our children and young people.
- **Easter Day is Sunday 5th April** and we'll celebrate the resurrection of Jesus with a Sung Eucharist for everyone and an egg hunt in the churchyard for our children young people.
- **Sunday 12th April**, is the first second Sunday of Easter and our service today is a Sung Eucharist. We'll reflect on the resurrection appearance of Jesus to Thomas and what it means for us today.
- On the third **Sunday of April, 19th**, we will join Jesus *"On the Emmaus Road"* as we share Morning Worship together.
- On the fourth **Sunday, 26th April**, we'll share a Sung Eucharist once again.

As usual, **each Sunday** our quieter, **Weekly Eucharist**, takes place at 9am, with 'traditional language' on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. Our weekly midweek Communion is on Tuesdays at 9.30am, and on the last Friday of each month, at 11am, we hold a Service of Prayer for Healing, with Holy Communion (see Revd Janet Gasper for details).

“Everybody is somebody in the Body of Christ!” -

Belonging at St Mary’s

During Lent we’ve been thinking together about the place that each of us has in the Body of Christ – the Church that continues his work and mission on Earth today. Not long after Easter we’ll be holding our Church Annual Meeting (known as the APCM) where we can discuss the Annual Report and Accounts for 2025 and vote for some new members of the Church Council (PCC). One important part that we all have to play in the shared life of our church is being part of these discussions and decisions – and to do this fully means joining the Church Electoral Roll.

The Electoral Roll is being revised ahead of the APCM, during the period from 29th March to 5th April, so this is a good time to add yourself to this list of Church members if you haven’t already done so. All you need to do is collect a form from the back of the Church, complete the relevant sections and return it to our Acting Electoral Roll Officer, Nigel Siesage, or to myself, by the deadline. This is also the time to tell Nigel about any changes to your contact details so the list can be amended. If you are already on the list and nothing has changed, then you don’t need to do anything!

The Annual Meeting will be on Sunday 26th April, but the deadline for the Electoral Roll is 5th April, so please don’t leave it until the last minute!

Adrian



Decorating the church for Easter

We will be decorating the church for Easter on Saturday morning, 4th April from 9.30am. Everyone is welcome and no experience necessary.

As well as our usual types of arrangements with lilies and white/yellow and Spring flowers, it would be lovely to have some different ideas for the window sills etc. Perhaps you have a vase to use, instead of oasis, or other ideas that reflect the idea of Easter and Spring.

Please sign up at the back of the church or let Deborah (0116 2707525) know if you can help or would like more information. Gifts of greenery and flowers will be welcome. Please bring these to the church on the Saturday morning.

Thanks Deborah



Holy Week and Easter in Knighton 2026

Easter is, of course, the greatest Christian celebration of the year. The joy of the resurrection only comes after the suffering of the cross however, so we shouldn't be too quick to jump to Easter Sunday without passing thoughtfully through Holy Week.

Alongside the newsletter this Sunday is a booklet of reflections for each day of Holy Week, relating to our Lent theme of *"Christ has no body now but yours"*. Even if you've missed a Sunday or two and been unable to join our Lent discussion groups, you'll find these daily thoughts will help you with a reflective preparation for the celebration of Easter Day.

Do try, as well, to come to one of the special services in Holy Week, and of course, join Christians around the world as we share Communion on Easter Day itself. *Adrian*

Our services in Knighton during Holy Week are as follows:

Maundy Thursday, 7.30pm at St Guthlac's - a Communion service to remember the last supper and the betrayal of Jesus.

Good Friday, 10.30am at St Guthlac's – "The Seven last Words of Our Saviour on the Cross' by Jospeh Haydn, played by the University of Leicester String Quartet, with a sequence of poems by Richard Gill.

Good Friday, 2pm at St Mary's – Meditation at the Cross, remembering the last hour of Jesus's life, and his crucifixion, with hymns and readings.

Easter Day, 10.30am - Sung Eucharist to celebrate the Resurrection on Easter Day, at both churches.

Knighton Craft Workshops 2026

Again the Knighton Christmas Tree Festival Team plan to run a series of Craft Workshops throughout the year. These will take place on Tuesdays (*one exception being Monday 20th April*) from 10.30-12.30 in St. Mary's Church, Knighton.

We hope to provide a warm welcome, craft activities, tea/coffee and biscuits. Everyone is welcome to attend. No previous skills or knowledge required - just a willingness to have a go!

We plan to sell the items made at the next festival or use them to decorate the church. However if you would like to take your creations home you are welcome to, for a small donation.

We hope to see you there! The dates are:

Tuesday 17th March

Monday 20th April

Tuesday 12th May

Tuesday 23rd June

Tues 14th July

August – *Summer break, no craft workshop*

September - TBC

November - TBC

December - *no craft workshop in December*

Save the date:

This year's Festival will take place on Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th November.

Any queries please contact: knightonctf24@gmail.com

Sue Siesage and the CTF Team

Latest St Mary's Wateraid (Grifaid) donation

The coins in the Wateraid collection tin have been counted and processed and the total was **£69.50**. Many thanks for your generous donations. The tin is back in its usual place on the table at the back of the Lady Chapel so please do keep your donations of small change coming.

Sian Howard

Latest St Mary's Foodbank donation

The food collected during February and early March 2026 has been taken to the Leicester South Foodbank distribution centre in Wigston. It weighed in at 44.5kg. As always, the staff there thanks us for our donations. They also said they are running particularly low on donated food at the moment; so our continued support is really important to them. Their homepage always lists the items they most urgently need: <https://leicestersouth.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

Sian Howard

Virtual Compline 8.00pm Wednesday evenings

All are welcome. You can also join using a phone.

You can join the meeting from 7.50 pm.

On the computer click: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81118183080>

On the phone dial: 0203 481 5240 and follow the instructions.

You will be asked for a meeting ID. Put **811 1818**

3080 followed by #

A decorative poster for a Spring Concert. It features a central logo for 'Semper Singers' with a green treble clef. The background is a soft, pastel rainbow gradient. The poster is framed by various musical notes (treble clef, eighth notes, quarter notes) and colorful flowers (yellow, pink, orange) with green leaves. The text is centered and reads:

SPRING CONCERT
Countesthorpe Village Hall,
LE8 5TB
Saturday 21st March @
2pm

Pay as you feel
Refreshments available at
the interval

Raffle in support of
LOROS

**ST GUTHLAC'S CHURCH
HOLBROOK ROAD LE2 3LF**



10.30 am Friday 3rd April 2026

**The Seven Last Words of Our Saviour on
the Cross
By Joseph Haydn**

With a sequence of poems on the Seven Last Words
by Richard Gill

**University of Leicester
String Quartet**

ALL WELCOME



Please nominate St Mary Magdalen! - Charity number 1130923

[Give your favourite charities the chance to win £1,000!](#)



Enter Now

Nominate your
charity for **£1,000**

Movementforgood.com

**Benefact Group
Movement for Good**

Just five days to go before the first £1,000 draw!

Who will you support for a share of £100,000?

Starting on Monday, we'll be drawing the first 100 charities to be awarded £1,000 in this year's Benefact Group Movement for Good Awards.

We have £100,000 to donate and we'll draw 20 charities a day **between 23rd - 27th March.**

It's **one nomination per charity per person**, so you can **nominate** as many charities as you like, and if you get them in the running early, they'll be in for all the draws.

[Nominate a charity today](#)

[Terms and conditions apply](#)

Visit our [Giving Map](#) to see the difference £1,000 has made to so many charities already.



Turn your daily shopping into everyday magic for us with easyfundraising

You shop, brands donate to us. It won't cost you any extra!



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Help us make a difference when you shop.
Visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk



1 Visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk

2 Sign up and search for us

3 Your favourite brands donate to us whenever you shop with them

Shop with 8,000+ brands including:

Booking.com

ebay

M&S

GROUPON

Argos

TUI

JOHN
LEWIS



vikings

ASOS



Uber Eats

Did you know that we're registered on #easyfundraising? This means you can raise free donations for us in 2026 when you shop online! Over 8,000 retailers will make a donation to St Mary Magdalen - Knighton PCC on your behalf when you shop with them. We have raised over £500 so far - Please sign up today. All the big names like Sainsbury's, Argos and Just Eat are ready to donate at no extra cost to you. Plus, sign up today and we could win a £500 donation: <https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/st-mary-magdalen-knighton-pcc/h2y5ev/c2s/ahT9IaEN/CE945/facebook/>

Contact details:

Vicar: Revd Adrian Jones 07919 262399
Email: adrian.jones@zoho.com (rest day normally Friday)

Curate: Revd Cecilia Adjadje 07587 772828
revdcecilia@gmail.com (rest day normally Friday)

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

Revd Janet Gasper 0116 288 9646
jgasper925@gmail.com

Lay Reader: Fiona Wingate
fiona.wingate@talktalk.net

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

Churchwarden: Michael Gasper c/o 0116 270 2705
gaspermick@gmail.com

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

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 donation through the Parish Giving Scheme, details of which can be obtained from Simon Britton, Planned Giving Scheme Secretary, email: stmarysknighton.giving@gmail.com or phone 07710 975 272. If you are a taxpayer and willing to gift aid your giving, our church can claim an additional 25% at no extra cost to yourself. Any donations by cheque should be to **Knighton PCC** please.



Praying through this week

Praying for each other this month: During March our prayer focus, as we bring all of our church family and friends before God over the year, is on those whose surnames begin with the letters I, J, K and L. Please pray that each person will have the faith and courage to keep going through present challenges, and experience an Easter that is full of resurrection hope.

Praying for the World: the Collect for Peace

Almighty God, from whom all thoughts of truth and peace proceed:

kindle, we pray, in the hearts of all, the true love of peace and guide with your pure and peaceable wisdom

those who take counsel for the nations of the earth, that in tranquillity your kingdom may go forward,

till the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love;

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.

Praying for the Church: Please continue to pray for our new Archbishop, Sarah Mullally - that God will strengthen her for the task ahead and give her the wisdom and insight needed to guide the Church. Pray that she will be encouraged and know God's peace through all the ups and downs of this challenging calling. Pray too for our partner churches in the proposed Minster Community, especially this week the group tasked with writing our proposal for the Bishop to consider.

Praying for the Parish, our neighbours and friends: Please pray for the peace and well-being of all those who live on **Lambourne Road, Fairholme Road, Cairnsford Road, Ferndale Road, Northdene Road.**

Praying for those in need this week

Please pray for all those who are in particular need at the moment, those who are unwell in body, mind or spirit, and those anxious and worried. We especially pray for **John Matthews and Neill Addison-Gutteridge.**

Please remember all those who have died in recent days. Ask God to bring comfort and peace to their family and friends, even in their sadness.