



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



**Newsletter for  
Sunday 21st April 2024  
4th Sunday of Easter**

**Collects for this week**

Almighty God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life:  
raise us, who trust in him,  
from the death of sin to the life of righteousness,  
that we may seek those things which are above,  
where he reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
Amen.



## The week ahead...

<b>Sunday 21st April</b>	9.00am Eucharist <b>10.30am Morning Worship</b> 10.30am Eucharist at St Guthlacs
Monday 22nd April	7.30pm Bell Ringing practice
Tuesday 23rd April	9.30am Holy Communion (St Mary's) 2.00pm Mothers' Union Fellowship
Wednesday 24th April	
Thursday 25th April	9.30am Holy Communion (St Guthlac's)
Friday 26th April	11am Healing Prayer with Communion
Saturday 27th April	
<b>Sunday 28th April</b>	9.00am Eucharist (trad) <b>10.30am Sung Eucharist</b> 10.30am Morning Prayer at St Guthlacs 11.45am Annual Meeting (APCM)

**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 set readings for Sunday 21st April are Acts 4.5-12, 1 John 3.16-end and John 10.11-18.

At our 10.30am service, our readings are Jeremiah 29.4-7, 10-14 and Galatians 6.2,7-10. Our sermon is titled "Where can we find hope for our nation?"

## Church Family News

**With sadness:** It's with great sadness that I have to tell you of the recent death of two of our friends and church members.

Beryl Gutteridge died just before Easter, having had cancer for some time and, more recently, becoming very ill and spending time in hospital. Beryl always brought a cheery approach to church with her on Sundays, and a down-to-earth approach to faith and life which I much appreciated. Please remember Beryl's son John, and her good friends and neighbours, in your prayers. **Beryl's funeral is Wednesday 24th April at 12 noon, Countesthorpe Crematorium.**

I'm also very sad to pass on news that Doreen Macafee also died, on Monday last. Although Doreen's life had been much restricted in recent years and it was very difficult for her to get out to church, she retained her sharp mind, warm kindness and great good humour. She had a spell in hospital a few weeks ago but Doreen's last days came rather rapidly - please pray for her family and friends as they adjust to this sad new reality. **Doreen's funeral is 11.30am Friday 10th May at St Mary's.**

*Adrian*

**Mothers' Union Fellowship** Our next meeting is on Tuesday, 23rd April, St George's Day, when Valerie Thomson will tell us about her Canal Adventure. We will meet, as usual, in the Parish Centre lounge at 1.30 for a 2pm start. Non-members are welcome to join us. LP

**St Mary's Wateraid charity contribution** Thanks so much for all your generous gifts of coins which you have placed in the Wateraid (Grifaid) jar over the last 6 months. The amount collected in the very full jar was £49.11 and this has been paid to the charity. The jar is once again on the table at the back of the Lady Chapel so we can start collecting again!

*Sian Howard*

## **COMING UP ..... What's happening at St Mary's on Sundays in April 2024**

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!

- On the third Sunday of April, 21st, our Morning Worship will take the theme of 'Hope for the future ... of our nation' as we look at the way our faith might have an impact on the forthcoming General Election.
- The month ends with Sung Eucharist on Sunday 28th April, again looking at the resurrection appearances of Jesus. This service will be followed by our Annual Church Meeting (APCM) – more about that closer to the time.
- 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.

### **Eco Tip for MARCH**

Celebrate Spring. Immerse yourself in the sights and sounds of the season – breathe in the fragrance of blossoms, observe budding catkins, note different bird songs, spot footprints, or use the Pl@ntNet app to identify spring flowers. Nature can boost our happiness, so spend time in your garden, on your balcony, and in local green spaces. Dedicate quality time to appreciate creation's beauty, and thank God for the hope that spring can bring.

## **Join us for “Hymns We Love” on Wednesday mornings**

Our Wednesday morning small group meets every week at 10.30am in the Welcome Space (Cottage Room) of the Parish Centre, on the corner of Brinsmead Rd and Church Lane. We enjoy discussion and Bible Study, and share friendship, drinks and cakes. Starting on 1<sup>st</sup> May we'll be starting a new series of five meetings celebrating “Hymns We Love”, when we'll be listening to and talking about a selection of well-known and popular hymns – exploring the stories behind the writers and the meaning behind the words.

Everyone is welcome, and this is an ideal opportunity to invite your friends and neighbours who might otherwise have no connection with the church or seldom think about the Christian faith. Publicity leaflets will be available soon and please do book the dates in your diary! *Adrian*

## **Our Annual Church Meeting 2024**

On Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April we meet straight after the morning service (11.45am) for our Annual Church Meeting (APCM). This is an important time to gather and think together about the previous year, 2023. There is the opportunity to review our finances and all that we have been doing as a church, to elect Church Wardens and members of the Church Council (PCC), and of course to ask questions and give views.

Please do take a copy of the Annual Report and the meeting papers from the back of the church (or print your own if you have received them by email) and pray about who would serve us well on the PCC – there are several vacancies. Please talk to those people who come to mind and see Adrian or the Church Wardens for a nomination form.

I do hope you'll make this important meeting a priority and play your part in shaping our church's future. *Adrian*



## **Our friend and church member, John Astles, retires after 42 years of exceptional service in the NHS**

NHS colleagues have praised his "significant" contributions to healthcare.

Colleagues have paid tribute to one of Leicester's longest-serving GPs who has retired after 42 years. Dr John Astles joined Willowbrook Medical Practice, which is now part of Willows Health, in Thurncourt in 1982.

The University of Liverpool graduate has been called a "cornerstone of support and guidance" for the local community. NHS colleagues have praised his "significant" contributions to healthcare as well as his "steadfast commitment" to the job.

As Dr Astles prepares to hang up his stethoscope for good, fellow GPs and the wider patient community pause to pay tribute to his career. One colleague said his influence "shaped the culture" at the surgery and his presence will leave an "indelible mark" on all who have met him.

Professor Rishabh Prasad, Chairman of Willows Health, added: "Dr Astles' dedication to improving the lives of patients, averaging one every 10 minutes for over four decades, is a remarkable achievement in itself. But what truly sets him apart is his unique approach and demeanour with patients - a kind of empathy that cannot be taught but is innate to his character.

A spokesperson for the NHS described Dr. Astles' approach to medicine as being characterized by his "unwavering professionalism and dedication to his patients". His ability to provide both medical expertise and a listening ear has earned him the respect and admiration of all who have sought his care, a statement said.

Dr Astles said: "When I started working as a GP things seemed to be much simpler. No computers on desks and hand-written notes. Times have changed for sure, but what is undoubtedly the same is the hard work and dedication of the staff who turn up every working day to do their best for the good of the patients.

"I have loved working as a GP, I couldn't imagine a better way of spending over 40 years. It is a job with huge responsibilities but great privilege and I will be forever grateful for the life it has given me."

Throughout his career, Dr Astles has been supported by his devoted wife, Ros, and their children, Elizabeth and Tom. He says that their encouragement and understanding have undoubtedly played a vital role in his ability to "serve the community with excellence."

(text taken from Leicestershire Live)

We wish John all the very best for his retirement.

### **A different way of giving towards the work of our church.....**

Please scan the QR code to support the life and work of St Mary's.



If you are a UK tax payer, you may like to gift aid your donation.

**ELECTORAL ROLL:** the Electoral Roll has been revised and no more names can be added until after the APCM on 28th April. There is a copy of the Roll (showing names only) on the PCC notice board at the back of church, to enable any corrections to be made. Please let me know of any errors as soon as possible before the APCM.

Eileen McKellican (Electoral Roll Officer) 0116 2700302 / 07487814895 / eileenmckellican@tiscali.co.uk



**FOR THE NEWSLETTER** Please send material to be included in the next newsletter by noon next Thursday to [office@knightonparish.co.uk](mailto:office@knightonparish.co.uk)

### **Virtual Compline 8.00pm Wednesday evenings**

There is an online Compline every Wednesday 8.00 pm, **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 #



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## 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 Simon Britton, Planned Giving Scheme Secretary: email: [stmarysknighton.giving@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysknighton.giving@gmail.com) or phone 07710 975272. If you are a taxpayer and gift aid your giving, our church can claim an additional 25%. Cheques to **Knighton PCC** please.

## Prayers of Love & Faith. Where are We?

Talk & Discussion led by Rev Matthew Gough

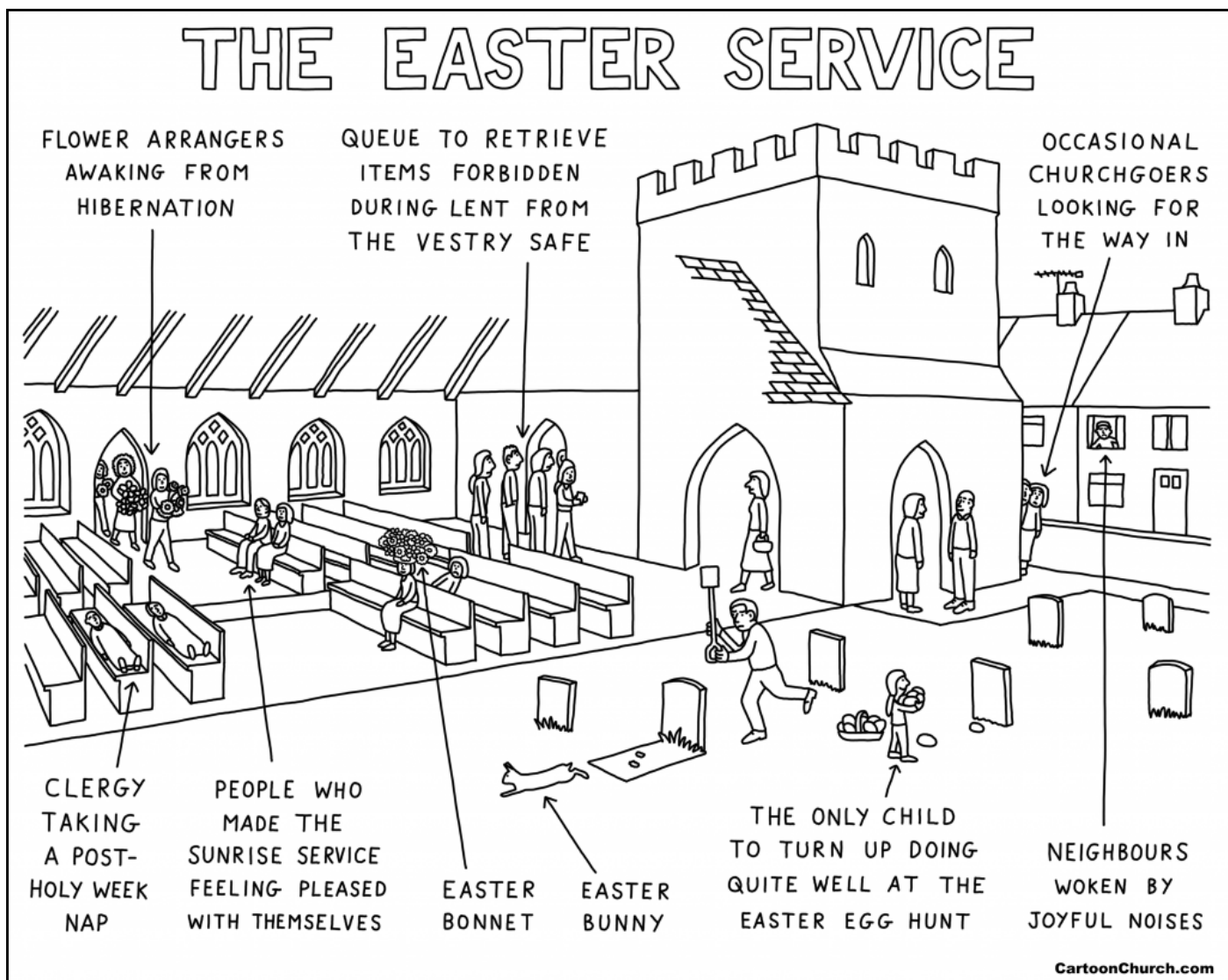
Holbrook Hall

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April 5.30-6.30

Matthew will talk about how we can support same-sex couples, trans individuals etc. in the Church of England as well as consider members of our congregations who might hold different views. This issue is increasingly important as we have greater contact with priests and congregations with different views through the Minster Communities.

Matthew is ideally placed to lead a discussion as he is a 'Living in Love & Faith Chaplain' and knows the Benefice well.

There will be opportunity for discussion with tea and cake provided.





# MAY FESTIVAL

Mass with procession in honour of Our Lady.

## Celebrant and Preacher:

The Most Revd Rowan Williams,  
former Archbishop of Canterbury

**13th  
MAY**

**7pm**

**St Andrew's Church,  
Jarrom Street,  
Leicester, LE2 7DH.**

followed by refreshments

Free parking at St Andrew's

[standrewsjarromstreet.org](http://standrewsjarromstreet.org)

## Prayers for this week

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

(Colossians 4.2)

**Praying for the World:** please pray for peace, justice and security across the Middle East. Pray that leaders will have sound and compassionate judgement of what is required for lasting solutions that respect all peoples.

**Praying for the Church:** Please pray for the first meeting of church representatives discussing the formation of Minster Communities within the City and suburbs of Leicester, which takes place on Tuesday. Pray for good relationships between all churches and an openness to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

**Praying for the Parish:** Please pray for the peace and well-being of all those who live on of **Ratcliffe Road, Sackville Gardens, College Court, Queens Road, Eton Close, Harrow Place.**

**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 **Brian Arnold, Rosemary Herbert, Irvine Byer, David Holland, Neill, and 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 **Beryl Gutteridge, Doreen Macafee.**

Remember too, all those whose anniversaries fall at this time.