St Mary Magdalen Church of England, Knighton

Newsletter for Sunday 22nd November 2026 Christ the King

Collects for this week

Eternal Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven
that he might rule over all things as Lord and King:
keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit
and in the bond of peace,
and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

God the Father,
help us to hear the call of Christ the King
and to follow in his service,
whose kingdom has no end;
for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, one glory.
Amen.



The Week Ahead..

Sunday 22nd November *Christ the King*	9.00am Eucharist (Trad.) 10.30am Sung Eucharist 10.30am Morning Prayer at St Guthlac's
Monday 23rd November	2.00pm-4.00pm Drop-In (Parish Centre) 7.30pm Bell Ringing practice
Tuesday 24th November	9.30am Holy Communion (St Mary's) 2.00pm Mothers' Union Fellowship
Wednesday 25th November	**Christmas Tree Festival Set Up** 8.00pm Online Compline
Thursday 26th November	**Christmas Tree Festival Set Up** 9.30am Holy Communion (St Guthlac's)
Friday 27th November	**Christmas Tree Festival Set Up**
Saturday 28th November	10.00am-5pm Christmas Tree Festival
Sunday 29th November *1st Sunday of Advent*	**No services at St Mary's** 10.30am Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist at St Guthlac's 11.00am-5pm Christmas Tree Festival 5.00pm Festival Carol Service

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]

Listening to God's Word this Sunday :

The readings for Christ the King,

Sunday 22nd November, are

Ezekiel 34.11-16, 20-24 and **Matthew 25.31-end**.

Church Family News

New Churchwarden - I'm very pleased to tell you that Sue Collins has stepped forward and volunteered to be our second Churchwarden, alongside Sian. Our Wardens have an important role in our church life together and so it's good news for all of us that Sue has responded to this call. Please pray for the wisdom of both our Wardens and all the Church Council (PCC). *Adrian*

Mothers' Union Fellowship Our next meeting is on Tuesday, 24th November in the Parish Centre at 1.30 for a 2pm start. Our topic is "Christmas Memories" and we plan to share our memories and, if possible, bring items to show the others. As always, non-members are welcome to join us. LP

Latest St Mary's GrifAid (Wateraid) donation
The coins in the Wateraid tin have been processed and found to contain £65.50 which we will pay to the GrifAid Charity. Many thanks for your donations to this wonderful, life-giving charity. The empty tin is once again at the back of the Lady chapel awaiting our donations of small change. *Sian Howard*

Calendars The Fairtrade Advent Calendars have arrived for those who ordered them. Please could you bring cash to church for them - £4.95 each. Thank you. *Alison*

Christmas Tree Festival There will be a short briefing for the Festival volunteers immediately after the 10.30 service on Sunday 22nd - *Alison and Sue.*

COMING UP ……. What's happening at St Mary's on Sundays in November and December 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!

- We join together for Sung Eucharist on **Sunday 22nd November**, the last Sunday of the Church's year as we remember **Christ the King**.

- This month we have a fifth Sunday as well, **29th November**, and we will be joining the congregation at St Guthlac's for a joint benefice Sung Eucharist to mark **Advent Sunday**.

- On the first **Sunday, 6th December**, of the new month we share in Worship for the Whole Church (All Ages) at St Mary's, remembering that the first Christmas story features people….of all ages!

- **Sunday 13th December** will be the third Sunday of Advent and we share in a service of Sung Eucharist as we prepare, with John the Baptist, for the coming of the Messiah.

- On the last Sunday of Advent, **20th December**, we reflect on the calling and obedience of Mary the mother of Jesus, in a service of Morning Worship.

- On **Sunday 27th December** there are no services at St Mary's or St Guthlac's, but the usual programme restarts on Sunday 3rd January as usual.

- See the separate item for details of all our special services for Advent and Christmas.

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).



St Mary Magdalen:
Christmas Services and Events 2026

Christmas Tree Festival: Saturday 28th November (10am-5pm) & Sunday 29th November (12.30pm—5pm).

Festival Carol Service: Sunday 29th November, 5pm.

Carols & Christingles: Sunday 13th December, 4pm.

Parish Carol Service: Sunday 20th December, 6.30pm.

Carols & Crib Service : Thursday 24th December, 4pm.

Midnight Communion: Thursday 24th December, 11.30pm.

Christmas Day: Friday 25th December, 9am.

Christmas Day Celebration : Friday 25th December, 10.30am *(with shortened Communion)*

Please note: there will be no morning services on Sunday 27th December, but on Sunday 3rd January they run as usual., at 9am and 10.30am.

St Guthlac's Church:
Christmas Services and Events

St Guthlac's Christmas Fayre: **Saturday 5th Dec. 9.45am–1pm**

Christmas Gift Service: **Sunday 13th December 10.30 am**

At this Service we collect new, unwrapped toys to donate to children supported by one of our local charities.

Traditional Carols and Readings: **Wednesday 16th December 7.30 pm**

Crib Service: **Thursday 24th December, 4.00 pm**

First Communion of Christmas: **Thursday 24th December, at 8.00 pm**

Christmas Morning Communion: **Friday 25th December , at 10.30 am**

Please Note: On Sunday 27th December there will be no service at St Guthlac's.



Knighton Christmas Tree Festival

Saturday 28th November 10am – 5pm

Sunday 29th November 11am – 5pm

St Mary's Church, Brinsmead Road, Leicester LE2 3WD
Admission £2.50 - Children free - Assistance dogs only
All proceeds to LOROS and the Church Community Projects

Leicester City Council

Light refreshments, raffle and children's activities
Event supported by Knighton Ward Community Fund

Knighton Christmas Tree Festival
Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th November 2026

Hamper, Help and Cakes!

Hampers

We would like donations to include in our luxury hampers, which will be raffled during the weekend. A list of suggested items is on the noticeboard at the back of the church. No homemade items and please check the sell-by dates.

Help

We need your help during course of the weekend. We have more trees than ever before and we hope that this means more paying visitors and more proceeds for charity.

If you can help for one, two or three sessions during the weekend please sign up at the back of the church.

Cake

If you could help by providing a cake or cakes to sell at our *Christmas Café,* that would be amazing. The cakes can be homemade or shop bought. Both really help and you would be surprised how many cakes are eaten during the weekend!

Please note:

- Easy to handle cakes are best as they are served on paper napkins
- No nuts
- For homemade cakes, please list your ingredients as we are often asked because of allergies and intolerances

Again there is a sign-up at the back of the church.

If you are not in church please email; knightonctf24@gmail.com with your cake or hamper promises and/ or your availability to help during the weekend.

Thank you all for your continuing support for the Festival .

The Festival Team

Music at the Knighton Christmas Tree Festival

Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th November 2026

Saturday 28th November

10-11 **St. Mary's Bellringers** ring in the festival
11-12 **Semper Singers**
1 – 2pm **Laura Choir,** will sing carols to join in with
2-5pm **The Titanic Boys,** a local Jazz group

Sunday 29th November

12.00-1.00 **Recorder Group**
1 - 3 **Knighton Quartet**
3.30 - 4.30 **St Mary's TreeO**
5pm **Carols around the Trees**

All times approximate.



KNIGHTON CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 2026

Christmas Card

A unique card, specially commissioned from local artist
Helen Newton



Packs of 10 cards (6 ins x 4 ins with envelopes) **£8**

Message inside reads

With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year

Cards will be available from the beginning of November. There is a limited print run. To order your cards, there will be a list at the back of St Mary's; or email knightonctf24@gmail.com, saying how many packs you require. (Please put 'Christmas Cards' in the subject line of your email).

All proceeds from sales go to the Festival's local charity this year, LOROS, and St Mary's community projects.

Sunday 22nd November 2026

Sale of Handmade Crafts

There will be a sale of handmade crafts and Christmas Cards at St. Mary's after the 10.30am service until 1pm.

The ***Coffee and Craft Group*** have been working hard throughout the year to produce ideas to decorate the church and to sell at the Christmas Tree Festival.

On Sunday 22nd there will be a chance for members of the congregation to look at what we have been doing and to buy ahead of the Festival.

We will also be selling Helen Newton's popular Christmas Cards. The original run of 700 cards sold quickly, but we have managed to secure a second print of 200 more cards so that nobody misses out.

There will be an opportunity to pay by cash or use the card machine.

There is no pressure to buy, but seeing what we have been doing might encourage you to join the ***Coffee and Craft Group*** when we get back up and running in the Spring.

Ecotip for November: As winter creeps in, homes are really important. God calls us to give nature a home, too. Does your garden have a bird feeder? Could your balcony or windowsill do with some plant life? If you don't own the house you could make a case to the homeowner for a bird box, hedgehog highway or whatever. (For a hedgehog highway do make sure the neighbours are OK with you making a small hole in a shared fence). Why not gather your housemates, friends and family to discuss how a new recycling, heating or transport arrangement might work for you all - you'll go further together!





Please support St Mary Magdalen - Knighton PCC by doing your Christmas shopping online via easyfundraising - you'll raise FREE donations for us, all courtesy of the retailers! It won't cost you an extra penny, and you'll definitely make the good list: https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/cause/st-mary-magdalen-knighton-pcc/?utm_campaign=pmcapp

Contact details:

Vicar: Revd Adrian Jones 07919 262399 adrian.jones@zoho.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: Sue Collins

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.

Virtual Compline 8.00pm Wednesday evenings

Our Virtual Compline services continue on Wednesdays in October and November at 8.00pm as usual. 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 080 followed by #
Do join us!

Praying through this week

Praying for each other this month: November has arrived so please pray this month for all those in our congregations whose surnames begin with Q, R, S and T. Pray that in this season of Remembrance they will be mindful of God's faithfulness over the years, and that by his Holy Spirit, Jesus continues to be with us and our loved ones day by day.

Praying for the World: As we celebrate Christ the King on Sunday 22nd, please take time this week to pray for the leaders of our nations - perhaps one a day? Pray that they will love truth and justice more than power and self-promotion. Pray that as they serve their own people faithfully and wisely, they will also have a deep desire for all countries to thrive and be at peace with each other. Pray for personal integrity, concern & care for others and humility - and that they will be aware of the God who places them in their position of authority. Pray for Andy Burnham (UK), Donald Trump (USA), Vladimir Putin (Russia), Xi Jinping (China), Volodymyr Zelenskyy (Ukraine), Gadi Eisenkot (likely Prime Minister of Israel), other world leaders.

Praying for the Church: Please pray for all the final preparations for the St Mary's Christmas Tree Festival and the St Guthlac's Christmas Fayre. Pray that everything will run smoothly and that all our visitors and guests will experience a warm welcome, generous hospitality, and be prompted to think again about the Greatest Gift to us all this Christmas. With others across our Diocese please also pray for the people and leaders of the churches in Groby & Ratby, Glenfield and Newtown Linford, and Anstey & Thurcaston with Cropston (Matthew Gough's parishes).

Praying for the Parish, our neighbours and friends: Please pray for the peace and well-being of all those who live on *Southernhay Rd, Southernhay Close, Southern Hay Avenue, Cara Close, Estima Close, Westernhay 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 **Veronica Brown and Valerie Thompson.**

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. We especially remember **Tom O'Connell**.