

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

Sunday 22nd March 2020

Fourth Sunday of Lent: Mothering Sunday

Please join us in worship this Sunday morning

As our services in the Church building are suspended because of the restrictions needed to combat the Coronavirus, please join us in worship together by using the readings, prayers and 'sermon' on our website. In future weeks we hope to keep improving this 'virtual service' so that we all feel connected even if we have to stay apart! Please do check the church website www.stmarysknighton.co.uk regularly to see what we are adding to our 'Coronavirus Support' page.

Our vision for Knighton, and for all of us, is Faith for Life – based on the words of Jesus: “I have come that they may have life; life in all its fullness” (John 10.10). During the present Coronavirus pandemic this can feel like a real challenge, as our lives will be so restricted for many weeks and the future is uncertain. It is tempting to think that as all our services are now suspended we will be 'less' as a church and 'less' as Christians - but I would like to urge you in God's grace to be more.

We need the same love and care that runs through our normal church life together to be at work now in more prayer for each other and in meeting more practical needs. We need the example and Spirit of Jesus to inspire us now to love our neighbours and to encourage each other even more.

So let's give ourselves to prayer, as we have health and strength, for each other and our communities. Let's talk to those we sense might need help and offer what we can. And let's ask that God will continue to help us follow the way of Jesus and build the Kingdom even in these unique times.

If you need some practical help or someone to talk to - or if you can offer this to others- please do phone or email us at the Church Office: 0116 270 2705 or office@knightonparish.co.uk Thank you to those who have already volunteered.

in friendship and Christ's service
Adrian Jones, Vicar

(Thanks to Mark Powley, St Hild College, for ideas used here)

WELCOME

A warm welcome to the St Mary's newsletter for the week - during the Coronavirus epidemic and restrictions on our movement and gathering, we aim to continue producing the newsletter weekly. You will be able to view it on our website www.stmarysknighton.co.uk and some paper copies will be available in church when the building is open for prayer.

If you have notices for the newsletter do please continue to send them into James (but by email only please). In particular please send us short items for the page that we have called ***"Good News in Tough Times"***, where we want to highlight the kindnesses shown to us and to others, answers to prayer, Bible readings that have inspired us... and anything else that is Good News amidst our challenges!

Church opening: On the Diary Page you will see that, encouraged by the Archbishops, we are opening the church buildings of the benefice for quiet prayer and reflection at regular times each week, following our normal service pattern. While there will not be a service then, we will provide materials to help you pray and to continue growing in faith during this exceptional time. You can of course drop in at any time when the churches are open, and stay for as long or as short a time as you like. A member of the Ministry Team will be in church at these times, but conversation will need to abide by 'social distancing' rules (ie staying 2 metres/ 6 feet apart). We will be careful not to have physical contact, and frequently used surfaces and toilets will be cleaned afterwards.

Pause for Prayer: On Wednesday evening at St Mary's from 8-9pm we will open the church for a 'Pause for Prayer'. This is not a service but a time when there will be music and prayers to listen to as well as the usual material to read, use and take away home. As we sit we will need, again, to abide by the social distancing rules and good hygiene practice.

If you are self-isolating because you, or a member of your household, have symptoms of Coronavirus or any other illness, then please keep

everyone safe by staying at home and not coming to church.

Worship Together on Sunday ... or any time! We will all be able to share worship together by staying at home but using the worship materials that we will post on our website and Facebook page - we are starting with Bible readings and a sermon, and hope to expand what is available as the weeks go by. Do keep checking the website for our regular updates.

Light a candle of hope: A national call to prayer The Presidents of Churches Together in England have issued a call to prayer in the light of the Coronavirus pandemic. This is for all churches and people of prayer to join on Sunday 22nd March, Mothering Sunday. They write....

'This Mothering Sunday, 22nd March, we are calling all churches to a National Day of Prayer and Action. At such a time as this, when so many are fearful and there is great uncertainty, we are reminded of our dependence on our loving Heavenly Father and the future that he holds.

At 7pm this Sunday, light a candle in the windows of your homes as a visible symbol of the light of life, Jesus Christ, our source and hope in prayer.' Candles will be available at St Guthlac's and St Mary's when the buildings are open on the morning of 22nd March.



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.

DIARY FOR THE WEEK

Sunday 22nd March Mothering Sunday	10.00am - 12 noon	St Mary's and St Guthlac's open for prayer
Monday 23rd March		
Tuesday 24th March	10.00am - 12 noon	St Mary's open for prayer
Wednesday 25th March	8.00pm	Pause for Prayer at St Marys
Thursday 26th March	10.00am - 12 noon	St Guthlac's open for prayer
Friday 27th March		
Saturday 28th March		
Sunday 29th March Passion Sunday		

SPRING SING

Many thanks to the singers and musicians of the Knighton Parish Singers, who gave us such a splendid concert on Wednesday - a real treat for a dark evening. The concert raised £462, which will be split equally between Parkinsons UK and the InSpired Appeal. Thank you.

CHURCHYARD FOOTPATH

I'm glad to say that the City Council have been able to start work on renewing the footpath to the Garden of Remembrance. The first section should be complete in about a week or so, but the second section may have to wait until the new financial year. I'm sorry for any inconvenience but the new footpath will be much safer and cleaner. *Adrian*

Listening to God's Word

Our Bible readings today are:

Ruth 1.1-18 and Matthew 23.37-39

Mothering Sunday Reflection

The Lord comparing himself to a mother hen with the gentle image of chicks being gathered under her wings shows the universal nature of mothering. Mothering is not just for mothers and not just for women. This inclusive aspect of God is important for those of us who may find Mothering Sunday difficult or painful.

The story of Ruth and Naomi is similarly affirming of non natural maternal, yet loving, relationships, "Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried". Such beautiful words of commitment and courageous love.

We should be encouraged, especially at this time of global pandemic and mass social isolation. We have a God that walks alongside us. He promises repeatedly to never abandon us nor forsake us. My prayer this Mothering Sunday is for Church (that is all of us) to rediscover our capacity for motherhood. Whether we are young, old, male or female- who can we mother? Who risks being abandoned and left behind? Who needs our courageous vulnerability to protect them at this time.

Reverend Matthew Gough, Mothering Sunday 2020 (please visit website for the full version).

Good News in Tough Times

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers." (Galatians 6, 9-10)

MOTHERS UNION

In accordance with current guidelines, there will be no Mothers Union meeting next Tuesday, March 24th, nor April 28th. We shall continue to review the situation and keep members informed.

FAIRTRADE EASTER EGGS:

The Easter eggs, as pre-ordered, have arrived and are available for collection from the church when open - please ask the Minister who is present to fetch yours from the vestry. You can also collect from the vicarage if you give us a little notice. Payment on collection please! *Alison*

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS:

I am sorry to have to tell you that Mrs Mary Fielder, widow of Canon John Fielder the former vicar of Knighton, has died this week. *Adrian*

"NEITHER RASHLY NOR TIMIDLY" - BUILDING ON OUR VISION FOR ST MARY'S

Every living thing needs to grow and develop, and our Church Council recently agreed to consider seven significant ideas that will nurture growth in the Kingdom of God through the life of St Mary's. There will be more detail in the next Benefice Magazine, but briefly the ideas are:

- to use a large portable screen for the projection of words, songs and images in some of our services;
- to establish a new community garden on the site of the former 'gardener's hut' in the churchyard;
- to employ a part-time worker to initiate and develop new ways for local children and families to explore the way of Jesus, both within and outside of traditional church life;
- to create a flexible, comfortable space for prayer and small services by changing the All Souls Chapel;
- to create a larger more flexible space at the west end of the church that can be used in a variety of ways;
- to take up the Diocesan challenge to become an 'Eco-Church' by changes to our policies and everyday practices;
- to take a fresh approach to our giving and support as a church for charities, mission groups and development agencies.

At our Church Annual Meeting (APCM) we need to elect two Church Wardens and new members of the PCC (Church Council) to help us consider each idea carefully and wisely. If you feel strongly about any of them, please do consider standing for the PCC and making your contribution to our plans. More details of the elections soon. *Adrian*

EXTERNAL LIGHTING

Planning permission has been granted for replacement lamp posts, new security lighting, lighting of the statue of Mary Magdalen on the tower and refurbishment of the west and south flood lights. Further details can be found on the PCC notice board at the back of church. An application has now been submitted for a faculty. *Simon Britton*

MUSICATHON : This has now been **postponed** until Saturday 10th October, 10.00am until 4.00pm in St Mary's.

KNIGHTON PLAYERS

This year's production from Knighton Players is 'The Sword In The Stone' by Ian Jones. The performances are on **Friday 27th March** at 7.30pm and **Saturday 28th March** at 2.30pm & 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. Tickets are priced at £7 for adults and £5 for children Available from Tanya Willis and Jane Wright or contact knightonplayers@ntlworld.com Profits in aid of MENPHYS (supporting Leicestershire children and young people with disabilities for 50 years). Raffle Prizes: There will be a raffle at each of the performances. Could you provide a prize please? Judi & Bernard Tel: 288 1306 or E-mail: judiandbernard@talktalk.net

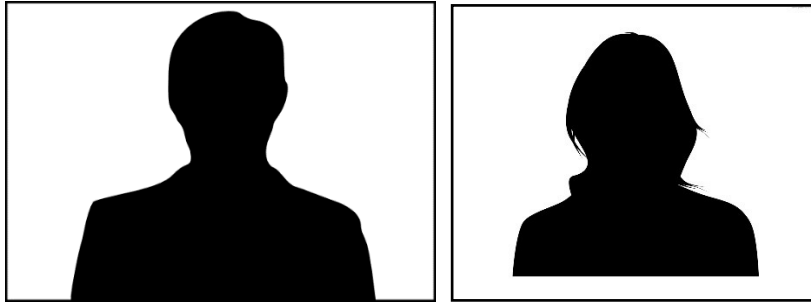
MARIE CURIE ANNUAL SPRING LUNCH

The Oadby & Wigston Fundraising Group Annual Spring Lunch has been postponed until **Thursday 1st October**.

THANKS

The Social and Fundraising Group are pleased to tell you that £320 was raised for "Send a Cow" at our Lent Lunch. We are hoping that Sandra Herbert will come to a 10am Service at St. Mary's in the near future to receive the cheque for this amount. Thank you so much for your support.

Wanted!



New Church Wardens

Essential Qualities

- a heart for St Mary's Church – the people and the building – and our community
- a belief that God's future for us is bright
- the ability to work with others (inc. the Vicar!)
- a commitment for 1-3 years.

It could be YOU!

Don't be put off by:

- your age or gender
- being a 'newcomer'
- being an 'old hand'
- not being 'practical'
- not being 'spiritual'.

What to do next

- talk to God
- talk to your friends
- talk to Ros Matthew or to Adrian.

InSPIREd

The campaign to save our spire

InSpired - our appeal for the spire

InSpired – a progress report

Thanks to your efforts and generosity, the amount raised had risen by the end of February to £33,400, of which £25,000 is attributable to donations or gift aid.

Paul Bonnett has now submitted the first of a number of applications to funding bodies and we hope these will be successful in raising the £60,000 we have assumed may be attainable from such sources. But as I have said before, these contributions are by no means guaranteed. The outcome will not be known until some time in the summer.

The InSpired Group met recently and agreed that we should continue our efforts to raise funds locally, both from donations and events, throughout the year, as originally planned.

I shall provide more information about the activities planned in the next newsletter. Meanwhile, thank you for everything you have done so far, and please keep up your efforts.

Nigel Siesage

Contact details:

Vicar: Adrian Jones 0116 270 4268 or 07584 954414

Email: adrian.jones@zoho.com (day off normally Friday)

Assistant Curate: Revd Matthew Gough 07754 961997

Email: revgough@gmail.com (day off normally Friday)

Revd Aphro McCullough: 0116 283 7887

Email: aphro.mccullough@btinternet.com

Revd Canon Dr Stephen Foster

Email: safpta6@gmail.com 07966 376905

Revd Janet Gasper

Email: janet.gasper@hotmail.co.uk 0116 288 9646

Reader: Fiona Wingate

Email: Fiona.wingate@talktalk.net 07515 752954

Churchwarden: Rosalind Matthew

Parish Administrator: James Gutteridge 0116 270 2705

Email: office@knightonparish.co.uk

The Parish Office is currently closed to the public. Sorry for any inconvenience and thank you for your understanding.

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 weekly envelope or a monthly bank standing order as part of our Planned Giving Scheme. *If you are giving by bank standing order, yellow tokens are available at services to put on the plate, should you wish.*

Scheme details can be obtained from Lorna Pollard, Planned Giving Scheme Secretary: telephone 0116 2704272 or e mail:

stmarysknighton.giving@gmail.com. If you are a taxpayer and gift aid your giving, our church can claim an additional 25%.

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CHEQUES FOR ST MARY'S Please make cheques for St Mary's payable to **Knighton PCC**.

Please pray.....

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thessalonians 5.16-18)

Give thanks: for all medical staff in our hospitals, health centres and GP practices.

Praying for the World and Church: Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy, in this time of uncertainty and distress. Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

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

We pray for all those who are unwell at the moment, whether in body, mind or spirit, and all those with troubling investigations and diagnoses. In particular we pray for **Ed Groves and all those with the symptoms of Coronavirus infection**, and all those on our parish 'Continuing Prayer' list. May they know the power of God's healing love at work in their lives today.

Give thanks for those who have been healed and restored: **Aruna**

We remember those who have died recently and pray for their families and friends. **Ann Hull**