



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



Newsletter for Sunday 15th February 2026 Sunday next before Lent

Collects for this week

Almighty Father,
whose Son was revealed in majesty
before he suffered death upon the cross:
give us grace to perceive his glory,
that we may be strengthened to suffer with him
and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Holy God,
you know the disorder
of our sinful lives:
set straight our crooked hearts,
and bend our wills to love your
goodness
and your glory
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



"Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him." (Jeremiah 17.7)

The Week Ahead..

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| Sunday 15th February <i>Sunday next before Lent</i> | 9.00am Eucharist 10.30am Morning Worship 10.30am Eucharist at St Guthlac's 2.00pm Quarter Peal of Bells |
| Monday 16th February | 2.00pm-4.00pm Drop-In (Parish Centre) 7.30pm Bell Ringing practice |
| Tuesday 17th February | 9.30am Holy Communion |
| Wednesday 18th February | 7.30pm Ash Wednesday service (St Mary's) 8.00pm Online Compline |
| Thursday 19th February | 9.30am Eucharist (St Guthlac's) 11.30am Church cleaning |
| Friday 20th February | 12 noon Funeral of Clive Barker |
| Saturday 21st February | |
| Sunday 22nd February <i>1st Sunday of Lent</i> | 9.00am Eucharist (trad) 10.30am Sung Eucharist 10.30am Morning Prayer at St Guthlac's |

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

Laurie Jarvis

I can now tell you that the funeral of our long-time friend and church member Laurie Jarvis, will take place in St Mary's at 10.45am on Monday 2nd March. Everyone is welcome. *Adrian*

Real Easter Eggs

With Easter coming early, it's already time to put in your orders for the only chocolate egg that tells the real story of Easter. It's also Fairtrade, plastic- and palm-oil free and with a new Easter booklet for this year.



£5.50 when you receive them. Please sign

up by Sunday 1st March either with me or on the noticeboard. Thanks!

Alison Roche.

World Day of Prayer Friday, 6th March.

The service for this year has been prepared by Christian women from Nigeria on the theme "I will give you rest, come". It will be celebrated as a great wave of prayer going round the world, beginning in Samoa and ending, more than 146 countries later, in American Samoa. Our local services are in St Thomas More Church at 2pm and at the Friends Meeting House at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Mothers' Union Fellowship

A reminder that our next meeting is on Tuesday, 24th February at 1.30pm for a 2pm start in the Parish Centre. Our speaker will be Margaret Young whose talk is intriguingly entitled "Neither Fish nor Fowl". LP

Listening to God's Word:

The set readings on **Sunday 15th February** are

Exodus 24.12-end and Matthew 17.1-9.

Our readings at Morning Worship are 2 Peter 1.16-19 and
Matthew 17.1-9.

Our sermon title is "*Love Actually*"

Our Ash Wednesday Service ...and afterwards:

The traditional habits of Lent have fallen out of fashion somewhat - apart from eating pancakes on Shrove Tuesday perhaps! It is good though, to remember the seasons of the Church's year and to make a point of preparing ourselves for the major festivals. Can I encourage you to take up a spiritual discipline for Lent this year? Perhaps choosing a prayer to say each morning, or committing to reading through one of the Gospels before Easter. You might also choose to skip a meal once a week so that you can give something extra to charity, or develop the virtue of patience by giving up something you enjoy until Easter.

Whatever you choose, Lent begins this year on Ash Wednesday, 18th February, and as usual we are holding a service of Holy Communion with the marking of an ash cross on the forehead of anyone who would like this physical way of entering the season. The service will be at 7.30pm at St Mary's and members of both our benefice churches are invited to come together. Please consider coming, and taking the time to thoughtfully and prayerfully begin your Lent with us. *Adrian*

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*



YOU ARE INVITED TO A
SIMPLE

LENT LUNCH

SOUP, BREAD ROLL, CHEESE AND BISCUITS



ON SATURDAY 21ST FEBRUARY 2026

12 NOON FOR 12.30PM - 2 PM

KNIGHTON PARISH CENTRE,

CHURCH LANE, LE2 3WG

TICKETS £6

AVAILABLE FROM

BERYL BONFIELD 0116 2702202

SUPPORTING LOROS

LENT approaching! You may well have noticed that Easter is 'early' this year, and so, therefore, is Lent! As usual, Christians are encouraged to remember through Holy Week and then celebrate on Easter Day itself – and the weeks of Lent before then are a significant time for pause, thought, reflection, thinking, discussion and growth in our Christian faith.

In our **Sunday services** during Lent we will be picking up themes from a course written for the Diocese of Edinburgh last year, called ***“Christ has no body now but yours”***, which is based on the famous prayer by St Teresa of Avila. The course encourages us to think more deeply about our individual part in the Body of Christ and how we can better work out our faith in practical ways every day. Each Sunday service will be followed during the week by the chance to be part of a small group discussion around the same theme, with illustrations and questions to help us.



There will be (at least) two **Lent discussion groups**. One will run at St Mary's Parish Centre (in the small Cottage/Welcome Room) on Wednesday mornings at 10.30am-noon, starting on 25th February for five weeks. The other group will run in the entrance area of St Guthlac's on Thursday evenings at 7.30-9pm, starting on 26th February for five weeks. Please choose the best day and time for you – it doesn't matter which church you feel part of most! The course book for both groups is identical and costs just £1.50 towards the printing.

I do hope that you will want to use this Lent as an intentional time for growing your faith, and that you'll be able to join one of these groups. If you're keen but the dates and times don't work for you, please see me so that we can think about running an additional meeting.

Please sign the list at the back of either church to show that you'd like to be part of a midweek discussion group and that you'd like a booklet. See you there! *Adrian*



Upcoming 2026 Retreats at Launde Abbey

- Flowers Appear on the Earth: Springtime with the Song of Songs - Led by Revd Catherine Williams **Monday 2nd March - Thursday 5th March 2026**
- Standing Near the Cross: A Lenten Retreat in the Company of Julian of Norwich - Led by Gail and Ian Adams - **Monday 2nd March - Thursday 5th March 2026**
- Living with Loss - Led by Abi May **Monday 23rd March - Thursday 26th March 2026**
- The Journey Into Oneness: Meditation and the Wisdom of the Cloud of Unknowing – A Weekend Silent Retreat **Friday 27th March - Sunday 29th March 2026**
- Look at the Birds: A Birdwatching Retreat - Led by Revd Dale Hanso **Tuesday 7th April - Friday 10th April 2026**
- Women in the Bible - Led by Bishop Graham Kings **Tuesday 5th May - Friday 8th May 2026**
- Unmaking Mary: Shattering the Myth of Perfect Motherhood - Led by Chine McDonald **Monday 27th July - Wednesday 29th July 2026**

Visit www.laundeabbey.org.uk for more information

There is much to look forward to in the year ahead, and we hope that you will continue to be part of the life of Launde Abbey, whether through retreats, quiet days, visits to the café, or time spent walking the grounds.

COMING UP What's happening at St Mary's on Sundays in February and March 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!

- The third **Sunday of February, 15th**, falls just after Valentine's day so our theme for Morning Worship is *'Love ...Actually'*.
- **Sunday 22nd February** is the first Sunday of Lent and we begin a new Sunday series to help us prepare for the celebration of Easter – we are following the themes of the Lent study course *"Christ has no body now but yours"*, and this week we think about being the *Hands of Christ*. Our service today is a Sung Eucharist.
- At St Mary's we begin every month with a service of Worship for the Whole Church (formerly known as 'All Age Worship'). On **Sunday 1st March** our theme is being the *Eyes of Christ* in the world today.
- **Sunday 8th March**, in our service of Sung Eucharist, sees us return again to our Lenten theme, as we consider being the *Feet of Christ*.
- The third **Sunday of March, 15th**, is **Mothering Sunday** and we will have a special service with plenty to interest everyone (not just Mums!), as well as our usual children's and young people's group. There will also be the traditional flowers and bulbs to distribute.
- **Sunday 22nd March** is our usual service of Sung Eucharist and we return to our Lenten theme 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**.

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).



THANK YOU

The Marie Curie Lunch last year on 16th October at Leicester College raised **£2117.84** for the charity. Well done to everyone who came.

We hope to see you all this year. Many thanks. Shirley Wills.



Appeal for a weekday lift to/from the shops

Veronica Brown asks if anyone might be kind enough to help out with an occasional lift from her home in Wigston to and from the shops in Queens Rd Clarendon Park between 9 -11 am on any weekday except Monday. Please ring her around lunchtime on a Monday if you feel able to help: 0116 2889284

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 #

St. Guthlac's Church

Holbrook Road, Leicester. LE2 3LF



Musical Connections



*An evening of well-known organ music,
with stories of the composers, their inspiration
and the musical links between them, presented by...*

David Beeby

**Assistant Director of Music
Christchurch Priory**

Music to include:

*J. S. Bach - Toccata & Fugue in D minor, Elgar - 'Nimrod'
Walton - Music for 'Richard III', Mendelssohn - Organ Sonata No. 3*

'Tea & Talk'

ALL WELCOME

Tuesday 17th February at 7.00pm

FREE Admission & Refreshments

<https://www.stguthlac-knighton.co.uk>

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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Visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk



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

Shop with 8,000+ brands including:

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GROUPON



TUI

JOHN
LEWIS



Viking

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/>

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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 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.

"No time for prayer? I do not understand how you can live such a careless life as that." *Charles Spurgeon*

Praying for each other this month In this new month of February, please pray for all our friends and congregation members whose surnames begin with the letters E, F, G and H. Pray that in these cold days they'll experience the warmth of God's love, as he shares it with us both in Jesus and through our companions and families.

Praying for the World: On Tuesday the Church remembers Archbishop Janani Luwum, who was martyred in 1977 because of his Christian stand against Ugandan dictator Idi Amin. Please pray for all those around the world who are making a courageous stand for freedom, democracy and for the rights and protection of the most vulnerable. Pray for their protection, their steadfastness, and for support from other voices in other places so that justice and compassion may prevail. Pray that our own Government will stand on the international stage with integrity and conviction, supporting those who 'hunger and thirst for righteousness'.

Praying for the Church: As we begin Lent, please pray for a penitent heart in all Christians, and a real searching after God and his purpose that will lead us all to a joyful resurrection celebration at Easter. With others across our diocese this week, please pray for the people and leaders of St Aidans (New Parks), St Lukes (Stocking Farm) & Christ the King (Beaumont Leys), and St Mary de Castro (Leicester).

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

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 , **Eileen McKellican, June Rich, Ruth Smith, Neill Addison-Gutteridge, and Kate Adams.**

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 the family and friends of **Laurie Jarvis, Dominique Percival and Clive Barker.**