St Mary Magdalen *St Guthlac*

KNIGHTON

Benefice Magazine

Benefice says farewell to Cecilia



There was a magnificent turnout from the Knighton benefice at the collation and licensing service for Revd Cecilia at St Denys's church in Evington on 28 September.



The Bishop officiated at an impressive and moving service in which Cecilia was welcomed into her new parish and took responsibility for the 'cure of its souls'. In services at St Guthlac's and St Mary's in the preceding weeks, Cecilia had spoken warmly of her experiences while serving as curate in the benefice, and she was presented with farewell gifts as an expression of Knighton's appreciation of the part she and her family had played in our lives.

More pictures on page 5

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

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Vicar's letter



Friends,

With the summer holidays far behind us and the darker evenings shortening the days, it seems that many of us turn to our favourite TV shows - the final episode of "Celebrity Traitors" was watched by 14 million viewers this year.

Like 'Traitors' many of the nation's most popular are "Reality TV" programmes – shows that follow a group of people thrown together in strange circumstances, with tasks, questions and problems to solve, within layers of relationships being built and tested, while the rest of us look on as unseen but all-knowing observers, critics and commentators.

Of course, these shows are exactly the opposite of 'reality' – the participants find it hard to be their true selves as they face surprise after dilemma after let-down, but continue to pursue the prize.

Behind what we see being played out in front of us is a much bigger cast of producers, writers, technicians, camera operators and many more. They work together to persuade both participants and audience to believe in the unreal lives that only exist on screen.

At this time of year, Christians, however, are given the tools to carry out a 'reality check' – not just on television but also on all our collective preoccupations and delusions:

- we remember (at Harvest Festival) the many good things that enrich our lives - and who they actually come from;
- we remember (at All Saints & All Souls) those who have gone before us – and that we are just a small part of a great multitude of human people, all of importance and value;
- we remember (on Remembrance Sunday) the realities of war – and the origins of suffering and violence in our flawed human heart and selfishness;
- and we remember (through Advent) the reality of death, judgement, hell and heaven - the Four Last Things, the final stages of human destiny after this life.

Behind what appears to be the reality and importance of our daily lives, there are greater themes and purposes being enacted. They shape and influence us deeply and persistently, but it is so easy to be unaware or forgetful of the true reality even though it is so much more important than the passing show.

I hope that you can enjoy the season of colder and darker days, and all that it brings – especially our festivals – but I also hope that you'll check the 'reality' that we're given, and remember the deeper, more loving purposes of God that frame everything, everyone and every part of our lives.

"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8.38-39)

Yours in friendship and Christ's service,

Adrian

Travellers' Tales

The Pompallier Mission and Printery

During our February trip to New Zealand, we had one very wet day while visiting Russell in the Bay of Islands, which is in the northern part of New Zealand's North Island. Too wet to walk or cycle, and a shark had been spotted in the bay. What was to be done? We decided to visit the Mission as we heard it sold good cakes!

On arrival a lovely member of staff persuaded us to take a tour. We had nothing to lose!



What we found was fascinating.

In 1838 Bishop Jean-Baptiste Pompallier of the Order of Mary (Marists) arrived from France in the Northlands of New Zealand, appointed by the Pope as Vicar Apostolic to the Western Pacific. He built the Mission in Russell as his headquarters, now recognised as the oldest existing industrial building in New Zealand. The choice of location was significant. What is now a beautiful Bay of Islands location was known in the 1830s as 'The Hellhole of the Pacific,' due to the rowdy, drunken and lawless behaviour of the whalers and traders.

Pompallier's Mission

A significant part of the complex was the printing press and tannery. The tannery was on the ground floor, with the press on the floor above.

Here, using a Gaveaux printing press imported from France in 1842, some of the first religious books were translated into Maori, printed and bound in leather. Today you can try out a replica of the press and learn about the painstaking stages of printing and binding the first Maori bibles.

One story told how the Maori people were impatient to receive their first bibles, so the press printed some edited 'highlights' to keep their interest while the full bible was finished. Eventually nearly 40,000 books were produced at the printery.

We ended our visit by tasting their exceedingly good cakes!

Sue Siesage

The Chattri Memorial, South Downs, Brighton

On a beautiful warm August evening we had the opportunity to visit the Chattri First World War memorial on the South Downs just outside Brighton.



During the First World War many ill and badly injured Hindu and Sikh soldiers were nursed in the hospitals of Brighton and Hove, including the Royal Pavilion which was adapted for the purpose. Inevitably some died of their injuries and the Chattri Memorial honours those men.

The bodies of 53 soldiers were cremated on the site and the inscription reads:

"In honour of these soldiers of the Indian Army whose mortal remains were committed to fire."

The Memorial was opened in February 1921 by the then Prince of Wales, Edward, who later became Edward VIII before abdicating in 1936.

Chattri means umbrella and the top of the main memorial looks like an ornate umbrella. It was designed by the Mumbai architect E.C. Henrique. It is an isolated and

beautiful location, half an hour's walk across the Downs from the nearest car park. As the evening light failed it was a rather special and moving experience.

Each year in June there is a memorial service at the site attended by many local and national dignitaries who have been allowed to drive their corporate cars up the farm track for one day only. At the end of the ceremony as an act of kindness these vehicles are used to transport the general public back down the hillside. The mixing of religions, backgrounds and the sharing of transport is said to be a rather special part of the day.

Sue Siesage

Farewell to Cecilia *(from front page)*




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

Be Prepared!

Are you signed up on the PSR? It's the Priority Services Register and I've just helped my parents do it. Last week I attended a free Zoom seminar run by the Council about how to be ready if we have a utility services outage i.e.. if, for whatever reason, we end up with no electricity, or gas, or water for several days. I spotted it on a Leicester City mailing and it must be my inner Girl Guide/ Venture Scout that drew me in. It had lots of useful tips for having a few extra bits and bobs in the house that could keep you going for a few days – tins of food, bottles of drinking water, spare batteries etc.

However, if you are any of several things like pensionable age, have medical or additional needs, have a baby in the house etc, you can sign up to the Priority Services Register and you would get priority help. You can even sign up temporarily if you are recovering from surgery, say. When Sussex was without water for 6 days earlier this year, my stepdaughter had bottled water brought to her house because they had a new born baby and had signed up. Everyone else had to queue in the street or go in their car to fetch their own from a collection point.

To sign up for priority help, you go to the PSR website and the form takes about 5 minutes. It was not complicated, though you may want to find a more tech savvy member of your family if you're not keen on the internet. This is when teenagers come into their own! You only have to sign up once for your household and they will inform all your utility companies. They will take your phone number or email to check your details every couple of years.

Perhaps have a think whether you could help one of your friends or neighbours to sign up. Do ask me if you want to know more but I'd encourage you to Be Prepared 😊

Alison Roche

https://www.thepsr.co.uk/

Favourite Hymns

Here I am, Lord

This occasional column on favourite hymns has previously featured traditional hymns from the nineteenth and earlier centuries, but Here I am, Lord (otherwise known by its first line, I, the Lord of sea and sky), written in 1979

and published in 1981, brings us a little more up to date. It was one of the four hymns sung at Revd Cecilia's licensing service as Vicar at St Denys, and to judge from the enthusiastic singing, was clearly well known to the congregation.

The writer was Dan Schutte, who was a 31-year-old theology student at the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley, California. It was apparently written at short notice for a deacon's ordination Mass, and draws its principal Biblical inspiration from Isaiah 6, where the Lord calls Isaiah:

> Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.

And 1 Samuel 3, where the Lord calls Samuel:

> Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!” Then the Lord called Samuel. Samuel answered, “Here I am.”

The narrator changes between the Lord (the verses) and those He calls (the chorus).

Dan Schutte, who was ordained but has since left the Jesuits, was a founding member of the St. Louis Jesuits - composers who popularized a contemporary style of church music set to sacred texts sung in English, following the liturgical reforms of the Second Vatican Council. He published several collections of hymns and is currently a composer in residence at San Francisco University.

Its American and Roman Catholic origins have not stood in the way of the hymn gaining popularity in other denominations and worldwide. The BBC survey for Songs of Praise in 2019 placed Here I am, Lord in 10th place (just below Amazing Grace and Be still for the presence of the Lord), which surely justifies its presence in this column.

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard My people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin My hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear My light to them – whom shall I send?

> Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
> I have heard You calling in the night.
> I will go, Lord, if You lead me;
> I will hold Your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne My people's pain.
I have wept for love of them; they turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak My Word to them – whom shall I send?

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them; My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide,
Till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give My life to them – whom shall I send?

- Do you have a favourite hymn? Let me know, and I'll see if I can include it in a future Magazine. *Editor*

PLANNED GIVING

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 direct debit as part of St Mary's participation in the **Parish Giving Scheme** or by standing order to St Guthlac's.

Details of the two schemes can be obtained from Planned Giving Scheme contacts for each church, listed in the Contacts section. If you are a taxpayer and gift aid your giving, the churches can claim an additional 25%.

Christmas Tree Festival - Craft Workshops



The series of workshops producing a variety of craft items, many of which will be on sale at the Christmas Tree Festival, has been very popular. The last of the series on 3 November attracted a particularly large turnout of 16.


Come and join us at
St. Guthlac's Christmas Fayre
Saturday 5th December 9:45 am – 1:00 pm
St Guthlac's Church, Holbrook Rd, Knighton LE2 3LF
WREATHS
PRESERVES
JEWELLERY
TOMBOLA
"BOOK A SURPRISE"
GIFTS
CAKES
JIG-SAWS
CHRISTMAS STALLS
CHILDREN'S KNITWEAR
Free entry
Refreshments
Live Music
Cash and Card payments accepted

Exploring the Minister Community

As reported in the last Magazine, discussions are progressing about the establishment of the Four Waters Minster Community (provisional title), which would include both Knighton's parishes.



One of the most attractive and charming of the churches included (Editor's opinion) is St Wistan's, Wistow, located in the meadows opposite Wistow Hall and close to the very popular Wistow Rural Centre and the seasonal maze. For these reasons, it will no doubt be well known to many readers.

Wistow and the church take their names from St Wistan, a Christian Prince of Mercia, who was murdered in 849 by his cousin, who coveted the throne. Legend has it that human hairs grow through the grass of the churchyard on 1 June to mark the event.

St Wistan's is part of the Wistow Benefice, which also includes St Nicholas, Fleckney, St Luke, Newton Harcourt and St Mary Magdalene, Kilby. Its Vicar is the Revd Canon Philip O'Reilly. Sunday communion services are normally held on the first and third Sundays between Easter and the end of September, and at Newton Harcourt for the rest of the year.

The present church dates from the 12th century, with enlargements in the 14th and 15th centuries. Much of its interior reflects a remodelling in the 18th century, as the box pews and the hatchment showing the arms of George III

indicate. There are also several excellent seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth century monuments to members of the Halford family.





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From the Editor



The next and final issue this year should appear by mid-December. The closing date for will be **Monday 30 November 2026,** *but you can send your contributions at any time* to the usual address, stmaryknighton.magazine@gmail.com.

Articles do not represent the opinions of the Parochial Church Council of either church. Typographical and other errors (and the occasional omission) are the Editor's responsibility.

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

Available while stocks last. There is a limited print run. To order your cards, there is 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.