St Mary Magdalen *St Guthlac*

KNIGHTON

Benefice Magazine



What connects these six churches and six others, including Knighton's two?
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THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Diocese of Leicester

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Archbishop's visit to the Diocese

This report is adapted from Diomail, the diocesan online newsletter.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Revd Dame Sarah Mullally, visited the Diocese of Leicester as part of its centenary celebrations on 12 and 13 September.

In a wide-ranging tour of our churches, schools, chaplaincies and Cathedral, culminating in a joyful centenary worship gathering at Athena Leicester on the Sunday afternoon, Archbishop Sarah met people from across our wonderfully diverse diocese and shared in the life and ministry of our communities.



Choral Evensong at the Cathedral

There were so many beautiful moments throughout the weekend. The visit enabled Archbishop Sarah to spend meaningful time with people of the diocese, bringing her pastoral warmth, encouragement and compassion to those she met.

Whether worshipping, listening, sharing stories of faith, or celebrating the rich, intercultural identity of our diocese, she showed a genuine desire to connect with people young and old, and hear about the hopes, challenges and opportunities facing our churches and communities.

Diomail will be sharing individual stories from each of the places Archbishop Sarah visited over the coming weeks. In the meantime, you can read more about her visit and view a selection of photos on our website at the link below.

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Vicar's letter

Friends,



Have you ever tried Nurikabe? Or perhaps Hashi, or Shikaku, Kakuro, Nonograms or Suduko? They're all types of Japanese puzzles, designed to give the brain a workout. Some people claim that doing such puzzles regularly will sharpen your memory, improve problem solving, decrease stress, improve attention and even delay cognitive decline.

A more traditional puzzle is the crossword. I am currently working on number 78 in my book of over 200 'quick' crosswords reprinted from a national newspaper, but recently I've been introduced to the mysterious 'Cryptic Crossword' as well. Previously, I've thought of them as too obscure and tricky for me, although I know they have dedicated and loyal followers. Now, under some expert tuition, I am learning the secrets of cracking cryptic clues. Whether I'll be any good remains to be seen!

Many people are puzzled by *the Bible* as if it were complicated and mysterious conundrum, only available to those with special knowledge or willing to put in lots of hard work with obscure ancient words and ideas. Others dismiss it as having little relevance to their own lives.

Although it's true that the Bible arises from very different cultures and periods of history to our own, the truths that it reveals are open to all of us, regardless of our background, ability, training or circumstances. It has its origin in the purposes of God and therefore speaks straight to each of us: *"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."* (2 Timothy 3.16-17)

The Gospel writers it seems, had a simple purpose: *"But these (signs that Jesus performed) are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."* (John's Gospel 20.31)

They were convinced from their own experience that Jesus was the Rescuer, the Promised One, who could free us from the puzzling, baffling complexities of our own failings, frailties and flaws and bring enduring peace and joy, within a life that often feels like “a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma”.*

My advice is not to wait until you’re stuck in the puzzle and a solution seems impossible. Begin or refresh your Bible reading now – a small section each day works well – making sure that you follow a pattern. Pray each time you read, that God will show you solutions to your puzzles and give you trust that where mystery persists, there will be a final Day of Answers.

Yours in friendship and Christ’s service.

Adrian

* Sir Winston Churchill describing the Soviet Union in 1939

Towards a Minster Community

Most readers will have seen the message from the Vicar about the discussions on the establishing a Minster Community, but in view of its importance and for the record it is repeated below.

Four Waters Minster Community

After almost five years, our diocesan plans to reorganise ministry and mission across all our parishes are bearing fruit. Our own proposed partnership with other local churches has now been comprehensively described in a document that will be considered by all the relevant PCCs this autumn, and by the Archdeacons Joint Mission Committee, before being redrafted in a final form that can be sent to the Bishop and formally voted on within every church. This process could see a launch early next year.

Our proposed Minster Community has taken the name of "Four Waters" because the rivers Sence and Soar, together with the Saffron/Washbrook and the Grand Union Canal feature across our parishes and join together as a symbol of both diversity and unity. The St Mary's PCC has had a first discussion of the proposal document, and the St Guthlac's PCC is about to do so. When the final draft is produced we will organise occasions for everyone in our churches to hear the detail and to ask questions and make comments about the implications for the future - before our PCCs take the important vote about joining or not. Do talk to me, Fiona Wingate or Lesley Meakin to find out more. *Adrian*

In the circumstances, the Editor (always on the lookout for good material) thought readers would be interested to know the possible composition of the Minster

Community. As currently envisaged, the Four Waters Minster Community would consist of our two Knighton parishes and:

St Andrew's, Aylestone
St Hugh of Lincoln, Eyres Monsell
St James the Greater, Huncote
St Nicholas, Fleckney
St Wistan, Wistow
St Luke, Newton Harcourt
St Mary Magdalene, Kilby
All Saints, Wigston Magna
St Thomas the Apostle, South Wigston
The Church of the Nativity

There is a great deal of historical and architectural interest in these churches, and I plan to provide profiles of them in future editions.

A special event at the Thatched Cottage

Members of the community had a unique experience on 8 August when Annette and Charles Metcalfe opened the Thatched Cottage (sometimes known as Oram Cottage) opposite St Mary's at the bottom of Church Lane for afternoon tea.



As Annette afterwards wrote:

It was a lovely sunny day with a light and welcome breeze. A good tea, great company and laughter made for a happy atmosphere. Tea, sandwiches, scones with jam and cream and cake were consumed... and much-needed cold drinks were served throughout the afternoon.

There followed a teatime-themed word game, which provoked friendly banter, and fierce competitiveness from some tables. The triumphant team and the two runners-

up tables were awarded engraved individual gold teaspoons (engraved "stainless steel").

My "Pride and Prejudice" doll's house was open for viewing at the end of the afternoon. It was a pleasure for me to share my love of this hobby with others... so many fond memories of childhood houses, built by fathers for Christmas. The world of grown-up doll's houses and miniatures can still entrance us with the magic of make-believe.

To everyone who contributed in any way to making the occasion a success, and for donations, my sincere thanks. It was a great pleasure for Charles and me to welcome everyone to our garden and we are very pleased to say that £232 was raised for church funds.

The Thatched Cottage is a Listed Grade II building. Sir Nikolaus Pevsner, in his Leicestershire and Rutland volume of the Buildings of England, describes it as a rare surviving example of a picturesque 17the century timber-framed and brick thatched cottage, an integral part of the old pre-industrial village landscape eventually absorbed by the Victorian expansion of Leicester. It is one of only six remaining thatched buildings in the city.

Celebrating 150 Years of Mothers' Union

As reported in our last issue, this year Mothers' Union marks 150 years since it was founded in the small parish church of Old Alresford, Hampshire, by Mary Sumner - a home-educated young vicar's wife with a powerful vision. She dreamed of women, regardless of class or status, coming together in faith to support one another and strengthen family life within the Church.

From that small spark of an idea, a global movement was born. Today, 150 years later, Mothers' Union has grown to around four million members in 84 countries, working to improve the lives of individuals, families and communities around the world. At the heart of all they do is a belief that faith and compassion can transform lives.

"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)

And shine a light is exactly what its members do. Across the Diocese of Leicester, in the city of Leicester and throughout the county of Leicestershire, Mothers' Union members support some of the most vulnerable people in our communities.

Each year, they help provide a holiday for disadvantaged families, collect gifts and Easter eggs for children with parents in prison, donate essential supplies for babies

and new mothers through Baby Basics Leicester, knit teddy bears for Women's Aid Leicester and other charities, and contribute food and practical items to support Saffires in its work caring for women involved in Leicester's sex industry.

They also speak out against injustice, raising awareness of issues such as modern-day slavery, domestic abuse and gender inequality, while holding those affected in prayer.

Their work is guided by three core pillars of transformation: Ending Violence, Ending Injustice and Ending Poverty.

Several members from the Diocese of Leicester joined more than 1,600 others at St Paul's Cathedral on 10 June to celebrate 150 years of Mothers' Union. It was a wonderful occasion, with the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Revd Dame Sarah Mullally, preaching and presiding. Several former Worldwide Presidents were also present. The service was both inspiring and uplifting, reflecting the rich history and ongoing mission of Mothers' Union around the world.

Celebrations at Leicester Cathedral

On 9 August, Mothers' Union members from across the Diocese were welcomed to Leicester Cathedral for a special service celebrating the 150th anniversary. It was a joyful occasion enjoyed by all, and special thanks go to the Revd Canon Emma Davies for her work in planning the service.

The service was led by the Very Revd Karen Rooms, Dean of Leicester, and featured






uplifting singing from the Zimbabwe National Anglican Fellowship (ZINAFE) Mothers' Union LENO Branch, representing Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Northamptonshire.

Ruth Fryer, President of Leicester Diocesan Mothers' Union, spoke about current projects across the Diocese, and the Rt Revd Martyn Snow, Bishop of Leicester, spoke on the continuing importance and impact of Mothers' Union's work. Following the

service, everyone was invited to enjoy a slice of celebration cake and refreshments together.

Ruth also introduced plans for this year's 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign. As part of the initiative, Mothers' Union members will be encouraged to host a "Big Knicker Night" to raise awareness of domestic abuse and the Mothers' Union Rise Up! campaign, while collecting new underwear to be donated to local charities supporting women and families in need.

As we celebrate 150 years of courage, care and community, we are also looking to the future. There is a place for you in Mothers' Union.

To find out more about what is happening in Knighton and beyond, contact Revd Alison Roche, the Diocesan MU Chaplain, or Lorna Pollard, our local organiser.



Contacts

Benefice Ministry Team

Vicar: Revd Adrian Jones *(rest day normally Friday)*	0116 270 4268 or 07584 954414	adrian.jones@zoho.com
Curate: Revd Cecilia Adjadje *(rest day to be confirmed)*	07425 705221	cadjadje@yahoo.com
Revd Aphro McCullough	0116 283 7887	aphro.mccullough@btinternet.com
Revd Janet Gasper	0116 288 9646	janet.gasper@hotmail.co.uk
Reader: Fiona Wingate		Fiona.wingate@talktalk.net

Please notify the Editor if any of the details below need to be updated.

St. Guthlac's

Church Wardens
David Hunt, Tina Jarvis
churchwardens@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk

Parish Administrator
Jane Wright
administrator@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk

Deanery Synod
Vacant

PCC Secretary
Lesley Meakin

PCC Treasurer
David Hunt

Sacristan
Steve Bowyer

Parochial Church Council
The Vicar, the Curate, the Church Wardens, the PCC Secretary, the PCC Treasurer; and Chris Bullough, Jean Cox, Anne Hunt, Caroline Richards, Ann Swanson, Fiona Wingate, Jane Wright

Children and Vulnerable Adults Advocate
Tina Jarvis

Child Protection/Safeguarding Adults Co-ordinator

Anne Hunt
safeguarding@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk

Diocesan Safeguarding Officer
Rachael Spiers
0116 2616341
rachael.spiers@leccofe.org

Planned Giving Scheme
David Hunt

Electoral Roll
Jane Wright

Environmental Champion
Fiona Wingate

Flower Rota
Cheryl Brewer

Church Group
Lesley Meakin

Youth Group
Tina Jarvis

Holbrook Oasis
Tina Jarvis

Knighton Players
David Hunt

Tea and Talk
Tina Jarvis

Organ studentship co-ordinator
David Hunt

Holbrook Hall Caretakers & bookings

Mark & Steph
07525 000511

St Mary's

Church Wardens
Sian Howard
07932 557 646
sian.howard@tiscali.co.uk

Mick Gasper
mgasper1@hotmail.com

Parish Administrator
James Gutteridge
office@knightonparish.co.uk

Deanery Synod
Beryl Bonfield, Michael Gasper

PCC Secretary
Nigel Siesage
07910 850 198
nigel.siesage@gmail.com
(Magazine business to stmaryknighton.magazine@gmail.com)

PCC Treasurer
Amanda Beck
07732 020 023
adb567@hotmail.com

Parochial Church Council
The Vicar, the Church Wardens, the

PCC Secretary, the PCC Treasurer, the Deanery Synod representatives; and Kate Adams, Beryl Bonfield, Tabitha Fogg, David Palmer, Ida Stanyer, Amanda Youngman

Children and Vulnerable Persons Advocate
John Astles
07976 391 558

Child Protection/Safeguarding Adults Co-ordinator
The Vicar

Bell Ringers
Rebecca Odames
c/o the Church Office

Planned Giving Scheme
Simon Britton
07710 975
272stmarysknighton.giving@gmail.com

Electoral Roll
Amanda Youngman

Music Co-ordinator and Choir Director
Vacancy

Flower Guild
Deborah Martin
0116 270 7525

Magazine Editor
Nigel Siesage
07910 850 198
stmaryknighton.magazine@gmail.com

Magazine Distribution
Bernard Stone
0116 288 1306

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%.

From the Editor



Though this edition has been delayed, I still aim to issue two further magazines this year - if i have the material. So the next issue should appear by mid-November. The closing date for will be **Friday 29 October 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.

Christmas Tree Festival - Craft Workshops

The final craft workshops for this year will be held at St Mary's at 10.30 on

Tuesday 29th September
Tuesday 20th October
Tuesday 3rd November
All are welcome. Materials, tea, coffee, biscuits and conversation are all provided.

Leicester City Deanery
Invite you to join us for an Open Deanery Eucharist to Celebrate the Centenary of the Diocese.

100 years
Diocese of Leicester

Thursday 8th October 2026 at 7.30 pm
At Saint Luke's Church, Stocking Farm
1 Packwood Road, LE4 2ER

President: Bishop Christopher Boyle
Preacher: The Very Revd Karen Rooms, Dean of Leicester

The service will be followed by refreshments.

RSVP to:
Mr Qyan Arnachellum
Deanery Administrator
office@stdenys.org.uk


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