

St Mary Magdalen Church, Knighton

Sunday 23rd August 2020

Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

**Join us in prayer this Sunday
and through the week,**

Collects

*O God, you declare your almighty power
most chiefly in showing mercy and pity:
mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace,
that we, running the way of your commandments,
may receive your gracious promises,
and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.*

*God of glory,
the end of our searching,
help us to lay aside
all that prevents us from seeking your kingdom,
and to give all that we have
to gain the pearl beyond all price,
through our Saviour Jesus Christ.*

Amen.

The Leicester Lockdown - When will services begin again in church?

In a recent conversation with other local ministers we were all agreeing how difficult it is to plan ahead at the moment. We simply don't know how the pandemic will progress from this point on, and although we are all hoping that the trends keep moving in the right direction we also see the news about significant spikes in infections both in the UK and in other countries. The upshot of this is that I would love to be able to present you with a cast-iron plan for the future weeks and months.... but I can't! All our plans have to be provisional and we have to be ready to change them in the light of events, and also in the light of what we learn about worshipping and meeting together under these difficult circumstances.

What I can give you though is our 'direction of travel' and our intentions as they stand at this point:

- the Parish Centre re-opens for use by the St Mary's Pre-School from 1st September, and for other users (subject to extra precautions and cleaning) from 8th September;
- James. Our Parish Administrator, and Mark and Steph, who take care of the Parish Centre, will return from furlough on 1st September;
- the church building will be open for a service of Morning Prayer on Sunday 6th September, at 10am;
- the church building will be open for a service of Holy Communion on Sunday 13th September, at 10am;
- following his ordination as priest in the Cathedral on Sunday 13th September, Matthew will preside at a service of Holy Communion at St Mary's on Wednesday 16th September at 7.30pm;
- we will celebrate the Eucharist again on Sundays 20th and 27th September, at 10am;
- on Sunday 4th October we will celebrate our Harvest Festival and then have our Annual Church Meeting (postponed from April and looking back at 2019).

There is much still to be organised ahead of our services, and it is clear for example, that because of the need for social distancing we will not be able to accommodate the number of people who typically came to a morning service before the pandemic. Please do look out for more details about the services in future newsletters.

Meanwhile we will continue to produce our Virtual Worship each week and of course the Newsletter will be emailed or posted out to everyone for whom we have contact details and permission.

Best wishes

Adrian

Matthew's Ordination as Priest:

At last we have details of how Matthew, our curate, will be ordained priest! The service will be on the afternoon of Sunday 13th September at the Cathedral – I will be there to pray with Matthew and welcome him on everyone else's behalf into his new and expanded ordained role, but sadly because of the pandemic restrictions it is not possible to have members of our local congregations present to support him as we would have hoped.

We will be getting a special gift for Matthew to mark his ordination and if you would like to contribute then do please send a cheque (not cash please) payable to 'Knighton PCC' .

You can send a donation by post or drop your envelope through the door of the Vicarage, 5 Church Lane, LE2 3WG or the St Mary's Parish Centre, Church Lane. Thank you.

Matthew will preside at his first service of Holy Communion at St Mary Magdalen on Wednesday 16th September, at 7.30pm (more details to come).

I know from many of you that Matthew is a valued minister and pastor, and although the circumstances are not what we would have wanted, I'm sure we will all want to wish him well for this special day.

Adrian

Listening to God's Word

Our Bible readings for Sunday, 23rd August are: Isaiah 51.1-6 and **Matthew 16.13-20**

Peter declares that Jesus is the Messiah

¹³ When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?'

¹⁴ They replied, 'Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.'

¹⁵ 'But what about you?' he asked. 'Who do you say I am?'

¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.'

¹⁷ Jesus replied, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.' ²⁰ Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Reflection: 'Who do you say I am?' *by the Revd Aphro McCullough*

As many of you know mum was Greek and as I grew up I saw her pray every day, in the morning as soon as she got up and at night before she got into bed and I understood that she had faith in God and in Jesus. When I got older I rejected her kind of faith because I thought that the Orthodox way of using icons in worship bordered on idolatry and when I got even older I realised that the icon is a window through which we see God and Jesus and not in itself to be worshipped. I made a long journey of discovery and I'm still on it!

to prove how clever I was, "who is Jesus to you?" she replied "he is my best friend". End of conversation. My mum knew who Jesus was and when she died she did so with a smile on her face because she knew He was waiting for her on the other side.

In our Gospel reading for today Jesus asks the twelve who they think he is. Peter replies instantly "well you're the Messiah of course, the Son of the living God." This was dangerous talk but like the voice at his baptism and on the mount of transfiguration, Jesus confirms that what Peter has said is true. Wow, what a revelation, hard to keep it to yourself but that's exactly what Jesus tells his disciples to do. Don't tell anyone, not yet, it's not time.

For us of course, the opposite is true. The moment we recognise who Jesus is we are to tell everyone about it! Even now, locked down, fed up and miserable we are the church, and we have the hope embodied in Peter's words, "you are the Messiah, the Son of the living God". So, I leave you with the question, who is Jesus to you and who are you going to tell about it today?

Amen



"Images of Knighton"

Entries Wanted
for
2021 Calendar
Competition



Have you got a photographic eye, or can you paint, draw, create (any medium) an image of Knighton?

Adult and under 18s categories

The panel of judges is made up of a local councillor, artists, photographer & Vicar

Free calendars to successful entrants

Please send high quality original jpeg images by -

Monday 14th September

to spireappeal@gmail.com

Queries to Rev. Gough-07754961997



St Mary's Knighton Spire Appeal

Church Family News

Josie Childs: Sadly we received news this week that Josie died on Tuesday 11th August 2020. Her funeral will be on Wednesday 2nd September at 12pm, and will be available to see on the internet at the same time - please contact Annette Toone (Josies sister) on columboK9@gmail.com and she will send further details. Annette can also be contacted at 29 Carmen Grove, Groby, LE6 0BA Tel: 0116 225 0217

Many thanks to the small but dedicated team of spring cleaners who helped me smarten up the church building last Wednesday. We banished many spiders and woodlice! *Adrian*

On the move: It was announced this week that our former vicar, the Revd Keith Magee, is to move from St Peter's Braunstone to become Team Rector of Dorchester and the Winterbournes in the Diocese of Salisbury. Keith's last service at St Peter's will be on Sunday 25th October 2020. We wish him and Ruth much happiness in their new location and ministry.

Paul and Sue Bonnett have written with news and thanks:

We want to a very sincere thank you for the Marks and Spencer hamper that was delivered this morning, and the flowers are delightful and have taken pride of place in our new lounge. All much appreciated!

We have been made most welcome and are settling into the new house very well. We are planning a holiday in the near future with Laura, Rob and Ben. Once again our sincere thanks and hopefully we will be back in Leicester in the future when lock down is over to say a proper farewell to all. Kindest regards - Paul & Sue

Adrian adds: We have also sent Paul and Sue a book of memories and messages and a handsome gift voucher. Thanks to everyone for giving them a splendid 'send off'.

A message from Sue Stanley & Dave Wood:

"We would like to thank everyone for your support following the passing of our Dad, and especially to the large number of people who came to St Marys churchyard on the morning of the funeral to pay their respects. This was a very moving experience and brought great comfort to the family.

The family-only funeral was very memorable, and hopefully Dad would have loved it, despite the restrictions. If you wish to watch the service it is available, if you have internet access, at www.obitus.com Username; **Kali4037** Password; **908694**. This will be available until 26th August 2020.

Because of his infectious friendship and inspiring love, a celebratory memorial service will be held at St. Mary Magdalen church, Knighton, once restrictions allow. With this in mind we are preparing a scrapbook of memories of Dad from all those who have been touched by his Love and Kindness during his long and fulfilling life. If you wish to provide a short personal memory of Dad, humorous or sad, philosophical or whimsical, serious or naughty, we would be most honoured. These can be sent to us via post or email and can include photos or clippings if you wish. This will give our family an insight into "Ray Wood" rather than "Dad".

Dad had requested no flowers, however he was heartily involved with Menphys for over 50 years therefore donations, if so wished, can be made on the just giving page;

www.justgiving.com/InMemoryofRayWood

or cheque made payable to "Menphys Ltd." posted to ourselves. If you have already donated may we Thank You for helping to help others.

Kind Regards

Sue Stanley & Dave Wood

suestanley73@hotmail.com

davewood2929@gmail.com

c/o 244 Wigston Road, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 5JE

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!

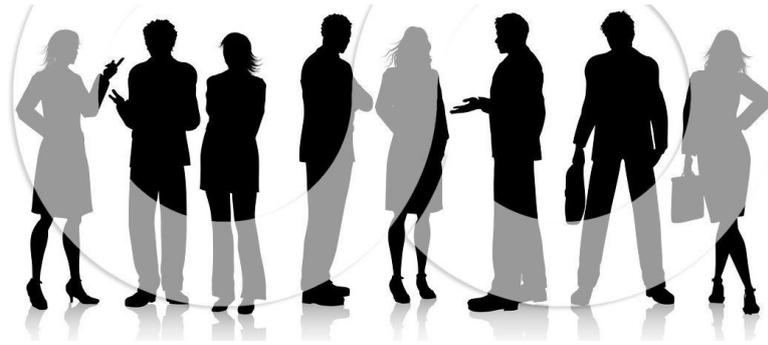
Don't be put off by:

- 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.

Wanted!



New PCC members

Our Annual Meeting to elect Church Wardens and Church Council (PCC) members is scheduled for Sunday 4th October at 11.30am in the Church—God willing!

The PCC is the main decision making body in the parish and a portion of it's members are elected every year, usually for a three year term. It's chief responsibility, along with the minister, is to promote the mission of God in our community, through outreach, service, worship and care for the buildings and resources entrusted to us.

At this point in the growth and development of St Mary's, with the challenges that we face following the pandemic, it is important that we have Church Council members who can reflect all the views and experiences of our congregation and wider church family. You do not need to be an expert in anything but you do need to have the best interests of the church and the community at heart, being willing to listen, discuss and make key decisions.

Please consider if this might be God's calling to you, or to someone you know. More details in the next newsletter!

BENEFICE MAGAZINE

Please consider making a contribution to the next issue of the Benefice Magazine. You may want to share your thoughts and experiences prompted by the pandemic and the lockdown, for inclusion in our "Letters from Lockdown" section, but any topic relevant to our readers would be welcome. Photographs too! The closing date for your copy is 31 August, not 30 September as I foolishly said in the last edition. Copy to stmaryknighton.magazine@gmail.com please.

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 Office (currently closed) 0116 270 2705

Email: office@knightonparish.co.uk

Keeping in touch and sharing worship together remotely.

On-line worship Each Sunday we aim to have a short recorded, reflective act of worship by members of St Mary's congregation on both the website and our Facebook page—do have a look and join in worship together.

Wednesday Compline (Night Prayer) - Each week we are meeting virtually for Compline at 8pm on Wednesday. It has proven to be a meaningful way to have fellowship and prayer together as well as being quite good fun, especially as we find our feet with the technology and with more people joining us every week.

You can join by just phoning up and inputting the code or using 'Zoom' online. It has been democratic with several voices joining in with a line of liturgy each. If you would like to participate with a speaking part, please do contact Matthew by 4pm on Wednesday.

To join by phone only, call this number **0131 460 1196** and when prompted input Meeting ID: 746 767 4408

To join by Zoom on the internet, go to this address and click 'Open Zoom' <https://leccofe.zoom.us/j/7467674408>

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. Scheme details can be obtained from Lorna Pollard, Planned Giving Scheme Secretary: telephone 01162704272 or email: stmarysknighton.giving@gmail.com. If you are a taxpayer and gift aid your giving, our church can claim an additional 25%.

During the current Coronavirus pandemic please put aside your weekly offerings ready to bring to church when things return to something like normal. The costs of the church are largely unchanged even though we cannot meet, so your regular giving is extremely important to our collective 'health' and the mission of God here.

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Please pray..... *"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. "* (Ephesians 6.18)

Praying for the World: Please pray for all those who work in the medical and care services in the developing world, where resources are scarce and coronavirus infection numbers continue to rise steeply.

Praying for the Church: Please continue to pray for all those in the national church and in the Diocese who seek to provide leadership and guidance to our churches in this time. Pray for their wisdom, clear thinking, compassion and refreshment. Pray especially for Bishops Martyn and Guli ,and for our Archdeacons Claire and Richard.

Praying for the Parish: Please pray for the peace and well-being of all those who live on Lambourne Road, Fairholme Road, Cairnsford Road, Ferndale Road, Northdene Road.

Praying for those in need:

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. Please do continue to pray for **Charlotte Muddimer, Gary Joynes, Anne Squires, Ed Groves** and their families. We pray for all those on our parish 'Continuing Prayer' list. May they know the power of God's healing love at work in their lives today.

We give thanks for those who have been healed and restored.
We remember those who have died recently and pray for their families and friends,; **Josie Childs**

We remember all those whose anniversaries fall at this time.

Jesus said "Come to me, all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11.28.