St Mary Magdalen Church of England, Knighton

Newsletter for Sunday 15th November 2026 Safeguarding Sunday

Collects for this week

Loving God,
we pray that this church
may be a place and a community
of welcome, security and compassion.
Keep us caring yet attentive,
trusting yet ready to question,
that all who worship here
and seek God with us,
may do so in safety
and in the knowledge of your love.
Amen.



The Week Ahead..

Sunday 15th November *Safeguarding Sunday*	9.00am Eucharist 10.30am Morning Worship 10.30am Eucharist at St Guthlac's
Monday 16th November	2.00pm-4.00pm Drop-In (Parish Centre) 7.30pm Bell Ringing practice
Tuesday 17th November	9.30am Holy Communion (St Mary's) 12 noon Interment of ashes
Wednesday 18th November	8.00pm Online Compline
Thursday 19th November	9.30am Holy Communion (St Guthlac's)
Friday 20th November	
Saturday 21st November	
Sunday 22nd November *Christ the King*	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]

Listening to God's Word this Sunday :

The readings for Safeguarding Sunday,
Sunday 15th November, are
1 John 3:16-24 and **Luke 10:25-37**.

Leicester at 100! Why celebrate a centenary?

The Diocese of Leicester was formally reconstituted on 12 November 1926 and the parish church of St Martin was hallowed as the Cathedral Church on 21 February 1927. So, we are preparing to celebrate one hundred years – a significant anniversary. But it is worth asking why we would want to celebrate the centenary of the diocese? Are we simply celebrating an organisation or institution? And is it just the fact that we have "survived" for one hundred years?

The answer is "no, we are not just celebrating our longevity as an organisation". Rather the theme for our centenary celebrations will be Hebrews 13.8: 'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever.'

So, we are celebrating God's faithfulness and the unchanging nature of God's love, grace and mercy towards all that God has created. The world has changed enormously over the last century, but the gift of the church is that, even in the midst of so much change, we worship God, revealed in Jesus Christ, who is the same yesterday, today and for ever.

+Martyn Leicester +Saju Loughborough

Centenary Prayer

Eternal and ever-living God,
who created all things and breathes life into all peoples,
hold in your loving gaze this Diocese of Leicester and Cathedral Church,
with all your living stones, built on Jesus Christ the Cornerstone:
that we may stand firm on the ground of your being
and be nourished for the journey to come
with the bread of life and water of the Spirit;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.
Amen.

COMING UP ……. What's happening at St Mary's on Sundays in November 2026

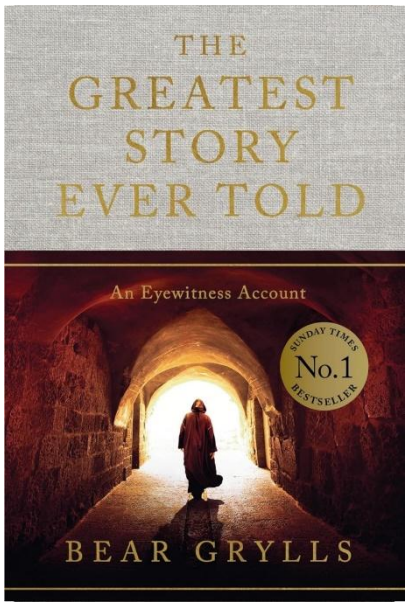
Our 10.30am Sunday services at St Mary's vary, week by week – we hope that this provides different types of worship that appeal in different ways and, perhaps, are appreciated by different groups of people. Everyone is welcome every week!

- **Sunday 15th November** is the third of the month, and so we share Morning Worship marking **Safeguarding Sunday**.
- We join together for Sung Eucharist on **Sunday 22nd November**, the last Sunday of the Church's year as we remember **Christ the King**.
- This month we have a fifth Sunday as well, **29th November**, and we will be joining the congregation at St Guthlac's for a joint benefice Sung Eucharist to mark **Advent 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).



A modern-day adventurer recounts “The Greatest Story Ever Told”



Bear Grylls is a world-famous British adventurer, television presenter, author, and former Special Forces soldier. He is best known for hosting high-adrenaline wilderness survival television shows, but has also authored over 90 books, held the role of Chief Scout for over 15 years and was one of the youngest people ever to climb Mount Everest, at the age of 23. He is also clear about his Christian faith, calling it the "backbone" of his life and marriage, and has described his relationship with Jesus as his "north star" and "compass". He claims a "A wild, not Churchy" faith, and is candid about his own doubts and vulnerabilities. Now he has written **“The Greatest Story Ever Told**”.

The subtitle of the book is ‘An eyewitness account’ and it is the life, death and resurrection of Jesus told through several eyes: Mary Jesus’ mother, Thomas, Simon, John and Mary of Magdalene. Bear has drawn heavily on the gospels, using the words of Jesus as found in the Bible but also adding imaginative dialogue. He uses historical information, for example around the nativity stories, to bring an authenticity to the whole account.

The “Greatest Story” has become a number 1 best-seller and won the Christian Book of the Year Award 2026. It has been described as *“A vivid, immersive retelling that makes the Gospel feel immediate and real…an immersive biography of Jesus for believers and sceptics alike.”*

Beautifully bound in a hardback edition it would make a good gift for someone who enjoys a good story well told and might like to think afresh about who Jesus actually was and his importance today. At the end of the book there are sources where the reader can find out more about Jesus.

If you would like to order a copy as a gift for Christmas, please sign the list at the back of the church by 15th November or get in touch with me directly – each copy costs £10 and payment can be made on delivery. There is a copy at the back of church that you can look at before ordering.

It can be hard to find our own words to explain just how unique and special Jesus is, but this book could be a significant step in anyone’s journey of faith. Who do you know who needs this gift at Christmas? (It could be you!)
Adrian

New Churchwarden - I'm very pleased to tell you that Sue Collins has stepped forward and volunteered to be our second Churchwarden, alongside Sian. Our Wardens have an important role in our church life together and so it's good news for all of us that Sue has responded to this call. Please pray for the wisdom of both our Wardens and all the Church Council (PCC). *Adrian*



Knighton Christmas Tree Festival
Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th November 2026

Hamper, Help and Cakes!

Hampers

We would like donations to include in our luxury hampers, which will be raffled during the weekend. A list of suggested items is on the noticeboard at the back of the church. No homemade items and please check the sell-by dates.

Help

We need your help during course of the weekend. We have more trees than ever before and we hope that this means more paying visitors and more proceeds for charity.

If you can help for one, two or three sessions during the weekend please sign up at the back of the church.

Cake

If you could help by providing a cake or cakes to sell at our *Christmas Café,* that would be amazing. The cakes can be homemade or shop bought. Both really help and you would be surprised how many cakes are eaten during the weekend!

Please note:

- Easy to handle cakes are best as they are served on paper napkins
- No nuts
- For homemade cakes, please list your ingredients as we are often asked because of allergies and intolerances

Again there is a sign-up at the back of the church.

If you are not in church please email; knightonctf24@gmail.com with your cake or hamper promises and/ or your availability to help during the weekend.

Thank you all for your continuing support for the Festival .

The Festival Team

Music at the Knighton Christmas Tree Festival

Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th November 2026

Saturday 28th November

10-11 **St. Mary's Bellringers** ring in the festival
11-12 **Semper Singers**
1 – 2pm **Laura Choir,** will sing carols to join in with
2-5pm **The Titanic Boys,** a local Jazz group

Sunday 29th November

12.00-1.00 **Recorder Group**
1 - 3 **Knighton Quartet**
3.30 - 4.30 **St Mary's TreeO**
5pm **Carols around the Trees**

All times approximate.



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

Cards will be available from the beginning of November. There is a limited print run. To order your cards, there will be 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.

SAFEGUARDING.

IT'S EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY.



We'll be holding our Safeguarding Sunday service on:

Sunday 15th November,
10.30am

Our theme is
"LOVE PROTECTS"

All welcome!



Find out more
safeguardingsunday.org

Safeguarding Sunday is a campaign by the charity Thirtyone:eight. Registered in England and Wales No. 100449 and Scotland No. SC040578

Contact details:

Vicar: Revd Adrian Jones 07919 262399 adrian.jones@zoho.com
(rest day normally Friday)

Revd Aphro McCullough 0116 283 7887 aphro.mccullough@btinternet.com

Revd Janet Gasper 0116 288 9646 jgasper925@gmail.com

Lay Reader: Fiona Wingate fiona.wingate@talktalk.net

Churchwarden: Sian Howard 07932 557646 sian.howard@tiscali.co.uk

Churchwarden: Sue Collins

Parish Administrator: James Gutteridge 0116 270 2705
office@knightonparish.co.uk

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.

Virtual Compline 8.00pm Wednesday evenings

Our Virtual Compline services continue on Wednesdays in October and November at 8.00pm as usual. 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 080 followed by #
Do join us!

Praying through this week

Praying for each other this month: November has arrived so please pray this month for all those in our congregations whose surnames begin with Q, R, S and T. Pray that in this season of Remembrance they will be mindful of God's faithfulness over the years, and that by his Holy Spirit, Jesus continues to be with us and our loved ones day by day.

Praying for the World: As we approach World Children's Day on 20th November, please pray for children across the world.
" Heavenly Father, thank you for every child. We pray that you will protect, guide, and bless them abundantly. Let them grow in wisdom, strength, knowledge, and favour with God and all people. Keep them safe from harm and evil influences. Help them fulfil their purpose and become shining lights in their generation. Strengthen every child facing struggles and fill their hearts with peace, joy, and confidence. May our children flourish in every way. Amen." (Laurie Uka Ntia)

Praying for the Church: Please pray for all those in churches across the city, and especially in our Minster Community, who are preparing special services for Advent and Christmas - that they would be able to balance traditional celebrations with the invitation to faith, in a way that is open and attractive to those who may not come to church at any other time. Please also pray, with others across our Diocese for the people and leaders of the churches in the Fenn Lanes Group and in Sapcote & Sharnford cum Wigston Parva, and for clergy with Permission to Officiate across the Sparkenhoe East Deanery.

Praying for the Parish, our neighbours and friends: Please pray for the peace and well-being of all those who live on Balmoral Close, Carisbrook Park, Kenwood Road, Arreton Close, Carisbrook Avenue, Carisbrook Gardens.

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 **Veronica Brown and Valerie Thompson.**

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.