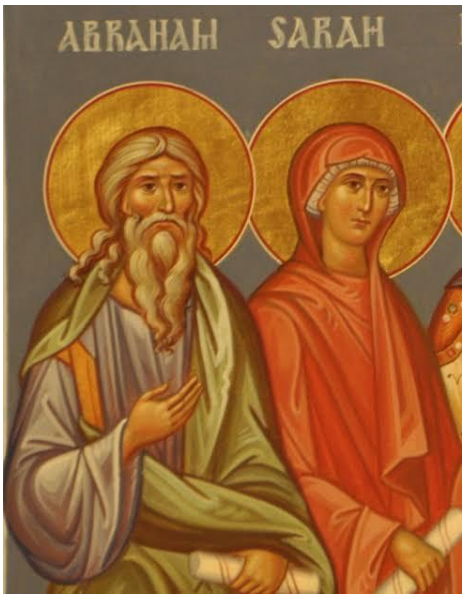
St Mary Magdalen Church of England, Knighton

Newsletter for Sunday 29th November 2026 Advent Sunday

Collects for this week

Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;
that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Almighty God,
as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness,
that we may be ready to meet you
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen.



The Week Ahead..

Sunday 29th November *1st Sunday of Advent*	**No services at St Mary's** 10.30am Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist at St Guthlac's 11.00am-5pm Christmas Tree Festival 5.00pm Festival Carol Service
Monday 30th November	**Christmas Tree Festival pack away** 2.00pm-4.00pm Drop-In (Parish Centre) 7.30pm Bell Ringing practice
Tuesday 1st December	**Christmas Tree Festival pack away** 9.30am Holy Communion (St Mary's)
Wednesday 2nd December	3.15pm Interment of ashes 8.00pm Online Compline
Thursday 3rd December	9.30am Holy Communion (St Guthlac's)
Friday 4th December	
Saturday 5th December	
Sunday 6th December *2nd Sunday of Advent*	9.00am Eucharist **10.30am Worship for the Whole Church** 10.30am Sung Eucharist at St Guthlac's 2.00pm Coro Nostro Rehearsal

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 Advent Sunday, 29th November, are
1 Corinthians 1.3-9 and Mark 13.24-end.
Our sermon is titled "A long obedience in the same direction"

Church Family News

Advent Sunday: On the first Sunday of the Advent season, we begin to trace the story of God's redemption of humankind. Today we honour Abraham & Sarah, Isaac & Rebekah, and Jacob & Rachel, the mothers and fathers of God's people, given a special place as the first to receive God's promises and begin the life of faith. Together, they form the foundation of salvation history, showing how God's plan unfolds through trust, perseverance, and obedience. They remind us that faith is not only about believing (although it is that) but about living in relationship with God through every joy and trial. *Adrian*

Bear Grylls: Our Christmas copies of Bear Grylls best-seller, "The Greatest Story Ever Told", have arrived. If you've ordered a copy please bring your £10 to church and see Adrian.

Christmas Card board: Save money, materials and time! This year we will once again have a board at the back of the church where you can pin up one Christmas card for all your friends within the St Mary's family. This will save time, money and card whilst still wishing seasons greetings to everyone. Please do make a donation to Christian Aid in one of the envelopes provided, in leiu of the cost of separate cards. *Adrian*

Latest St Mary's GrifAid (Wateraid) donation
The coins in the Wateraid tin have been processed and found to contain £65.50 which we will pay to the GrifAid Charity. Many thanks for your donations to this wonderful, life-giving charity. The empty tin is once again at the back of the Lady chapel awaiting our donations of small change. *Sian Howard*

Calendars The Fairtrade Advent Calendars have arrived for those who ordered them. Please could you bring cash to church for them - £4.95 each. Thank you. *Alison*

COMING UP ……. What's happening at St Mary's on Sundays in November and December 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!

- 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**.

- On the first **Sunday, 6th December**, of the new month we share in Worship for the Whole Church (All Ages) at St Mary's, remembering that the first Christmas story features people….of all ages!

- **Sunday 13th December** will be the third Sunday of Advent and we share in a service of Sung Eucharist as we prepare, with John the Baptist, for the coming of the Messiah.

- On the last Sunday of Advent, **20th December**, we reflect on the calling and obedience of Mary the mother of Jesus, in a service of Morning Worship.

- On **Sunday 27th December** there are no services at St Mary's or St Guthlac's, but the usual programme restarts on Sunday 3rd January as usual.

- See the separate item for details of all our special services for Advent and Christmas.

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! Thank you for everyone who came to support the Marie Curie Lunch on Thursday 29th October at Leicester College. The total raised for Marie Curie, after expenses, was £1358.59 and donations are still coming in. "I would like to thank everyone who came again to support the charity. See you next year!". *Shirley Wills & Committee*



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

Leicester City Council

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

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.

St Mary Magdalen:
Christmas Services and Events 2026

Christmas Tree Festival: Saturday 28th November (10am-5pm) & Sunday 29th November (12.30pm—5pm).

Festival Carol Service: Sunday 29th November, 5pm.

Carols & Christingles: Sunday 13th December, 4pm.

Parish Carol Service: Sunday 20th December, 6.30pm.

Carols & Crib Service : Thursday 24th December, 4pm.

Midnight Communion: Thursday 24th December, 11.30pm.

Christmas Day: Friday 25th December, 9am.

Christmas Day Celebration : Friday 25th December, 10.30am *(with shortened Communion)*

Please note: there will be no morning services on Sunday 27th December, but on Sunday 3rd January they run as usual., at 9am and 10.30am.

St Guthlac's Church:
Christmas Services and Events

St Guthlac's Christmas Fayre: Saturday 5th Dec. 9.45am–1pm

Nativity Gift Service: Sunday 13th December 10.30 am

At this service we collect tinned and dried food for our local Open Hands charity.

Traditional Carols and Readings: Wednesday 16th December 7.30 pm

Crib Service: Thursday 24th December, 4.00 pm

First Communion of Christmas: Thursday 24th December, at 8.00 pm

Christmas Morning Communion: Friday 25th December , at 10.30 am

Please Note: On Sunday 27th December there will be no service at St Guthlac's.

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

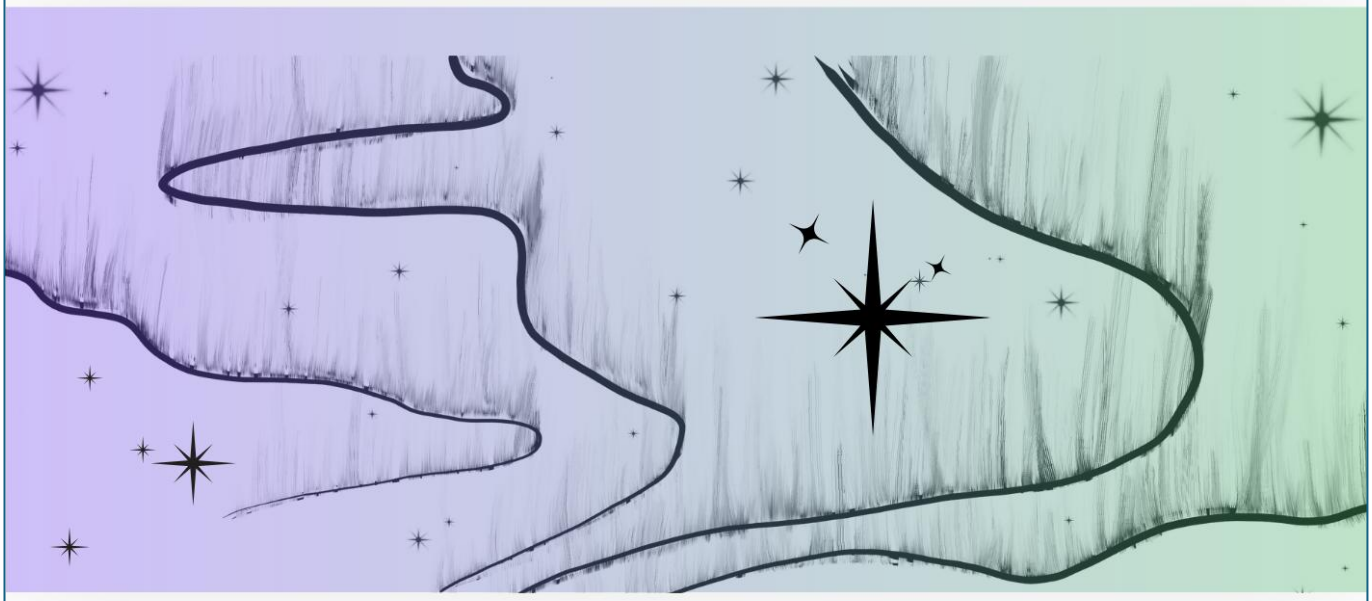
Live Music

Cash and Card payments accepted

Music *for* Christmas *2026*

WITH
CORO NOSTRO CHAMBER CHOIR

DIRECTED BY
LYDIA HIND



SATURDAY
12 DECEMBER 2026
7:30PM

ST MARY MAGDALEN CHURCH
BRINSMEAD ROAD
KNIGHTON
LEICESTER, LE2 3WD



Please support St Mary Magdalen - Knighton PCC by doing your Christmas shopping online via easyfundraising - you'll raise FREE donations for us, all courtesy of the retailers! It won't cost you an extra penny, and you'll definitely make the good list: https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/cause/st-mary-magdalen-knighton-pcc/?utm_campaign=pmcapp

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: Please pray for a renewed sense of hope in the face of our global climate crisis. Despite the collapse of the recent international COP31 talks, please pray that within our individual countries there will be real change and a move away from those things that damage our planet. Pray that in our own individual lives we will not avoid the changes that we can make, to ensure a more sustainable future for everyone: cutting down on fossil fuels, recycling, re-using, avoiding plastic, reducing food waste, living more simply and sharing generously.

Praying for the Church: Please pray that, as we give thanks for our Christmas Tree Festival at St Mary's and the Christmas Fayre at St Guthlac's, all of us within the church will be stirred up to support and help our community around us. Pray that in 2027 we'll be motivated to make the effort to talk, act and pray for our neighbourhood and our neighbours. Pray that we see the needs and respond wit Christian compassion. With others across our diocese, please also pray for the people and leaders of the churches in Leicester Forest East & St Crispin Braunstone Town with Thorpe Astley.

Praying for the Parish, our neighbours and friends: Please pray for the peace and well-being of all those who live on *Elms Road, Knighton Drive, Knighton Road, Northcote Road, Newstead Road.*

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.