



KNIGHTON



Benefice Magazine

Celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee at St Mary's

At a meeting held in April, it was decided to hold an event in Church and the churchyard on Sunday 5th June between 2 and 5pm, concluding with a Pentecost Evensong. And so it came to pass that 160 yards of brightly coloured bunting made by Mrs Felicity Cocks appeared from the Brinsmead Road entrance to the west door and from the north door to the lychgate, with David & Sue Ardley scaling the heights to make the display possible.

Our Parish Administrator, James Gutteridge, kindly provided posters & leaflets. Michael Kirk volunteered to have a plant stall with regal pelargoniums and fuchsias.

Abundant home-made delicious cakes had been donated and collected by Hilary Lewis, while Cora Paul, assisted by Beryl Bonfield and Katie Wills, made it possible to have 8 celebration iced cakes signifying the Queen's reign.

'*This England Summer Magazine*' had printed 8 pages of events during each of the decades. These were laminated and displayed in church windows which the Flower Guild and friends decorated with appropriate flowers and donated memorabilia.

Continued on pages 10-11 with additional pictures



Curate's Letter



Moving on

Friends,

No one will protect what they don't care about; and no one will care about what they have never experienced.

- A quote from Knighton's favourite son and national treasure, David Attenborough.

The legendary nonagenarian is talking about the natural world - but it could easily be as relevant to parish life and ministry.

My time is coming to an end here, with a formal announcement from the Diocese.

I remember early on in 2019 that the Diocese understood that, as I

lived so near to Knighton in Wigston, I would not wish to move. I was told that it was financially better to stay in your own home.

However, we as a family wanted to be part of the community that we had committed to serve. It was best decision we made!

There are no regrets even for those lockdown weeks when the city of Leicester stood alone (even apart from neighbouring Oadby & Wigston) in the UK. Journeying to take my daughter to her school in Kibworth, they phoned and told us to turn around because of our LE2 postcode. Likewise, the ice cream van at Foxton Locks refused to serve us again because of our city address. How we forget how normal this was!

Over the last three years, as well as fond friends within the church who have sadly died, I have also officiated for several neighbours' funerals. Sad. Alongside such sadness is all of the life cycle which parish church offers. I have relished walking past couples whose homes I have visited or seen around the streets and knowing church was at their most pivotal moments, marrying them and likewise their young children being baptised.

I will miss walking through Knighton Green to St Mary's and also sitting in St Guthlac's gardens. My beloved Washbrook having inspired so many

services, sermon themes, duck races and even the name of the fellowship group 'Living Waters'.

I soon saw that at the start of ministry at Knighton, church was synonymous with music. I have seen in both churches what a gift both pipe organ and choral music are. I used to think it too traditional, but the dignity and power which choirs and organs working in harmony can create is second to none. I have loved the versatility of our musicians and how accommodating they are of my ideas.

I am convinced God calls us as creative creatures. We will always bear fruit if we take risks and are willing to creative. This by nature, means being flexible, having to live with uncertainty and the possibility of failure.

Mostly I will miss the people. It will not hit me until it is too late, and I know I will cry. Thank you for welcoming my children, they mean the world to me and you have taken care of them, given them opportunities and space to flourish.

Please pray for us and come to visit us in the churches in our new parish. It would be great to see you.

Blessings,

Your Curate Matthew 2019-2022
(the Covid years!).

Revd Matthew Gough

As readers will by now be aware, the Bishop of Leicester has announced that Matthew has been appointed as the Rector of Anstey, Thurcaston, and Cropston. Matthew is due to be licensed Tuesday August 30th, 7.30pm by the Bishop of Loughborough, Bishop Saju.

Adrian has written:

Many congratulations and good wishes to Matthew on securing a new post as Rector of Anstey, Thurston and Cropston! We will sorely miss him, Claire and the girls of course, but we know that God's goodness is such that they will be a real blessing to their new churches and villages. Their time with us has been full of laughter and love.

Matthew's last Sunday in the benefice will be 14th August, and will include some sort of farewell to the family (although the details are yet to be confirmed). Do keep the date in your diary. Meanwhile if you would like to contribute towards a farewell gift then do please send a cheque payable to 'Knighton PCC' to James at the St Mary's office, or preferably make a direct payment by bank transfer to: Barclays Bank: Knighton PCC; bank sort code: 20-49 -17; bank a/c no. 43592286. Make sure you use a reference of 'Matthew'.

Fiona Wingate asks herself ...

What did EcoChurch ever do for me?

I recently found myself in a shop waiting to refill my collection of bottles, from laundry soap to shampoo to herbs and spices, and pondered the journey that had brought me here. As I trundled home with bottles clinking in my cycle panniers, I realised that this was all part of the story to win hearts and minds for the environment. So where did this story begin?

A little over a year ago St Guthlac's PCC approved the new environmental strategy for the church. We'd had a policy for a long time but realised that as a Christian community we needed to do more to care for and safeguard all of God's creation. We decided to use the A Rocha EcoChurch scheme as the framework within which to approach what can at times feel like the daunting task of protecting and restoring the natural world. At the heart of the plan was that this should not just be about getting an award. More important was the aim to empower people to make wise choices in favour of the environment. So, a year on I thought I'd reflect on what EcoChurch had done for me across the different areas that it focuses on.

Regarding EcoChurch's impact on people's lifestyle, part of the plan was to share useful EcoTips. Through these I've discovered all sorts of things I did not realise, like Superdrug will take old medicine and pill blister packs and recycle them. At home we now have an old plastic fruit punnet for collecting these until there is enough to drop off at the local store. There was also the discovery that in Leicestershire there is a scheme to recycle old asthma inhalers. So, having popped into my local pharmacy to collect my inhaler return envelope, I can now send off 4 dead inhalers for recycling rather than to landfill. Recycling in our house can feel a bit like a mini sorting plant now, with boxes for old pill packs, inhalers, soft plastics (heading back to the Co-op or our local Morrison's store), glass jars (ready for refilling with St Guthlac's famous marmalade and preserves) as well as the regular council recycling bin. So EcoChurch has made me more conscious of what I can recycle.



Cold frames and barbecue made from old shed and oil drums

But recycling is at the bottom of the three Rs – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. Since being involved with EcoChurch I've been more aware of looking to reuse rather than buy new. In our house we've looked to find ways to reuse resources wherever possible. The old shed which was on its last legs has found a new lease of life as part of our "new" cold frames; the "new" path in the back garden is courtesy of a friend's old slabs; and the "new" outdoor table was crafted from an old door and leftover wood.



Garden table made from old shed door.

Our "new" cotton dusters are that new shirt of 15 years ago that has worked its way through the cycle of best shirt, to smart shirt, to every day shirt, to work shirt, to duster. It may yet have one more stop to go, because our worms are apparently partial to a bit of cotton mixed in with their diet.

When it comes to reducing my consumption, it's been a question of asking myself "is this journey (expense, item etc) really

necessary?" - and if it is then trying to find different ways of doing it. Small changes like walking or cycling into town a mile and half up the road rather than taking the car; choosing fruit and veg that is not packaged in excessive amounts of plastic; buying less food to ensure that none of it is wasted; turning off lights when not in the room (though this can be a source of frustration for my family). There are other benefits to reducing consumption. I have seen that my costs are also lower than before as I use and consume less, and with these savings I am able to continue to support the various charities whose work is critical in dealing with the injustices that exist both within our own society and around the world.

The EcoChurch framework does not just look at the individual. It aims to place the individual within the context of the local and global communities. In September last year, during Creationtide, Dr Miriam Renner addressed us on how and where we put our money can change the world through Ethical Investments. This opened my eyes and made me revisit where I put my savings and investments and where our energy came from. It reminded me that people across the world are connected firstly by our humanity and then by the markets. My actions have consequences that could affect people on the other side of the world and I need to consider that. It has also

encouraged me as part of St Guthlac's to work to re-engage with the community in our parish after the pandemic. These two years of separation have eroded some of the good work that had been done before the pandemic struck. But the environment and the climate emergency are issues many are passionate about, which means there are wonderful opportunities to forge links.

I am very aware that each of our circumstances are different and that we each need to work out what is right for us. What I have realised is that small changes can have noticeable positive impacts both for the environment and for me. It is the small things that make the difference. I would encourage everyone to have a go; it can be great fun finding new ways to use old things. So, in the end, that's what EcoChurch did for me!

Fiona Wingate

Travellers' tales

To inspire the youth of the world

On 6th July 2005 London was awarded the right to host the 2012 Olympic Games.

The celebrations were silenced the next day by the 7th July London bombing where 52 people were killed and hundreds more injured.

However, against the shadow of terrorism the Olympic committee for the London Olympic Games and Paralympic Games became established with Sebastian Coe at its helm.

Coe quickly realised that these Olympics must not be a one summer wonder but needed to leave both a legacy for London and the youth of the world. He announced that, 'The London Games would inspire the youth of the world.'

The Olympics movement would contribute to building a peaceful and better world by educating and inspiring youth through sport.

Many cities in the United Kingdom were linked with other nations to welcome their athletes to the UK and host their pre-games training. For example, Birmingham was linked to the USA team.

Coventry had been linked to the small Uganda Olympic team. But with David Moorcroft involved, 5000 metre world record holder in 1982 and Coventry's local hero, it was clear that the city would go the extra mile to support youth sport in Uganda. At this point the organisation, 'Africa Inspires' was formed - 5 schools in Coventry supporting 5 schools in Kampala to develop grass roots sport in school.

In March 2011, the year before the London games, I was working as a Deputy Head in Coventry.

My Head called me in to say,
“Sue. There’s a sporting link being developed with Uganda. That will be just up your street. Can you lead this?”

Without any more information than that, I attended a meeting with Paul Breed, the Kiwi Head of the Coventry Sports Foundation, and I have been wedded to Uganda ever since!

I have had the privilege of leading three student visits to Kampala from 2011 to 2014.



During these visits we have trained teachers to teach sport, provided sports equipment, and supported them to set up their own yearly sports tournaments. In addition, we have been able to provide learning materials and reading books for work in the classroom.

One of the main schools I have worked in is called ‘Family Primary

School.’ It is aptly named, as it provides a family for the many orphans in the area. Here we have been able to provide mosquito nets and blankets for the many school boarders who have nowhere else to live. Without doubt we have been able to support these five schools in many, many ways.

However, perhaps less obvious is the impact on the students from Coventry. These students went to university when before they had not seen the importance of education;

the student who had been involved with the police and drugs who cleaned themselves up and the student obsessed by designer clothes who is now embarrassed to buy designer labels. They have learnt lessons, made connections and formed friendships which will last a lifetime.

Now, as I enter retirement, I am returning to Uganda in September 2022. We are working with the Christian charity, 'Teams4U', to provide education around adolescence, washing facilities, incinerators and sanitary protection for the students in three schools. The hope is that the girls in these schools will be able to continue attending school during their menstrual cycles, be supported with sanitary protection and washing units. And at the same time boys will be educated about the female cycle and the importance of respect and consent in relationships.

While I'm there, I'm sure I will also get a chance to wonder at the beauty of a country which Winston Churchill called, 'The Pearl of Africa.'

Sue Siesage

Planned giving

Regular giving is an integral part of our church life, supporting our day-to-day costs, ministry and mission. These needs are not lessened during the pandemic. 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 the Planned Giving secretaries of each parish (see Contacts pages). If you are a taxpayer and gift aid your giving, our churches can claim an additional 25%.

Richard Bonney: the legacy

Richard's death in August 2017 left me with a large library of his theology and priesthood training books, which I decided to keep in place because I thought they might come in useful for anyone in our parish who was interested in the subject, or who might decide to go forward for ordination. Some of the books went to St Guthlac's small library, and Fiona consulted some of them as she was training to become a Lay Reader. But the rest sat in my study, unused. At the start of 2022 and on the way to 5 years since Richard's death, it was clear to me that it was time to do something more constructive with the books, and I thought about Malawi.

As many of you will know, St Guthlac's has had a close relationship with northern Malawi over the years, mainly through Bishop Christopher, retired Assistant Bishop, and his influence. He retained contacts with the country after he returned from serving the church there, and we have been supporting a mobile health clinic as our main focus of charitable giving.

I contacted him to find out if Richard's books might be of service to any theological colleges in Malawi, and the answer was positive – through an intermediary,

Revd Paul Bracher, Malawi link officer in the Diocese of Birmingham, I arranged for the books to be donated to 2 training colleges in Malawi: Leonard Kamungu Theological College and the Theology Faculty of Chancellor College in Zomba, which trains students for all 4 Anglican dioceses in Malawi.



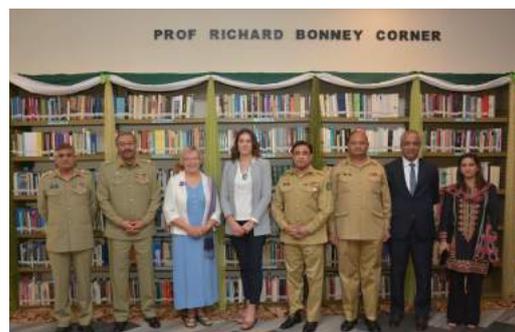
Leonard Kamungu College is in particular financial difficulties at the moment, so I am sure that the books will be valued there as a learning resource. Twelve boxes of books will be shipped out to Malawi during the autumn and next year. These two images are of the college and its students.



I think Richard would have been delighted to know that his books will have a living legacy, helping

students elsewhere to access information and, I hope, giving inspiration.

Richard's academic library, consisting of books acquired throughout his working life at Reading and Leicester Universities, went to the National Defence University in Islamabad, Pakistan, in 2017 and 2018, and my daughter Christine and I were fortunate enough to be invited to the opening of Richard's section of the library there in the summer of 2019. This was a university he'd taught in over several years, and they were delighted to take the books in his memory. Here is his library, named in his memory, with me cutting the ribbon to open it officially!



Finally, just to mention the Richard Bonney Literary Fund, which exists to help young researchers by making small grants annually to

fund their research, attendance at conferences and publications. In line with Richard's great passion in his later career, this Fund was set up in his memory to facilitate and disseminate research for the public benefit in the specific areas of tolerance and harmony in multi-faith and multicultural societies. We have just awarded grants to students researching segregation in India and the struggle for identity of the Rohingya in Burma.

In these ways, we (Richard's family) hope to continue his work through new generations of students and to reach out to other faith and ethnic communities not just across our city, but internationally.

Please do contact me if you would like further information about the Fund.

Margaret Bonney
(mmbonney@gmail.com)

Jubilee Celebrations – *continued from page 1*

Musical entertainment was enjoyed in Church between 3.30pm and 4.30pm. For young people there was a Royal Crown-making competition and at 5pm a Wash Brook Duck Race, which involved several folk donning wellington boots to retrieve these small yellow creatures lent by the Revd Matthew.



Sunday 5 June lacked warmth and sunshine, but the spirit of the occasion was enjoyed by several

hundred people who were welcomed inside Church with free tea and cake plus animated conversation, enhanced by the jazz group. Photographer Michael Stockton captured happy faces of all age groups and also a rescue dog in training!

At 4.30pm a 'Scratch Choir' gathered in the chancel, with Michael Relph encouraging them to exercise their vocal cords in readiness for Choral Evensong for Pentecost, which began at 5.30pm.

All those involved felt they made a significant and generous contribution to our celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

The Roving Parish Reporter

Queen's Platinum Jubilee
at St Mary's



Service times

Normal pattern of Sunday worship at St Mary's

1 st Sunday	9am	Weekly Eucharist (contemporary language)
	10.30am	All Age Worship
2 nd Sunday	9am	Weekly Eucharist (traditional language)
	10.30am	(Sung) Eucharist
3 rd Sunday	9am	Weekly Eucharist (contemporary language)
	10.30am	"Fresh" Morning Worship
4 th Sunday	9am	Weekly Eucharist (traditional language)
	10.30am	(Sung) Eucharist
5 th Sunday	9am	Weekly Eucharist
	10.30am	Benefice Eucharist at either St Mary's or St Guthlac's See local announcements

Normal pattern of Sunday services at St Guthlac's

All at 10.30am

1st Sunday	Holy Communion
2 nd Sunday	All Age Worship
3 rd Sunday	Holy Communion
4 th Sunday	Sung Morning Prayer (Matins)
5 th Sunday	Benefice Service at either St Mary's or St Guthlac's See local announcements

The Benefice Magazine

The Editor apologises for the late arrival of this edition, as with the previous one. This is the consequence of other work and travel commitments. The magazine is published every two months. The closing date for copy for the next issue is **1 September 2022**, for publication, if possible in mid-September. **All contributions are appreciated.** Please send your contributions, preferably in Word, to 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.

Holbrook Oasis

Wednesdays 1.30 – 3.00 pm
Starting 20th July

St Guthlac's Church, Holbrook Road LE2 3LF

Companionship, Conversation, Refreshment, Relaxation



Come and join us in our Welcome Area and garden to chat and enjoy others' company. Open to all: young families, people living alone, the elderly, refugees...

Tea, coffee and cakes provided

Toys available for children with their carers



Email: churchwardens@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk

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Ten years since the dig that found King Richard III

August 2022 brings the 10th anniversary of the Greyfriars archaeological dig in Leicester, which uncovered the remains of King Richard III.

As the Cathedral building is closed until autumn 2023 for the Leicester Cathedral Revealed building works, the Leicester Cathedral community will be leading Choral Evensong at 4pm on Sunday 21 August at Sutton Cheney (adjacent to the battlefield where some of the battle dead are buried).

The Dean of Leicester, the Vey Revd David Monteith, and others have also contributed to a series of 10 year anniversary podcasts curated by Prof Turi King and available on the University of Leicester website: [Richard III: Discovery and identification | University of Leicester](#)

Because of the Cathedral closure, there is currently an additional film at the KRIII Visitor Centre now showing the Cathedral and the tomb, and also the coffin pall is temporarily on display in the Centre too: [Ten Years On - King Richard III Visitor Centre \(kriii.com\)](#)

MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTION - Polite Reminder:

Your Magazine subscription is now due. The cost remains the same at £5 per annum for those whose magazine is delivered (published 6 times a year – January, March, May, July, September and November). Those who receive an e-mail copy are not charged but all donations are gratefully received!

Please send cash or a cheque made payable to “Knighton P.C.C.” to:

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With my continued thanks.

Bernard