



St Mary Magdalen Church Church of England, Knighton

**Sunday 15th December 2019
3rd Sunday of Advent**

**Our Presiding Minister today is Revd Adrian Jones
and our Preacher is Revd Matthew Gough
Welcome to Morning Worship**

A warm welcome to everyone joining us at St Mary Magdalen this week, especially if you are here for the first time or visiting. On the next page of this newsletter you'll find all the essential information you might need for this morning's service.



Christmas Tree Festival success!

Last weekend we saw nearly 1500 people visit the church for our first Christmas Tree Festival. The unanimous view was that it was a great success and very many people commented on the warmth of the welcome and the sense of enjoyment and fun.



On behalf of us all, I'd like to say a huge 'thank you' to Sue Holligan and the organising team, for all their time, energy and commitment to making this new venture work. It has been a great way to raise money for charity, and more importantly, to make connections with our community and neighbours - thank you to everyone who supported and helped.

Adrian



ABOUT OUR SERVICES

- Our worship follows the printed order of service Large print versions are available from the sidespersons (the welcomers at the door). If you are using a hearing aid, please switch it to the T position so as to make best use of the hearing loop system.
- It is traditional to stand for the hymns and some of the prayers and readings, but if this is difficult for you then please do remain seated and comfortable.
- In the entrance area are toilets, and there is a crèche area at the back of the church.
- During the main 10am service, Sunday Club for children meets in the Narthex as usual; the children go to their Club after 'A Word for the Children'.
- As part of the 8.00am service we share Communion together and everyone is invited to come forwards to receive bread and wine as we remember the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. If you would prefer to come for a blessing then simply carry the service booklet with you.
- You are welcome to join Adrian for a short time of prayer before the main service: 9.30-9.45am at the front of the Lady Chapel (the chapel on the left).
- Please talk to the sidespersons if you have any other questions and do please stay after the 10.00 am service for tea or coffee and introduce yourself to some of us.

Listening to God's Word

Our Bible readings today are

Isaiah 35.1-10 & Matthew 11.2-11

Today's title is **"Doubt, Faith and Life"**

DIARY FOR THE WEEK

Sunday 15th December 3rd Sunday of Advent	8.00am Said Eucharist 10.00am Morning Worship 6.30pm Service of Lessons & Carols
Monday 16th December Parish Office Closed	7.30pm Bell Ringing Practice
Tuesday 17th December	9.30am Eucharist, St Mary's
Wednesday 18th December	10.00am Advent Group meets 7.30pm Carols by Candlelight (St Guthlacs)
Thursday 19th December Parish Office open from 12.30pm	9.30am Eucharist, St Guthlac's
Friday 20th December Parish Office open from 12.30pm	
Saturday 21st December	
Sunday 22nd December 4th Sunday of Advent	8.00am Said Eucharist 10.00am Sung Eucharist

The next monthly service of Prayer for Healing with Communion will be held on **Friday 31st January** at 11am.

Please send items for inclusion in the diary or notice sheet to James Gutteridge by **Thursday 12.00 noon**. Contact James on office@knightonparish.co.uk or 0116 2702705. Knighton Parish Office, Church Lane, Knighton, Leicester LE2 3WG

InSPIREd

The campaign to save our spire

InSpired - our appeal for the spire

The Spire Group is continuing to work on an exciting programme of events which we hope will attract people from all over the community. Please tell your friends and neighbours about all our events as they are announced.

InSpired News

Online giving

It is now possible to donate to the appeal online. Just go to the parish website and follow the link. This is an easy, efficient way for people who live further away to contribute, so please pass this information on to any of your friends who care about the future of St Mary's.

Your Spire Fund-raising Group are: Nigel Siesage, Adrian Jones, Sue Holligan, Sian Howard, Lorna Kirk, Michael Kirk.

Donations for the Spire Fund

We continue to receive some very generous donations. Cheques for the Spire should be made out to Knighton PCC, but make it clear that they are for the Spire, by writing 'Spire Fund' on the back of the cheque.

If you already give to the church with Gift Aid, it will be possible to claim it on spire donations. Please speak to Lorna Pollard for advice if you have any questions about this.

Also, there are Spire Fund Appeal blue envelopes available for you to use in the pews, if you wish to use this method in addition to your regular giving in the unmarked envelopes. If you are a tax payer and complete the envelope, your gift will increase by 25%. Many thanks. *Nigel*

THURSDAY DROP-IN

After 46 years, the Thursday Drop-In club have sadly decided that the time has come for us to close. Our last meeting will be on Thursday 2nd January. We've had a lovely time over the years and shall miss the friends and fellowship. (and the bingo!).

Mavis

Adrian says: We are all sad to hear this news from Mavis. Many people have told me how much the Thursday Club has meant to them over the years, both as volunteers and club members. We certainly need to mark the ending of such a significant group - please let me have any ideas you have for recognising the part it has played in so many lives and for thanking God for all it has meant to our life together.

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

I am very sad to have to tell you that our friend and regular member Peter Smith died on Wednesday 4th December. Peter had been ill for a long time but had not wanted to talk much about it. He was at home when he died and had been receiving full time care. Peter will be profoundly missed by many of us, not just those who knew him from the 10am service. We give thanks to God for all that he gave in so many ways during his life. **Peter's funeral will be at 2.30pm on Tuesday 17th December at St Mary's.** *Adrian*

MARY BRISTOW

News of Mrs Mary Bristow (from her daughter). After having had a stroke, Mary has moved to Autumn Grange, Linden Road, Creswell, Chesterfield S86 4TI. She is content and being well looked after. It would give her great pleasure to receive a Christmas card from friends of the church she had been a member for many years.

VALERIE DUDLEY

Valerie's daughter Angela has been in touch to let us know that her mum is settling well into a nursing home, following a nasty fall. It's a lovely old country house with beautiful grounds and views and fabulous staff. It would be really nice if friends from church could send Valerie a Christmas card. If you'd like to, please send to Valerie Dudley, Shockerwick House Care Home, Lower Shockerwick, Bath BA1 7LL.

THE CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

on Saturday 30 November raised £1,900 excluding sales in Church. This is an increase of £400 on last year. Many thanks to all those who helped and supported it. *Michael Kirk*

Very many thanks to everyone who gave so much time, energy and enthusiasm to make the Bazaar a great success. It was a splendid way to both raise funds and also open our church life to numerous friends and neighbours from the local community. Adrian

SING CHRISTMAS WITH BBC RADIO LEICESTER IN THE BENEFICE!

Come along to The Aberdale, Shackderdale Road, West Knighton, Monday 23rd December from 7-8pm with other churches from the South Leicestershire Christian Partnership. Mince Pies to donate welcome to bless our community. More information-Rev'd Matthew

CHRISTIAN AID CHRISTMAS APPEAL: there are envelopes in the pews for your donations, this year to help mothers world-wide to use their God-given gifts to escape poverty. Please return your donations in the next couple of weeks via the offertory plate, with Gift Aid if you can - it adds 25% to your gift, with no cost to you! Many thanks.

NATIONAL SPACE CENTRE TICKETS Every year, as a Trustee of the National Space Centre, I receive a number of tickets for my own use. They expire at the end of March and I have a few of this year's batch left. Please let me know if you are interested. They cannot be sold or used for prizes, or I would have made use of them to raise funds for the spire.
Nigel Siesage

DRIVERS - CAN YOU HELP?

We are currently putting together a list of drivers who might be able to help Veronica Brown get to church from Wigston, for the 8am service, when her usual lift is not available. The next date Veronica needs help is on Christmas morning for the 8am service. Veronica would also appreciate occasional lifts to the doctors. If you can help, please tell James in the office. Thanks. *Adrian*

PARISH MAGAZINE The next edition of the magazine will be issued in mid-January. The closing date for copy to reach me is New Year's Day. This will be the first edition (in recent years) to cover both St Mary's and St Guthlac's. Please send your articles, pictures and announcements to stmaryknighton.magazine@gmail.com. *Nigel Siesage*

CHRISTMAS CARDS Have you had a Christmas card from someone you forgot to send to? Help is at hand. We still have a supply of the Christmas cards by Sue Sansome, sold to support our spire appeal, and until Christmas, they are available at the original price of £5 for a pack of 8. Please contact a member of the Inspired Group (Nigel Siesage, Sue Holligan, Michael and Lorna Kirk, Sian Howard and David Stanyer) if you would like to buy some. Or email nigel.siesage@gmail.com.

Christmas Tree Festival

Christmas Tree Festival 2019 . The team were delighted at the number of people who came to St Mary's over the weekend, over 1500 came to see the trees. A special thanks to all who worked to make the event a success.

Wooden Baubles used on our christmas tree are now available for you to take home. They are on the table at the back of the church, either displayed or in a box. There is no charge for these, it is our gift to you. If you wish to make a small donation then please either put it in the books money collection box or see Sue Holligan Ida Stanyer or Beverley Jarrom. Any money recieved will be added to the ammount taken at the festival weekend and divided between HOPE Againts Cancer and the INspire fund.

Thank you . I was given a wooden Christmas tree at the Carols among the trees service. I love it, thank you.

Sue Holligan

CHRISTMAS CARD BOARD

Once again we have a 'space' on the notice board at the back of church, where we can share Christmas Greetings. As in the past, a contribution to the Children's Society can be placed in the box provided.

CHURCH CLEANING

The current team would value more help to lighten their load. Duties are light! Cleaning takes place on the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 10.15am until 12.15pm. Volunteers are asked to come every other month. Coffee and biscuits. Men very welcome! Please speak to Doreen White after the service or 270 4744.

COMMUNITY OF GRACE CHRISTMAS DAY BREAKFAST APPEAL. This year, as in previous years, we are looking to make the men at the Community of Grace have a better Christmas. To that end I would ask if you could add an extra item or two into your supermarket trolleys and bring them to church on one of the following Sundays up to and including Sunday 22nd of December. A box will be marked at the back of church for your groceries. The items we are looking for are: Fruit Juice, Bacon, Sausage, Eggs, Tinned Tomatoes, Baked Beans, Thick Sliced Bread, Marmalade, Jam, Butter or Spread, Tea, Coffee, Sugar etc., Please make sure that any perishable items have a date after the 26th of December. Thank you in advance for your donation and let's make the Community of Grace Residents have the best Christmas Day and hopefully Boxing Day Breakfast ever. *Sue Bonnett.*



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JOHN THE BAPTIST

A WORKSHEET SORT OF THING. WRITE OR DRAW IN THE GAPS

BIBLE VERSE
MARK CHAPTER 1
VERSES 1 TO 8

My favourite clothes



1 _____
2 _____
3 _____



JOHN THE BAPTIST

OR

MARKS FOR
STYLE (out
of 10)

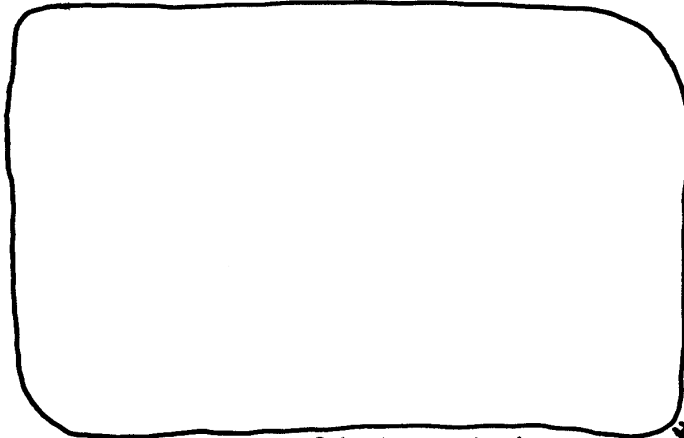
Camel hair jacket

Leather belt

Sandals

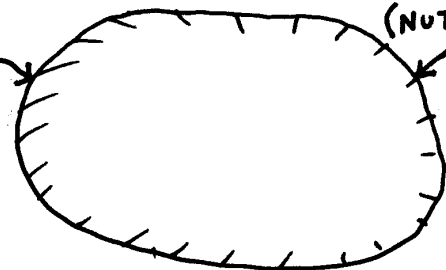
Sandals with socks

WHY DID JOHN THE BAPTIST HAVE SUCH AN ODD TASTE IN FOOD & CLOTHES?



HOW DO YOU IMAGINE JOHN THE BAPTIST

WHAT WAS JOHN'S MESSAGE?



(NUTSHELL)

TOP 5 FOODS



- 5.
- 4.
- 3.
- 2.
- 1.

Locusts & honey
RECIPES:
Rank from 1 to 4

Raw locust & honey

locust & honey sandwich

Deep fried locust, chips & honey

locust curry with honey

THINGS TO TAKE TO THE DESERT



.....
.....
.....

THINGS TO PREPARE FOR:



HAVE YOU BEEN BAPTISED OR CONFIRMED?

?

IF NOT WHY NOT ASK SOMEONE ABOUT IT.

BAPTISM

PICTURE OR EXPLANATION

REPENTANCE

(AN EXAMPLE OF)

It's beginning to look a lot likeAdvent!

During the hectic preparations for Christmas it is easy to let all our activities overwhelm us. Why not try one of the new books written for the season of Advent? They can enrich your spiritual life and provide the discipline some of us need to keep God at the centre of our run up to Christmas.

Here are some of the new books published for Advent 2019, all available from Christian Resources bookshop in Leicester.

Wake Up To Advent by John Sentamu Price: £9.99

"This is the hour of crisis: it is high time for you to wake out of sleep, for deliverance is nearer to us now than it was when first we believed."

St Paul's encouraging words to the Christians in Rome are the springboard for the Archbishop of York's Advent book for 2019. With prayers and stimulating questions for reflection at the end of each daily meditation, here is fresh spiritual food for the Advent journey – pressed down, shaken together and running over.

Freedom is Coming by Nick Baines Price: £9.99

"Comfort, O comfort my people. . . In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord." The second part of the book of Isaiah rings with proclamations and prophecies that find their fulfilment in the Gospels and are still being fulfilled by followers of Jesus today. In "Freedom is Coming" Nick Baines invites you to think about what it meant for people in Isaiah's day to be living in exile, and at the same time helps you to see the connections between Isaiah's time and ours, and how his vision of God's truth and justice spreading throughout the world can comfort, challenge and inspire God's people now, just as it did back then.

In The Bleak Midwinter by Rachel Mann Price: £12.99

Framed by her most famous poems, 'In the Bleak Midwinter' and 'Love Came Down at Christmas', this daily devotional explores Advent and Christmas through the poetry of Christina Rossetti. For each day there is a poem with a reflection that draws on Rossetti's writings, such as her devotional journal and Biblical commentary.

Rejoice! By Chris Wright with John Stott Price: £7.99

25 Bible meditations based on Scripture verses and teaching nuggets from John Stott, with commentary and prayers from Christopher Wright. Accessible and bite-sized, fresh and exciting, each meditation deepens our appreciation of the timeless spiritual truths of Advent and Christmas.

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(The Parish Office is open **Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday** and **Friday** from 9.30am until 2.30pm, unless stated differently in the diary)

The office is closed on **Mondays**.

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. *If you are giving by bank standing order, yellow tokens are available at services to put on the plate, should you wish.*

Scheme details can be obtained from Lorna Pollard, Planned Giving Scheme Secretary: telephone 0116 2704272 or e mail: stmarysknighton.giving@gmail.com. If you are a taxpayer and gift aid your giving, our church can claim an additional 25%.

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CHEQUES FOR ST MARY'S Please make cheques for St Mary's payable to **Knighton PCC**.

Please pray.....

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thessalonians 5.16-18)

Give thanks: for all those who act as our welcomers and sidespeople on a Sunday morning. A smile goes a long way! Thank you.

Praying for the World: Please pray for renewed efforts to bring a just peace to the Middle East, especially the Holy Land.

Praying for the Church: Please pray for carol services, concerts, events and celebrations at churches throughout our diocese. Pray that in all our busy-ness we will remember 'the reason for the season' and point people to the person of Jesus.

Praying for the Parish : This week please pray for those who live on:
**Balmoral Close, Carisbrook Park, Kenwood Road, Arreton Close,
Carisbrook Avenue, Carisbrook Gardens.**

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. In particular we pray for **Fred Amner, Gary Joynes, Jane Mee, Paul,** and all those on our parish 'Continuing Prayer' list. May they know the power of God's healing love at work in their lives today.

Give thanks for those who have been healed and restored.

We remember those who have died recently and pray for their families and friends.

**Peter Smith Mr Brian (BAF) smith
Kathleen Dangerfield**

Names will remain on the prayer list here for three weeks - please let us know if they should then be moved to the 'Continuing Prayer' list used for Intercessions during the week.