St Mary Magdalen Church of England, Knighton

Newsletter for Sunday 1st November 2026 All Saints Day

Collects

Almighty God,
you have knit together your elect
in one communion and fellowship
in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord:
grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints
in all virtuous and godly living
that we may come to those inexpressible joys
that you have prepared for those who truly love you;
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.
Amen.

God of holiness,
your glory is proclaimed in every age:
as we rejoice in the faith of your saints,
inspire us to follow their example
with boldness and joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



The Week Ahead..

Sunday 1st November *All Saints*	9.00am Eucharist 10.30am Worship for the Whole Church 10.30am Sung Eucharist at St Guthlac's 1-3pm Quarter Peal
Monday 2nd November	2.00pm-4.00pm Drop-In (Parish Centre) 7.30pm Bell Ringing practice
Tuesday 3rd November	9.30am Holy Communion (St Mary's) 7.30pm PCC meeting
Wednesday 4th November	8.00pm Online Compline
Thursday 5th November	9.30am Holy Communion (St Guthlac's)
Friday 6th November	
Saturday 7th November	
Sunday 8th November *Remembrance Sunday*	9.00am Eucharist (trad. language) 10.30am Remembrance Day Eucharist 10.30am Remembrance All Age Worship 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 All Saints Day,

Sunday 1st November, are

Revelation 7.9-end and **Matthew 5.1-12**

Church Family News

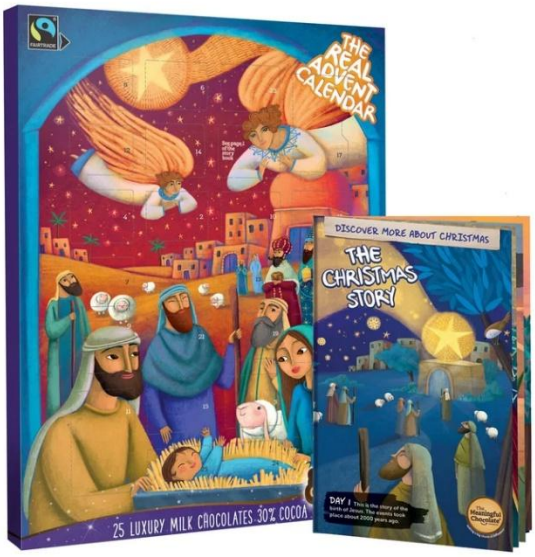
Thank you to everyone who was able to come and support Cecilia last Wednesday evening , as she was 'collated and inducted' into her new post as Vicar of St Denys, Evington. It was an inspiring service and she is clearly already held in affection and esteem by the church 'next door'! *(*see Cecilia's message to us all, later in the newsletter) *Adrian*

"The Difference We Made" is the title of the special leaflet given to everyone at church and online with the newsletter last week. It gives information about all the activities of our church in 2025, and reminds us to be attentive to all that God is doing, even when we have our attention elsewhere or are too tired to notice! It is also a challenge to us all – the money we receive as a church each year falls seriously below what we need to run the church in its present form. Looking ahead to 2027, will we meet the twin targets of £10,000 in special gifts to fund the refurbishment of the Parish Centre toilets and roof, alongside an increase of 10% in regular monthly giving?? Please read your copy of the leaflet carefully and pray about your own response. Thank you in anticipation! *Adrian*

Summer is coming! Believe it or not, this could be the ideal time to organise your next summer holiday …For several years now, a group of folks from St Mary's have spent five days in the summer, together with other Christians from across the country, at *Summerfest*, a modest all-age get-together for relaxation, worship, activities, learning and enjoying the wonderful Yorkshire dales. Our hosts are the Scargill Community and we always have a wonderful time.

Bookings are now open and we are aiming to go for 'Summerfest Three', running from **Saturday 7th - Thursday 12th August 2027.** Do speak to us soon if you're interested in joining us, as places are booked very quickly! *Adrian and Alison, Skye and Derry.*

Advent is coming! It's time to let me have your orders for Fairtrade Advent Calendars. Please sign up by Sunday 8th November either with me, or on the list at the back of church. They are £4.95 - a whole pound cheaper than if bought individually - and contain no palm oil, and as little plastic as possible. They have a new activity booklet too. No need to pay until you receive them. Thank you for helping us be a Fairtrade Church.
Alison Roche



Parish Office James is now on annual leave and will return to work on Monday 2nd November. Please send your enquiries to Adrian instead.

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!

Vases in memory of Adri Cook

Those who remember Adri Cook will know she loved flowers, her garden and how much the church meant to her. After she died, a year ago now, I was asked by the family to find a vase for the church in her memory. It was no easy task to find something I felt suitable and that Adri would have approved of.



However, I'm pleased to say that we now have not just one, but four new vases for the church. One will live permanently in the Lady Chapel and the other three put to good use in other parts of the church. On behalf of the Flower Guild, my thanks go to the family for this fitting gesture in memory of Adri and hope that using the vases will bring pleasure to the congregation for years to come.
Deborah Martin

Remembrance Sunday



Next Sunday, 8th November, is Remembrance Sunday, and as usual we will be remembering all those killed and injured in conflicts since World War One in our morning Eucharist, beginning at 10.30am. We will mark the two-minute silence at 11am and present wreaths of poppies in an act of commemoration. Individual poppies will be available to everyone for an appropriate donation, after the service this Sunday, 1st November, and we are very grateful to Cherry Rae-Smith and Lorna Kirk for making this possible.

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

- On the first Sunday of the new month, **1st November,** we come together in Worship for the Whole Church as we celebrate **All Saints Day**.
- On **Sunday 8th November** we worship together in a service of Sung Eucharist for Remembrance Sunday, with the traditional two minutes silence at 11am.
- **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 message from Cecilia:

Dear friends,

I find it hard to put into words how deeply you touched my heart with your send-off. The warmth, the love and the generosity of that day will stay with me for the rest of my life. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart.

For four years it has been my joy and privilege to be your curate. Serving among you has been a joy from beginning to end. You have supported me, encouraged me and walked with me through every season. You made room for me to learn and grow, and you were patient with me along the way. I leave richer for having known you.

Peter, Esther, David, Daniel and I are full of gratitude. You have welcomed and cherished my family as your own, and we will always carry that kindness with us.

Thank you also for your gifts. They are beautiful and thoughtful, and every time I see them, they will remind me that I am loved. I will treasure them always.

You continue to be God's loving people, serving and tending the vineyard with joy and love. Please keep going and know that the Lord sees every quiet act of faithfulness.

As Scripture says: *"I thank my God every time I remember you"* (Philippians 1:3), *"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever"* (Psalm 107:1) and *"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."* (Galatians 6:9)

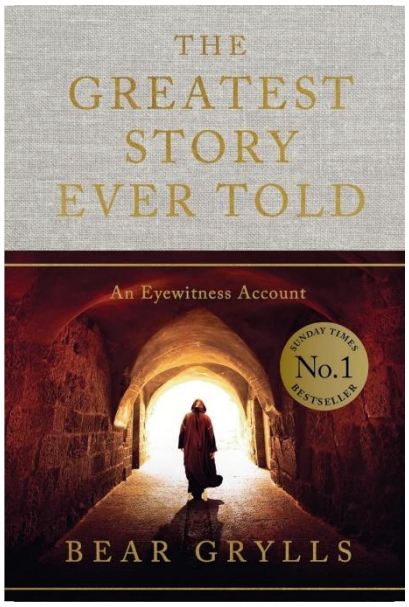
And as Dietrich Bonhoeffer reminds us: *"In ordinary human life, gratitude is the thing that makes the heart rich."* Thank you for making my heart so rich.

Though I am moving on, you will always be in my prayers. May God bless you, keep you and make his face shine upon you.

With love and heartfelt gratitude,

Cecilia.

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

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.

Everything we do is made possible by the generous giving of our church community.

HOW TO GIVE

BANK TRANSFER

Make a one-off donation or set up a standing order to give regularly.
Account Name: *Knighton PCC*
Account Number: *43592286*
Sort Code: *20-49-17*
Reference: 'One-Off' / 'Regular'

VIA PGS

Make a regular donation via the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) by visiting our parish page at **parishgiving.org.uk**
Parish Code: 190619025

ONLINE

Scan this QR code to give online.

CASH OR CHEQUE

You can place cheques or cash in the envelopes provided. Please make cheques payable to **'Knighton PCC'** and fill in the Gift Aid form if you are eligible.

GIFT AID

If you're a UK taxpayer by filling out a Gift Aid Declaration, we can claim an extra 25% of your gift from the government (at no extra cost to you!) which means your gift goes even further! Complete the form on your giving envelope or email:
stmarysknightongiving@gmail.com

St Mary Magdalen, Brinsmead Road, Leicester. LE2 3WD
www.stmarysknighton.co.uk Charity No. 1130923

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: VACANCY

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.

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: This week please pray for all those who serve in the UK Armed Forces – the Army, Navy, Royal Air Force, the Reserve Forces, Special Forces and those involved in peace-keeping with the United Nations in areas of conflict. Pray for all ranks and roles – that they will hold to the highest standards of integrity and be well-prepared for whatever situation they are called to handle. Remember those who have died in conflict since 1914 and particularly those who have received life-changing injury more recently. Pray that as a nation we will be grateful and supportive.

Praying for the Church: During this season, as well as Advent and Christmas, all our churches will receive visitors and guests to our services. Please pray that all of us would be ready with a warm and friendly welcome, and that we would be ready to talk about the faith we share and the difference that it has made to our lives. In our own diocese please pray especially for the people and leaders of the churches in Hinckley (The Beacon), Bosworth and Sheepy.

Praying for the Parish, our neighbours and friends: Please pray for the peace and well-being of all those who live on Kingsmead Road, Northfold Road, Eastcourt Road, Westgate Road, Lynholme Road, and Deancourt 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.