

St Mary Magdalen Church of England, Knighton



Newsletter for Sunday 7th December 2025 2nd Sunday of Advent

Collects for this week

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever.

Amen.

Almighty God,
purify our hearts and minds,
that when your Son Jesus
Christ comes again as
judge and saviour
we may be ready
to receive him,
who is our Lord and our God.
Amen.



The Week Ahead..

Sunday 7th December 2nd Sunday of Advent	10.30sm	Eucharist Worship for the Whole Church Eucharist at St Guthlac's Coro Nostro rehearsal
Monday 8th December	12 noon 2.00pm-4. 7.30pm	Social Committee Meeting 00pm Drop-In (Parish Centre) Bell Ringing practice
Tuesday 9th December	9.30am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 10th December	11.00am 12.30pm 8.00pm	Church cleaning Lancaster Academy Visit Online Compline
Thursday 11th December	9.30am	Eucharist (St Guthlac's)
Friday 12th December		
Saturday 13th December	7.30pm	Coro Nostro Christmas Concert
Sunday 14th December 3rd Sunday of Advent	9.00am 10.30am 10.30sm 4.00pm	Eucharist (trad) Sung Eucharist All Age Worship at St Guthlac's Carols & Christingles

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]

Church Family News

Knighton Christmas Tree Festival

Many of you will have visited the Christmas Tree Festival last weekend, and once again been amazed at the range and creativity of the trees on display. It was a fantastic community event, and our sincere thanks have to go to the whole organising team led by Sue Siesage, the volunteers over the weekend, the musicians and singers and all those who contributed trees. There are always so many appreciative comments from our visitors and the whole event connects both church and parish, and strengthens our local community and well-being. Really brilliant! Thank you everyone - *Adrian*

Christmas Cards for Church Friends

As usual we will clear space on the noticeboard at the back of the church so that we can all put up Christmas cards to our friends in church. Having just one card for everyone saves on postage, paper and energy! When you use the board please consider making a donation to Christian Aid in lieu of the cost of cards to everyone - there will be some donation envelopes in church or just use a regular one with "Christian Aid" written on the outside - and then place it in the collection plate. Thank you!

Benefice Magazine

A reminder that the closing date for the November/December issue of the magazine is Sunday 7 December. Please send your contributions to stmaryknighton.magazine@gmail.com. If you're working on something and need a day or two more, please let me know and I can plan for it. Thank you. *Nigel*

Listening to God's Word:

The set readings on **Sunday 7th December** are Isaiah 11.1-10 and Matthew 3.1-12.

Our Reading for Whole Church Worship at 10.30am is Isaiah 11.1-10

Christmas Tree Festival 2025

A massive thank you to all those who made this year's Christmas Tree Festival possible. It was a wonderful happy weekend, made possible by the hard work and enthusiasm from many in the St Mary's community.

Thank you to everyone who:

- Visited the Festival
- Exhibited a tree
- Provided musical entertainment
- Helped with the technical elements and heavy lifting
- Volunteered to help over the weekend
- Donated raffle prizes and cakes
- Donated money

And to:

- James in the Parish Office
- Rev Adrian who patiently allows us to 'take over' the church
- Knighton Coffee and Craft who have been making lovely creations throughout the year
- Luke for helping to lead the carols round the trees.

Special thanks to the Christmas Tree Festival Team who work throughout the year to make this event possible and Susan Holligan who founded the Festival and who remains a wonderful source of encouragement and guidance.

The counting has now finished and I can report that we had 2002 visitors including 500 children and a conservative estimate of our takings is £7,500 given we still have some bills to pay and receipts to reimburse.

So until next year a massive THANK YOU and HAPPY CHRISTMAS to you all,

Sue Siesage

Decorating the church for Christmas

We will be decorating the church on Friday, 19th December 2.00-4.30pm and Saturday, 20th December 9.30am-12.30pm.

Everyone is welcome, so please do come along with an idea for decorating a window sill and that could be as simple as a vase of Christmas greenery. The usual cones, candles, berries, white sticks and some greenery will be available.

Any donations of greenery, eg holly, will be welcome at the church on the Friday.

It will help me if I know who is able to come along, so please sign up at the back of the church or let me know. (0116 2707525)

Thank you Deborah

COMING UP What's happening at St Mary's on Sundays in December 2025

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!

- At St Mary's we begin every month with a service of Worship for the Whole Church (formerly known as 'All Age Worship'). On **Sunday 7th December** we will focus on the Advent theme of 'Peace'.
- **Sunday 14th December** will be the third Sunday of Advent (but the second Sunday of the month), and our Sung Eucharist will pick up the Advent theme of 'Joy'.
- On the last Sunday before Christmas, Sunday 20th December, our Morning Worship will focus on the last of the four Advent themes, 'Love'.

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.

St Mary Magdalen: Christmas Services and Events

Christmas Tree Festival: Saturday 29th November (10am-

5pm) & Sunday 30th November (12.30pm—5pm).

Festival Carol Service: Sunday 30th November, 5pm.

Carols & Christingles: Sunday 14th December, 4pm.

Parish Carol Service: Sunday 21st December, 6.30pm.

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

Midnight Communion: Wednesday 24th December, 11.30pm.

Christmas Day: Thursday 25th December, 9am.

Christmas Day Celebration : Thursday 25th December, 10.30am.

Please note: there will be no morning services on Sunday 28th December, but on Sunday 4th January they run as usual., at 9am and 10.30am.

St Guthlac's Church: Christmas Services and Events

St Guthlac's Christmas Fayre: Saturday 6th Dec. 9.45am-1pm

Christmas Gift Service: Sunday 14th December 10.30 am

Traditional Carols and Readings: Wednesday 17th Dec. 7.30 pm

Crib Service: Wednesday 24th December, 4.00 pm

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

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

Please Note: On Sunday 28th December there will be no service at St Guthlac's.



Virtual Compline 8.00pm Wednesday evenings

There will be **NO Compline on Wednesday 17th December or Christmas Eve 24th December.**

There will be virtual Compline services on all other Wednesdays in December and January at 8.00pm including Wednesday 31st December 2025.

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 3080** followed by #





We're giving away £120,000 in December

12 Days of Giving is the festive final phase of the Benefact Group Movement for Good. In December, we'll be giving 120 charities £1,000 each over 12 days.

The first draw takes place on **December 1st** and the last on **December 16th** with 10 charities drawn every weekday.

Every charity you've nominated in our £1,000 draws this year is already in. But there's still time to spread more festive cheer - **feel free to nominate as many other charities as you like**.

Need inspiration? Visit our **Giving Map** to discover charities near you.

Nominations are open now and close at 23:59 on December 15th 2025.

To nominate us, please click this link <u>12 Days Christmas Draw - Move-</u> ment for Good - Nominate a charity for an award.

Our charity number: 1130923

Contact details:

Vicar: Revd Adrian Jones 07919 262399

Email: adrian.jones@zoho.com (rest day normally Friday)

Curate: Revd Cecilia Adjadje 07587 772828

revdcecilia@gmail.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: Michael Gasper c/o 0116 270 2705

gaspermick@gmail.com

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 for each other this month December is the month when, together as a church family, we pray for those whose surnames begin with U, V, W, X, Y and Z! This group may include some friends but please also bring before God all of this alphabetical collection, even if you don't know their names. Pray for the fruit of the Holy Spirit to be seen in their lives as they come close to God during the festive celebrations.

Praying for the World: Once again, different parts of the world have been struck by natural disaster, made more severe by our human impact on the climate. Please pray for the victims of the cyclone that has recently hit Indonesia - pray that they will receive all the help they need to get through these challenging days and to rebuild houses, communities and livelihoods.

Praying for the Church: As the Church listens to John the Baptist's call to repentance this week, please pray that we would all have a humble heart approaching 2026. There are many important issues for the national Church to resolve, and it seems that we are not good at setting priorities or simply getting on with things! Pray for our Archbishops, Bishops and General Synod - that they might find a sense of expectancy and restlessness in the year to come, that will spur us on and give us all encouragement. Locally, please pray with others across our diocese for the people and leaders of the churches in Leicester Forest East & St Crispin Braunstone Town with Thorpe Astley, for Markfield, Thornton, Bagworth, Stanton under Bardon & Copt Oak, and Broom Leys.

Praying for the Parish, our neighbours and friends: Please pray for the peace and well-being of all those who live on Southland Road, Portisdown Road, Ventnor Road South, Wimbourne Road, Ring Road, Ryde Avenue.

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 **June Rich**, **Sue Holligan**, **Neill Addison-Gutteridge**, and **Kate Adams**.

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.