



**St Mary Magdalen
Church of England,
Knighton**



Newsletter for Sunday 1st February 2026 Candlemas

Collects for this week

Almighty and ever-living God,
clothed in majesty,
whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple,
in substance of our flesh:
grant that we may be presented to you
with pure and clean hearts,
by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ,
light of the nations and glory of Israel:
make your home among us,
and present us pure and holy
to your heavenly Father,
your God, and our God.
Amen.



"Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him." (Jeremiah 17.7)

The Week Ahead..

Sunday 1st February <i>Presentation of Christ in the Temple</i>	9.00am Eucharist 10.30am Worship for the Whole Church 10.30am Eucharist at St Guthlac's
Monday 2nd February	2.00pm-4.00pm Drop-In (Parish Centre) 7.30pm Bell Ringing practice
Tuesday 3rd February	9.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday 4th February	8.00pm Online Compline
Thursday 5th February	9.30am Eucharist (St Guthlac's) 11.30am Church cleaning
Friday 6th February	12 noon Funeral of Marion Seaman
Saturday 7th February	
Sunday 8th February <i>2nd Sunday before Lent</i>	9.00am Eucharist (trad) 10.30am Sung Eucharist 10.30am 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:

The set readings on **Sunday 1st February** are
Malachi 3.1-5 and Luke 2.22-40.

Church Family News

Marion Seaman: Last Sunday we heard with surprise and sadness that Marion Seaman had died, following a fall earlier in the week. Marion joined us at St Mary's a few years ago when she moved in with her daughter nearby. She shared her Sundays between ourselves and the Free Church, enjoying extra fellowship groups at both.

As a near neighbour to the Church, living on Kenwood Road, Marion would often be seen locally, moving quite fast on her mobility scooter but always stopping for a greeting. She had a strong faith and a gentle sense of humour, and was an encouragement to many. Please remember her daughters, Ruth and Margaret, in your prayers at this sad time.

Marion's family add: "We are gathering together to give thanks for the life of Marion Seaman on Friday 6 February at 12:00. The service will be at St Mary Magdalen followed by refreshments at Knighton Free Church, just over the road, because of her fellowship with the congregation there.

Because of her assurance of eternal life and our thanks that she is now with her Lord, we are sure Marion would not want us to wear black so please choose whatever is comfortable. If you have any queries please get in touch with ruthkerr29@gmail.com [PLEASE NOTE: Marion's coffin will be received into Church at 9am on the morning of the service. If you need to enter the Church that morning, please treat the space with the appropriate dignity and respect before the funeral takes place at noon.]

Laurie Jarvis: I'm sad to have to tell you that our old friend and church member Laurie Jarvis died some days ago. Many of you will remember Laurie in her usual place on a Sunday morning with her good friend Audrey, as she was such a fixture, until the Covid pandemic kept so many of us at home for such a long time. After a time in hospital last year, Laurie had moved to the Nightingales care home in Wigston, and continued to remember her many friends at St Mary's and the faith she shared with us all. Our condolences and best wishes go out to her family and friends who meant so much. *Adrian*

Christingle: The total amount raised for the Children's Society at the Christingle Service was £200.21.

COMING UP What's happening at St Mary's on Sundays in February 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!

- 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 1st February** our theme is "Mind the gap!" as we remember the coming together of both old and young generations when the infant Jesus was presented at the Temple.
- **Sunday 8th February**, in our service of Sung Eucharist, sees us return again to the story of Jesus *"According to Matthew"*, as we consider words from the Sermon on the Mount.
- The third **Sunday of February, 15th**, falls just after Valentine's day so our theme for Morning Worship is *'Love ...Actually'*.
- **Sunday 22nd February** is the first Sunday of Lent and we begin a new Sunday series to help us prepare for the celebration of Easter – look out for more details to come! Our service today is a Sung Eucharist.

• 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 PRAYER FOR THE CONFIRMATION OF ELECTION OF THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

Almighty God,
you call your Church in every age
to proclaim the Gospel of Christ:
look with mercy upon your servant Sarah,
and grant that, as deacon, she may care for those in need,
as priest, sustain us with the ministry of word and sacrament,
and as bishop, guard the faith
and build up the body of Christ in holiness.
Giver her wisdom and kindness
that as archbishop, she may promote unity, seek truth,
and lead us in the way of righteousness and peace;
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.



Christian Unity and Diversity – questions for all of us.

Last Sunday, as we began the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, we explored in my sermon the way in which Christian Unity and Christian Diversity are bound together – if one flourishes then so does the other.

I left the congregation with two important questions to consider, in the light of both our emerging Minster Community partnership and also the Church of England's continuing debate about the place of gay and lesbian Christians.

Together with the other churches in our Minster Community, **what are the key things that we at St Mary's should *do* to help our churches be more united?**

Remembering that our society has a rich diversity of people of different ages, abilities, cultures, nationalities, languages, race, faith, sexual identity and much more, **what are the key things we need to change at St Mary's to show *everyone* that they are welcome?**

Whether you heard the sermon or not, I'd really like to know your views on these questions – in confidence and/or anonymously, your views will help the PCC in some important discussions over the coming months. Please send me an email, catch me for a conversation or write your responses on paper, put them in a sealed envelope and drop it into the collection plate or the Vicarage letterbox.

Many thanks in anticipation.

Yours

Adrian

In the spotlight: *Embrace the Middle East*

One of the charities that we have supported over recent years is Embrace the Middle East, or just 'Embrace' for short. Formerly called *Bible Lands*, Embrace is a Christian development charity that seeks to tackle poverty and injustice across the Middle East. Embrace works with local partner organisations to bring about real change on the ground through local, small-scale projects. To help Christians in the UK connect with the real lives of our neighbours in Gaza, Egypt, Lebanon and Syria, Embrace produces the widely used 'Bethlehem Carol Sheets', Lent and Advent devotional materials, a regular magazine and 'shop' catalogue, and an up-to-date website, embraceme.org



At St Mary's we regularly use Embrace's prayer and study ideas, news reports and fairtrade products – and the *Bethlehem Carol Sheets* every year! Supporting Embrace is a way in which we can make a practical difference as Christians and help change lives in the lands that we still call 'Holy'.

To find out more please visit the website or pick up a copy of the Prayer Guide at the back of church.

Adrian

THANK YOU

The Marie Curie Lunch last year on 16th October at Leicester College raised **£2117.84** for the charity. Well done to everyone who came.

We hope to see you all this year. Many thanks. Shirley Wills.



Appeal for a weekday lift to/from the shops

Veronica Brown asks if anyone might be kind enough to help out with an occasional lift from her home in Wigston to and from the shops in Queens Rd Clarendon Park between 9 -11 am on any weekday except Monday. Please ring her around lunchtime on a Monday if you feel able to help: 0116 2889284

Virtual Compline 8.00pm Wednesday evenings

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 #

St. Guthlac's Church

Holbrook Road, Leicester. LE2 3LF



Musical Connections



*An evening of well-known organ music,
with stories of the composers, their inspiration
and the musical links between them, presented by...*

David Beeby

**Assistant Director of Music
Christchurch Priory**

Music to include:

*J. S. Bach - Toccata & Fugue in D minor, Elgar - 'Nimrod'
Walton - Music for 'Richard III', Mendelssohn - Organ Sonata No. 3*

'Tea & Talk'

ALL WELCOME

Tuesday 17th February at 7.00pm

FREE Admission & Refreshments

<https://www.stguthlac-knighton.co.uk>

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Did you know that we're registered on #easyfundraising? This means you can raise free donations for us in 2026 when you shop online! Over 8,000 retailers will make a donation to St Mary Magdalen - Knighton PCC on your behalf when you shop with them. We have raised over £500 so far - Please sign up today. All the big names like Sainsbury's, Argos and Just Eat are ready to donate at no extra cost to you. Plus, sign up today and we could win a £500 donation: <https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/st-mary-magdalen-knighton-pcc/h2y5ev/c2s/ahT9IaEN/CE945/facebook/>

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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.

"No time for prayer? I do not understand how you can live such a careless life as that." *Charles Spurgeon*

Praying for each other this month In this new month of February, please pray for all our friends and congregation members whose surnames begin with the letters E, F, G and H. Pray that in these cold days they'll experience the warmth of God's love, as he shares it with us both in Jesus and through our companions and families.

Praying for the World: Once again, as we look at the world news, we see the vital need for leaders in every nation who are people of integrity, wisdom and compassion - who are committed to public service rather than personal power. Pray that God will raise up a new generation of hopeful, faithful, effective leaders - in politics, religion, business, science and the creative arts.

Praying for the Church: With others across our Diocese, please pray for the mission and ministry of the people and leaders of All Saints, Belgrave , and St Peter's Belgrave, here in Leicester.

Praying for the Parish, our neighbours and friends: Please pray for the peace and well-being of all those who live on **Southernhay Rd, Southernhay Close, Southern Hay Avenue, Cara Close, Estima Close, Westernhay 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 , **Eileen McKellican, June Rich, Ruth Smith, 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. We especially remember the family and friends of **Marian Seaman, Clive Barker, Andy Sharpe and Laurie Jarvis**