



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



**DOUBLE ISSUE
Newsletter for Sunday
25th December 2022 and Sunday 1st January
Christmas Day**

Collect for this week

Eternal God,
who made this most holy night
to shine with the brightness of your one true light:
bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth,
to see the radiance of your heavenly glory;
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.



DIARY

Sunday 25th December <i>Christmas Day</i> <i>Happy Christmas!</i>	9.00am Christmas Eucharist (trad) 10.30am Christmas Celebration for All followed by short communion for those who wish to stay 10.30am Eucharist at St Guthlacs
Monday 26th December	7.00pm Bell ringing practice
Tuesday 27th December	No Holy Communion (St Mary's)
Wednesday 28th December	
Thursday 29th December	No Holy Communion (St Guthlacs)
Friday 30th December	
Saturday 31st December	
Sunday 1st January <i>2nd Sunday of Christmas</i>	10.30am Joint Eucharist at St Guthlac's Happy New Year!
Monday 2nd January	7.00pm Bell Ringing
Tuesday 3rd January	No Holy Communion (St Mary's)
Wednesday 4th January	
Thursday 5th January	No Holy Communion (St Guthlac's)
Friday 6th January	7.00pm Choir Practice
Saturday 7th January	
Sunday 8th January <i>Epiphany</i>	9.00am Eucharist (trad) 10.30am Sung Eucharist 10.30am All Age Worship at St Guthlacs

Sunday Club over Christmas and New Year: please note that Sunday Club takes a break on 25th December and 1st January - back to normal on 8th January!

Adrian adds: "After Christmas I'll be taking some days of rest with the family, taking up the reins again on Wednesday 4th January. In the meantime, for urgent messages please send me a text on my mobile number 07919 262399, which I'll check each day."

Church Family News

Grateful thanks to Sunday Club leader now stepping down: After many years of faithful service to our children and young people, one of our Sunday Club leaders is stepping down from their role at the end of this year. Teresa Bowdry has formed a key part of the team that has nurtured faith in our children over thirty years, and we are so grateful to her for her willing service and dedication in this important task. We thanked Teresa in our service last Sunday, and at the same time remembered the commitment of Judi Stone as previous leader of the Sunday Club team - because of her illness we never really had an adequate opportunity to thank Judi publicly before she died, but many of you will know that her contribution, to this and many other areas of church life, was hugely significant. We are so grateful to God for both these leaders, and all those who have supported our children and young people over the years, and we wish Teresa all the best now.

The team is currently led by Alison Roche and we would welcome extra volunteers stepping up to help as either an occasional 'helper' or as a more regular leader. Do have a chat to one of us if this is something you can offer.

Adrian & Alison

Thanks The Christmas Tree Festival team would like to thank everyone for their generosity and help this year in making the weekend a great community success. We had so many positive comments made by visitors about the welcome they received and the memories they had of attending St Mary's – with a number asking about the times of the Christmas services. Thank you once again to all contributors to the raffle prize baskets, the people/ organisations who displayed a tree and all who gave up their valuable time to help in various ways and areas. What a busy weekend.

Thank you, from the Knighton Christmas Tree Festival Team.

ADVANCE NOTICE - SUNDAY 1ST JANUARY 2023 Please note that on New Year's Day, the first Sunday of January, there will be only **one** service in the benefice. This will be a Communion service at St Guthlac's, starting at 10.30am as usual. Please make a note in your diaries now! Many apologies for any inconvenience. Also, please note that there will be no midweek Communion Service on **Tuesday 27th December** or **Tuesday 3rd January**.

Service of Prayer for Healing, with Holy Communion: please note that won't be a Healing Service on Friday 30th December. The next will be on **Friday 27th January**, 11am as usual.

Christmas Cards: As usual, we have a section of the notice board at the back of the church for your Christmas Cards to everyone. If you can, please make a donation to Christian Aid or the Childrens' Society at the same time.

Andrew & Carolyn Oldershaw in Market Harborough, wish all of our church family a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year

Reports, announcements, reminiscences, musings ...

There's room for all of these and more in the Benefice Magazine. Your fellow readers want to hear from you, so why not contribute now?

The next issue comes out in mid-January. Send your contributions to stmaryknighton.magazine@gmail.com, ideally by 4 January.

Nigel Siesage

Listening to God's Word

Our Bible reading for **Sunday 25th December** is:

Isaiah 79.2-7 and Luke 2.1-20

Good news! Our new Warm Room :

Thanks to the valiant efforts of our decorating team we are nearly ready to open the Cottage Room (small lounge) in the Parish Centre, as a Warm Room. This is a space for those feeling the cold and the pinch financially, but also for everyone who would like a cuppa and a chat. BUT ...we need volunteer helpers who will staff the room, receive our visitors and give them a warm welcome. If you could help with volunteering for a couple of hours each week then please do let me know.

We would like to open on Thursday afternoons in the first instance, but if we have offers for other times too then we can extend our hours! Thank you in anticipation. *Adrian*

Leicester South Foodbank: Special thanks to everyone who supported our Christmas Appeal for donations of food for the Food Bank, which was received with very much appreciation!

"The donations of food and toiletries were taken to the South Leicester foodbank where they were weighed and recorded against the name of our church. The total donations were 72kg. God Bless you for your generous donations." *Sian*

Christmas Greetings from the Vicarage: As we rapidly approach Christmas and the end of the year, I'd like to pass on my sincere thanks to everyone who has put in time, expertise, hard work and commitment to our many Advent & Christmas events across the benefice. I hope that during the busy-ness of the season you have all found moments of peace and reflection, and that the message of the angels, "Do not be afraid!" , has encouraged you and helped you to trust that the future is in God's good hands.

Thank you all so much for the many cards and gifts that have arrived at the Vicarage - Alison, Skye and Derry join with me in sending everyone our best wishes for a very happy Christmas and a peaceful, blessed New Year. *Adrian*

Christmas 2022 at St Mary's

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

An informal service for all the family in which we place the crib figures in the stable as the Christmas story is retold in words and mime by children and young people – come dressed as your favourite nativity character and join in!

Midnight Communion: Saturday 24th December, 11.30pm. A service of Holy Communion and Carols to take us into Christmas Day.

Christmas Day: Sunday 25th December, 9am.

A quiet start to Christmas Day with Holy Communion using traditional language.

Christmas Day All Age Worship and Communion:

Sunday 25th December, 10.30am. Join us to celebrate Christmas Day with a service for everyone, including a short **Holy Communion** for those who wish to stay on.



THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION sends grateful thanks for the very generous collection from St Mary's Church (despite missing tin) of **£477.97**.



Coffee Morning



On Saturday 14th January 2023

From 10 - 12 noon

In St. Mary Magdalen Church

Stalls to include

Unwanted Christmas Gifts

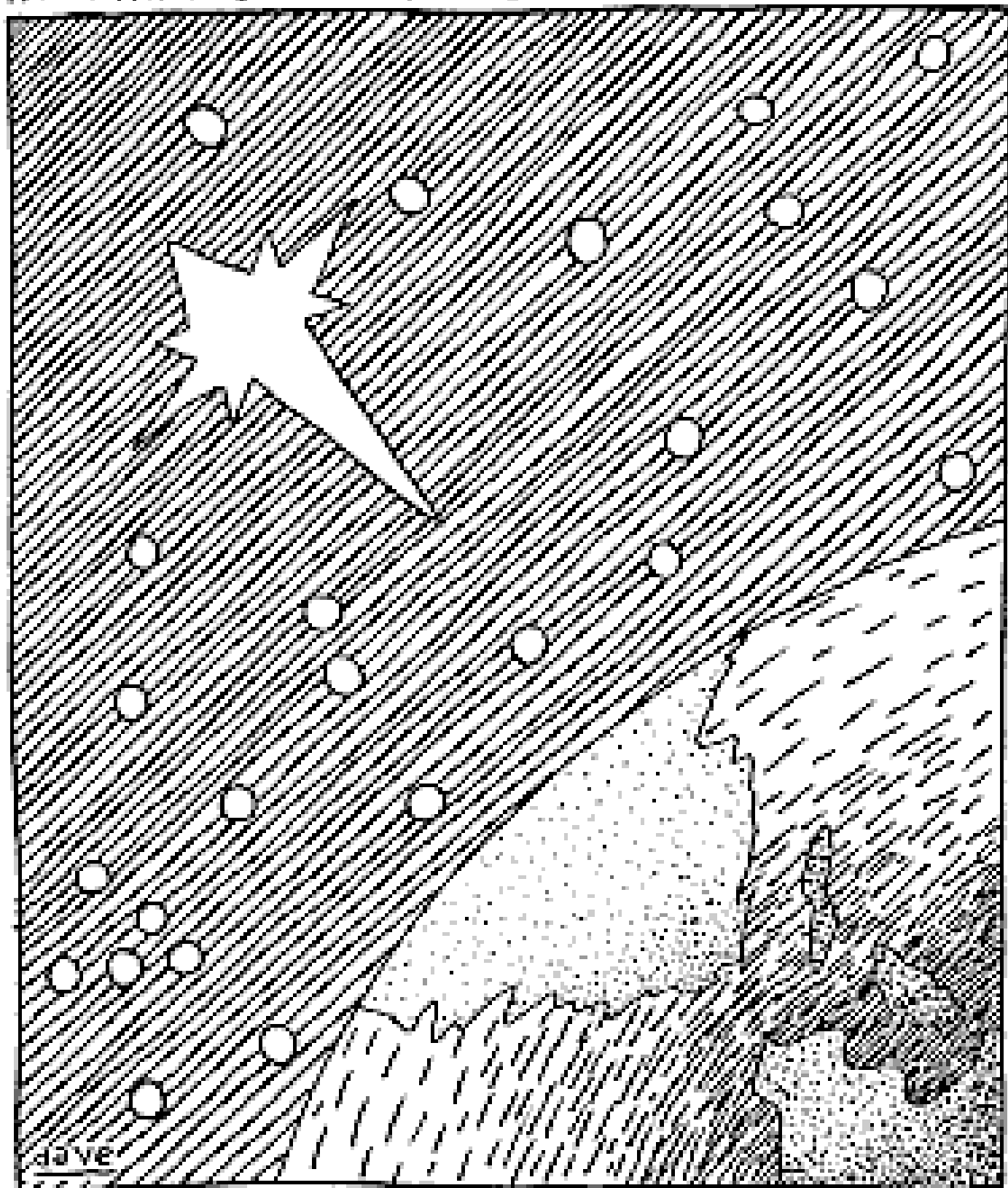
Cakes, Books and Raffle

Just come along

Everyone Welcome



He came down to earth from heaven



who is God and Lord of all

Christian Aid Christmas Appeal—a message from Christian Aid:

“The excitement and pleasure of Christmas dinner is one of our most cherished traditions...

In Malawi, it's something that families - like Fyness' - cherish too. But hunger has grown, due to the climate crisis. Sadly, many families will have little or nothing left to eat this Christmas. Hotter temperatures, drought, destructive downpours and floods are playing havoc with the growing seasons, causing food shortages. This year, many will struggle even to have their staple food of maize porridge. As Fyness tends to her bountiful garden, she remembers what a Christmas with no food is like. 'In the past, I was lacking food. I struggled to find food,' she says. Now, she's able to share the festive joy of a plate piled high; of plates filled with delicious chicken and rice as the special, once-a-year meal.

Your gift could enable someone like Fyness to grow food in ways that are more resilient to climate change. So please, reach out and share the greatest Christmas tradition of all – love.”

Envelopes will be available in church over the Christmas period. If possible, please Gift Aid your donation – it will add another 25% to your gift. Many thanks, *Eileen*

Online Compline on Wednesdays—8.00pm

We will meet online as usual on Wednesday 28th December.

Join Zoom Meeting [**https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81118183080**](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81118183080)

Meeting ID: 811 1818 3080

Dial by your location **0203 481 5240**

Contact details:

Vicar: Adrian Jones 0116 270 4268 or 07919 262399
Email: adrian.jones@zoho.com (rest day normally Friday)

Ordinand: Cecilia Adjadje 07425 705221
cadjadje@yahoo.com (Wed, Thurs, Sat, Sun)

Revd Aphro McCullough 0116 283 7887
aphro.mccullough@btinternet.com

Revd Janet Gasper 0116 288 9646
jgasper925@gmail.com

Lay Reader: Fiona Wingate 07515 752954
fiona.wingate@talktalk.net

Churchwarden: Sian Howard 07932 557646
sian.howard@tiscali.co.uk

Churchwarden: Beryl Bonfield 0116 2702202
berylbonfield1945@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 bank standing order as part of our Planned Giving Scheme. Scheme details can be obtained from Lorna Pollard, Planned Giving Scheme Secretary: email: stmarysknighton.giving@gmail.com or phone 01162704272. If you are a taxpayer and gift aid your giving, our church can claim an additional 25%. Cheques to **Knighton PCC** please.

Prayers for this week

“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.”

(Colossians 4.2)

Praying for the world: This Christmas time please pray that the birth of Jesus - the greatest sign we have of God's love for the world- might inspire peace and an end to conflict across the nations. Pray for those who suffer as a consequence of war and violence, and that we might all be moved to play our own part in building peace wherever we live.

Praying for the Church: Please pray for all Christians, that our faith might be sincere, and that we would live and act in love for God, each other and our neighbours across the world. Ask God for renewal, inspiration, and strength for all that he calls us to in 2023, and that we might always 'keep in step with the Spirit' (Galatians 5.25)

Praying for the Parish: Please pray for the peace and well-being of all those who live on **Welford Court, The Cedars, Muston Gardens, Wyndale Road, Brinsmead Road.**

Praying for those in need: Please pray for all those who are in need at the moment, those who are unwell in body, mind or spirit, and those who are anxious and worried. In particular please pray this week for **John Gates, Doreen Macafee, Ann Beams, Diane Stockton, Keith Gutteridge, John Orme and Peter Relph.**

Pray as well for all those on our parish '*Continuing Prayer*' list, that they may know the power of God's healing love at work in their lives today. Also, give thanks for those who are recovering and who know God's peace.

Please remember in your prayers the families and friends of all those who have died recently. Remember too, all those whose anniversaries fall at this time.