



## DIARY

<b>Sunday 22nd January</b> <i>3rd Sunday of Epiphany</i>	9.00am Weekly Eucharist (trad) <b>10.30am Sung Eucharist for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: Guest Preacher Revd Leigh Greenwood (Stoneygate Baptist Church)</b> 10.30am Morning Prayer at St Guthlacs
Monday 23rd January	7.00pm Bell ringing practice
Tuesday 24th January	9.30am Holy Communion (St Mary's) 2.00pm MU Fellowship (Centre Lounge)
Wednesday 25th January	10.30m Wednesday Small Group (Centre) 2.00pm Diocesan Registrars Surgery for the City Deanery 8.00pm Compline (Zoom)
Thursday 26th January	9.30am Holy Communion (St Guthlacs) 11.30am Funeral - Revd John Gates 1.30pm Funeral - Royston Grocock
Friday 27th January	11.00am Service of Prayer for Healing, with Holy Communion 7.00pm Choir Practice
Saturday 28th January	10.00am Bell ringing practice
<b>Sunday 29th January</b> <b><i>Candlemas</i></b>	9.00am Weekly Eucharist <b>10.30am Joint Sung Eucharist</b> <b>Guest Preacher Susan Littlemore (Christians Against Poverty)</b>

**Please check the online diary for updates and beyond the week ahead: [www.stmarysknighton.co.uk](http://www.stmarysknighton.co.uk)**

***Sunday Club***, for children at primary school, meets during the 10.30am service on both the second and third Sundays of each month. Everyone is welcome even if it's your first time here! Just ask one of the Welcome Team to point out our leaders, and then say hello :)

On the first Sunday we all stay together for All Age Worship, and on the fourth Sunday why not join us at 10.30 for the relaxed, cafe- style Church Club at St Guthlac's, Holbrook Road?

## Church Family News

**The death of Vic Ironmonger:** It's with great sadness that I have to tell you that our friend Vic Ironmonger died on Tuesday evening. Vic had been in hospital for a few days but deteriorated rapidly at the weekend and died unexpectedly but peacefully.

Over the years Vic contributed a huge amount to the life of St Mary's, and was a member of the choir for over 70 years. We will all miss his gentle humour and concern for others. Please remember Margaret and Lesley in your prayers. *Adrian*

**Maurice Allen** - Those of you who have been part of St Mary's congregation for some years will remember Maurice Allen. He and his wife Rita were very involved in church life until failing health meant they had to step back. Sadly, Maurice died a few days ago. Since Rita's death in 2017 he had lived at Amberwood Care Home, supported by his family. Maurice's funeral will be at South Leicestershire Crematorium, Countesthorpe at noon on 16th February. *Adrian*

**Sad news of the death of the Revd John Gates:** Some of you will already have heard the sad news that our friend and former congregation member at St Mary's, the Revd John Gates, died on Christmas morning having been in hospital for a short time. John was a gentle leader and encourager who never failed to have a kind word and a good suggestion, and many of us will miss his cheerful and faithfully positive approach to the challenges of life.

This is a particularly difficult time of year for anyone to be bereaved and our thoughts and prayers go out to Barbara and their families, as they prepare for John's funeral, which will be at St Mary's on Thursday 26th January at 11.30am. Everyone is welcome of course. *Adrian*

### Listening to God's Word

Our Bible reading for **Sunday 22nd January** is:

**Micah 6.8 and Luke 10: 25-37**

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity:** We value the friendship and support of our fellow Christians in other churches across the city and so it is good that we mark, each year, the week of Prayer for Christian Unity - in 2023 it begins on 18th January. I'm pleased to say that at St Mary's at 10.30am on Sunday 22nd we will host, as preacher, the Rev'd Leigh Greenwood from Stoneygate Baptist Church, while I will be preaching for them. I hope that you'll put the date on your calendar and help to give Leigh a warm welcome. *Adrian*

**Advance notice!** This month has five Sundays, and as usual we'll be taking the fifth as an opportunity for a joint benefice service, where we join together with the congregation of St Guthlac's to worship, pray, learn, and get to know each other better. On **Sunday 29th January** we will join together at St Mary's for a Eucharist, and to hear Susan Littlemore, a speaker from **Christians Against Poverty** - see below for more information about CAP. As we aim to bring all our church members together in the one service on this Sunday, there won't be a 9am Eucharist at St Mary's that day.

**Christians Against Poverty** was founded in 1996 by John Kirkby. He believed God was calling him to sacrifice his career in finance and use his knowledge of the industry to help those in need. In his hometown of Bradford, John began to use his expertise to help ordinary people weighed down by debt and unable to make ends meet, to support families facing eviction and to bring hope to desperate people trapped by poverty. In partnership with local churches and other committed volunteers trained as debt counsellors, John expanded the network of CAP centres to other areas of the country. Today, as well as offering debt help, Christians Against Poverty offer practical advice about living well on a low income through Life Skills groups, and support people stepping into employment through CAP Job Clubs. Through this UK-wide network of projects, CAP have a vision of transformed lives, thriving churches and an end to UK poverty. All Christians and churches are invited to be part of this essential service of others.

# Be-Longing: Praying for Unity amidst Injustice



## United Service for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

**St Thomas More Church, 75 Knighton Rd, LE2 3HN**

on Sunday 22nd January at 6.30pm

## Lunchtime Pilgrimage (16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> January)

Day 1	Mon 16th	Noon	<b>Clarendon Park Congregational Church</b> Springfield Rd/London Rd, Leicester, LE2 3BB
Day 2	Tue 17th	Noon	<b>St Mary Magdalen Church</b> Brinsmead Rd, Leicester LE2 3WD
Day 3	Wed 18th	12:30	<b>Leicester Quakers</b> 16 Queens Road Leicester, LE2 1WP
Day 4	Thur 19th	Noon	<b>Christchurch</b> 105A Clarendon Park Rd, LE2 3AH
Day 5	Fri 20th	Noon	<b>Stoneygate Baptist Church</b> 315 London Road, LE2 3ND

**Churches Together South Leicester** - <https://together.ourchurchweb.org.uk/southleicester>

**Mothers' Union Fellowship** Our next meeting is on Tuesday, 24th January in the Parish centre lounge - 1.30 for a 2pm start. Our speaker, Sue Clark, will tell us about the Growbaby Vision which "aims to practically demonstrate God's love by providing Leicester families that are living in hardship, with free, good quality, new and preloved children's clothing and baby equipment". As always, non-members are very welcome to join us. LP

**A date for your diary:** Friday 3rd March the World Day of Prayer. The service this year has been prepared by Christian women of Taiwan with the theme "I have heard about your faith". Our afternoon service will be held at St Thomas More church and the evening service at Clarendon Park Congregational church.

**CHRISTIAN AID CHRISTMAS APPEAL:** donations for this appeal totalled £250.67, which will be enhanced by £45 Gift Aid. Many thanks for your generous gifts. *Eileen McKellican*

**New Year - new growth?** Perhaps, as 2023 starts, you're feeling that you want to see your Christian faith grow in the new year, in the company of supportive friends? You're invited to join our new Wednesday morning small group, where each week we will learn from the Bible together and pray for the challenges and opportunities of our daily lives. We will meet from 10.30am - noon, in the redecorated Cottage Room of the Parish Centre, starting with coffee/tea and cake! To find out more please chat to me or just come along! Our 'Wednesday Small Group' starts on 18th January. *Adrian*

**Online Compline on Wednesdays—8.00pm**

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81118183080>

**Meeting ID: 811 1818 3080**

Dial by your location **0203 481 5240**

## Contact details:

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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 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](mailto: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 **Knighthon PCC** please.

## Prayers for this week

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

(Colossians 4.2)

**Praying for the world:** this week please pray for peace and justice in all the world's "hotspots" of conflict. Pray for the United Nations, for peace-keeping troops and all those working for greater unity and co-operation between nations.

**Praying for the Church:** please pray for greater Christian unity locally, nationally and internationally. Pray that we will become much more aware of the lives of our Christian brothers and sisters, and their churches, in the global majority world.

**Praying for the Parish:** Please pray for the peace and well-being of all those who live on **Lambourne Road, Fairholme Road, Cairnsford Road, Ferndale Road, Northdene 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 **Doreen Macafee, Diane Stockton, 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. We especially pray for **Michael Gasper and Brian M.** 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. We especially remember **Vic Ironmonger, Maurice Allen, Iona Maynard, Royston Grocock, Elaine Bomford, and John Gates.** Remember too, all those whose anniversaries fall at this time.