



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

**ECO CHURCH**  
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## **Newsletter for Sunday 17th May 2026 Sunday after Ascension**

### **Collects for this week**

O God the King of glory,  
you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ  
with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven:  
we beseech you, leave us not comfortless,  
but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us  
and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
Amen.

Risen, ascended Lord,  
as we rejoice at your triumph,  
fill your Church on earth with power  
and compassion,  
that all who are estranged by sin  
may find forgiveness  
and know your peace,  
to the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.



## The Week Ahead..

Sunday 17th May <i>Sunday after Ascension</i>	9.00am Eucharist <b>10.30am Morning Worship</b> 10.30am Eucharist at St Guthlac's
Monday 18th May	2.00pm-4.00pm Drop-In (Parish Centre) 7.30pm Bell Ringing practice
Tuesday 19th May	9.30am Holy Communion (St Mary's)
Wednesday 20th May	8.00pm Online Compline
Thursday 21st May	9.30am Holy Communion (St Guthlac's)
Friday 22nd May	
Saturday 23rd May	
Sunday 24th May <i>Pentecost</i>	9.00am Eucharist (trad) <b>10.30am Sung Eucharist</b> 10.30am Morning Prayer 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 readings on **Sunday 17th May** are:

**Acts 1.6-14** and **John 17.1-11**

Our sermon at 10.30am is titled "Epilogue...or Prologue?"

## Church Family News

### **Sad news- Mark Newell**

I was greatly saddened to hear this week that Mark Newell has died. As the son of Bob and Jan Newell, Mark was well known to many of us and would come to services at St Mary's whenever work and health allowed.

Although he faced significant personal challenges, Mark had a deep and sincere faith, and trusted in God's goodness and care - I'm also going to miss his good sense of humour and real concern for others. Please remember his sisters, Debbie and Jen, in your prayers over these difficult days. *Adrian*

**Birthday congratulations!** Many congratulations to our friend Audrey Griffiths, who celebrated her 97th birthday this week. We wish her many happy returns.

**A lift to church?** Sometimes older cars can't be fixed, and Valerie Thompson now finds that hers needs to retire. She would very much like to continue worshipping with us at St Mary's on Sundays, so if anyone might be able to occasionally offer a lift from the LE5 area please do let me know. Thank you. *Adrian*

**Saturday 16th May** - please note that the Church will be being used for a Thanksgiving Service for the life of Bob Hattersley, on Saturday 16th May, from 11am to 1pm, with the service beginning at 11.30am. *Adrian*

### **Overdale School Summer Fair 2026, Saturday 27th June**

This year, the fair will take place from 12-2.30pm.

It is a great annual outreach opportunity for the church and, as usual, we have been asked to run a little 'stall' there. This takes the form of some fun activities for children; handing out various freebies; and just generally chatting with people. We would like to put a small team of volunteers together so, if you will be available and would like to help out, please let Sian know via her usual contact details at the end of the newsletter - or just mention it to her on a Sunday. *Sian Howard*

## COMING UP ..... What's happening at St Mary's on Sundays in May and June 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!

- Our Morning Worship on **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May** is a service without Communion, that gives space for doing things slightly differently. This month we'll be taking a closer look at the **Ascension** of Jesus ... why does it matter?
- The fourth **Sunday** of **May is 24<sup>th</sup>**, and we come together for a service of Sung Eucharist as we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit at **Pentecost**.
- There is also a fifth Sunday in May – we join together for a joint benefice Eucharist on **Trinity Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> May** – this time we are hosted at St Guthlac's at 10.30am.
- After Trinity we begin a short series of six Sundays reflecting on ***"Lessons from the Desert"*** as we look at the account of the Exodus in the Old Testament. On **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June** we share Worship for the Whole Church (All Ages) and think about Moses.
- The service on the second Sunday of the month, **14<sup>th</sup> June**, is a Sung Eucharist, and our focus in Exodus is the crossing of the Red Sea.
- Our Morning Worship on **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June** will help us to reflect on what we can learn today from the experience of God's ancient people in the desert: *"Water, manna and quail"*.

- The final **Sunday** of **June, 28<sup>th</sup>**, is again a service of Sung Eucharist, and we'll recall the meeting of Moses and Jethro, in the Book of the Exodus.

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).

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### **COFFEE MORNING SATURDAY 9TH MAY.**

Another successful coffee morning was held in St. Mary's Church and raised a total of **£581.00** towards the expense of running our Parish Church.

The Social Committee thank all who came, enjoying the coffee/tea cakes, the music, the tables displaying many interesting items for sale and the raffle.

I personally thank all the helpers. Without them, this event could not happen.

The next event to be held in the Church will be on **Sunday 28th June** in the afternoon look out for the details on the Posters. *Beryl*



## **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 10-16 MAY**

Since we are no longer able to conduct a house-to-house collection, envelopes will be available in church for your donation. If you are a UK taxpayer, please consider taking an extra couple of minutes to complete the Gift Aid declaration and enclose it in the envelope: this will increase the value of your gift by 25%, at no extra cost to yourself. **Envelopes can be returned via the collection plate in the next 2-3 weeks'.**

### **What is Christian Aid Week?**

Christian Aid Week is a powerful expression of what can happen when compassion leads to action.

It's our shared moment to come together – across churches, communities and households – to stand alongside people living in poverty around the world.

For one week each year, thousands of people across Britain and Ireland give, fundraise, pray and act together. Together, those actions make change possible.



## BENEFICE MAGAZINE

The next issue of the magazine will appear in mid-June. The closing date for copy will be Friday 5 June. Please make sure I have information about any forthcoming church events which could helpfully be advertised in this edition. And of course I continue to welcome any articles, thoughts, reminiscences which may be of interest to our readership. The email address is [stmaryknighton.magazine@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryknighton.magazine@gmail.com). (Readers from St Guthlac's shouldn't be discouraged by this address).

Editor Nigel



### **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 MAY FAYRE**  
**Saturday 16th May 2026**

**11:00am – 2:00pm**

**Holbrook Road, Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF**

**PLANTS & GARDENING**

Summer Bedding Plants  
Vegetables & Herbs  
Annuals & Perennials

**FOOD & REFRESHMENTS**

Coffee, Tea & Cakes  
Lunches  
Popcorn & Soft Drinks

**STALLS & ACTIVITIES**

Cakes & Preserves  
Knitted Goods  
Jigsaws & Games  
Jewellery  
Tombola  
Craft  
Leicestershire Family History Society

**FREE ADMISSION – ALL WELCOME!**

Tea and Talk meeting for June...

## **NatureSpot and Knighton Wild** **Simon Bennett & Alan Cann**

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June at 7pm

St Guthlac's Church, Holbrook Rd LE2 3LF



**NatureSpot** is a local charity in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. Through its website it encourages people to discover wildlife, identify what they see and hear and record the species that they have found. Simon and Alan are both trustees of **NatureSpot** and live in Knighton. They will talk about **NatureSpot**, how it is used by the local wildlife group Knighton Wild, and what it tells us about local wildlife.

**Free talk and refreshments. Do join us!**

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## Easy Fundraising

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/>

## Contact details:

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**Revd Janet Gasper** 0116 288 9646  
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**Lay Reader: Fiona Wingate**  
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**Churchwarden: Sian Howard** 07932 557646  
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**Churchwarden: Michael Gasper** c/o 0116 270 2705  
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**Parish Administrator: James Gutteridge** 0116 270 2705  
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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](mailto: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:** In the month of May please do pray for all those within our congregation and our wider church community whose surnames begin with the letters Q, R, S and T. Pray that they will know the Holy Spirit as their guide in all of life, inspiring them to the love and service of others.

**Praying for the World:** In the UK political events have stolen the headlines. Please pray for all those around the world who are faced with real and critical struggles in very difficult lives and dangerous circumstances. Pray for those who live in areas of conflict, where medical aid is hard to find, and where food is short. Please pray for Christian Aid and other charities working to bring relief from suffering and a more just world for everyone.

**Praying for the Church:** As we approach the Called Together Lay Ministry Service at the Cathedral on 23rd, please give thanks to God for all those who have responded to God's call as Licensed Ministers ("Associate Ministers" such as Readers and Pastoral Assistants) in our churches, especially for Fiona Wingate, the Reader in our Benefice:

*Almighty and everlasting God,  
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church  
is governed and sanctified:  
hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people,  
that in their vocation and ministry they may serve you in holiness and truth  
to the glory of your name; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.  
Amen.*

**Praying for the Parish, our neighbours and friends:** Please pray for the peace and well-being of all those who live on **Balmoral Close, Carisbrook Park, Kenwood Road, Arreton Close, Carisbrook Avenue, Carisbrook Gardens.**

### **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 **John Matthews, Neill Addison-Gutteridge and Greta Day.**

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 pray for the family and friends of **Mark Newell.**