



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



**Newsletter for Sunday
11th December 2022
3rd Sunday of Advent**

Collect for this week

O Lord Jesus Christ,
who at your first coming sent your messenger
to prepare your way before you:
grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries
may likewise so prepare and make ready your way
by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the
just,
that at your second coming to judge the world
we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;
for you are alive and reign with the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.



DIARY FOR THE WEEK

Sunday 11th December <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i>	9.00am Weekly Eucharist (trad) 10.30am Sung Eucharist 10.30am All Age Worship at St Guthlacs 4.00pm Christingle and Carols
Monday 12th December	7.00pm Bell ringing practice
Tuesday 13th December (office closed)	9.30am Holy Communion (St Mary's) 3-5pm Junior School rehearsal 7.30pm Advent Meditation 'Joy' - at St Guthlac's
Wednesday 14th December	8.00 pm Compline on Zoom
Thursday 15th December (office closed)	9-12.30pm Junior School Christmas Nativity 9.30 am Holy Communion (St Guthlac)
Friday 16th December	9-12.30pm Infant School Christmas Nativity 1.00pm Interment of Ashes 7.00pm Choir Practice
Saturday 17th December	
Sunday 18th December <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i>	9.00am Weekly Eucharist 10.30am Morning Worship 10.30am Eucharist at St Guthlacs

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?

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!

Church Family News

A huge 'thank you!' to everyone who worked so hard to make our Christmas Tree Festival last weekend such a success once more. I am very grateful to Sue Holligan and all the team who worked on preparations, and to the very many of you who volunteered over the weekend in so many ways. The Christmas Tree Festival is already a cherished part of many people's celebrations and provides such a boost in challenging times - at its heart is the message of Jesus to 'love your neighbour'. It also serves to strengthen our church connections with the local community, builds goodwill and relationships, and raises money for charity. If you enjoyed this year, perhaps you could help out in some way in 2023! Adrian

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.

Many congratulations and best wishes to the Revd Janet Gasper, who celebrates 25 years of her ordination to the priesthood this week.

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.

Mothers' Union Fellowship Our next meeting is on Tuesday 13th December at 12.30 for 1pm for Christmas Lunch at the Cradock. See you there. LP

Please help others in need this Christmas: We are all experiencing challenges this winter, but some families are really struggling in this 'cost of living crisis'. Would you please consider helping others who are in need in our own city by responding to our Christmas Appeal this year? We are collecting for the Leicester South Foodbank and they have an urgent need for items on this list:

- **TINNED BLACK BEANS 400G**
- **TINNED LENTILS 400G**
- **TINNED CHICK PEAS 400G**
- **1Ltr UHT JUICE**
- **TINNED FRUIT 400G**
- **TINNED POTATOES**
- **RICE 1KG**
- **CURRY SAUCE**
- **TINNED SWEETCORN**
- **TINNED TOMATOES 400G**
- **TINNED MEAT**
- **RICE PUDDING 400G**
- **CUSTARD**
- **TOOTH BRUSHES**
- **TOOTHPASTE**
- **ROLL ON DEODORANT**
- **WASHING UP LIQUID**
- **SHAMPOO**
- **CHRISTMAS CHOCOLATE SELECTION PACKS (NO LARGER THAN 250G)**

Please help out by bringing your donations to church NEXT SUNDAY 18th DECEMBER so that we can get them to the foodbank before Christmas (please leave them in a carrier bag if possible). There will be a collection point at the back of the church. Thank you so much. *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**

Advent and Christmas 2022 at St Mary's

Christmas Tree Festival: Saturday 3rd December (10am-5pm) & Sunday 4th December (12.30pm-5pm) The return of our Christmas Tree Festival, in the Church, promises once again to be a treat for all. Supporting LAMP and the St Mary's community garden project, with trees from many local groups, as well as refreshments, we finish with a special **Festival Carol Service** for all, at **5pm on Sunday 4th** .

Carols & Christingle: Sunday 11th December, 4pm.

The highlight of this service, supporting the Children's Society, is the lighting of Christingle candles; a moment filled with wonder for both children and adults.

Traditional *Nine Lessons and Carols*: Sunday 18th December 6.30pm.

A traditional service celebrating the birth of Jesus - Bible readings interspersed with Christmas carols and choral music, led by the St Mary's choir.

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.

Christian Aid Christmas Appeal "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*

Christmas Gifts that help a Good Cause: if you are searching for a special Christmas gift that doesn't add to the mountains of 'stuff' that we already have, and that helps other people at the same time, then you might like to consider the 'alternative' or 'virtual' gifts that are available from a range of charities and good causes.

Ripple Effect is the new name for 'Send a Cow', a charity that St Mary's has previously supported through a Lent Lunch. This year they are offering an imaginative garden twinning plan, that links a UK garden with a family and their plot on Africa:

https://rippleeffect.org/get-involved/individual/garden-twinning/?utm_source=sendinblue&utm_campaign=garden_twinning_22&utm_medium=email

Listening to God's Word

Our Bible reading for **Sunday 11th December** is:

Isaiah 35.1-10 and Matthew 11.2-11

Contact details:

Vicar: Adrian Jones Email: adrian.jones@zoho.com	0116 270 4268 or 07919 262399 (rest day normally Friday)
Ordinand: Cecilia Adjadje cadjadje@yahoo.com	07425 705221 (Wed, Thurs, Sat, Sun)
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Decorating St Marys for Christmas

We will be decorating the church with holly and evergreen foliage on Friday afternoon, 16th December at 2.00pm and Saturday morning, 17th December from 9.30am. Gifts of holly etc will be welcome. Please bring these to church on the Friday. Everyone is welcome, no experience necessary, but it would help me to know who is coming and when. Please sign up at the back of the church or let me know. (01162707525)

Thanks Deborah



Prayers for this week

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

(Colossians 4.2)

Praying for the world: Please pray for the protection of Christians around the world, and in particular for those who live in places where they are persecuted or experience hardship because of their faith. Pray that, in this season of Advent and Christmas, they will be strengthened by the Holy Spirit and that fear will be banished by hope, peace, love and joy. Pray that they will be encouraged by knowing they are part of one global Christian family.

Praying for the Church: Please pray that this will be a time when churches everywhere welcome friends and strangers alike, and that good friendships will be formed now that encourage many people to explore more about Jesus and the Christian faith in the year to come.

Praying for the Parish: Please pray for the peace and well-being of all those who live on **Ratcliffe Road, Sackville Gardens, College Court, Queens Road, Eton Close, Harrow Place.**

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, 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, and in particular **Joan Lumb.** Remember too, all those whose anniversaries fall at this time.