



**St Mary Magdalen Church,
Knighton
Sunday 27th February 2022
Sunday next before Lent**



**Join us in prayer, worship and life together,
this Sunday and through the week**

Collect

Almighty Father,
whose Son was revealed in majesty
before he suffered death upon the cross:
give us grace to perceive his glory,
that we may be strengthened to suffer with him
and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.



Artist - Michael Cook

DIARY FOR THIS WEEK

Sunday 27th February	9.00am	Weekly Eucharist (trad)
	10.30am	Sung Eucharist
	10.30am	Morning Prayer at St Guthlacs
Monday 28th February Parish Office Closed		
Tuesday 1st March	9.30am	Eucharist at St Mary's
Wednesday 2nd March Ash Wednesday	7.30pm	Ash Wednesday Communion for the Benefice, St Mary's
	8.00 pm	Compline on Zoom
Thursday 3rd March	9.30am	Eucharist at St Guthlac's
Friday 4th March		
Saturday 5th March		
Sunday 6th March	9.00am	Weekly Eucharist
	10.30am	All Age 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?

Office Please note that the Parish Office is closed on Mondays and on Tuesdays, James works from home. You can call James on Tuesdays on 01664 569556 or email as usual. The Parish Office is open as usual on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. The office number is 0116 270 2705 and the email is office@knightonparish.co.uk

Keeping each other safe during infectious times

No doubt you will have heard the news that all Government regulations and restrictions relating to Corona virus are to be removed in the near future. Whilst it is heartening to think that we can move further towards 'normal' life, I hope that as Christians we will continue to have the highest regard for the safety and wellbeing of other people as well as our own comfort.

In church life I believe this means continuing to be considerate of other people's preferences where they differ from our own – perhaps to continue wearing a mask or keeping some distance from others in services. We ought also to remember that many other people remain very vulnerable to the virus, for all sorts of reasons, and so we should continue to take some sensible precautions when we meet together.

On Sundays, can I please ask you therefore

- to continue sanitising your hands on the way into church;
- to be understanding of those people who would like to continue wearing a face covering;
- to reserve the side chapels for those who would like rather more space around themselves;
- to avoid crowding together after church and to give people a little more space than usual;
- **not** to come to church if you have any symptoms of covid-19 or a positive lateral flow test in the last 24 hours.

For the moment we are continuing to offer Communion 'in one kind only', that is, just wafers/bread but not wine, and from the chancel step rather than the altar rail. In the near future, the PCC will have a discussion about possible changes to this.

Thank you for your understanding and co-operation with these precautions – this way we can remain both safe and welcoming!

Adrian

Listening to God's Word

Our Bible readings for **Sunday 27th February** are:

'Women of the Bible : the Syrophenician woman'

Matthew 15.1-28

That which defiles

15 Then some Pharisees and teachers of the law came to Jesus from Jerusalem and asked, ² 'Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? They don't wash their hands before they eat!'

³ Jesus replied, 'And why do you break the command of God for the sake of your tradition? ⁴ For God said, "Honour your father and mother" and "Anyone who curses their father or mother is to be put to death." ⁵ But you say that if anyone declares that what might have been used to help their father or mother is "devoted to God," ⁶ they are not to "honour their father or mother" with it. Thus you nullify the word of God for the sake of your tradition. ⁷ You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you:

⁸ "'These people honour me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me.

⁹ They worship me in vain;
their teachings are merely human rules.'"

¹⁰ Jesus called the crowd to him and said, 'Listen and understand. ¹¹ What goes into someone's mouth does not defile them, but what comes out of their mouth, that is what defiles them.'

¹² Then the disciples came to him and asked, 'Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this?'

¹³ He replied, 'Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be pulled up by the roots. ¹⁴ Leave them; they are blind guides. If the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit.'

¹⁵ Peter said, 'Explain the parable to us.'

¹⁶ 'Are you still so dull?' Jesus asked them. ¹⁷ 'Don't you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? ¹⁸ But the things that come out of a person's mouth come from the heart, and these defile them. ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil thoughts – murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. ²⁰ These are what defile a person; but eating with unwashed hands does not defile them.'

The faith of a Canaanite woman

²¹ Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. ²² A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, 'Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly.'

²³ Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, 'Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us.'

²⁴ He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel.'

²⁵ The woman came and knelt before him. 'Lord, help me!' she said.

²⁶ He replied, 'It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs.'

²⁷ 'Yes it is, Lord,' she said. 'Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table.'

²⁸ Then Jesus said to her, 'Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted.' And her daughter was healed at that moment.

Galatians 3

Faith or works of the law

3 You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified. ² I would like to learn just

one thing from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by believing what you heard? ³ Are you so foolish? After beginning by means of the Spirit, are you now trying to finish by means of the flesh? ⁴ Have you experienced so much in vain – if it really was in vain? ⁵ So again I ask, does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you by the works of the law, or by your believing what you heard? ⁶ So also Abraham ‘believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.’

⁷ Understand, then, that those who have faith are children of Abraham. ⁸ Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: ‘All nations will be blessed through you.’ ⁹ So those who rely on faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

¹⁰ For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse, as it is written: ‘Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.’ ¹¹ Clearly no one who relies on the law is justified before God, because ‘the righteous will live by faith.’ ¹² The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, it says, ‘The person who does these things will live by them.’ ¹³ Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: ‘Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole.’ ¹⁴ He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.

The law and the promise

¹⁵ Brothers and sisters, let me take an example from everyday life. Just as no one can set aside or add to a human covenant that has been duly established, so it is in this case. ¹⁶ The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. Scripture does not say ‘and to seeds’, meaning many people, but ‘and to your seed’, meaning one person, who is Christ. ¹⁷ What I mean is this: the law, introduced 430 years later, does not set aside the covenant previously established by God and thus do away with the promise. ¹⁸ For if the inheritance depends on the law, then

it no longer depends on the promise; but God in his grace gave it to Abraham through a promise.

¹⁹ Why, then, was the law given at all? It was added because of transgressions until the Seed to whom the promise referred had come. The law was given through angels and entrusted to a mediator. ²⁰ A mediator, however, implies more than one party; but God is one.

²¹ Is the law, therefore, opposed to the promises of God? Absolutely not! For if a law had been given that could impart life, then righteousness would certainly have come by the law. ²² But Scripture has locked up everything under the control of sin, so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe.

Children of God

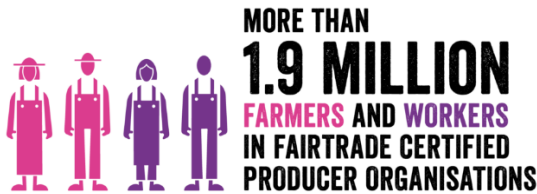
²³ Before the coming of this faith, we were held in custody under the law, locked up until the faith that was to come would be revealed. ²⁴ So the law was our guardian until Christ came that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵ Now that this faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian.

²⁶ So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, ²⁷ for all of you who were baptised into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Thank you Charlotte and the Muddimer Family would like to say a Big Thank You to everyone for all the cards ,thoughts and prayers sent to us during the sad time of Rob's passing. Also thank you to Adrian and Matthew for participating in this memorial to a beloved husband, & father.

Fairtrade makes a difference!

Fairtrade Fortnight has started, and once again, after the 10.30am service, we're enjoying delicious cakes made with Fairtrade ingredients But what difference does buying Fairtrade products actually make?



1,880 FAIRTRADE CERTIFIED PRODUCER
ORGANISATIONS IN 71 COUNTRIES



When *we* buy Fairtrade products *the workers and farmers* gain **economic benefits**:

- The guaranteed Fairtrade Minimum Price gives the farmers that grow products such as cocoa, coffee and bananas much greater income-security and so they are less vulnerable to poverty.
- Additional income which comes from the Fairtrade Premium can be used in the community for agricultural training, building co-operatives and education for children.

There are also **environmental benefits**:

- The Fairtrade Standards ensure greater environmental protection, lower greenhouse gas emissions, protection of biodiversity, and more careful use of chemicals and waste management.
- The Fairtrade Standards promote training for farmers on switching to environmentally friendly practices, such as soil improvement and better natural control of crop pests and diseases.

Then there are **social benefits**:

- Farmers and workers who choose to participate in Fairtrade often feel a real sense of control over their future with greater power and voice.
- Fairtrade boosts workers' rights, improves gender equality, and can lead to better schools, housing and medical facilities in rural communities.

So Fairtrade brings great benefit – and not just wonderful cakes!

You can hear directly from Fairtrade farmers by clicking here: <https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/get-involved/current-campaigns/fairtrade-fortnight/meet-the-fairtrade-farmers/>



World Day of Prayer Friday 4th March

There are two services in our area:

2pm at St John the Baptist Church Clarendon Park Road

7.30pm at the Quaker Meeting House Queens Road

Everyone is welcome at these services prepared by
Christian women of England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

“Doing Lent Gently” in 2022

The season of Lent begins once again with our Ash Wednesday Communion service for both our parishes, on 3rd March at 7.30pm, this year at St Mary’s. Everyone is welcome.



Often Lent is seen as a rather harsh and certainly penitential part of the church year – we are tough on ourselves as preparation for the joy of Easter. This spirit of self-examination, even criticism, and abstinence has its place and can prove valuable –

however – given that so much has already been sacrificed over the last two years, perhaps this Lent should be less about discipline and more about gentleness, with ourselves and each other.

A gentle Lent might help us draw closer to the gentle self-giving of Jesus himself, on his journey to the cross and beyond.

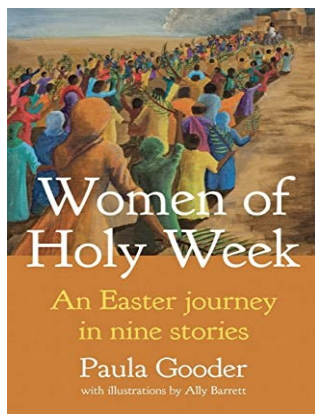
Here are a few suggestions for *‘doing Lent gently’*:

Being still – choose a time each day when you can be still and just sit for a few minutes, either in silence with a five-minute timer, or listening, eyes closed, to a favourite gentle song;

Letting go – think of something that takes time but makes little difference to anyone else, and just let go of it until Easter.... it could be the time you spend on Facebook, watching a TV soap, painting your nails or polishing the car. You could use the time for catching up on something long postponed.

Simple giving – identify a simple thing you can give to others once a week (or more, if easier) ... it could be writing a postcard each weekend to send on Monday, putting flowers in your window, or letting someone go ahead of you in the shopping queue.

Join 'Difference' – this Lent, over five Wednesday evenings from 9th March, we are running 'Difference', a course (on Zoom) that equips Christians to cross divides, navigate disagreement and pursue a just and flourishing world. Through film, Bible study, prayer and discussion we are encouraged to develop the three habits of being curious, being present and reimagining – to build reconciliation and change in place of division. Please email Adrian for details: adrian.jones@zoho.com



Get reading – follow up our Sunday series on women of the Bible by reading "Women of Holy Week" by Paula Gooder. This is an imaginative retelling, in nine stories, of the events of the last days of Jesus through the eyes of the women accompanying him. We'll also have a special coffee morning to discuss the stories together, at 10am on Wednesday 6th April at the Vicarage. Please phone Adrian Jones or Alison Roche on 0116 270 4268 if you'd like a copy of the book for £9.99 .

I hope there is something here to help you do Lent gently this year.
Adrian

Real Easter Eggs

This Fairtrade Fortnight is the time to put in your order for Real Easter Eggs for your friends & family. As well as being Fairtrade they are also plastic & palm oil free, and tell the real Easter story in a booklet updated each year. The cost is £4.50 to pay on collection. Please write your order on the notice at the back of church or let Alison Roche know by Sunday 13th March at the latest.'



Oadby Baptist
Church

A coffee, cake, crafts and chat special

Wednesday 2nd March
10am-12pm



With
daffodil
crafts &
cakes!

Oasis Community Garden & Hall

Thank you to everyone who supports us
and makes our work possible. To find out
how we can help or to make a donation,
visit mariecurie.org.uk



Charity reg no. 257794 (England & Wales), SC038731 (Scotland), 01524



Thanks We'd like to say a huge thank you to Sylvia McNeill and family for the most kind donation of her father's (Fred Osborne) mobility scooter. This has now found a new home and the new owner is so grateful Thank you so much Sylvia.

Fairtrade Fortnight 21st February – 6th March: we shall be serving Fairtrade cakes with coffee after church on 27th February and 6th March - donations to the Fairtrade Foundation welcome!

PLEASE CAN YOU HELP? - Dust and cobwebs are building up in church. The Church needs your help on a regular basis. All willing hands please contact Sian or Beryl, Churchwardens. Contact details are at the back of this newsletter. Thank you.

Jubilee Celebration

Would you be interested in helping St Mary's celebrate the Platinum Jubilee for the Bank Holiday/ first week in June with the community? Help wanted with planning, ideas and practical help for the week. Contact Matthew revgough@gmail.com to get involved. Thanks.

Thanks: I would like to thank all our friends at St. Mary's for their kind wishes and cards sent during my continued illness. It is a source of great comfort to know we are being prayed for and thought about. My treatment may continue for many months to come and I would pay tribute to all who give blood so selflessly. I have first hand experience in receiving many bags of blood so far in my treatment. I know there will be more to come
- it is very humbling to know there are people out there who give so generously.
With love and thanks to you all.
Judi

Doesn't time fly?

It's already time to prepare the next Benefice Magazine. People often thank me for it, but the thanks are entirely due to those of you who contribute. So please keep our readers happy by contributing something now, ideally by 3 March.

In the height of the pandemic, the regular listing of events in the magazine was inevitably discontinued. I plan to revive it now, so please let me know of any significant public events in the Benefice scheduled for the next 6 months.

Nigel Siesage

Copy should be sent to stmaryknighton.magazine@gmail.com



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THURSDAY 31ST MARCH 2022
£12.50 PER PERSON
2:00PM - 4:00PM

BELMONT HOTEL
DE MONTFORT STREET
LE1 7GR

CONTACT SHIRLEY WILLS
0116 281 1401

Raising funds for Marie Curie

How am I to live out my faith?
What could God be saying to me?
What opportunities are there to serve God?

To explore these questions further...

Everyday Calling

with Bishop Saju

Saturday March 26th 10am—3pm

Lunch included

Grand Hall, St Martin's House



Day will include seminars on:

- ◆ How to set up a social action project
- ◆ Exploring ordained or lay ministry
- ◆ How do I hear from God?
- ◆ Training opportunities

Time to chat to people in a range of callings eg

- ◆ Church Army
- ◆ Street Pastors
- ◆ Spiritual Directors
- ◆ Schools projects

To book a place email:

claire.stapleton@leicestercofe.org

(Please state any dietary needs)

Online Compline Night Prayer from 8pm each Wednesday

All Welcome

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://leccofe.zoom.us/j/7467674408?>

pwd=NHRQZ2F0Mmt5Wk5sd2NMc1JtREpaUT09

Meeting ID: 746 767 4408

Passcode: hope

Or Phone In 0131 460 1196 United Kingdom

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 weekly envelope or a monthly bank standing order as part of our Planned Giving Scheme. Scheme details can be obtained from Lorna Pollard, Planned Giving Scheme Secretary: telephone 01162704272 or email: stmarysknighton.giving@gmail.com. If you are a taxpayer and gift aid your giving, our church can claim an additional 25%.

Coffee Morning



On Saturday 12th March 2022

From 10 am - 12 noon

In St Mary Magdalen Church

Brinsmead Road, Knighton

Stalls to include

Plants, Cakes,

& a raffle

Just come along

Everyone welcome

Contact details:

Vicar: Adrian Jones 0116 270 4268 or 07919 262399

adrian.jones@zoho.com (rest day normally Friday)

Curate: Revd Matthew Gough 07754 961997

revgough@gmail.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

Please pray..... *"but you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life. "* (Jude, 20-21)

Praying for the World: Please pray for a peaceful solution to the tension and military build-up in Russia and Ukraine. Pray for all those involved in diplomacy, and that the political leaders will be drawn away from the use and threat of violent force.

Praying for the Church: as we enter the season of Lent, please pray that Christians everywhere will have a new sense of the things we need to let go of and give up ...traditions, practices and preferences that get in the way of others coming to know God and find faith. Pray that we'll have the courage to move out of our 'comfort zone'.

Praying for the Parish: Please pray for the peace and well-being of all those who live on **Heddington Way, Ramsbury Road, Roehampton Drive, Heddington Close, Baldwin 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 **Bob Rutland and Rod Bowditch**

We pray for all those on our parish 'Continuing Prayer' list. May they know the power of God's healing love at work in their lives today. We give thanks to God that David Adjadje is well enough to return home.

We remember those who have died recently and pray for their families and friends. **Rob Muddimer and Oliver Evans**

We remember all those whose anniversaries fall at this time.