



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

ECO CHURCH
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT



Newsletter for Sunday 9th March 2025 1st Sunday of Lent

Collects for this week

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness,
and was tempted as we are, yet without sin:
give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit;
and, as you know our weakness,
so may we know your power to save;
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.

Heavenly Father,
your Son battled with the powers of darkness,
and grew closer to you in the desert:
help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer
that we may witness to your saving love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



The Week Ahead.....

Sunday 9th March <i>1st Sunday of Lent</i>	9.00am Eucharist 10.30am Sung Eucharist 10.30am All Age Worship at St Guthlac's
Monday 10th March	2.00pm-4.00pm Drop In (Parish Centre) 7.30pm Bell Ringing practice
Tuesday 11th March	9.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday 12th March	10.30am Lent Group (Parish Centre) 8.00pm Online Compline
Thursday 13th March	9.30am Eucharist (St Guthlac's) 7.30pm Lent Group (Narthex)
Friday 14th March	
Saturday 15th March	
Sunday 16th March <i>2nd Sunday of Lent</i>	9.00am Eucharist 10.30am Morning Worship 10.30am Eucharist at St Guthlac's

Sunday Club for children at primary and secondary 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?

Listening to God's Word:

Our readings for 9th March are
Deuteronomy 26.1-11 and Luke 4.1-13.

Our theme is "**Hope in the desert**".

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

REPLACEMENT NOTICEBOARD: Many thanks to Amanda Beck for organising the selection and installation of our new church noticeboard at the top of the drive, replacing the one which blew down during recent storms. Thanks also to Garden Grafters for setting it all up for us.

YOLANDA COURTNEY **Yolanda's funeral will be at St Guthlac's on Tuesday 18th March at noon.** The dress code is comfy and relaxed, maybe something 'jolly' and cheerful, jolly being a Yolanda word. There will be a private service at the crematorium at 1pm. This will be followed by the **reception from 2pm at Leicester Guildhall**, Guildhall Lane, LE1 5FQ, to which all are welcome, but **please let David Hunt know** if you will be attending the reception for catering purposes. Thank you. There will be charity collection boxes at both St Guthlac's and Leicester Guildhall in aid of Dementia Research UK & Cats Protection Leicester and County Branch.

MOTHERING SUNDAY: This year Mothering Sunday falls on 30th March. As usual we hope to give out small posies of flowers and greenery, as tokens of appreciation for the loving care shown by so many people. I'd be very grateful if there were a few people who could take on the task of making up the posies in preparation - If you would like to help make our Mothering Sunday posies this year, please do talk to Cora Paul. *Adrian*

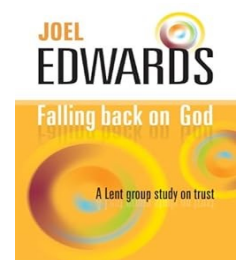
EASTER EGGS Your Fairtrade Easter Eggs have arrived for those that ordered them. Please collect from Alison at church over the next few Sundays with cash if possible (£5.50/egg). Thank you for supporting us as a Fairtrade Church. *Alison Roche*

Getting the most out of Lent 2025

Lent is the traditional part of the Christian year that covers the weeks before Easter, and acts as a preparation for the sombre reflection of Good Friday and the joyful celebration of Easter Day. There are many ways in which you can make it a special time to nurture and grow your Christian faith, and I would encourage you to make the most of the season. Here are some ideas:

Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday**, which is the 5th March this year. Every year we have a special benefice Communion service at 7.30pm – in 2025 the service is at St Guthlac's. Christians have often prepared for this rather serious service by skipping a meal or reducing what they eat on Ash Wednesday – meaning that we become much more aware of our physical needs and wants, at the same time as considering our spiritual weaknesses, in the light of God's deep understanding and forgiveness. Our service includes the opportunity for "ashing" – when, if you wish, the priest marks each forehead with a small cross of ash made from last year's Palm crosses, as a sign of our turning back to God in repentance. In Lent 2025 there will also be weekly opportunities for you to join other members of our churches in a **Lent discussion group** that will encourage and build your faith.

You can join the **Wednesday morning group**, at 10.30am in the small Cottage Room in the St Mary's Parish Centre, beginning on 5th March. We will be looking at "Falling back on God" – a Lent study for groups, following the theme of 'trust' in the Psalms, and written by Joel Edwards. There's no need to buy the book, which is about £8, but if you would like to then please let Adrian know.



OR you might prefer the **Thursday afternoon group**, which will meet at the home of Janet Edwards at 2.30pm, beginning on 13th March. The group will be led by Tina Jarvis and discussion will centre on sections of the book "*Wild Bright Hope: reflections on faith.*" Please see the separate item for more details.

OR you might like to join the Thursday evening group, that will meet in the Narthex of St Mary's at 7.30pm, starting on 13th March, led by Revd Janet Gasper. **This group will follow the Lent book "Healing Wounds" by Erik Varden.**

Christians have traditionally used lent as a **time of discipline** and **training** – either by giving up something pleasurable so that more time can be given to prayer or Bible reading, or more money can be given away, *or* by taking on a task for the benefit of others. Perhaps this year you might consider reading a chapter a day (making 40 in all) of the Gospels of Mark and then Luke? Then you might also consider putting aside one tin or packet of food each day from Ash Wednesday onwards (not including Sundays) as a donation to our local foodbank?

Let's pray that Lent will be a time that God speaks to us all, and that, as he helps us understand our weaknesses afresh, we might also find more loving understanding of each other.

Adrian

ELECTORAL ROLL: every six years, we are required to compile a completely new Electoral Roll and this is the year! This means that everyone who wishes to be included on the Roll, whether they are on the current Roll or not, needs to make an application. Forms will be available from March 9th and must be returned by **APRIL 13th** (Palm Sunday) at the very latest, in order for names to be included on the new Roll, which will take effect on April 20th (Easter Sunday).

Eileen McKellican

Electoral Roll Officer

COMING UP What's happening at St Mary's on Sundays in March 2025

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!

As we approach Lent this year, our Sunday sermons follow the theme ***"Learning with Luke"*** as we consider different aspects of Jesus' work and teaching as it applies to our regular lives today.

- On Sunday **9th March** in our service of Sung Eucharist, we mark not only the first Sunday of Lent, but also the Covid 19 Day of Reflection, the fifth anniversary of the first national lockdown, with our theme *"Hope in the desert."*
- The third Sunday of the month is **16th March** and our Morning Worship is a time for Christian encouragement on the theme *"Do the right thing! – when Love meets Sorrow."*
- On Sunday **23rd March** we meet for a service of Sung Eucharist once more, travelling through Lent with another Gospel reading from Luke.

There is also a fifth Sunday this month, **30th March**, and we will be celebrating Mothering Sunday in a joint benefice service at St Mary's, with Communion for everyone and our traditional posies and bulbs.

- 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.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND

PARISH OF ST MARY MAGDALEN, KNIGHTON, LEICESTER

Notice is hereby given that the
Annual Vestry Meeting to elect Churchwardens
will be held on Sunday 11 May 2025
at 11.45 am in St Mary's church.

NOTE: Everyone who is on the Parish's electoral roll or who is on the register of local government electors as living in the Parish of St Mary Magdalen may vote in this election.

The Vestry Meeting will be followed by the

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

at which the Parish's Annual Report and Accounts will be presented.
All are welcome at this meeting, but only persons on the Parish's electoral roll may vote.

Nigel Siesage
Secretary to the Parochial Church Council

February 2025

Lent Letter from Bishops Martyn and Saju

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As we begin another Lent, we are writing with a brief request.

Prayer and Fasting

A number of people have written to us to suggest that, in view of all that has been happening in the Church of England, we should devote ourselves to prayer and fasting for the diocese and wider church. Initially, we were unsure about this – after all the safeguarding crisis is absolutely not about the church – it is first and foremost about victims and survivors of abuse. However, on reflection, we have concluded that it is right to invite the diocese to spend this season of Lent in prayer and fasting, acknowledging the multiple challenges that we face and the effect they are having on the morale and wellbeing of many people in our churches. Our proposal is to ask at least one person to sign up for each day of Lent – you can do this by clicking <https://forms.office.com/e/JEVdAuRBx6> and selecting a date.

How you spend the day is entirely up to you. You might choose to take an individual retreat, or you might choose to gather with others in your church, or you might simply mark the beginning and ending of the day in prayer. However you choose to do it, you might find the following themes helpful.

Monday: prayer for all victims and survivors of abuse, and for all those who work to make our churches safe for children and vulnerable adults.

Tuesday: prayer for all who are anxious or lonely, particular those who feel they can no longer be part of the Church of England.

Wednesday: prayer for the appointment of a new archbishop, and for all those dioceses seeking to appoint a new bishop, and for all bishops, priests, deacons and lay ministers that we may persevere in our calling.

Thursday: prayer for parish and diocesan finances, that God would supply all our needs, and make us generous in giving to others.

Friday: prayer for the *Living in Love and Faith* process that we may learn to live well together in our differences.

Saturday: prayer for all those exploring their vocation to ministry in the church – and for many more people to come forward in response to God's call.

Sunday: thanksgiving for all God's good gifts, particularly the gift of God's Son Jesus Christ – may we be formed in the character of Jesus Christ. Prayer for the Bishops' Lent Appeal for the Leprosy Mission.

May you have a blessed and holy Lent, and be ready to be renewed in joy at Easter.

Yours in Christ,

The Rt Revd Martyn Snow, Bishop of Leicester

The Rt Revd Saju Muthalaly, Bishop of Loughborough





The new Archbishop of Canterbury

The Archbishop of Canterbury is a key leader within the Church of England and the wider Anglican Communion, which is made up of churches in over 165 countries. The Archbishop is also the Diocesan Bishop of Canterbury, supported by the Bishop of Dover.

The process to nominate the next Archbishop of Canterbury is underway, and we want to hear from you. Whether you are based in England or anywhere in the Anglican Communion, your views matter. This consultation invites you to share your thoughts on what qualities, values, and vision the future Archbishop should embody.

This public consultation runs alongside consultation with key stakeholders from in and around the Church. Your feedback will play a vital role in shaping the decision-making process as we seek God's guidance for the next Archbishop of Canterbury.

Ways to submit your views

The consultation closes on **28 March**, so please ensure your response is submitted before then.

Online submission

Complete the online consultation form: <https://www.cofe.io/ABC106Survey>

Postal submission

You can also send your input by post to the address below:

Canon Stephen Knott

The Archbishops' Secretary for Appointments
Canterbury Crown Nominations Commission (CNC)
Lambeth Palace
London
SE1 7JU

Why your input matters

This is a unique opportunity to influence the future of leadership within the Church. We encourage people and communities across the Anglican Communion to take part. Every response helps us better understand the qualities that the next Archbishop should have to meet the needs of the Church today and in the years to come.

The themes that emerge through this consultation will sit alongside the 'Statement of Needs' produced by the Diocese of Canterbury, as well as other information provided by the National Church and Anglican Communion. This information will inform the Canterbury Crown Nominations Commission (CNC) of the needs of the mission of the Church of England and the wider Anglican Communion.

A prayer for the Canterbury CNC process:

If you pray, please do hold this important process of discernment – and all those involved – in your prayers:

*Heavenly Father,
shepherd of your Church,
send us a faithful pastor
to lead with wisdom, courage, and love,
proclaiming your Gospel,
celebrating the sacraments,
and guiding your people in unity and truth.
Strengthen your Church, we pray,
and direct us in your ways;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

MOVEMENT FOR GOOD

CHARITY GIVEAWAY

The '**Benefact Group**', does financial services differently – they give all available profits to charity and good causes.

The **Movement for Good Awards** is an annual programme of giving that anyone can get involved in, and again this year they'll be donating over £1 million to charities and good causes. You can nominate our Church for a donation.

Please click [Movement for Good - Nominate a charity for an award.](#) and nominate St Mary's.

We could be chosen for a £1000 donation!

Thank you!



Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society

University of Leicester

Peach Memorial Lecture

Conserving Canterbury Cathedral



A lecture by

Jonathan 'Jo' Deeming

Surveyor to the Fabric of Canterbury Cathedral

Monday 17 March 2025 6.30pm

**The University of Leicester
Sir Bob Burgess Learning and Teaching Centre, Freeman's Common**

Admission free. Registration in advance required.

**For details and to register, visit the Leicester Lit&Phil website at
www.leicesterlitandphil.org.uk**

The City of Leicester Singers

St James the Greater Church
London Road, Leicester
Saturday April 5th 2025
7.00 p.m.

Mozart Requiem

Caroline Essex - Soprano

Lindsey Ashwin - Alto

Tom Stanyard - Tenor

Andrew Ashwin - Bass

Conductor - Richard Archer

Organist - John Pye

**Tickets £12 under 16s free,
From choir members, at the door or
www.cityofleicestersingers.co.uk**



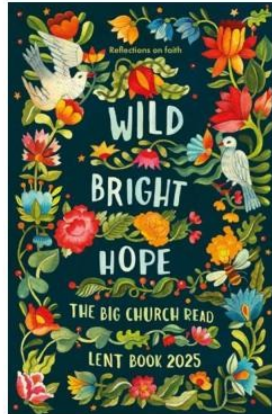
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Lent Reflections Group: Wild Bright Hope

Thursdays 2.30 – 4.00

@

Janet Edward's Home



Wild Bright Hope gathers together a range of lively, up-and-coming writers who write passionately about what gives them hope, Chapters include 'A beautiful and messy awakening', 'A vision for hope in politics', 'Wild paths of peace' and 'A journey through a supper table'.

Wild Bright Hope urges us not only to embrace a more hopeful perspective but also considers how we might play a part in bringing in the kingdom of God. The book costs about £10.

Meetings begin on **Thursday 13th March up to and including 10th April.**

Thursday 13th 2.30 will focus on Chapter 1: Seeds of Unity

If you are not sure where Janet lives, want a lift getting there, need help getting the book or if you have any other questions please contact Tina 0116 2707485 or via email: churchwardens@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk

Knighton Christmas Tree Festival 2025

Craft Workshops

The Knighton Christmas Tree Festival Team plan to run a series of Craft Workshops during the year. These will take place once a month on Tuesdays from 10.30-12.30 in St. Mary's Church, Knighton.

We hope to provide a warm welcome, a variety of craft activities, tea/coffee and biscuits. Everyone is welcome to attend. No previous skills or knowledge required - just a willingness to have a go!



We plan to sell the items made at the next Festival, but if you would like to take your creations home you are welcome to, for a small donation.

We hope to see you there! The dates are:

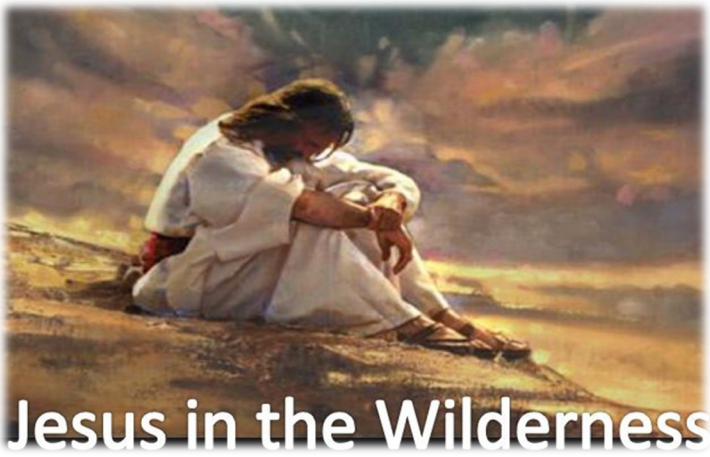
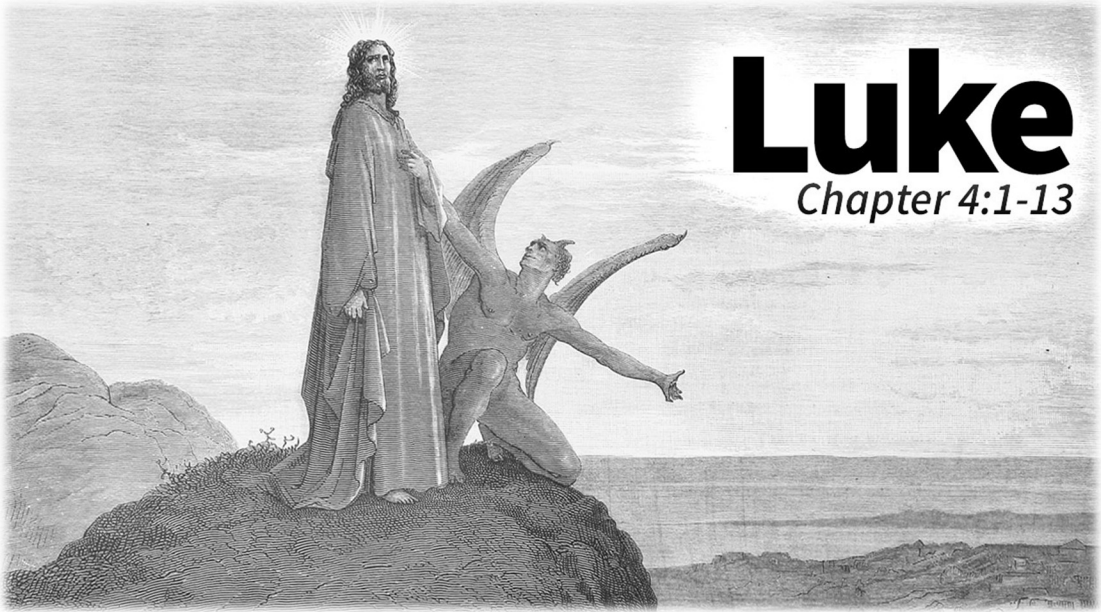
- Tuesday 8th April
- Tuesday 13th May
- Tuesday 3rd June
- Tues 15th July
- August – no craft workshop in August
- Sept – to be confirmed
- October – to be confirmed
- November – to be confirmed

Save the date!

This year's Festival will take place on **Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th November.**

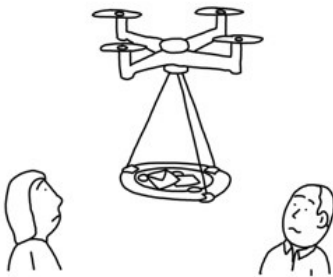
Any queries please contact: knightonctf24@gmail.com

Sue Siesage and the CTF Team

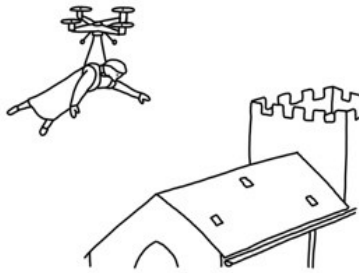


DRONES

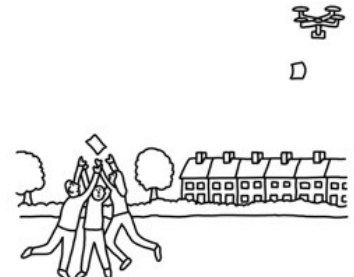
ECCLESIASTICAL USES



TAKING UP THE COLLECTION



SURVEYING THE CHURCH ROOF



DELIVERING NEWSLETTERS AROUND THE PARISH



CHECKING UP ON THE NEIGHBOURS



PUTTING THE STAR ON THE CHURCH CHRISTMAS TREE



SEARCH AND RESCUE

CartoonChurch.com

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 Simon Britton, Planned Giving Scheme Secretary: email: stmarysknighton.giving@gmail.com or phone 07710 975272. If you are a taxpayer and gift aid your giving, our church can claim an additional 25%. Cheques to **Knighton PCC** please.

Contact details:

Vicar: Revd Adrian Jones
Email: adrian.jones@zoho.com

0116 270 4268 or 07919 262399
(rest day normally Friday)

Curate: Revd Cecilia Adjadje
revdcecilia@gmail.com

07587 772828
(rest day normally Friday)

Revd Aphro McCullough
aphro.mccullough@btinternet.com

0116 283 7887

Revd Janet Gasper
jgasper925@gmail.com

0116 288 9646

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

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

07932 557646

Churchwarden: Beryl Bonfield
berylbonfield1945@gmail.com

0116 2702202

Parish Administrator: James Gutteridge
office@knightonparish.co.uk

0116 270 2705

Virtual Compline 8.00pm Wednesday evenings

There is an online Compline every Wednesday 8.00 pm, **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 #

Praying for each other this month

Please pray for other members of our church community especially, in March, those whose surnames begin with I, J, K and L. Pray for a strong sense of identity as followers of Jesus, with all the blessings and challenges that brings.

Praying for the World: In this time of disturbance, unpredictability and anxiety across the world, please pray for the Godly wisdom and sound leadership of all those in authority, and especially those who have power to change life for so many others, for better or for worse. Remembering that God is still on his throne, pray that Christians everywhere may trust in his continued good purposes for us all and seek to work for the good of everyone, particularly the vulnerable.

Praying for the Church: Please pray for the health and wellbeing of Pope Francis during his current illness. Please pray too for the Church of England and all those tasked with choosing a new Archbishop of Canterbury (see separate item). In our own diocese please pray, together with others in many churches, for the people and leaders of the parishes churches of the Deanery of Framland, and for the Roots intercultural worshipping community here in the City.

Praying for the Parish, our neighbours and friends: Please pray for the peace and well-being of all those who live on of **Knighton Lane East, Pendlebury Drive, Larchwood Close, Chadderton Close, Dawson Way.**

Continuing Prayers Please.... Please remember all those on our 'Continuing Prayer' list, and especially: **Irving Byer, David Holland, John Orme, Neill Addison, Aphro and Dale McCullough.**

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.

Please remember those who have died recently, and pray for their families and friends. We especially remember **Yolanda Courtney.**

We also remember all those whose anniversaries fall at this time.