



St Mary Magdalen Church, Knighton



Sunday 25th October 2020 Bible Sunday

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

Collect

Blessed Lord,
who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning:
help us so to hear them,
to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them
that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word,
we may embrace and for ever hold fast
the hope of everlasting life,
which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Sunday 25th October <i>Bible Sunday</i>	10.00am Eucharist - please call the office to book a place
Monday 26th October	
Tuesday 27th October	
Wednesday 28th October <i>Simon and Jude, Apostles</i>	8.00pm Compline (Night Prayer) - details on page 15 for taking part
Thursday 29th October	
Friday 30th October	
Saturday 31st October	
Sunday 1st November <i>All Saints Day</i>	10.00am Service - please call the office to book a place

**Welcome to our service –
and please take care of yourself and each other!**

You are very welcome to our service today – but please remember some simple precautions in order to protect yourself and others too:

- Please arrive early and be ready to queue as you maintain a distance of 2m from others.
- Please wear a face covering as you queue and all the time you are in the church - we have some extras for those who cannot obtain their own.
- When you are welcomed please sanitise your hands and then pick up a service sheet.
- We have calculated the number of places that we can use in the church building safely whilst distanced from each other. Please only use one of the seats marked with a cushion and green tick.
- We are using recorded music to help us praise God and reflect on what we are doing together. The words of the hymns are printed for you but please don't sing (humming is fine!)
- To receive Communion you will be asked to come towards the nave altar (at the moment only the bread) -please keep 2m spacing and keep your face mask on until you have your wafer. Then please consume the wafer as you move away, moving your mask as little as possible.
- After the service please keep your distance from others as you leave and do not linger in the building - sadly we can't offer refreshments.
- Please leave your green service booklet on the pew but take home your sheet of songs and readings, and sanitise your hands as you leave.

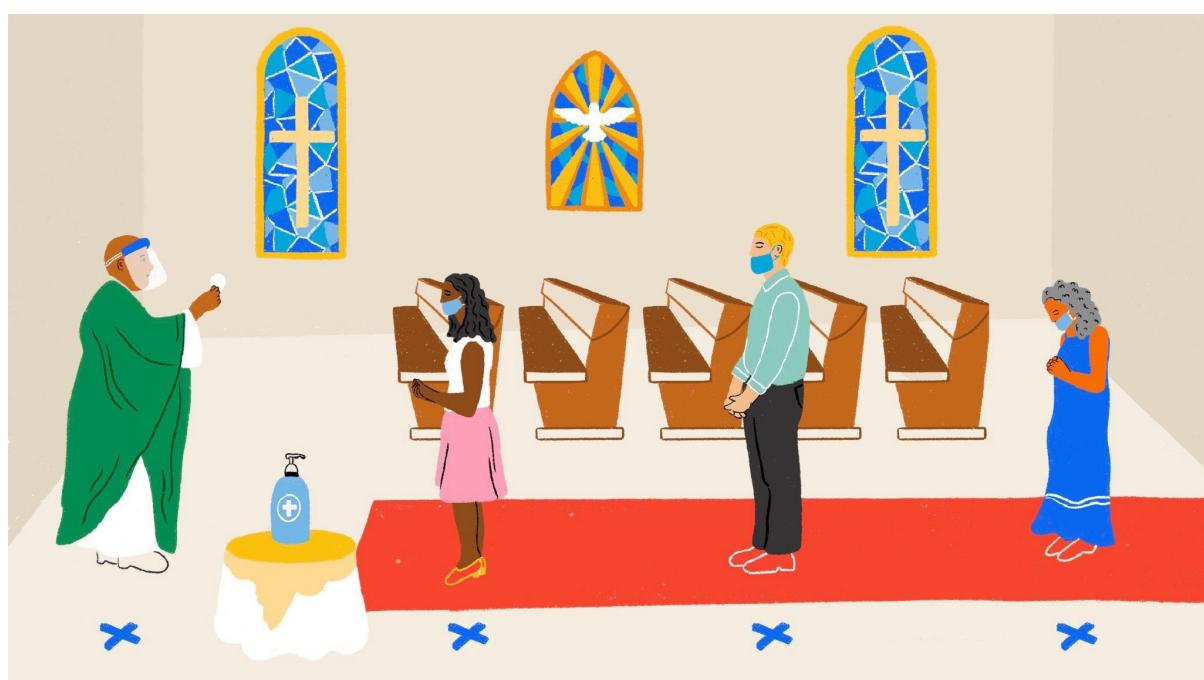
- If you should feel unwell with any of the symptoms of coronavirus in the two weeks following the service, as well as seeking medical advice, please leave a message at the Parish Office so that we can inform others if need be.
- Please note that the toilets are open for use but everyone is asked to observe strict handwashing requirements. The toilets will be cleaned after each Sunday service.

Please don't feel too put off by these necessary precautions – God is simply pleased that we are here together, worshipping and being shaped by the Holy Spirit.

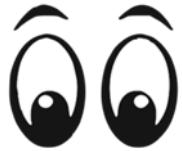
If you would like to attend on **Sunday 1st November** or **Sunday 8th November** then please do phone the parish office (0116 270 2705) and leave a message which includes the names of any other people who will sit with you because you are in the same household or bubble. If you find that you can no longer attend, please let James in the Office know so that we can release this place to someone else.

Best wishes,

Adrian



We're looking...!



It's great that we have a new Church Warden (thanks Sian), and another volunteer to join a 'Warden team' that shares some of the responsibilities between them. Now we'd really like a few more people to join this team. If you're feeling a 'pull' or 'push' from God to do a bit more in our life together as a church then please do talk to Adrian, Matthew or Sian – this could be for you!

Our look back at 2019: At our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) we considered our Annual Report and Financial Statements for 2019. I'm glad to say that four new members of the Church Council (PCC) were elected: David Palmer, Lorna Pollard, Judith Rudd and Ida Stanyer. Our two current representatives to the Deanery Synod, Bob Rutland and David Stanyer, were also both re-elected. We also thanked and welcomed Sian Howard as a new Church Warden.

I'm grateful to everyone who joined us, both in, person and over the internet via Zoom.

Adrian

Harvest thanks: Earlier this month we celebrated our Harvest Festival around the theme of 'Growing Hope' and supporting the Christian relief and development charity Embrace the Middle East. I hope that you enjoyed the recorded virtual worship, our actual service and/or some of the activities at home. I'm very grateful to everyone who contributed to our appeal for Embrace – we've been able to send on almost £600 (including Gift Aid) to support their work among the Zabaleen people of Cairo, Egypt who live in the city's rubbish dumps. Thank you so much!

Adrian

Listening to God's Word

Our Bible readings for Sunday 25th October are:

Nehemiah 8.1-4a, 5-6, 8-12

8 ¹All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. ²Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. ⁴The scribe Ezra stood on a wooden platform that had been made for the purpose;

5 And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, 'Amen, Amen', lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

8 So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

9 And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.' ¹¹So the Levites stilled all the people, saying, 'Be quiet, for this day is holy; do not be grieved.' ¹²And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them.

Matthew 24.30-35

³⁰ Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see "the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven" with power and great glory. ³¹ And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

³² 'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ³³ So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁴ Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³⁵ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

Thoughts for Bible Sunday by Revd Janet Gasper

When we hear the 'Bible' what do we think of? A big black book? But the Bible comes in all shapes and sizes and has been translated into nearly 2000 languages and adapted for children. In fact the Bible comes to us as a library of 66 books: Jewish – Old Testament 39books; Christian – New Testament 27books. Some Bibles have a middle section containing intertestamental material of 20 books called the Apocrypha. The time span of the Bible is 1000 years – from 900 BC to 100 AD and its books tell of peoples' encounters with God. We know from our experience of a library that we need to sort out which section to go to, to find the book we want. So when we read the Bible we need to know what kind of writing we are dealing with in its books.

The Bible contains all kinds of writing because we meet God in all kinds of situations. So lets turn to 6 examples here of Bible books: see if we can spot the kind of writing.

Spot the book of the Bible!

The heavens declare the glory of God, the vault of heaven proclaims his handiwork, day discourses it to day, night to night hands on the knowledge.

A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away leaving him half dead.

He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet he cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

The whole city was aroused, and the people came running from all directions. Seizing Paul, they dragged him from the temple, and immediately the gates were shut.

Paul and Apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God. To the saints who are in Ephesus and are faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Hear O Israel: the Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

1. Poetry (Book of Psalms, Psalm 19)
2. Story (Luke 15)
3. Philosophy (Ecclesiastes)
4. Adventure (Acts 21)
5. Letter (Ephesians 1,v1.)
6. Tora/Instructions (Deuteronomy 6)

It is the Tora that the people gathered to hear read by the scribe Ezra in our first reading and this passage shows us some important principles about the reading and hearing God's word in the Bible:

Reading and Hearing the scriptures is a corporate act to help strengthen the community. Every act of Christian worship must include a reading from the Bible – our scriptures belong to the faith community and though we read them at other times on our own, they are not in the private possession of individuals and need to be shared.

Reading and hearing the Bible is for everyone – all the people, men, women and children were gathered in the rebuilt Jerusalem and assistance was given to enable everyone to understand. Today we have Bible notes and commentaries, sermons and study groups to help us to understand to understand the Bible.

Reading and hearing the Bible is a holy act accompanied by worship and Ezra has chosen a Festival Day for this gathering, underlining the principle that reading the scriptures is an act of worship in itself.

Reading and hearing the Bible provokes an emotional response. In the passage the people weep at first but their leaders encourage them not to be sad but to take strength in joy of the Lord and to celebrate.

In our Gospel reading another aspect of reading and hearing God's word is revealed as we are reminded that God can speak to us through signs and symbols. The passage refers to the promise of a final vindication for those who are faithful to God, a time when what is hidden is made known, as the new leaves on the fig tree indicate that summer is near.

At the time of Jesus writing was a skill of an elite group of scholars – the spoken word was far more significant than it is for us today and once a word was spoken it took on an existence of its own. The word of God once spoken is done. In Genesis Chapter 1, God says: "Let there be light" and there was light. For the writers of the Bible, heaven and earth may pass away but God's eternal word remains forever.

I think above all this Sunday reminds us that if we are to be part of the Christian faith community we cannot avoid wrestling with the Bible. We may find part of it impossible to understand because try as we might, we cannot share the experiences of those who wrote its text. But we can lay our experiences, our glimpses of God, our troubles and fears alongside the Bible story and in that way we will discern something of the truth of God.

I leave you today with a fun way of reading the Bible – a kind of Biblical 'Bake Off'. To make this 'Bible cake' you need to explore the passages to find the ingredients. Try it, pass it on to others. Get to know your Bible library and have fun! *Rev Janet.*



Bible Cake

Heat oven to 150c (300f) Gas mark 2

2 teacups of 1 Samuel 30:12 (second ingredient)

2 cups of Nahum 3:12

½ cup of Numbers 17:8 (plus a few for decoration)

8oz (225g) of Psalm 55:21

2 cups of Jeremiah 6:20 (sugar!)

4 ½ cups of Kings 4:22

6 of Jeremiah 17:11

2 tbsp of 1 Samuel 14:25

1 pinch of Leviticus 2:13

2 tsps of Amos 4:5 (crumbs!)

1 cup of Judges 5:25 (final clause)

1/2cup of Judges 4:19 (first liquid)

Season with 2Chronicles 9:9

Grease and line 8" cake tin

Separate 1 (in list above) chop 2&3 – set aside

Blend 4&% add 6 gradually

Beat in 7 and add 8,9 and 10

Stir in 1,2 and3 Add 11 &12 as necessary

Blend in 13. Put in prepared tin, decorate with a few flaked 3s. Bake on low shelf for 3 ½ hours

If top browns prematurely, reduce heat to 140c (275f / Gas mark 1) and cover with greaseproof paper.

Eat with prayer and thanksgiving and resolve to follow the example of 2 Timothy 1:6!

BENEFICE MAGAZINE It has been really encouraging to get so many contributions to recent issues of the magazine. I have had several messages from readers saying how much this is appreciated. So please get writing - the closing date for the November/December issue is 1 November. Please send your contributions to stmaryknighton.magazine@gmail.com. Thank you. *Nigel*

IMAGES OF KNIGHTON 2021 CALENDAR Raising Funds for St Mary's Spire Appeal. Lovely local artistry has contributed to make this special community celebration of Knighton life. £7.50 each or 3 for £20. Free tubes available for posting. Cheques payable to 'Knighton PCC'. Please collect from Sunday services at St Mary's, Rev. Matthew, Lorna Kirk, Aileen Orme, (07980 430598), Nigel Siesage or Rev Janet. Also available from Londis, Knighton Church Rd, Holbrook News, South Knighton Rd and Wigston Fields Deli, Carlton Drive.



Dean's Discussions

– Volume IX –

Monday 2 November 2020 | 6.30pm
A Leicester Cathedral Online Event

All Souls Day and the Inevitable Life, Death and the After Life

A Dean's Discussion on All Souls Day
with Professor Christina Faull (LOROS
Consultant in Palliative Medicine &
Research Lead and Rebecca Huscroft
(inform Legal, Estate Planner).

Covering ground that society sometimes
struggles with – planning for a good death
in the 21st Century, the laws that surround
estate planning and tax efficient giving
and what a good death might mean for
Christians.

Free admission!
Book via www.eventbrite.co.uk



THANKS: It was lovely to see members of the congregation outside of the church both before and after Kay & Ian's Wedding. It all helped to make it very special, especially in these extraordinary times! We all enjoyed a lovely day, very much a family occasion, as the guest list had to be reduced many times! So sorry that Bernard and the bride forgot her bouquet and it had to be fetched before they could go into Church, good job we only live up the road! *Judi & Bernard*



RIDE AND STRIDE Flick thanks all her sponsors. She has raised £150 to date, "Last chance saloon" this week for sponsoring her. The cheque will go to the Historic Churches Preservation Fund next weekend. Half comes back to St Mary's. Flick Titley (01162702810)

ACCESS TO WEEKLY RECORDED SERVICES

Each week we will now usually upload a recording of the Sunday service from St Mary's or St Guthlac's onto the Knighton Benefice You Tube channel. This should happen by 1pm each Sunday. Please go direct to https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChYDSfNmiB2Zamsaz_EdZSg? or via the website or Facebook page.

MUSICATHON

The cancelled MUSICATHON which should have taken place on Saturday 10th October had some joyous news when many generous people, who had sponsored the participants, donated money, with the result that **£1,012.50** was added to the Steeple Appeal.
Thank you. *Lorna Kirk*



CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

SAD NEWS: I'm sorry to have to tell you that our friend and long-time chorister, Gil Parsons has died. As you'll know Gil had been ill for a long time, and he had recently had a spell in hospital before coming home to be with Ondre last week. He was a much appreciated friend and church member; "a lovely man who could sing the whole range from bass to alto" and loved to do so. Do please remember the family in your prayers. Gils funeral will be on Monday 9th November. *Adrian*

WELL WISHES A message from Valerie Thomson: "I've heard from Jill Atkinson. She and Derek moved to Exeter a while ago, they are very happy there with family nearby and would like to be remembered to everyone in Knighton who knew them."

THANKS My sincere thanks for your continuing concern and prayers over the past months for my grandson, Ed Groves, who, as many of you know, just over half-way through his Master's Degree course in Copenhagen, was diagnosed with leukaemia on New Year's Eve. He has undergone gruelling and debilitating (for some time, a real sportsman, who represented his university at football, he was confined to a wheelchair) chemotherapy and radiotherapy, culminating in August in bone marrow / stem cell transplants, followed by five weeks' isolation. Thankfully, three weeks ago, he was discharged from isolation and is now an outpatient, on the road to recovery, with up to six months' further treatment and physiotherapy ahead. *Eileen McKellican*



Contact details:

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Revd Janet Gasper

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Churchwarden: Sian Howard

sian.howard@tiscali.co.uk 07932 557646

Parish Administrator: James Gutteridge 0116 270 2705

Email: office@knightonparish.co.uk

The Parish Office is now open again from 9.30am until 2.30pm, Tuesday to Friday. Please feel free to phone James or to email. If you need to visit the Office, please let James know you're coming and wear face coverings as per the Government guidelines. Thank you.

Keeping in touch and sharing worship together remotely.

Wednesday Compline (Night Prayer) - Each week we are meeting virtually for Compline at 8pm on Wednesday. It has proven to be a meaningful way to have fellowship and prayer together as well as being quite good fun, especially as we find our feet with the technology and with more people joining us every week.

You can join by just phoning up and inputting the code or using 'Zoom' online. It has been democratic with several voices joining in with a line of liturgy each. If you would like to participate with a speaking part, please do contact Matthew by 4pm on Wednesday.

To join by phone only, call this number **0131 460 1196** and when prompted input Meeting ID: 746 767 4408

To join by Zoom on the internet, go to this address and click 'Open Zoom' <https://leccofe.zoom.us/j/7467674408>

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%.

During the current Coronavirus pandemic please put aside your weekly offerings ready to bring to church when things return to something like normal. The costs of the church are largely unchanged even though we cannot meet, so your regular giving is extremely important to our collective 'health' and the mission of God here.

giftaid it

Please pray..... "And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. " (Ephesians 6.18)

Praying for the World: Please pray for all those working to find an effective vaccine against the corona virus. Pray also for generosity amongst scientists, business people and politicians - so that vaccines may be quickly shared across all nations at a fair price.

Praying for the Church: please pray that all Christians may find hope in the face of the continuing pandemic, and that together we may find effective ways of sharing the good news of Jesus with our neighbours in these challenging times.

Praying for the Parish: 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:

We pray for all those who are unwell at the moment, whether in body, mind or spirit, and all those with troubling investigations and diagnoses. Please do continue to pray for **Charlotte Muddimer, Anne Ibbs, Shirley and Rex Wills, Bob Newell, Sharon Gutteridge** and their families. 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 for those who have been healed and restored. We remember those who have died recently and pray for their families and friends, in particular we remember **Pat Lillicrap, Gil Parsons** and **Barbara Green**. We also remember all those whose anniversaries fall at this time.

Jesus said "Come to me, all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11.28.