



Newsletter for Sunday 8th February 2026 2nd Sunday before Lent

Collects for this week

Almighty God,
you have created the heavens and the earth
and made us in your own image:
teach us to discern your hand in all your works
and your likeness in all your children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things,
now and for ever.

Amen.

Almighty God,
give us reverence for all creation
and respect for every person,
that we may mirror your likeness
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

*"Blessed is the one who trusts
in the Lord, whose confidence
is in him." (Jeremiah 17.7)*



The Week Ahead..

Sunday 8th February <i>2nd Sunday before Lent</i>	9.00am Eucharist (trad) 10.30am Sung Eucharist 10.30am All Age Worship at St Guthlac's
Monday 9th February	2.00pm-4.00pm Drop-In (Parish Centre) 7.30pm Bell Ringing practice
Tuesday 10th February	9.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday 11th February	2.00pm Funeral of Andy Sharpe 8.00pm Online Compline
Thursday 12th February	9.30am Eucharist (St Guthlac's)
Friday 13th February	
Saturday 14th February	
Sunday 15th February <i>Sunday next before Lent</i>	9.00am Eucharist 10.30am Morning Worship 10.30am Eucharist at St Guthlac's 2.00pm Quarter Peal of Bells

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 set readings on **Sunday 8th February** are
Genesis 1.1-2.3 and Matthew 6.25-end.
Our sermon title is "Chisits and Pollyannas?"

Church Family News

Christingle: The total amount raised for the Children's Society at the Christingle Service was £200.21.

Coffee Morning Saturday 24th January

The Social Committee thank all who came to support this event. The coffee morning made a wonderful £591.48. 52 came and listened to music by our church musicians which gave out a lovely sound. The next event organised by the Social Committee and their friends is Lent Lunch Saturday 21st February Tickets £6.00. Beryl.



LENT approaching! You may well have noticed that Easter is 'early' this year, and so, therefore, is Lent! As usual, Christians are encouraged to remember through Holy Week and then celebrate on Easter Day itself – and the weeks of Lent before then are a significant time for pause, thought, reflection, thinking, discussion and growth in our Christian faith.

In our **Sunday services** during Lent we will be picking up themes from a course written for the Diocese of Edinburgh last year, called "**Christ has no body now but yours**", which is based on the famous prayer by St Teresa of Avila. The course encourages us to think more deeply about our individual part in the Body of Christ and how we can better work out our faith in practical ways every day. Each Sunday service will be followed during the week by the chance to be part of a small group discussion around the same theme, with illustrations and questions to help us.

There will be (at least) two **Lent discussion groups**. One will run at St Mary's Parish Centre (in the small Cottage/Welcome Room) on Wednesday mornings at 10.30am-noon, starting on 25th February for five weeks. The other group will run in the entrance area of St Guthlac's on Thursday evenings at 7.30-9pm, starting on 26th February for five weeks. Please choose the best day and time for you – it doesn't matter which church you feel part of most! The course book for both groups is identical and costs just £1.50 towards the printing.

I do hope that you will want to use this Lent as an intentional time for growing your faith, and that you'll be able to join one of these groups. If you're keen but the dates and times don't work for you, please see me so that we can think about running an additional meeting.

Diocese of Edinburgh
Lent Course 2025



Christ has no body now
but yours

Please sign the list at the back of either church to show that you'd like to be part of a midweek discussion group and that you'd like a booklet. See you there! *Adrian*



COMING UP What's happening at St Mary's on Sundays in February 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!

- **Sunday 8th February**, in our service of Sung Eucharist, sees us return again to the story of Jesus "*According to Matthew*", as we consider words from the Sermon on the Mount.
- The third **Sunday of February, 15th**, falls just after Valentine's day so our theme for Morning Worship is '*Love ...Actually*'.
- **Sunday 22nd February** is the first Sunday of Lent and we begin a new Sunday series to help us prepare for the celebration of Easter – look out for more details to come! Our service today is a Sung Eucharist.
- 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).





Upcoming 2026 Retreats at Launde Abbey

- Flowers Appear on the Earth: Springtime with the Song of Songs - Led by Revd Catherine Williams **Monday 2nd March - Thursday 5th March 2026**
- Standing Near the Cross: A Lenten Retreat in the Company of Julian of Norwich - Led by Gail and Ian Adams - **Monday 2nd March - Thursday 5th March 2026**
- Living with Loss - Led by Abi May **Monday 23rd March - Thursday 26th March 2026**
- The Journey Into Oneness: Meditation and the Wisdom of the Cloud of Unknowing – A Weekend Silent Retreat **Friday 27th March - Sunday 29th March 2026**
- Look at the Birds: A Birdwatching Retreat - Led by Revd Dale Hanso **Tuesday 7th April - Friday 10th April 2026**
- Women in the Bible - Led by Bishop Graham Kings **Tuesday 5th May - Friday 8th May 2026**
- Unmaking Mary: Shattering the Myth of Perfect Motherhood - Led by Chine McDonald **Monday 27th July - Wednesday 29th July 2026**

Visit www.laundeabbey.org.uk for more information

There is much to look forward to in the year ahead, and we hope that you will continue to be part of the life of Launde Abbey, whether through retreats, quiet days, visits to the café, or time spent walking the grounds.

THANK YOU

The Marie Curie Lunch last year on 16th October at Leicester College raised **£2117.84** for the charity. Well done to everyone who came.

We hope to see you all this year. Many thanks. Shirley Wills.



Appeal for a weekday lift to/from the shops

Veronica Brown asks if anyone might be kind enough to help out with an occasional lift from her home in Wigston to and from the shops in Queens Rd Clarendon Park between 9 -11 am on any weekday except Monday. Please ring her around lunchtime on a Monday if you feel able to help: 0116 2889284

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

Holbrook Road, Leicester. LE2 3LF



Musical Connections



*An evening of well-known organ music,
with stories of the composers, their inspiration
and the musical links between them, presented by...*

David Beeby

**Assistant Director of Music
Christchurch Priory**

Music to include:

J. S. Bach - Toccata & Fugue in D minor, Elgar - 'Nimrod'

Walton - Music for 'Richard III', Mendelssohn - Organ Sonata No. 3

'Tea & Talk'

ALL WELCOME

Tuesday 17th February at 7.00pm

FREE Admission & Refreshments

<https://www.stguthlac-knighton.co.uk>

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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/>

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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 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.

"No time for prayer? I do not understand how you can live such a careless life as that." *Charles Spurgeon*

Praying for each other this month In this new month of February, please pray for all our friends and congregation members whose surnames begin with the letters E, F, G and H. Pray that in these cold days they'll experience the warmth of God's love, as he shares it with us both in Jesus and through our companions and families.

Praying for the World: As we approach Valentine's Day on 14th, please pray that our young people in particular, will better understand the positive value of marriage and other committed and long-term relationships. Pray for those whose relationships are a struggle or who feel disheartened and disappointed. Pray especially for those trapped in coercive or abusive relationships, and for all those seeking to help them.

Praying for the Church: Please pray that the Church will be open to all that the Holy Spirit is telling us and showing us about the nature of personal, romantic and sexual relationships within this complex contemporary culture. Pray that we may talk openly and respectfully with each other, and where we disagree that we might find positive ways of working together.

With others across the diocese please pray this week for the people and leaders of St Theodore's (Rushey Mead), All Saints (Scraptoft & Netherhall), and St Stephen's (north Evington).

Praying for the Parish, our neighbours and friends: Please pray for the peace and well-being of all those who live on **Elms Road, Knighton Drive, Knighton Road, Northcote Road, Newstead Road.**

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, **Eileen McKellican, June Rich, Ruth Smith, Neill Addison-Gutteridge, and Kate Adams.**

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 remember the family and friends of **Clive Barker and Andy Sharpe**