



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

ECO CHURCH
AN A Rocha UK PROJECT



**Newsletter for
Sunday 23rd February 2025
2nd Sunday before Lent**

Collect 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.



The Week Ahead.....

Sunday 23rd February <i>2nd Sunday before Lent</i>	9.00am Eucharist 10.30am Sung Eucharist 10.30am Morning Prayer at St Guthlac's
Monday 24th February	10.00am Social Committee Meeting 2.00pm-4.00pm Drop In (Parish Centre) 7.30pm Bell Ringing practice
Tuesday 25th February	9.30am Holy Communion 2.00pm Mothers' Union Fellowship
Wednesday 26th February	7.30pm "Any Questions" - Parish Centre 8.00pm Online Compline
Thursday 27th February	9.30am Eucharist (St Guthlac's)
Friday 28th February	11.00am Healing Prayer with Communion
Saturday 1st March	10.00am-12noon District Bell practice
Sunday 2nd March <i>Sunday next before Lent</i>	9.00am Eucharist 10.30am All Age 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 23rd February are
 Psalm 46 and Luke 8.22-25.

The theme is '**The Shipping Forecast**'.

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

SAD NEWS ABOUT YOLANDA COURTNEY: I'm very sad to have to tell you that, after illness and a stay in hospital, our friend and member of St Guthlac's, Yolanda Courtney, died some days ago. Yolanda was well known and liked across the benefice, for her generosity and kindness as well as her many years of organ playing and singing in our choirs. Although she had found the world an increasingly difficult and complex place to navigate in recent months, she retained her deep appreciation for friends and their care, and of course for St Guthlac's. We send our heartfelt condolences to her brother Anthony and her sister-in-law Jane - please pray for them in this time of grieving and loss. *Adrian*

ST MARY'S FEBRUARY FOODBANK DONATION Thank you all for your donations collected during January and February. These have been taken to the Leicester South Regional Distribution Centre on Clarkes Rd. They weighed in at 29.5 kg. *Sian Howard*

MOTHERS' UNION FELLOWSHIP Our next meeting is on Tuesday, 25 February when our speaker will be the Revd Adrian, our Vicar. We'll gather, as usual, in the Cottage Room of the Parish Centre at 1.30 for a 2pm start. Non-members are welcome to join us. LP

FAIRTRADE REAL EASTER EGGS Today (Sunday 23rd Feb) is the last day to let me know if you want to order a Fairtrade Easter egg. Apologies that I had put March! I will be at St Guthlac's this morning but do leave a phone message on 0116 270 4268 if necessary. They are £5.50 on collection. Thanks. Alison Roche.

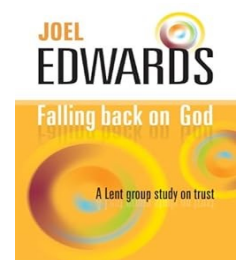
WORLD DAY OF PRAYER A date for your diary - 7th March. There are two services in our area: one at St. Mary's at 2pm and the other at Stoneygate Baptist Church at 7.30pm. The service this year has been prepared by Christian women from the Cook Islands.

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.

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

Prayer for the Middle East: One of the charities/mission organisations that we have supported as a church is *Embrace the Middle East*. As the situation there seems to become even more complex, it becomes even more important that we should pray for the people of these lands that many call 'Holy'. Embrace produce a six-monthly prayer guide to help us - copies of the February-July guide are at the back of the church and online at embraceme.org.uk

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 - we need about 100, and they are best made the day before. Any costs are always reimbursed. Please do have a word with me if you think you can help. Many thanks in anticipation. *Adrian*

Diocesan Prayer Calendar: This week St Mary's and St Guthlac's

TUES 25 FEB Knighton (St Mary Magdalen and St Guthlac)

Adrian Jones (C), Cecilia Adjaja (Curate) Aphra McCullough, Janet Goggin, Alison Roche (PTO),
Fiona Wingate (R)

Please pray that we continue to remember and celebrate God's goodness and faithfulness towards us.

Pray that, as we look to our challenges, we will have renewed hope in God's good purposes as we see them so clearly in Jesus.

Maduro-Romero (South India)

feature in the Diocesan Prayer Calendar once again

YOU ARE INVITED TO A

LENT LUNCH

SOUP, BREAD ROLL, CHEESE AND BISCUITS

TEA AND COFFEE



ON SATURDAY 8th MARCH 2025

12 NOON FOR 12.30PM - 2 PM

KNIGHTON PARISH CENTRE,

CHURCH LANE, LE2 3WG

TICKETS £6

AVAILABLE FROM

BERYL BONFIELD 0116 2702202

SUPPORTING THE GOLDHILL FOOD BANK CHARITY

LAST WEEK'S SERMON: People often have comments after the morning service about the sermon - which are always appreciated and useful. You might occasionally find it interesting then, to know what sources, ideas and inspiration I used, as the preacher. Last week we looked at the miraculous catch of fish in Luke 5, under a working title of "Jane Austen goes fishing". In preparation I looked at an old Bible commentary (the first I ever bought) called *"The Saviour of the World"* by Michael Wilcock, read up about Jane Austen using an article called *"Heroes of the Faith: Jane Austen"* by Michelle Adserias, 2023, on the website todayschristianliving.org , and used a prayer reshaped from faithandworship.com *Adrian*

Minster Communities: Many of you will know that the parishes of the diocese are currently going through a process of reorganisation into new 'Minster Communities'. These Minster Communities will give us all the benefits of closer partnership in a challenging financial climate. Over the past year the PCC have been involved in numerous discussions about those areas of experience and expertise that St Mary's can offer to other churches, and what we might look to gain from others too.

We have now reached a significant stage in the process, when representatives from all the churches in our proposed Minster Community are beginning to meet in a number of working groups, each tasked with exploring a different aspect of how, practically, we might best work together in partnership (schools & young people, buildings, finance etc).

To help everyone understand as clearly as possible what is happening we have produced a summary leaflet about the proposals, and there is a new display at the back of the church which includes a map of our proposed Minster Community. You can also join me for an informal "Any Questions?" evening when I'll attempt to explain what's happening and clear up mysteries and misunderstandings! "Any Questions?" will be on Wednesday 26th February in the lounge of the Parish Centre) and you'll

also be able to join via Zoom, if you follow this link:

[https://leccofe.zoom.us/j/92648387604?](https://leccofe.zoom.us/j/92648387604?pwd=XDuTnIKe2DI4LcLiAaO1fClbeQbDHb.1)

[pwd=XDuTnIKe2DI4LcLiAaO1fClbeQbDHb.1](https://leccofe.zoom.us/j/92648387604?pwd=XDuTnIKe2DI4LcLiAaO1fClbeQbDHb.1) The Meeting ID is: 926 4838 7604 and the Passcode is 2rMhEUa@ should you need them. You can join by telephone too, calling 0208 080 6592

In the meantime, do talk to me or any member of the PCC for more information, and especially if you'd like to join a working group on behalf of St Mary's. Do also read the invitation to a service and get-to-know-you for our proposed Minster Community, at St Andrew's, Aylestone, also in this newsletter. *Adrian*

AN INVITATION

As we start to get to know each other in the Minster Community process, the members of St Mary Magdalen are warmly invited to a

**Joint Evensong at St Andrews, Aylestone,
on Sunday 2nd March 2025, at 4pm.**

While offering praise to God, the purpose of the service is also to bring our congregations together in worship and fellowship. We have invited all the churches in the "Teal" Minster Community group of churches, and some others who have expressed a wish to join our group. After the service we will provide light refreshments, nibbles and the time to talk and get to know more about each other. Please RSVP.

There will be open ringing of the bells for any campanologists that would like to come an hour before the service (on the ropes at 3pm). Our Director of Music has offered to prepare the music and wishes to extend an invitation to members of your choir to join us on the evening if they wish to. Please contact him for further information: Graham Lightburn grahamlightburn7@gmail.com

For further information about the service contact Glenn on 07504 980 913 Gln865@hotmail.com

COMING UP What's happening at St Mary's on Sundays in February and 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 **23rd February** we celebrate with a Sung Eucharist once more, as we continue to focus on Luke's Gospel, this week *“The Shipping Forecast”*.
- The new month begins with All Age Worship on Sunday **2nd March** when our service for the whole church together is called *“Mountain climbing for beginners.”*
- 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.

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!

COFFEE MORNING SATURDAY 18th JANUARY. A big thank you to all helpers and those who braved the very cold morning to come to this event. Also a big thank you to our musicians who added that something extra to the morning.

The Event made a marvellous **£590.84** on the Saturday and **£27.00** on the Sunday morning.

This amount will certainly help towards the running costs of the Church.

Thank you again for your generosity. *Beryl*

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

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

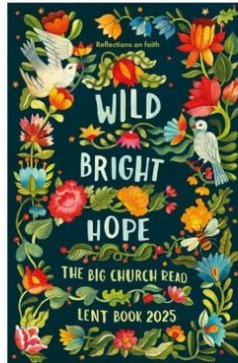
Sue Siesage and the CTF Team

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 'Seeds of unity', 'A beautiful and messy awakening', 'Kingdom diplomacy across faiths', 'A vision for hope in politics', 'Wild paths of peace' and 'Hope in suffering'.

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.**

Everyone welcome, even if you can't make every week.

If you are not sure where Janet lives, 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

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 Adjadjje

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 the other members of our church "family" - and especially, in February, those whose surnames begin with E, F, G, and H. Pray for growth in faith, and in the awareness of God's goodness in all circumstances.

Praying for the World: Please pray for all journalists and broadcasters, writers and commentators across the world, as they seek truth in an age of disinformation. Pray that we will all be skilled at understanding what we see and hear, and that we will be able to discern with wisdom, those who are seeking to mislead and those who want to inform without bias.

Praying for the Church: Please pray with others across our Diocese for the people and leaders of the Church of the Nativity in Aylestone, St Mary de Castro, and St Peter, Braunstone Park.

Praying for the Parish, our neighbours and friends: Please pray for the peace and well-being of all those who live on of **Craighill Road, Craighill Walk, Milford Road, Welford Road, Houlditch Road.**

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 and Valerie Fritche.**

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