

St Mary Magdalen Church, Knighton

Sunday 11th October 2020

Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

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

Collect

Almighty and everlasting God,
increase in us your gift of faith
that, forsaking what lies behind
and reaching out to that which is before,
we may run the way of your commandments
and win the crown of everlasting joy;
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.



**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.

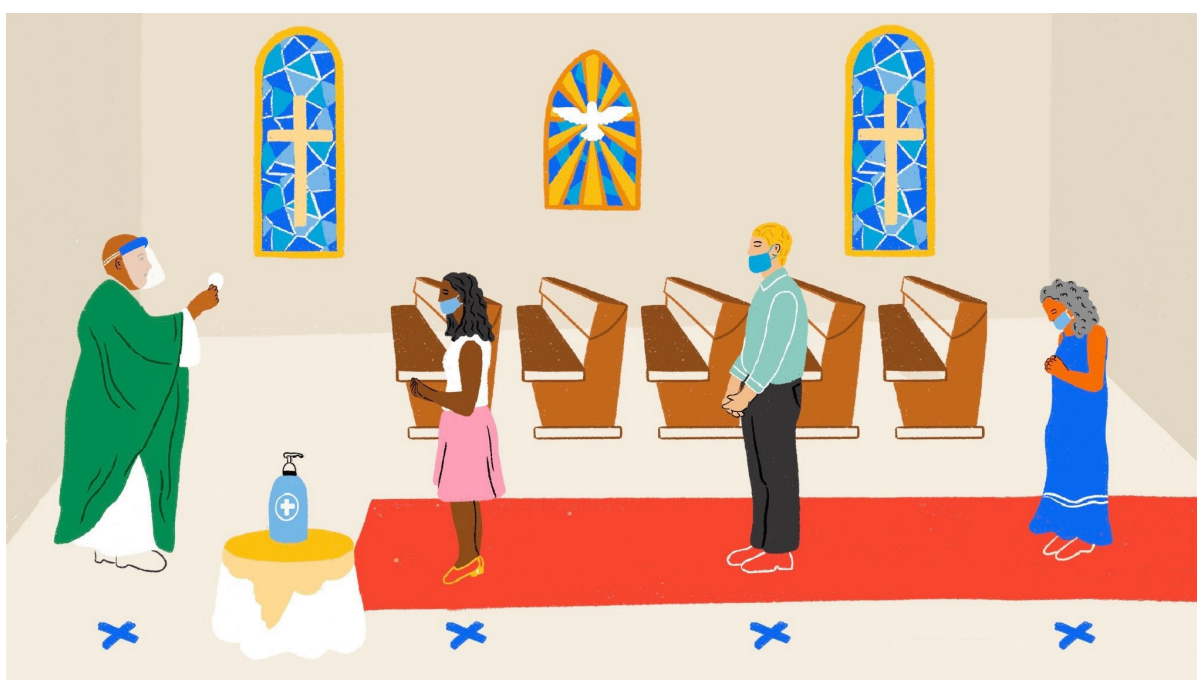
- If you should feel unwell with any of the symptoms of coronavirus in the two weeks following the service, as well as seeking medical advice, please leave a message at the Parish Office so that we can inform others if need be.
- Please note that the toilets are open for use but everyone is asked to 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 18th October or Sunday 25th October 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



Today! Our Annual Church Meeting (APCM):

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) this year is today, Sunday 11th October at 11am, after the morning service, in the church building. This is an important occasion when we review together the year that has passed (2019!) and elect our PCC and Church Wardens for the next year – obviously, the meeting was postponed much earlier in the year.

In order to make our Annual Meeting open to as many people as possible, you can take part through the internet by clicking on this link to a **Zoom meeting**, or cut and paste into the address bar on your computer. <https://leccofe.zoom.us/j/95860463416?pwd=dzUxdG10QzFDZVpDMkFXYjExRTBYUT09>

Alternatively you can join in by telephone, paying only your standard rate (which may be free). Call 03380 088 5830 and when requested key in the Meeting ID as 958 6046 3416 and the Passcode as 413951.

It is important to leave a message at the Church Office if you would like to come to the service on 11th (Eucharist) AND/OR if you would like to come to the Annual Meeting in the building rather than online.

IMPORTANT! The first part of our meeting will elect two **Church Wardens** – technically to serve until just after the next APCM (which should be in April or May 2021) but I would hope they could stay in post at least until the APCM in 2022.

Nominations for Church Wardens should be passed to the Chair of the meeting (Adrian) before it officially starts.

At the APCM we hope to fill some of the 5 vacancies for Church Council (PCC) members and the 3 vacancies for Deanery Synod representatives. Currently we have 4 nominations and others can be received at the meeting by completing a nomination form.

Adrian

Listening to God's Word

Our Bible readings for Sunday 11th October are:

A reading from Philippians, chapter 4, verses 1 to 13.

4 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends!

2 I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. **3** Yes, and I ask you, my true companion, help these women since they have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: rejoice! **5** Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. **6** Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. **7** And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things. **9** Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me – put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

10 I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. **11** I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. **12** I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. **13** I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

Matthew 22.1-14

The parable of the wedding banquet

22 Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: ² 'The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. ³ He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come.

⁴ 'Then he sent some more servants and said, "Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet."

⁵ 'But they paid no attention and went off – one to his field, another to his business. ⁶ The rest seized his servants, ill-treated them and killed them. ⁷ The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.

⁸ 'Then he said to his servants, "The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. ⁹ So go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find." ¹⁰ So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, the bad as well as the good, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹ 'But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. ¹² He asked, "How did you get in here without wedding clothes, friend?" The man was speechless.

¹³ 'Then the king told the attendants, "Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

¹⁴ 'For many are invited, but few are chosen.'



The God of peace and the peace of God - Adrian Jones

The Letter to the Philippians is sometimes called 'the Letter of Joy' because of the overwhelming sense of contented peacefulness that St Paul conveys in his words about the person of Christ, his encounter with him and the difference that makes to Paul, and can make to all believers, even in very difficult circumstances.

One commentator writes: *"The letter is dominated by a spirit of joy and peace, and is an outstanding witness to the power of Christ to lift the person weighed down with the sorrow and suffering of earth to rejoicing and gladness in the Lord."*

It is a whole letter though, not a series of uplifting quotes and separate verses – an interconnected whole. Although we want to understand Paul's thinking and the truth about God that he is so keen to share, we ought to be cautious about picking it apart until we have a sense of this whole.

So my first suggestion this week is that you take some time to read the whole letter in one sitting. It is only four chapters, so why not pour a cup of something warming, imagine yourself receiving this rolled parchment from the hand of a messenger, and settle down to read the letter in its entirety.

As you read though, be alert to the big themes that Paul has in mind – and imagine him talking directly to you, as a friend who values your faith, appreciates all you've gone through and now wants to encourage you to reach for the very best that God has for you.

When you've finished reading (not too fast!) allow the words in their entirety to sink in and make an impression on you...and then ask the God of peace to grant you his good gifts today. Whatever your circumstances, resolve to live as Paul describes in chapter 4 and to accept God's gift of peace.

You are loved. Christ has done everything needful to make you safe. Now God longs to give you his peace. Turn to him with gratitude and allow joy to return.

Amen.

How you can help to Grow Hope in Egypt

I very much hope that you would like to respond to God's generosity by supporting our Harvest Appeal this year, **Growing Hope in Egypt**, and so supporting *Embrace* and the Salaam Centre. God promises to bless and use even the smallest act of giving on our part.

If you would like to contribute to our Harvest Appeal then you can drop an envelope into the collection at the back of the church marked simply 'Harvest', or you can drop an envelope in at the Vicarage if you pass (5 Church Lane) or at the St Mary's Church Office (in the Parish Centre). Please make cheques payable to 'Embrace the Middle East', writing your name and address on the back and 'Gift Aid please' if appropriate.

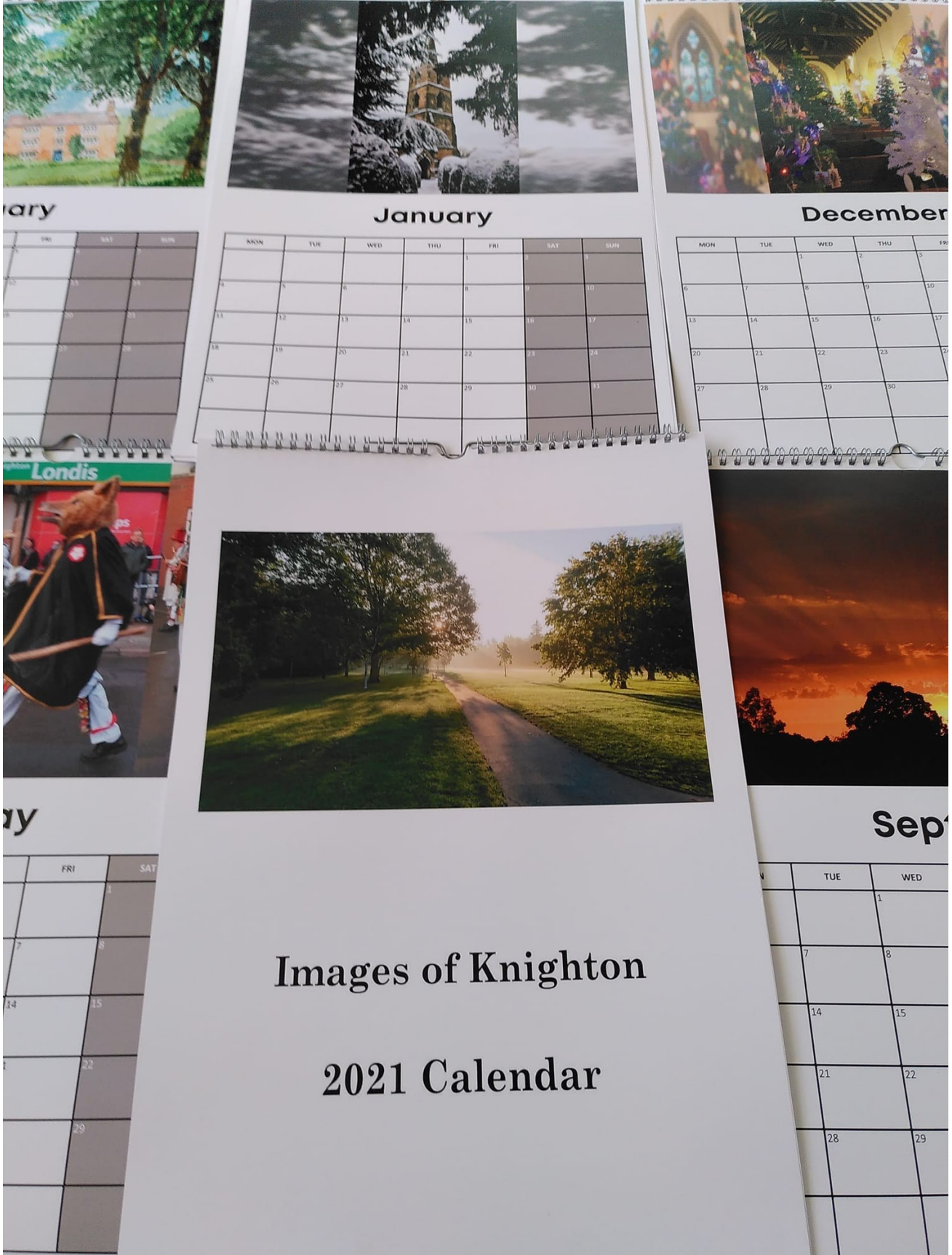
Alternatively you can send a donation directly to Embrace at 24 London Road West, Amersham, HP7 0LZ, or make a bank transfer to 'Embrace the Middle East', sort code 60-11-01, account 1554064. If donating directly, do think about emailing info@embraceme.org with your name and address so that Gift Aid can be claimed.

Thank you – and may God bless your generosity.

Adrian

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.



St Mary's Alternative Christmas Fayre



Marmalade
All varieties



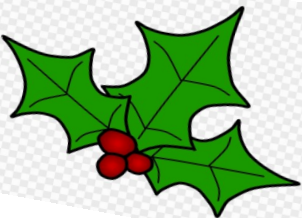
**Jams &
Chutneys**



**Small hand
knitted toys**



**Fully iced
Christmas
Cakes**



We also have some Christmas woodcuts for sale at £5 each.
Please contact Sue on 07402 028637

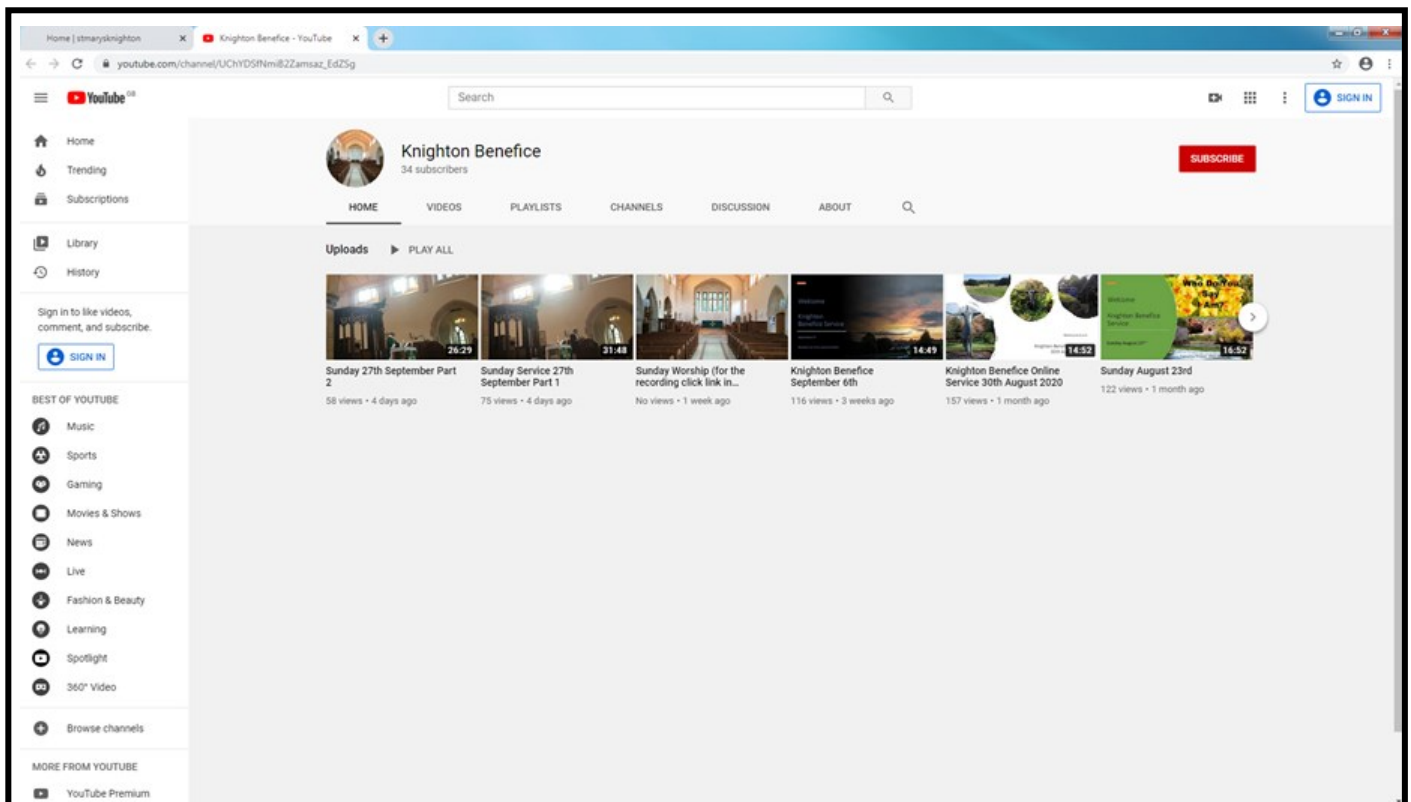


Sadly it is impossible to hold the usual Fayre in November. But if you would like to order any of these goodies - please contact either Cora Paul 3678954 or Judi Stone 2881306. All items can be delivered to your door in time for Christmas.

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 Guthlacs 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.



CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Sad news: I'm sorry to have to tell you that our friend and long-time chorister, Gil Parsons died in the early hours of Tuesday morning. 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. There are no firm funeral arrangements as yet. *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."

Congratulations to the Very Revd Canon Derek Hole who recently celebrated the 60th anniversary of his ordination. Derek was a curate in Knighton and remembers his time here with Canon Fielder very fondly.

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:

Vicar: Adrian Jones 0116 270 4268 or 07584 954414

Email: adrian.jones@zoho.com (day off normally Friday)

Assistant Curate: Revd Matthew Gough 07754 961997

Email: revgough@gmail.com (day off normally Friday)

Revd Aphro McCullough: 0116 283 7887

Email: aphro.mccullough@btinternet.com

Revd Canon Dr Stephen Foster

Email: safpta6@gmail.com 07966 376905

Revd Janet Gasper

Email: janet.gasper@hotmail.co.uk 0116 288 9646

Reader: Fiona Wingate

Email: Fiona.wingate@talktalk.net 07515 752954

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: As we celebrate our Harvest Festival, pray for a more equal distribution of the world's resources, and a greater willingness to share the fruits of human endeavour and discovery freely across all nations.

Praying for the Church: Pray for our Bishops and other leaders in the Diocese of Leicester as they face difficult decisions about our financial future. Pray that they would seek always to be attentive to God's voice and obedient to his calling.

Praying for the Parish: Please pray for the peace and well-being of all those who live on Carisbrooke Road, Stockwell Road, Ashclose Avenue, Meadvale Road, Overdale Road.

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** 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 **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.