

# St Mary Magdalen Church, Knighton

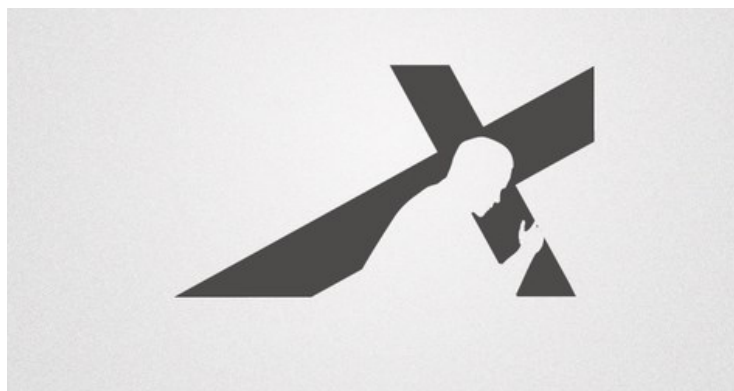
**Sunday 30th August 2020**

Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

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

## ***Collect***

*Almighty and everlasting God,  
you are always more ready to hear than we to pray  
and to give more than either we desire or deserve:  
pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy,  
forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid  
and giving us those good things  
which we are not worthy to ask  
but through the merits and mediation  
of 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.*



## **Re-opening the church building for worship**

I'm pleased to say that in line with Church of England guidance we are now preparing to re-open the church building for public worship, beginning with a simple service of Morning Prayer on Sunday 6th September at 10am as usual. As this will be our first service since March and we have detailed guidance to follow, no doubt there will be a few hiccups, so please bear with us!

Unfortunately, in order to maintain social distancing, we have to limit the number of people who can attend each service; our current calculation is that we can seat 40 individuals, small households or 'bubbles' safely at any one time. In order to manage cleaning after the service we are not opening the toilets at the moment, but we will review this for the future.

If you would like to attend on 6th please do phone the parish office (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.

Please be aware of these other changes:

- ♦ when you arrive you may have to queue for a while - please 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;
- ♦ you will be welcomed, asked to sanitise your hands, given a service sheet and directed to a seat - please sit only in this place as we need to maintain distances and reduce movement;
- ♦ during the service we are not able to sing but there will be music and hymns to listen to;
- ♦ 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 take your service sheet home with you;

- ♦ you will be asked to sanitise your hands as you leave;
- ♦ when we have all gone the church building will remain unused for 72 hours to eliminate any virus.;
- ♦ 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.

I know that these requirements will make the service feel unusual and may indeed put you off, but please remember that God himself is not shaped by our circumstances! The world is an imperfect place and we are imperfect people but we can worship God in all situations and he is pleased when we do. This is our first step on the road towards a 'normal' worshipping life together and we should try to feel some joy as well as a healthy awareness of all that we have to do to be safe.

Some other important dates:

- the Parish Centre re-opens from 8th September, with Mark and Steph back to take care of it for us;
- James, our Parish Administrator, will return from furlough on 1st September, but the Office, sadly, cannot open to personal callers;
- the church building will be open for a service of Holy Communion on Sundays 13th, 20th and 27th September, at 10am.;
- following his ordination as priest in the Cathedral on Sunday 13th September, Matthew will preside at a service of Holy Communion at St Mary's on Wednesday 16th September at 7.30pm;
- on Sunday 4th October we will celebrate our Harvest Festival (somehow!) and then have our Annual Church Meeting (postponed from April and looking back at 2019).

Meanwhile we will continue to produce our Virtual Worship each week and of course the Newsletter will be emailed or posted out to everyone for whom we have contact details and permission.

Best wishes

*Adrian*

# Listening to God's Word

Our Bible readings for Sunday, 30th August are: Jeremiah 15.15-21 and **Matthew 16.21-end**

## *Jesus Predicts His Death*

<sup>21</sup> From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

<sup>22</sup> Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!"

<sup>23</sup> Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

<sup>24</sup> Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup> For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. <sup>26</sup> What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? <sup>27</sup> For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.

<sup>28</sup> "Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

## **Reflection** *by the Revd Janet Gasper*

We find Jesus at a crossroads in this gospel reading – from that time on he began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer and die at the hands of the religious leaders and on the third day be raised. Peter has recognized Jesus as the Messiah and Peter pictures a figure of Glory and only hears Jesus words about suffering. But Jesus knows he must suffer and die and he is willing to make that choice and to start preparing his disciples for this.

For Jesus this means continuing in the same loving direction as before. Peter is appalled that the Son of the Living God could suffer – he can't accept it and tells this to Jesus and Jesus has to help Peter make a 'U Turn'. Jesus words to Peter sound brutal: "Get behind me Satan. You are a stumbling block to me." All those listening, and that includes us, are shocked, but here is revealed the strengths and weaknesses that make Peter's humanity a model for all who try to follow and often feel they have failed. A little earlier Jesus had hailed Peter as 'the rock' on whom he will build his church. That the same rock should also be a stumbling block reminds us that Peter did not come fully formed but had to learn to exercise his vocation through a series of errors and misconceptions. The stumbling block must be put behind Jesus but those who want to become his followers must also get behind him.

Jesus assures the disciples that those who take up the cross and follow will find their lives. This is 'a path of revelation' and 'becoming' in which they will discover new selves formed in the likeness of Christ. On the cross we see God in Jesus stretching out his arms to embrace the suffering of the world, choosing the costly way of love and service rather than the way of power and greed.

Next Tuesday the church commemorates Giles of Provence. In the 7<sup>th</sup> Century he set up a monastery in Provence on the pilgrimage route to the Holy Land. He cared for the wounded, the exhausted, those crippled by disease, happy even to take in lepers who were not permitted to enter towns. There was no respite and Giles never turned anyone away.

Today we see this costly way of love and service taught by Jesus in those who work for aid agencies: Christian Aid, Red Cross, UNICEF, Save the Children, Doctors serving with Medicin Sans Frontiers and emergency workers throughout the world. Our hearts go out to those trying to relieve the plight of those in Beirut who have lost everything in the explosion. We see edited highlights on our TV screen – they know the heart-breaking decisions that have to be made on the ground.

Thank God that people are called to help in the extremities of life in this world and ask God to help us take the costly way of love and service in the way we care for family, friend and stranger.

Amen

# “Images of Knighton”

## Entries Wanted for 2021 Calendar Competition



**Have you got a photographic eye, or can you paint, draw, create (any medium) an image of Knighton?**

Adult and under 18s categories

The panel of judges is made up of a local councillor, artists, photographer & Vicar

**Free calendars to successful entrants**

Please send high quality original jpeg images by -

**Monday 14th September**

to [spireappeal@gmail.com](mailto:spireappeal@gmail.com)

Queries to Rev. Gough-07754961997



St Mary's Knighton Spire Appeal

## Ordinations 2020 Prayer Card

Please pray for all those to be ordained and especially those to be ordained in the diocese of Leicester at the Cathedral this September.

To be ordained priest on Sunday 13 September: Hazel Aucken, Ivan Bennett, Jon Berry, Wilma Colley, Sarah Collins, Mark Cooper, Matthew Gough, Ann Hall, Laura Jackson, Emily Sharman, Chris Szejnmann, Jon Tearne.

To be ordained deacon on Sunday 27 September: Nick Baker, Matthew Creber-Davies, Pauline Cummins, Paul Emberton, Ros Harper, Maria Jukes, Rob Leveritt, Dawn Matthew, Crystal McAllister, Bidy Saunders.

*God our Father, Lord of all the world,  
through your Son you have called us  
into the fellowship of your universal Church:  
hear our prayer for all your faithful people  
that in their vocation and ministry  
each may be an instrument of your love,  
and give to your servants soon to be ordained  
the needful gifts of grace;  
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
Amen.*

Pray also for their families, friends and all those who will support them  
Pray for the communities where they will serve their curacy and for their  
training incumbents and context supervisors. Pray too for more vocations  
to all kinds of ministry. What is God's plan for you?

# How do we live as the Church *now*?

## Worship

*“Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, **praising God** and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. ” (Acts 2.46-47)*

Over the <sup>Ros.....</sup> summer weeks I've been reflecting on each of the 'holy habits', or characteristics, of the life of the early church, as shown to us by Luke in the Acts of the Apostles. The ninth 'holy habit' is worship, '*praising God*' – which the Bible consistently presents to us as the intentional act of laying out our appreciation of God's character and actions, which in turn arises from a loving and faithful heart. Worship is therefore something that we decide to do, but it is rooted in our experience of faith and God's goodness in our own lives.

There are times when worship feels easy and the natural thing to do – when we have such a sense of deep joy and gratitude that we cannot help but worship God. But there are also times when the last thing we *feel*/like doing is worshipping God. Perhaps our circumstances or worries are weighing us down, or perhaps illness and death seem ever present; at such times we need each other and the encouragement of worshipping *together* to sustain us.

In the current pandemic we remain Christians who want to worship together, even while we are forced to remain apart. Though our buildings are once again beginning to open, tentatively, our meetings will not look like our traditional worship for some considerable time to come. How then do we put into practice this 'holy habit' in a corona virus world?

The first Christians certainly met together to worship God, as Luke tells



us, but it's also clear that their faith spilled over into all aspects of life. They discovered that all of life can be worship when lived for love of God. Worship is not just confined to an hour or two in church but we ought to offer it often, as a grateful response to God who is involved in all aspects of our lives; our work, rest, enjoyment of creation, service, eating, giving ... and meeting.

The current restrictions are perhaps a chance to learn some new things about worship, and even to learn some new *ways* to worship. Those of us who have access to the internet can find a whole range of different styles of worship in church to view or be part of, for example. There are many very good modern songs to help us worship – they are certainly not traditional hymns but nevertheless can bring us into the presence of God for worship in a fresh way that can invigorate our faith.

For all of us, this is a chance to *choose* to worship rather than just acting automatically because we're in church. Perhaps we're being called to make more of an *effort* and to put together some words of praise and thanksgiving ourselves? And certainly we have the opportunity to praise God through the day for every aspect of life – perhaps we could just pause after every routine task and simply say "Praise God from whom all blessings flow".

In the meantime, keep safe and stay well.

*Adrian*



## Church Family News

**Josie Childs:** Sadly we received news recently that Josie died on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2020. Her funeral will be on Wednesday 2nd September at 12pm, and will be available to see on the internet at the same time - please contact Annette Toone (Josies sister) on [columboK9@gmail.com](mailto:columboK9@gmail.com) and she will send further details. Annette can also be contacted at 29 Carmen Grove, Groby, LE6 0BA Tel: 0116 225 0217

**On the move:** It was announced last week that our former vicar, the Revd Keith Magee, is to move from St Peter's Braunstone to become Team Rector of Dorchester and the Winterbournes in the Diocese of Salisbury. Keith's last service at St Peter's will be on Sunday 25th October 2020. We wish him and Ruth much happiness in their new location and ministry.

**Paul and Sue Bonnett** have written with news and thanks:

We want to a very sincere thank you for the Marks and Spencer hamper that was delivered this morning, and the flowers are delightful and have taken pride of place in our new lounge. All much appreciated!

We have been made most welcome and are settling into the new house very well. We are planning a holiday in the near future with Laura, Rob and Ben. Once again our sincere thanks and hopefully we will be back in Leicester in the future when lock down is over to say a proper farewell to all. Kindest regards - Paul & Sue

*Adrian adds: We have also sent Paul and Sue a book of memories and messages and a handsome gift voucher. Thanks to everyone for giving them a splendid 'send off'.*

**Ros Matthew:** You may have seen from the interview with Ros in last week's Virtual Worship that she is planning to return to Antigua full time in the near future. We may not have chance to see her in church but we will say a full and heartfelt farewell in the newsletter when she is ready to go!

## **A message from Sue Stanley & Dave Wood:**

"We would like to thank everyone for your support following the passing of our Dad, and especially to the large number of people who came to St Marys churchyard on the morning of the funeral to pay their respects. This was a very moving experience and brought great comfort to the family.

The family-only funeral was very memorable, and hopefully Dad would have loved it, despite the restrictions. If you wish to watch the service it is available, if you have internet access, at [www.obitus.com](http://www.obitus.com) Username; **Kali4037** Password; **908694**. This will be available until 26<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

Because of his infectious friendship and inspiring love, a celebratory memorial service will be held at St. Mary Magdalen church, Knighton, once restrictions allow. With this in mind we are preparing a scrapbook of memories of Dad from all those who have been touched by his Love and Kindness during his long and fulfilling life. If you wish to provide a short personal memory of Dad, humorous or sad, philosophical or whimsical, serious or naughty, we would be most honoured. These can be sent to us via post or email and can include photos or clippings if you wish. This will give our family an insight into "Ray Wood" rather than "Dad".

Dad had requested no flowers, however he was heartily involved with Menphys for over 50 years therefore donations, if so wished, can be made on the just giving page;

[www.justgiving.com/InMemoryofRayWood](http://www.justgiving.com/InMemoryofRayWood)

or cheque made payable to "Menphys Ltd." posted to ourselves. If you have already donated may we Thank You for helping to help others.

Kind Regards

Sue Stanley & Dave Wood

[suestanley73@hotmail.com](mailto:suestanley73@hotmail.com)

[davewood2929@gmail.com](mailto:davewood2929@gmail.com)

c/o 244 Wigston Road, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 5JE

# Wanted!



## ***New Church Wardens***

### **Essential Qualities**

- a heart for St Mary's Church – the people and the building – and our community
- a belief that God's future for us is bright
- the ability to work with others (inc. the Vicar!)
- a commitment for 1-3 years.

### **It could be YOU!**

#### *Don't be put off by:*

- your age or gender
- being a 'newcomer'
- being an 'old hand'
- not being 'practical'
- not being 'spiritual'.

### **What to do next**

- talk to God
- talk to your friends
- talk to Ros Matthew, any previous Warden or to Adrian.

# Wanted!



## ***New PCC members***

Our Annual Meeting to elect Church Wardens and Church Council (PCC) members is scheduled for Sunday 4th October at 11.30am in the Church—God willing!

The PCC is the main decision making body in the parish and a portion of it's members are elected every year, usually for a three year term. It's chief responsibility, along with the minister, is to promote the mission of God in our community, through outreach, service, worship and care for the buildings and resources entrusted to us.

At this point in the growth and development of St Mary's, with the challenges that we face following the pandemic, it is important that we have Church Council members who can reflect all the views and experiences of our congregation and wider church family. You do not need to be an expert in anything but you do need to have the best interests of the church and the community at heart, being willing to listen, discuss and make key decisions.

Please consider if this might be God's calling to you, or to someone you know. More details coming soon!

## **BENEFICE MAGAZINE**

Please consider making a contribution to the next issue of the Benefice Magazine. You may want to share your thoughts and experiences prompted by the pandemic and the lockdown, for inclusion in our "Letters from Lockdown" section, but any topic relevant to our readers would be welcome. Photographs too! The closing date for your copy is 31 August, not 30 September as I foolishly said in the last edition. Copy to [stmaryknighton.magazine@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryknighton.magazine@gmail.com) please.

Nigel Siesage

### **Contact details:**

**Vicar: Adrian Jones**                      0116 270 4268 or 07584 954414

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

**Assistant Curate: Revd Matthew Gough** 07754 961997

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

**Revd Aphro McCullough:**                      0116 283 7887

Email: [aphro.mccullough@btinternet.com](mailto:aphro.mccullough@btinternet.com)

**Revd Canon Dr Stephen Foster**

Email: [safpta6@gmail.com](mailto:safpta6@gmail.com)                      07966 376905

**Revd Janet Gasper**

Email: [janet.gasper@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:janet.gasper@hotmail.co.uk)                      0116 288 9646

**Reader: Fiona Wingate**

Email: [Fiona.wingate@talktalk.net](mailto:Fiona.wingate@talktalk.net)                      07515 752954

**Churchwarden: Rosalind Matthew**

**Parish Office (currently closed)**                      0116 270 2705

Email: [office@knightonparish.co.uk](mailto:office@knightonparish.co.uk)

## **Keeping in touch and sharing worship together remotely.**

**On-line worship** Each Sunday we aim to have a short recorded, reflective act of worship by members of St Mary's congregation on both the website and our Facebook page—do have a look and join in worship together.

**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](mailto: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 who work against injustice and on behalf of those who find it difficult to make their own voice heard in society. Pray that we are all more ready to listen to each other.

**Praying for the Church:** Please pray for all those helping our diocese become 'greener'. Pray for a deeper appreciation of God's gifts to us in creation, that we may be better stewards of the natural world, for churches working towards an EcoChurch award and for our diocese's progress towards Eco-Diocese status.

**Praying for the Parish:** Please pray for the peace and well-being of all those who live on Hylion Road, Asquith Boulevard, Aberdale Road, Shackerdale Road, Brixham Drive.

**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, Gary Joynes, Anne Squires, Ed Groves, Bob Newell, 'S'** 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;: **Josie Childs** . We 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.*