



St Mary Magdalen Church of England, Knighton

Vicar - Revd Adrian Jones

23rd / 30th December 2018
4th Sunday of Advent / 1st Sunday of Christmas

Welcome to our Sunday Services Wishing everyone a very happy and peaceful Christmas

A warm welcome to everyone joining us at St Mary Magdalen this week, especially if you are here for the first time or visiting. On the next page of this newsletter you'll find all the essential information you might need for this morning's service.

TODAY - our normal Eucharist services will take place at 8am and 10am. In the evening, at 6.30pm, for about 45 minutes, we have a quieter and reflective time called "Blue Christmas". This will provide an opportunity to those of us who find Christmas a difficult or troubling season, to escape for a while from the non-stop jollity. There will be some prayers, readings and quiet music to listen to, but no carols! Please do talk about this to friends and neighbours as well, as there are many people who might appreciate this time to pause, even if they don't feel particularly 'blue' at the moment. You are welcome whatever your mood!

Adrian

ABOUT OUR SERVICES

- Our worship follows the printed order of service and the readings and hymns are on an additional sheet. Large print versions are available from the sidespersons (the welcomers at the door).
- If you are using a hearing aid, please switch it to the T position so as to make best use of the hearing loop system.
- It is traditional to stand for the hymns and some of the prayers and readings, but if this is difficult for you then please do remain seated and comfortable.
- In the entrance area there are toilets, and there is a crèche area at the back of the church. During the service on 23rd December there are activities in the entrance area for children of all ages, at Sunday Club. On the 30th December Sunday Club has a break."
- When we share Communion together everyone is invited to come forwards to receive bread and wine as we remember the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. If you would prefer to come for a blessing then simply carry the service booklet with you.
- At our 10am and Midnight services, non-alcoholic communion wine is available on request in the Lady Chapel (to the left) and gluten free wafers on request at the main Communion rail.
- Please talk to the sidespersons if you have any other questions and do please stay after the 10.00 am service for tea or coffee and introduce yourself to some of us.

Listening to God's Word

Our Bible readings on **23rd December** are:

Micah 5.2-5a, Hebrews 10.5-10, Luke 1.39-45

The sermon title for **23rd December** is

"The King is Coming! Can you feel it?"

Our Bible readings on **30th December** are:

1 Samuel 2.18-20,26, Colossians 3.12-17, Luke 2.41-52

The sermon title for **30th December** is

'Growing in stature and favour'

DIARY FOR THE NEXT TWO WEEKS

Sunday 23rd December 3 rd Sunday of Advent	8.00am 10.00am 6.30pm	Eucharist Sung Eucharist A Blue Christmas
Monday 24 th December Christmas Eve	5.00pm 11.30pm	Crib Service Midnight Eucharist
Tuesday 25 th December Christmas Day	8.00am 10.00am	Eucharist All Age Worship and Communion
Wednesday 26 th December		
Thursday 27 th December		
Friday 28 th December		
Saturday 29 th December		
Sunday 30th December 1 st Sunday of Christmas	8.00am 10.00am	Eucharist Sung Eucharist
Monday 31 st December New Year's Eve		
Tuesday 1 st January 2019 New Year's Day		
Wednesday 2 nd January		
Thursday 3 rd January	9.30am	Eucharist, St Guthlacs
Friday 4 th January		
Saturday 5 th January		
Sunday 6th January Epiphany	8.00am 10.00am 11.30am	Eucharist All Age Worship Eucharist

Please note that the Parish Office will be **closed** during this period and will re-open on Tuesday 8th January. The office phone and emails will be monitored occasionally but for any emergency situation, please contact Adrian on 0116 270 4268 or adrian.jones@zoho.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS & INFORMATION

CHANGES TO OUR REGULAR MIDWEEK WORSHIP OVER THE

HOLIDAY SEASON: please note that Morning Prayer at St Guthlac's and St Mary's will now take a break until the week beginning 7th January, when it will re-start at the slightly later time of 9.30am. There will be no midweek Communion service in the benefice on Thursday 27th December or Tuesday 1st January, but there will be a service as usual at St Guthlac's on Thursday 3rd January, 9.30am.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS ... If you would like to send a 'shared' card to other members of the congregation a board will be provided at the back of church for this purpose. A donation in aid of the Children's Society would be very much appreciated. (Box Provided). Thank you.

KNIGHTON REMEMBERS WW1, the book about the men on St Mary's war memorial is being reprinted, following its sell out over the commemoration weekend. The book costs £5.00 and can be ordered by emailing knightonremembersww1@gmail.com or through James at the Knighton Parish Office. Deborah Martin

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR To date, £1550 has been raised for church funds. Many thanks for all your support. *Social Group*

CHRISTIAN AID CHRISTMAS COLLECTION As usual, we will be making a special collection for Christian Aid at Christmas time. There will be special envelopes in the pews next week and you can also make a donation in any other sealed envelope, marked clearly 'Christian Aid'.

CAN YOU OFFER A LIFT? Veronica Brown would like a lift to church on Christmas morning for the 8.00am Eucharist. If you are able to help, please call Veronica on 2889284.

COFFEE MORNING Do come and join us at our Coffee Morning in church on **Saturday 12th January** from 10.30am until 12.30pm. (Note change of time) There'll be various stalls, including unwanted Christmas Gifts, cakes and preserves, books and a raffle. Everyone very welcome.



HAPPY CHRISTMAS from the Vicarage!
Adrian, Alison, Skye and Derry would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year. Thank you for all that you have done to help and support us in 2018 - we are looking forward to all that God will do

through the extended church family of St Mary's and St Guthlac's in 2019!

HAPPY CHRISTMAS Thank you all for your kindness and support again this year. Have a wonderful Christmas and I shall see you in 2019! With love and best wishes for 2019, James in the Parish Office.



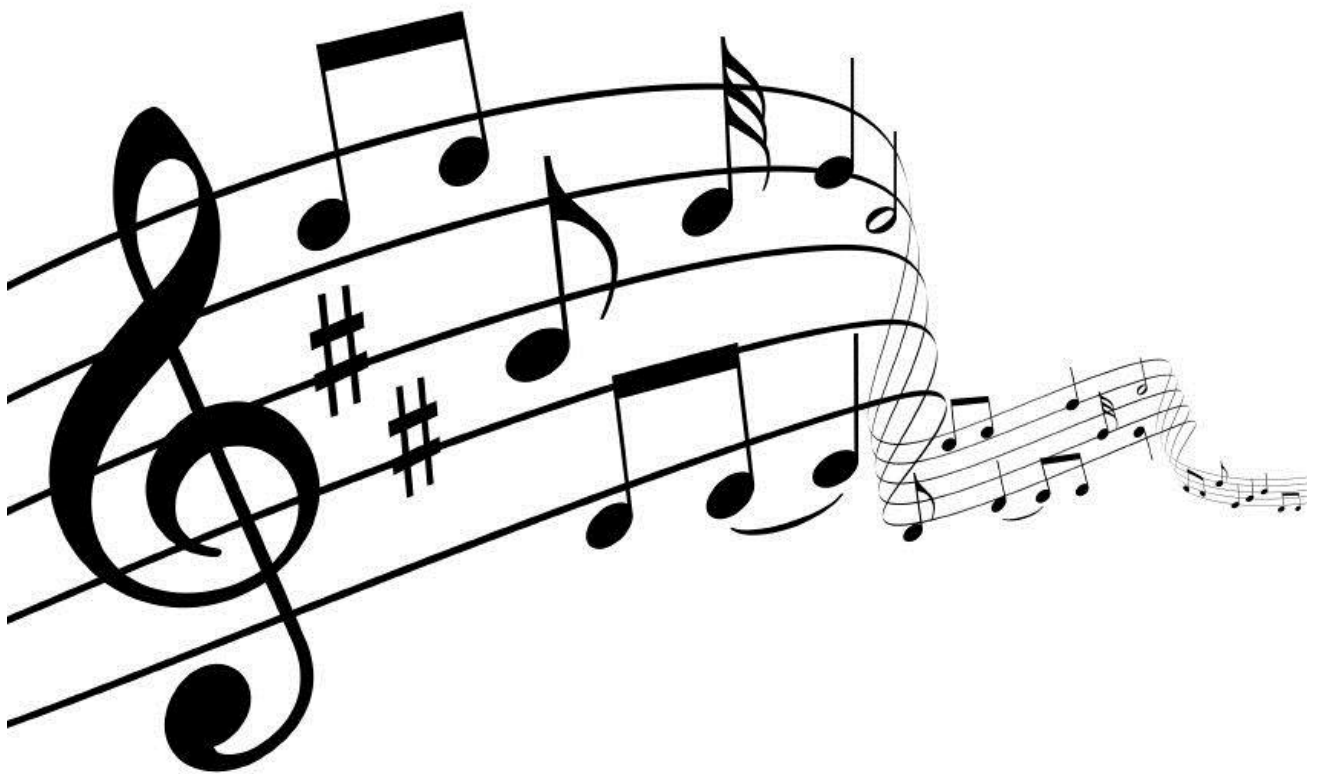
CAR PARKING On Sunday mornings, please do not park in front of the church or on the church path unless you need to do so for mobility reasons. Also, please do not block the paths.

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 standing order as part of our Planned Giving Scheme. Details can be obtained from Lorna Pollard, Planned Giving Scheme Secretary: telephone 0116 2704272 or e mail: stmarysknighton.giving@gmail.com. If you are taxpayer and gift aid your giving, our church can claim an additional 25%.

CHEQUES FOR ST MARY'S Please note that any cheques for St Mary's must be made out to Knighton PCC.

Please send items for inclusion in the diary or notice sheet to James Gutteridge by **Thursday 12.00 noon**. Contact James on office@knightonparish.co.uk or 0116 2702705. Knighton Parish Office, Church Lane, Knighton, Leicester LE2 3WG

A VERY BIG THANK YOU TO Mary Britton, as she stands down as co-ordinator of our choir after Christmas. St Mary's is rightly proud of our musical tradition and the choir play a major part in leading our worship together. Mary's commitment and hard work in her role as co-ordinator and leader has been evident in the very many special services that we have enjoyed together over recent years, and she will be much missed in the choir stalls by us all. On behalf of the church and the choir, I presented a gift to Mary at the end of last Wednesday's Nine Lessons and Carols at St Guthlac's, where we also thanked Margaret Bonney for her leading of the St Guthlac's choir and of the joint choir services. *Adrian*



GOD OF GOOD NEWS - A PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS DAY AND BEYOND

God of good news,
today you begin again to reshape our lives and our communities.
You do not start from the outside, but from within.
You begin in the hidden place.
Behind the inn. Before the marriage. At the wrong time.
You invite a handful of guests into your company.
Shepherds. Local children perhaps. Maybe some animals.
You join the community of the invisible ones.
The homeless and hopeless. Refugees, fleeing a tyrant king.
Later, you find fisherfolk. And a tax collector. More children.
The small. The unimportant. The forgotten. The frightened.
These are the people you choose,
as little by little you start sharing
the secrets of a kingdom that will change the whole world.
From within. From the hidden place.

God of good news,
help us to find you again
in the hidden place.
Amen.

from 'Advent Readings from Iona' by Brian Woodcock and Jan Sutch
Pickard, published by Wild Goose books and used with permission.

Please pray.....

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thessalonians 5.16-18)

Praying for the World: As we celebrate the coming of the Prince of Peace, please pray for all those people whose lives are torn apart by conflict - those who live in war zones and also those who are subject to oppression and persecution because of their faith, their politics, their sexuality or gender, their ethnicity or their disability. Please pray that they may all know the gift of peace in this coming year.

Praying for the Church: As we remember that Jesus gave up so much for our sakes and humbled himself so that he could walk alongside us, please pray that as the Christian church locally but also nationally and internationally, would be ready to sacrifice our own comfort and well-being for the sake of those who don't yet know the fullness of life that God wants for them.

Praying for the Parish : This week please pray for all those who live in **Craighill Road, Craighill Walk, Milford Road, Welford Road, Houlditch Road.**

We pray for all those who are unwell at the moment, whether in body, mind or spirit. In particular we pray for: **Pauline Rawlings** and all those on our parish 'Continuing Prayer' list. May they know the power of God's healing love at work in their lives today.

May they know the power of your healing love, at work in body, mind and spirit. In the name of Christ the healer, hear us now. Amen

Give thanks for those who have been healed and restored.

We remember those who have died recently and pray for their families and friends.

Names will remain on the prayer list here for three weeks - please let us know if they should then be moved to the 'Continuing Prayer' list used for intercessions during the week.