

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

Sunday 22nd/ 29th December 2019

22nd December - our preacher and president is the Rev'd Aphro McCullough

29th December - our preacher and president is the Revd Adrian Jones

Welcome to our Sung Eucharist

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.



And is it true,
This most tremendous tale of all,
Seen in a stained-glass window's hue,
A Baby in an ox's stall ?
The Maker of the stars and sea
Become a Child on earth for me ?



And is it true ? For if it is,
No loving fingers tying strings
Around those tissued fripperies,
The sweet and silly Christmas things,
Bath salts and inexpensive scent
And hideous tie so kindly meant,



No love that in a family dwells,
No carolling in frosty air,
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells
Can with this single Truth compare -
That God was man in Palestine
And lives today in Bread and Wine.



(from 'Christmas' by John Betjeman)



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 are toilets, and there is a crèche area at the back of the church. Sunday Club meets in the Narthex for primary school age children.
- As part of each service we share Communion together and 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 10.00am, 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.
- You are welcome to join Adrian for a short time of prayer before the main service: 9.30-9.45am at the front of the Lady Chapel (the chapel on the left).
- 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.

The Parish Office is now closed for the Christmas holidays and will re-open on Friday 3rd January. I would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year. James :)

DIARY FOR THE NEXT TWO WEEKS

Sunday 22nd December 4th Sunday of Advent	8.00am Said Eucharist 10.00am Sung Eucharist 3.30pm Christingle
Monday 23rd December	1.30pm Crib Service rehearsal 7.00pm 'Sing Christmas' at The Aberdale 7.30pm Bell Ringing Practice
Tuesday 24th December	No 9.30am service 5.00pm Crib Service 11.30pm Midnight Communion
Wednesday 25th December	8.00am Christmas Eucharist 10.00am All Age Celebration followed by Holy Communion
Thursday 26th December	No service at St Guthlacs
Friday 27th December	
Saturday 28th December	
Sunday 29th December 4th Sunday of Advent	8.00am Said Eucharist 10.00am Sung Eucharist
Monday 30th December	7.30pm Bell Ringing Practice
Tuesday 31st December	No 9.30am service
Wednesday 1st January	
Thursday 2nd January	No service at St Guthlacs
Friday 3rd January	8.00am SLCP First Friday Prayers 10.30am Funeral
Saturday 4th January	
Sunday 5th January 4th Sunday of Advent	8.00am Said Eucharist 10.00am All Age Worship 11.30am Eucharist

InSPIREd

The campaign to save our spire

InSpired - our appeal for the spire

The Spire Group is continuing to work on an exciting programme of events which we hope will attract people from all over the community. Please tell your friends and neighbours about all our events as they are announced.

InSpired News

Online giving

It is now possible to donate to the appeal online. Just go to the parish website and follow the link. This is an easy, efficient way for people who live further away to contribute, so please pass this information on to any of your friends who care about the future of St Mary's.

Your Spire Fund-raising Group are: Nigel Siesage, Adrian Jones, Sue Holligan, Sian Howard, Lorna Kirk, Michael Kirk.

Donations for the Spire Fund

We continue to receive some very generous donations. Cheques for the Spire should be made out to Knighton PCC, but make it clear that they are for the Spire, by writing 'Spire Fund' on the back of the cheque.

If you already give to the church with Gift Aid, it will be possible to claim it on spire donations. Please speak to Lorna Pollard for advice if you have any questions about this.

Also, there are Spire Fund Appeal blue envelopes available for you to use in the pews, if you wish to use this method in addition to your regular giving in the unmarked envelopes. If you are a tax payer and complete the envelope, your gift will increase by 25%. Many thanks. *Nigel*

THURSDAY DROP-IN

After 46 years, the Thursday Drop-In club have sadly decided that the time has come for us to close. Our last meeting will be on Thursday 2nd January. We've had a lovely time over the years and shall miss the friends and fellowship. (and the bingo!).

Mavis

Adrian says: We are all sad to hear this news from Mavis. Many people have told me how much the Thursday Club has meant to them over the years, both as volunteers and club members. We certainly need to mark the ending of such a significant group - please let me have any ideas you have for recognising the part it has played in so many lives and for thanking God for all it has meant to our life together.

MARY BRISTOW

News of Mrs Mary Bristow (from her daughter). After having had a stroke, Mary has moved to Autumn Grange, Linden Road, Creswell, Chesterfield S86 4TI. She is content and being well looked after. It would give her great pleasure to receive a Christmas card from friends of the church she had been a member for many years.

VALERIE DUDLEY

Valerie's daughter Angela has been in touch to let us know that her mum is settling well into a nursing home, following a nasty fall. It's a lovely old country house with beautiful grounds and views and fabulous staff. It would be really nice if friends from church could send Valerie a Christmas card. If you'd like to, please send to Valerie Dudley, Shockerwick House Care Home, Lower Shockerwick, Bath BA1 7LL.

THE CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

on Saturday 30 November raised £1,900 excluding sales in Church. This is an increase of £400 on last year. Many thanks to all those who helped and supported it. *Michael Kirk*

Very many thanks to everyone who gave so much time, energy and enthusiasm to make the Bazaar a great success. It was a splendid way to both raise funds and also open our church life to numerous friends and neighbours from the local community. Adrian

SING CHRISTMAS WITH BBC RADIO LEICESTER IN THE BENEFICE!

Come along to The Aberdale, Shackderdale Road, West Knighton, Monday 23rd December from 7-8pm with other churches from the South Leicestershire Christian Partnership. Mince Pies to donate welcome to bless our community. More information-Rev'd Matthew

CHRISTIAN AID CHRISTMAS APPEAL:

there are envelopes in the pews for your donations, this year to help mothers world-wide to use their God-given gifts to escape poverty. Please return your donations in the next couple of weeks via the offertory plate, with Gift Aid if you can - it adds 25% to your gift, with no cost to you! Many thanks.

NATIONAL SPACE CENTRE TICKETS

Every year, as a Trustee of the National Space Centre, I receive a number of tickets for my own use. They expire at the end of March and I have a few of this year's batch left. Please let me know if you are interested. They cannot be sold or used for prizes, or I would have made use of them to raise funds for the spire.

Nigel Siesage

DRIVERS - CAN YOU HELP?

We are currently putting together a list of drivers who might be able to help Veronica Brown get to church from Wigston, for the 8am service, when her usual lift is not available. The next date Veronica needs help is on Christmas morning for the 8am service. Veronica would also appreciate occasional lifts to the doctors. If you can help, please tell James in the office. Thanks. *Adrian*

INVITATION TO A BAPTISM

John and Rosalind Astles invite you to join their family at the baptism of their grandson Louis George Astles on Saturday 11th January 2020 at 1pm. All welcome, we do hope you can come.

PARISH MAGAZINE

The next edition of the magazine will be issued in mid-January. The closing date for copy to reach me is New Year's Day. This will be the first edition (in recent years) to cover both St Mary's and St Guthlac's. Please send your articles, pictures and announcements to stmaryknighton.magazine@gmail.com. *Nigel Siesage*

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Have you had a Christmas card from someone you forgot to send to? Help is at hand. We still have a supply of the Christmas cards by Sue Sansome, sold to support our spire appeal, and until Christmas, they are available at the original price of £5 for a pack of 8. Please contact a member of the Inspired Group (Nigel Siesage, Sue Holligan, Michael and Lorna Kirk, Sian Howard and David Stanyer) if you would like to buy some. Or email nigel.siesage@gmail.com.

Christmas Tree Festival

Christmas Tree Festival 2019 . The team were delighted at the number of people who came to St Mary's over the weekend, over 1500 came to see the trees. A special thanks to all who worked to make the event a success.

Wooden Baubles used on our christmas tree are now available for you to take home. They are on the table at the back of the church, either displayed or in a box. There is no charge for these, it is our gift to you. If you wish to make a small donation then please either put it in the books money collection box or see Sue Holligan Ida Stanyer or Beverley Jarrom. Any money recieved will be added to the ammount taken at the festival weekend and divided between HOPE Againts Cancer and the INspire fund.

Thank you . I was given a wooden Christmas tree at the Carols among the trees service. I love it, thank you.

Sue Holligan

CHRISTMAS CARD BOARD

Once again we have a 'space' on the notice board at the back of church, where we can share Christmas Greetings. As in the past, a contribution to the Children's Society can be placed in the box provided.

CHURCH CLEANING

The current team would value more help to lighten their load. Duties are light! Cleaning takes place on the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 10.15am until 12.15pm. Volunteers are asked to come every other month. Coffee and biscuits. Men very welcome! Please speak to Doreen White after the service or 270 4744.

COMMUNITY OF GRACE CHRISTMAS DAY BREAKFAST APPEAL.

This year, as in previous years, we are looking to make the men at the Community of Grace have a better Christmas. To that end I would ask if you could add an extra item or two into your supermarket trolleys and bring them to church on one of the following Sundays up to and including Sunday 22nd of December. A box will be marked at the back of church for your groceries. The items we are looking for are: Fruit Juice, Bacon, Sausage, Eggs, Tinned Tomatoes, Baked Beans, Thick Sliced Bread, Marmalade, Jam, Butter or Spread, Tea, Coffee, Sugar etc., Please make sure that any perishable items have a date after the 26th of December. Thank you in advance for your donation and let's make the Community of Grace Residents have the best Christmas Day and hopefully Boxing Day Breakfast ever. *Sue Bonnett.*

The next monthly service of Prayer for Healing with Communion will be held on **Friday 31st January** at 11am.



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CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL SUCCESS!

Over the weekend of 7th and 8th December we saw nearly 1500 people visit the church for our first Christmas Tree Festival. The unanimous view was that it was a great success and very many people commented on the warmth of the welcome and the sense of enjoyment and fun.

On behalf of us all, I'd like to say a huge 'thank you' to Sue Holligan and the organising team, for all their time, energy and commitment to making this new venture work. It has been a great way to raise money for charity, and more importantly, to make connections with our community and neighbours - thank you to everyone who supported and helped.

Adrian

THANK YOU

Many thanks for all your Christmas greetings, cards and presents. We would like to wish everyone in our church family and beyond, a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Adrian, Alison, Skye and Derry

GOOD NEWS AT CHRISTMAS:

Many if you will remember Cynthia

Hebden, former curate in Knighton and now the Interim Minister for the Hallaton Benefice (despite having retired not that long ago!). In the

autumn Cynthia announced the happy news that she is to marry again.

Her fiance is Andrew Thomson from Australia, and they will be married at noon on 4th January 2020 at St Michael and All Angels, Hallaton -

Cynthia is keen to say that everyone is welcome to the service and to the drinks and canapes that will follow! Please do sign the card that we have at the back of church for Cynthia and Andrew. Adrian

THE NATIVITY PLAY

PEDANTIC / SCHOLARLY VERSION

'KINGS' ARE WISE MEN

THERE ARE AN INDETERMINATE NUMBER OF THEM

THEY PLAY NO PART, BECAUSE EPIPHANY IS AT A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT TIME

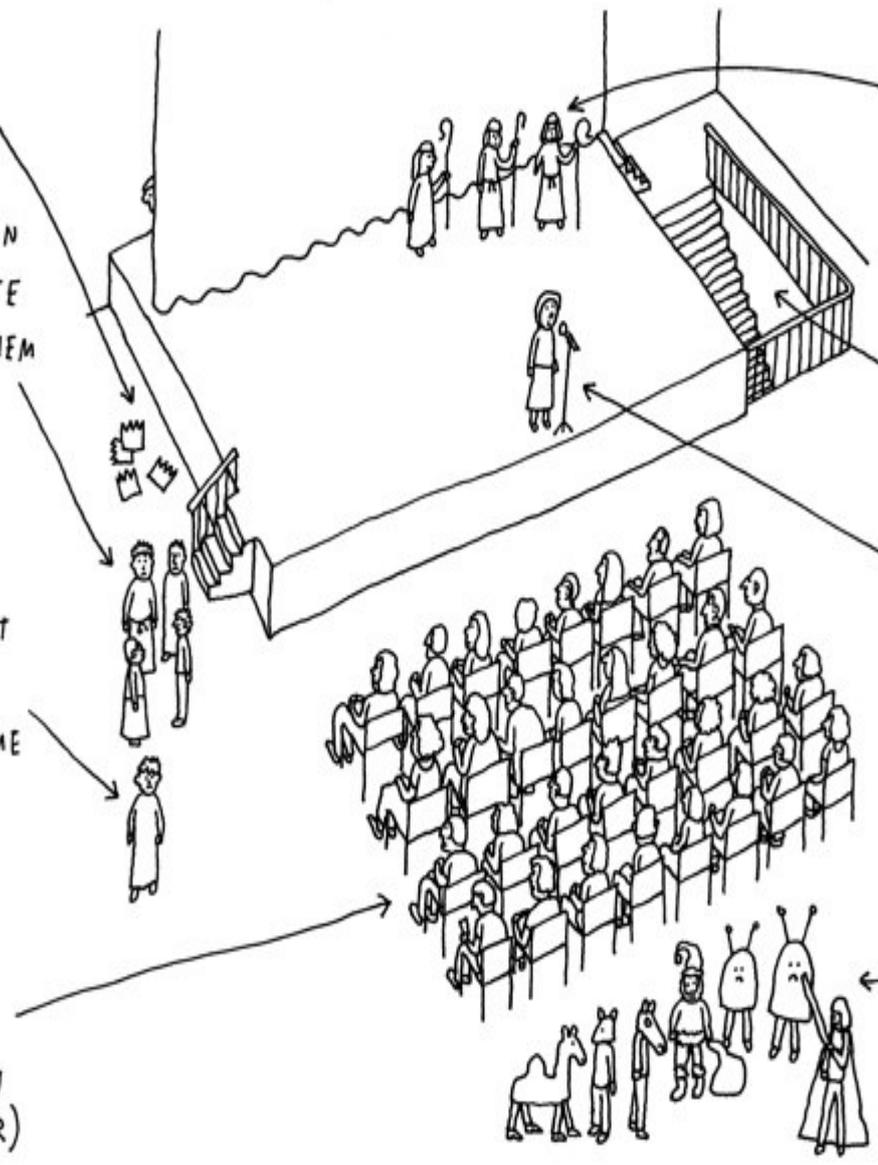
AUDIENCE CAN LEAVE COATS AT HOME (IT DIDN'T HAPPEN IN DECEMBER)

SHEPHERDS DIDN'T BRING THEIR SHEEP WITH THEM

MANGER IN BASEMENT RATHER THAN STABLE

EXTENSIVE NARRATION ON DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MATTHEW AND LUKE

NO OXEN, DONKEYS, CAMELS, SANTA, DARTH VADER OR ALIENS



Contact details:

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Revd Janet Gasper

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(The Parish Office is open **Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday** and **Friday** from 9.30am until 2.30pm, unless stated differently in the diary)

The office is closed on **Mondays**.

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. *If you are giving by bank standing order, yellow tokens are available at services to put on the plate, should you wish.*

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 a taxpayer and gift aid your giving, our church can claim an additional 25%.

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CHEQUES FOR ST MARY'S Please make cheques for St Mary's payable to **Knighton PCC**.

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)

Give thanks: for all those who give up their own time over the festive period in order to provide essential health and emergency services, and for those who volunteer to support isolated and homeless people.

Praying for the World: please pray that the peace and joy that Christ came to bring would be the experience of everyone across the suffering areas of our world.

Praying for the Church: Pray for a renewed sense of our calling and mission for the new year, and a confidence to tell others the good news that God is with us.

Praying for the Parish : This week please pray for those who attend:
Overdale Infants School, Overdale Junior School, The Lancaster Academy, Sir Jonathan North Community College, Leicester High School for Girls, Leicester Islamic Academy.

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. In particular we pray for **Fred Amner, Gary Joynes**, 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.

Give thanks for those who have been healed and restored.

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

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