



St Guthlac's Church.

December 2023. 60p

Reaching out in love, growing in faith,
welcoming all.



**OUR NEW WEBSITE IS GOING
LIVE ON 1st DECEMBER!**

www.stguthlacs.org.uk



Above: Remembrance Poppies on the tower,
Cover: The 2022 Christmas window in the Green School,
Below: The Remembrance display by the William Hildyard School.



Rector
Rev'd Georgina Holding.



(01778) 342237.



www.stguthlacs.org.uk



St Guthlac's, Market Deeping.

For a Baptism, Wedding, or any general enquiry, please telephone the Parish Administrator Charlotte Bates who is available **Monday and Wednesday evenings** on 07972 839963. Beyond that time please leave a message. Alternatively email administrator@stguthlacs.org.uk

Churchwardens	Mr Peter Hilton Mr Keith Fowler
Readers	Canon Nigel Bacon Mrs Kate Brown
Director of Music	Mr Peter Davies
PCC Vice Chair	Mr James Ward
Hon Treasurer	Mrs Julie Bacon
Youth Officer	Andrew Mitchell

Other Parish Representatives are listed near the back of this publication.

The Daily Office of Morning Prayer is said at 9.00am Monday to Saturday. The Evening Prayer is at 5.00pm Monday to Friday. All are welcome.

For details of our on-line services please refer to our website or facebook page.

If previously arranged any Baptisms will take place at 12noon on the first or third Sunday of the month.

The View From The Rectory.



Dear Friends,

Despite writing this in November, I have already watched various Christmas adverts, started buying presents for my family, booked a visit to meet Santa, begun planning Christmas services, and refused mulled wine at an event as it's not December yet! Thinking of Christmas adverts, I realise some people have been unhappy with the Marks and Spencer Christmas advert, but (and not calling to mind the issue with the colour of the Christmas hats in the first version of the M & S advert), I quite liked it. I liked it because it seemed to be suggesting we could do away with some of the things which keep us too busy during this time of year, especially if they do not bring us much joy.

While I am not saying the many items now associated with Christmas do not bring me joy, I do think we can all fill Christmas time up with too much -Some of which is actually unnecessary, though for some reason can seem vital this time of year. The danger of this, is that we can become too busy to enjoy the real meaning and reason of Christmas: Jesus being born, God loving us so much that he comes to us.

You will not be surprised to know I do love Christmas, and actually love most of the little bits which come with it, but I do not love everything 'Christmassy' in the secular sense (there is no elf on our shelf and if I never ate a mince pie again I would be happy). I have long given up doing what others think we should do at

Christmas, though I know many people who still feel the need to buy turkey and brussels sprouts even if no-one in their family really likes it. Christmas should not be about doing what others expect of you. Christmas should be, and is, about God's love, and enjoying God's love so much, that you enjoy the festive period (and don't just survive it).

So, this Christmas, do the things you enjoy, focus on what is important to you, which for many of us will be family and friends (who ultimately will not really mind how much tinsel you have, or have not, had time to put up around your front door), and do not let all the little festive 'things' fill up your time and mind so much that you miss the real joy of the season -God going out of God's way to come to you, to show you that you are loved, and that you are what matters, not the turkey and tinsel.

*With all festive best wishes for a peaceful Christmas time,
Rev'd George.*

Prayer for the Month.

Almighty God,
as we prepare with joy
to celebrate the gift of the Christ-child,
embrace the earth with your glory
and be for us a living hope
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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Churchwardens' Notes.



We hope that you and your families are all well.

We mentioned in our last Churchwardens' Notes that unfortunately we had discovered another leak in the roof. This time the

leak was above the clergy vestry. Our Leadwork Contractor has now visited and completed the necessary repairs.



One of the remaining items from the last Quinquennial Inspection was some re-pointing to the walls of our church. We have decided to use a local company were recommended to us by our friends in the Ness Group. The work can be carried out without the need for a Faculty so we have given the go-ahead to the selected company who have advised that the work should be carried out in the Spring.

Recently, we were contacted by a gentleman called Luke Fromant. Luke's Grandparents are buried in our churchyard. The grave is in a very poor state and Luke wants to have the grave repaired and refurbished. This work requires a Faculty and we have been assisting Luke with the Application process. The application process has now reached the point where a Public Notice has to be displayed at church for 28 days. This gives people the opportunity to raise any concerns they may have with the proposed work.

Unfortunately, we have had more issues with our heating. One of our two boilers is not working which means the system struggles to reach full temperature. We have extended the time the heating is on before services so hopefully the church will not be too cold. We are currently awaiting a date for the necessary work to be carried out.

These are our last Notes before Christmas. We wish you all a Happy and Blessed Christmas.

As ever, if you have any questions, please speak with one of us.

Pete Hilton Keith Fowler



Chuckle With Charlie;

Mum asked me to put ketchup on the shopping list. Now I can't read what else is on it.

My boss told me to have a good day, so I went home!

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The Deepings Flower Club

We meet on the Third
Tuesday of each month.
in Priory Church Hall,
Deeping St James.
7.00 for 7.30pm

Membership £30 pa, Visitors £6
Tea & Coffee
Raffle of Flower Arrangements
We look forward to welcoming
New Members.

Enquiries to
Sue Lee 01778 560362

from Dorothy Harriss



For several years now we have supported the number one charity in the field of clean, sustainable water supplies and sanitation, namely WaterAid. We do this by writing one Christmas card (which could be one of those sold for Church funds!) to all members of our Church family which is displayed on one of the boards at the back of church. The money we save by not sending numerous cards we then donate to the charity.

Dirty water is the source of many diseases, especially in children, who often miss out on schooling through their illnesses. Lack of proper toilets causes many girls to leave school once they hit puberty because there is no privacy to deal with their monthly periods.

771 million people around the world still have no clean water supply near to their home, which means someone in the family needs to spend hours a day trekking to find some, a job which often falls to the women and girls. Climate change is only exacerbating the problem.

Donations to WaterAid will be welcomed by our treasurer and envelopes from the charity are available at the back of church and can be put in the wall safe. We can also accept card donations - please speak to Dorothy. Please include Gift Aid if you are a taxpayer.

Spend a day noticing how many times you turn on a tap to use water to drink, to wash with, to cook with or to flush the toilet (which we do with drinking water by the way - there is only one water supply to your house remember!). Then imagine what it would be like to be without this vital supply to your home or even somewhere nearby. So let's see what we can do - every penny helps. Thanks.



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Ladies' Guild.

At our October meeting one of our members, Janis Hewitt, treated us to a most interesting talk about the Deepings Foodbank charity for which she is a volunteer.

The facility was formed back in 2013 by Churches Together affiliated under the model of the Trussel Trust. On 4th December that year they had their first clients. The Foodbank is totally run by wonderful volunteers.

Initially the venue was The Deepings School where at that time they had access to a room where clients waiting to collect their food could sit in comfort and chat with volunteers and receive not only their food but also help if they needed signposting to other organisations. Currently the Foodbank is held at the old Scout Headquarters in Deeping St James each Monday 2.30pm – 4pm but the venue sadly does not allow the clients the opportunity to sit and chat. However, most are just so happy to get a 3 day per person in the household supply of food, personal and household items for which they are very grateful. Presently the majority of the clients using the Foodbank self-refer but some come from referrals from schools or other organisations.

The food is donated via collection points in various places locally, a twice annual collection at Tesco who then very generously add to the collection, collections from schools and church harvest festivals and public donations.

Our members had all been asked to bring along an item from the list of items most needed at the current time and Janis thanked the members for their generosity. A cash donation was also given to allow them to purchase items that are much needed i.e. fresh fruit etc.

It was quite surprising that in 2023 so far 5694 days of food have been issued which equates to feeding 15 people every day of the year. So please, if you can, pop an item into their collection bin when you do your weekly shop to help those less fortunate.

Our November meeting of Ladies Guild will see us crafting Christmas decorations. We will be folding books to make either angels or Christmas trees. There will no doubt be lots of chatter whilst we craft and enjoy refreshments! New members are always given a very warm welcome.

For our December meeting on the 19th we once more welcome Jules with Andy McCormack. They always make the meeting so entertaining - and as a bonus this year they are bringing along friends to accompany them.

A reminder to members - we have our post Christmas meal at the Horseshoe, Thurlby on 23rd January. Have you signed up yet?

Christmas Coffee Morning

We will be delighted to welcome you to the Green School on Saturday 9th December from 10.30am for our special Christmas get together. In addition to the usual stalls selling cakes, books, and jigsaws we will have decorations for your tree, cards handmade by Pam and Greg, and novelties. If you have any unwanted gifts lurking in the back of a cupboard, please bring them along for us to sell as they may be just what someone else is looking for!



Have a word with Pam Pearson if you'd like a fresh wreath for your front door – be quick though, she will be making a limited number! Be sure to buy some raffle tickets as there'll be a hamper and lots of Christmas goodies.

Most of all there will be a friendly crowd, and a festive atmosphere not to be missed, so do come along, bringing a family member, friend, or neighbour with you. See you there!

Christmas craft afternoon, Saturday 16th, 2:00-3:30pm.

Do you like doing Christmas crafts as a family? If the answer is 'yes', then come along to our Christmas Craft session where there will be different crafts available for you to take part in and then take home.

After some fun crafting, we will gather around to hear the Christmas story of Jesus' birth and enjoy some refreshments -maybe even a mince pie or two! We look forward to seeing you there as we get creative this Christmas time!

Talk at Teatime

We enjoyed listening to Martin Shaw on the subject of "Wild Christianity" especially the folk tales he told. It is rare and refreshing for grownups to be told a story; usually we have to read it for ourselves. The discussion afterwards was lively though rather tangential to the talk we had just heard.

December is just too busy for us to squeeze a Sunday afternoon talk in but we will resume in January on Sunday 7th so look out for the speaker and the venue in next month's magazine.

Advent

From Anne Guthrie

We have had a variety of different Advent courses across the years and Kate is leading a diocesan course this year. If anyone would like to try following day by day Advent readings I have the following available to borrow: 'The Art of Advent'-a painting a day from Advent to Epiphany by Jane Williams; 'Waiting on the Word' -A poem a day for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany by Malcolm Guite; 'In the Bleak Midwinter' - through Advent and Christmas with Christina Rossetti by Rachel Mann.

St Guthlac's Eco Church

By Robert Gray

With the big Ho-Ho-Ho on the way, it's easy to start thinking of the many ways in which we can go to excess in our attempts to make this a great Christmas. And, after a few challenging years for many, it's understandable that we all want to have a time where we maximise our feelings of enjoyment, giving and sharing. But let's not get LOST. You may not be aware, but when it comes to reducing excess, I have a "Special set of skills". If you have met me, you may question this claim! But I'll explain:

I have worked in Manufacturing since Wham first sang about Last Christmas. In manufacturing we are constantly looking for ways to become more efficient, and the key to this is to reduce waste (Muda, as the Japanese would say it). Now, I have become something of a specialist in this, I even have a Black Belt. "In Origami?" I hear you say. No! However, I did once start a business in origami but, you guessed it, it folded!

But seriously, in manufacturing we are pretty ruthless, and consider waste as "anything unnecessary". Now, I wouldn't suggest going this far with Christmas, as that may preclude some of our less popular relatives from the dinner table. No, we need to be generous and giving, and stuffing one's face with second portions followed by Christmas pudding must be allowed, just on this day.

So, what can the world of Manufacturing Industry tell us about how to behave in our run-up to the festivities? Let's return to the Muda. There are considered to be seven categories of waste. Now this isn't one of my training sessions, otherwise I would bore you with all seven, examples of each category, and then test you at the end. I will, however, mention a few that seem somewhat relevant.

Overproduction – We aim to produce only what we know we can sell. If we produce too many, it's waste. If we are lucky, the extra products will sit around for a while, taking up valuable space before we can sell them. But at worse, they may end up in the skip. Does

Don't Get Lost In Christmas.

this sound a bit like the food and presents that we buy thinking "I'm sure that will come in handy". I don't have any figures on the amount of food and gifts that get bought at Christmas but never used, but I'm sure that it has a significant impact on our planet's resources. A little thought and planning might help us to buy just what we know we need.

Motion and Transport – We are increasingly understanding the impact of moving goods around the planet. In manufacturing, we are more concerned about what it costs us financially to move items from A to B, and the time it takes. But, as we know, the various modes of transport produce carbon dioxide and other emissions at varying rates. As well as considering the air miles of the items we purchase, we could think about the miles that we cover when shopping. Buying locally has many positives, and Christmas fairs and markets can be great fun, getting us in the Christmas mood. However, if we do like to venture out to do a big day of Christmas shopping, what about using public transport? I can strongly recommend a train ride up to York to get a good Christmas vibe. But remember to draft a list first. Even Santa makes a list and checks it twice!

Inventory and Defects – Holding stock can be expensive and defective products can't be used. At home, we can consider what we are going to buy and when. I once worked with a chap who always bought his turkey on Christmas Eve, when the supermarkets started to reduce the prices. Now that introduces a risk that the turkeys might run out. But he always had a turkey!

We are thinking of having goose this year and we saw some in the supermarket at the weekend. We decided not to buy one yet because it would take up a lot of freezer space for a long time. This is the challenge with inventory – you don't want to risk failing to have what you want, when you need it, but you don't want your home being taken over by sprouts and chipolatas from the start of Advent.

next page >>>

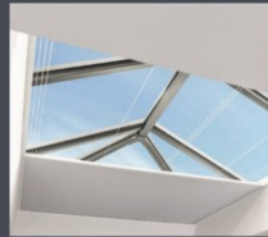
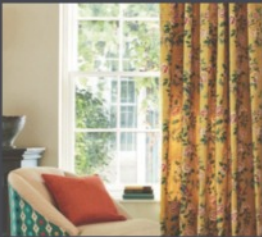


If we buy some things too early, they may be defective by Christmas day, going past their sell-by date. There is the risk that the large pork pie that I buy a week before Christmas may not survive to see the big day. But that's more to do with having children still living at home!

So, there we are. I have passed on great wisdom, and you can now call yourselves Yellow Belts. Let's continue our crusade to remove waste from Christmas. But the caveat is that love and kindness are never a waste! And origami is a great skill to employ with your Christmas table napkins.

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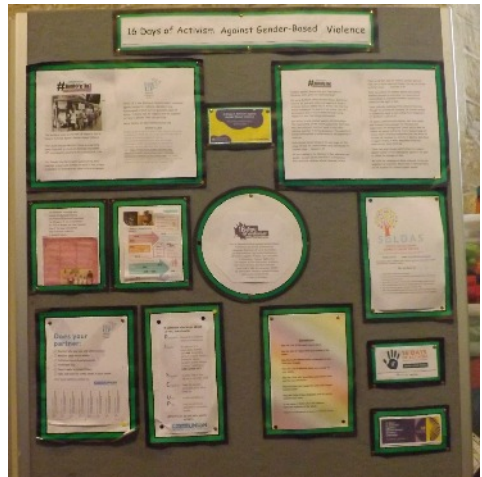


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The October meeting was ably led by Anne Guthrie who focused on poppies and remembrance. She had chosen some of the war poetry of the first world war which various members read out. She then talked about the symbolism of the poppy, how it grew in the broken fields of Flanders showing how beauty and hope can sprout in the darkest of places.


Our November meeting took place relatively early in the month so I can report on it now. Only a few of us ventured out on a cold wet evening. However, those who did come appreciated the quiet reflective nature of the evening. We started by following the order of service which has been used across the diocese to mark the Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer. The focus of the Bible readings and prayers was on responding with love and compassion rather than anger and violence; a timely message at any time but especially now as our news bulletins are so full of terrible events. We then looked at material relating to the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence and had a productive discussion.



Next month we will celebrate Christmas with our usual mix of readings, music and quizzes/games. All are welcome to join us and to contribute to the collection of warm clothing (socks, scarves, gloves etc) which will be passed on to the Salvation Army locally for distribution to those in need.

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WINE TASTING



Friday 8th December
7.30pm in the Green School.

Eight wines to be tasted plus a
Wine Themed Quiz.

All (over the age of 18) are welcome
Tickets £15 includes nibbles from

Kate Brown kabstg@btinternet.com or
Julie Bacon nandjbacon@btinternet.com

The Magazine.

Commencing next month the magazine price will be 70p. You can pre-pay for the year, £7 for the eleven issues; simply put that amount in an envelope which is marked "Magazine" and your name (and address if necessary), and post in the wall safe. Articles for the January issue are required please not later than Wednesday 13th December, earlier than usual in the month to suit the Printer's holiday.

Thank you.

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Church Flowers,

from Anne Guthrie.

The end of the year, where did it go? I am sure that time speeds up as I grow older.

We thank Lynnette and Julie for their arrangements over All Saints and Remembrance during November and look forward to the various church groups decorating the church for our Christmas services

A special big thank you to Lynnette Ford who is stepping back after over 30 years of flower arranging in St Guthlac's church, she has been a great support to me over these past few years, always ready to step in and assist when there has been a gap . She has produced lovely pedestals and took care of the middle window near the Lady Chapel for the church festivals.

It is time to ask you all to think about helping with flowers during 2024. The team has been depleted through illness, death, moving away and retirement after long service. Please consider helping out, all you need is enthusiasm and a joy in flowers, people will assist and support you. It is a very calming feeling arranging in the quiet and peace of the church.

Many of us were inspired by the local Flower Club's Christmas demonstration called 'the Joy of Christmas' . The Flower club meets on the third Tuesday evening at Priory Church Hall from February to December, perhaps take note for the New Year.





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Parish Directory

Secretary of Bell Ringers	Mrs Susan Muspratt
Eco Church Coordinator	Mrs Liz Gray
Guthlac's Young Explorers	Mrs Susanne Denton
Safeguarding Officer	Mrs Anne Guthrie
Wellbeing Group Co-ord	Mr Keith Warren
Friends of St Guthlac	Rev'd George Holding
Stewardship Coordinator	Mrs Carol Cooper
Convener of Sidespeople	Mr Keith Warren
Coordinator of Servers	Mr Graeme Bacon
Lesson Reading Rota	Mrs Kate Brown
Flower Arranging Rota	Mrs Anne Guthrie
Church Cleaning Rota	Mrs Kay Roberts
Newsletter	Mrs Dorothy Harriss
	Mrs Kay Roberts
Mothers' Union	Mrs Kate Brown
Ladies Guild	Mrs Kay Roberts
Floodlight Booking	Mrs Kay Roberts
Green School Caretaker	Mrs Chris Gaughan 079
Magazine Distribution	Mrs Dorothy Harriss
Advertising	Mr Roger Clarke 079
Production	Mr Gordon Tyler
	gordonflyer@btinte

The **New Website for the Church** is going live on
1st December, with the same website address of
www.stguthlacs.org.uk

December calendar of services and activities, Year B.

Fri 1st 6:30 pm Choir Practice

Sunday 3rd December Advent 1

8:00 am Said Holy Communion
9:45 am Young Explorers in the Green School
10:00 am Parish Holy Communion
I Corinthians 1: 3 – 9 Mark 13: 24 – end
From 12:00 Churches Together stall and Nativity at the Christmas Market

Mon 4th 10:00 am Prayer meeting in Church
11:00 am Advent Study Group in church
Wed 6th 10:30 am Said Holy Communion
Thur 7th 7:30 pm Bell Ringing Practice
Fri 8th 6:30 pm Choir Practice
7:30 pm Wine tasting event in the Green School
Sat 9th 10:30 am Christmas Coffee Morning in the Green School

Sunday 10th Advent 2

8:00 am Said Holy Communion
9:45 am Young Explorers in the Green School
10:00 am Parish Holy Communion
Isaiah 40: 1 - 11, Mark 1: 1 - 8
4:00 pm Christingle

Mon 11th 11:00 Advent Study Group in the **Green School**

Wed 13th 10:30 am Said Holy Communion
Thur 14th 7:30pm Bell Ringing Practice
Fri 15th 6:30 pm Choir Practice
Sat 16th 2:00 to 3:30 pm Christmas Craft Session in the Green School

Sunday 17th Advent 3

8:00 am Said Holy Communion
10:00 am Parish Communion
1 Thessalonians 5: 16 – 24, John 1: 6 – 8, 19 – 28

	5:00 pm	Nine lessons and Carols
Mon 18th	11:00	Advent Study Group in the church
Tues 19th	10:30 am	William Hildyard School Christmas Service in church
	6:30 pm	William Hildyard School Christmas Service in church
	7:30 pm	Ladies Guild
Wed 20th	10:30 am	Said Holy Communion
	2:30 pm	Care Homes Carol Service in the church
Thur 21st	6:30 pm	Mothers' Union
	6:30 pm	Carols round the Christmas tree in the Market Place
	7:30 pm	Bell Ringing Practice
Fri 22nd	6:30 pm	Choir Practice

Sunday 24th

8:00 am

10:00 am

4:00pm

11:30 pm

Advent 4, Christmas Eve

No Service

Said Holy Communion

2 Samuel 7: 1 - 11, Luke 1: 26 - 38

Crib Service

Midnight Mass

Titus 3: 4 - 7, Luke 2: 8 - 20

Monday 25th

10:00

Christmas Day

All Age Holy Communion

Titus 2: 11 - 14, Luke 2: 1 - 14

Wed 27th 10:30 am

Said Holy Communion

Thur 28th 7:30 pm

Bell Ringing Practice

Fri 29th 6:30 pm

No Choir Practice

Sat 30th 12:00 pm

Soup and Social

Sunday 31st

8:00 am

10:00

Christmas 1

No Service

Parish Holy Communion

Galatians 4: 4 - 7, Luke 2: 15 - 21

Dates for the Diary

Saturday January 20th TBC Book and Jigsaw sale in the Green School

date	time	sidespeople	reader	servers
3 Dec	8.00am	Anne Guthrie	Anne Guthrie	
	10.00am	Joy Elliman Roger Clarke Di Wheatley	Kevin Dawson	G Bacon J Johnson L Ward
10 Dec	8.00am	Anne Guthrie	Anne Guthrie	
	10.00am	Henry Roberts Kay Roberts Chris Warren	Jean Jones	N Bacon C Gaughan D Fowler
17 Dec	8.00am	Anne Guthrie	Anne Guthrie	
	10.00am	Janis Hewitt, Lyll Seale, Keith Warren	Julie Bacon	G Edwards J Howell J Johnson
	5.00pm			G Bacon
24 Dec	10.00am	Carol Cooper Lorna Mellows Geoff Chambers Peter Hilton	Neal Bacon	A Gray E Denton C Gaughan
	11.30pm		Nigel Bacon	N Bacon J Howell G Edwards
25 Dec	10.00am			A Gray D Fowler C Gaughan
31 Dec	10.00am	Dorothy Harriss Kay Bunn Keith Warren	Keith Warren	G Edwards J Johnson E Denton

Pictures of the Remembrance Service

from Lyall Seale.





Christmas Services

Christingle Service - 4pm
Sunday 10th December

Nine Lessons and Carols - 5pm
Sunday 17th December

Crib Service - 4pm
Sunday 24th December

Midnight Holy Communion - 11:30pm
Sunday 24th December

Christmas Day Service - 10am
Monday 25th December

