

# SEVENTY TIMES SEVEN

*The Benefice of the Guitings, Cutsdean, Farmcote, Upper and Lower Slaughter  
with Eyford and Naunton*

**December 2023 - January 2024**

*Wishing you all  
much joy and peace  
this Christmas time  
from all our church  
communities*



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*Churches and School working together to share God's love in our communities*

## CHURCHWARDENS

### Lower Slaughter (GL54 2HR)

(Vacant)

*Safeguarding Officer: Marion Marshall*

### Naunton (GL54 3AX)

(Vacant)

*Safeguarding Officer: Jane Pickup*

### Temple Guiting (GL54 5RW) and Cutsdean (GL54 5RX)

Ruth Waller 01451 850611

Sheila Woods 01451 850328

Ros Hartnell 07967 127581

*Safeguarding Officer: Peter Forshaw*

### Upper Slaughter (GL54 2JF)

Anthea Gough 01451 810370

*Safeguarding Officer: Ken Pascoe*

### Guiting Power (GL54 5TX)

Simon Wallis 01451 851806

*Safeguarding Officer: Tracy Formby*

### Farmcote (GL54 5AU)

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*Safeguarding Officer: Tracy Formby*

## SEVENTY TIMES SEVEN

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**DEADLINE for the next issue**

**20 JANUARY 2024.**

*This magazine is free to parish residents. Otherwise, the charge is **50p per copy.***

## Temple Guiting Church of England Primary School

Head Teacher: Mrs Ann Barry

Tel: 01451 850304

[www.templeguiting.gloucs.sch.uk](http://www.templeguiting.gloucs.sch.uk)

## DEAR READERS

We hope you enjoy this Christmas edition of the Benefice magazine. We have moved largely to sharing the magazine electronically, but this month we are also delivering to every door again in the Benefice, with our Christmas greetings. Also, through each door, we are sharing a 'Help and Support Leaflet' that we have put together, with details of local charities and support groups helping those in need.

If you would like to receive the 70x7 by email each month, please do let Katrina know ([krgscott@hotmail.com](mailto:krgscott@hotmail.com)) and we will add you to the list for February.

## DEAR FRIENDS



It is great to be back with you all in the benefice. It was such a joy to see so many of you in November as we shared a wonderful Sunday baptising Rosemary-Artemis in the River at Upper Slaughter. Also watched over by walkers, tourists and passersby, it was a strong statement of witness for the love of God and faith in Christ that we have in this beautiful part of God's creation.

As you read this, I will be nearer somewhat warmer waters than the River Eye, on placement at Auckland Cathedral in Aotearoa New Zealand. As part of my curacy training, I will be completing a number of weeks at the Cathedral and surrounding city ministries, learning all about the ways in which the Anglican church work together with a diversity of traditions and cultural heritages. Celebrating Advent and then Christmas, it is sure to be a full and exciting placement which I look forward to sharing with you all on my return.

As we head into the darker months of December and January, I pray that we hold tight to that light which is ever present in our lives. The gift of Emmanuel, of God with us and among us here on earth.

With love and prayers,

**Catherine, Katrina and Sue**

## **MORNING PRAYER IN THE BENEFICE** – *Do join in if you'd like to.*

***Mondays*** : 9.15am at Lower Slaughter

***Tuesdays*** : 9.15am at Guiting Power

***Wednesdays*** : 9.15am at Naunton

***Thursdays*** : 9.30am at Temple Guiting (after Open the Book in School)

***Fridays*** : 9.15am at Upper Slaughter.

*Sue's working days in the Benefice are Wednesdays and Sundays.*

*Catherine is away until end-January 2024.*

As part of our **COMMUNITY MINISTRY** we have shared in these services

### **Baptisms**

*"May God guide and protect them"*

Amelia Willis at Lower Slaughter on 8 October 2023

Daisy Boone at Upper Slaughter on 15 October 2023

Michael Rixon at Temple Guiting on 29 October 2023

Rosemary-Artemis Cowie at Upper Slaughter on 5 November 2023

### **Funerals**

*"May God grant them light and peace"*

Memorial Service for Richard Houldsworth at Naunton on 25 October 2023

Memorial Service for Don Butler at Temple Guiting on 20 November 2023

## **ZOOM ACTIVITIES AND LINK**

We continue to offer worship and Bible Study on Zoom for all who would like to join us. The Sunday services continue with a 9.00am Morning Prayer on the first Sunday of each month, and a 6.00pm service of Compline on Sunday 21 January 2024. Check out the service schedule for all the details.

For all Zoom events please follow link below:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7979867589?pwd=h6UaQN2VhIdx79AlafPNV50YxJVtZA>

Meeting ID: 797 986 7589

Password: 815669

To join by telephone please call 0203 481 5237 and enter Meeting ID and password.

## **BIBLE STUDY**

Each month we have an hours Bible study group on Zoom. We look at a Bible passage together, discuss our thoughts on it and learn from one another. Everyone is welcome to join this group. No preparation is needed, just join us and add your reflections.

Our Zoom Bible Study evenings will take place on:

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm and Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7pm.

## **WIDER CHURCH NEWS**

### **NORTH COTSWOLD FOODBANK**

This Harvest, we have seen some amazing collections for the local foodbank, both donations of food and household goods and financial gifts. Thank you so much for all of this. At our service in Naunton, we had a speaker from the local foodbank who spoke with great passion for the work they do in helping our communities and especially those in greatest need. It was striking to hear of how the need has grown in recent months too. In their thank you note to us, the foodbank wrote:

*The North Cotswold Foodbank is getting busier each year and we have been able to feed many local families who have found themselves in desperate need. The majority of our clients are low-income, working families and they are all deeply grateful that others would consider them at a very difficult time in their lives.*

*With rising prices in energy and food, we have seen a marked increase in demand at our local Foodbank during the last eighteen months. Your donation will help to ensure that our Foodbank is well stocked so that we can meet any further increase in demand, and help those in our community who are struggling.*

*Without your generosity, we would not be able to offer this help, so thank you for your support and kindness - it is very much appreciated and it really does make a difference to so many lives.*

**Find out more at: [www.northcotswold.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.northcotswold.foodbank.org.uk)**

## COMMISSIONING KEN PASCOE

On Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October, a number of us from Upper Slaughter were delighted to join Ken Pascoe as he was commissioned as a Lay Worship Leader. At the service at Holy Trinity, Watermoor, in Cirencester, Ken and around 12 others were prayed for, and congratulated in this new role. All of them had completed training and had worked together to explore worship. As leaders, they are "trained to serve and enable the life of the local church by leading the prayer and worship of God's people". Congratulations Ken, and we look forward to worshipping with you!

## AROUND THE BENEFICE

### DO YOU ENJOY SINGING?

'Village Voices' is a very informal group of singers from local villages who meet on alternate Mondays, mainly in St Mary's, Temple Guiting. So if you enjoy singing and would be interested in coming along, please do ring me - Ali Clifton Barnard 07583 415065.

### CALM, CANDLES AND CONTEMPLATION



Last winter, we had a number of these sessions and they are back this year too. It is 40 minutes of peaceful space - gently led by Ali Clifton-Barnard, offering some silence, and contemplative space. Dates are: 12<sup>th</sup> December at Guiting Power and 16<sup>th</sup> January at Cutsdean, beginning at 4.30pm.

For anyone, from any faith tradition or none.

### COFFEE AND CAKE IN THE WEST END

At **10.00am** on **FRIDAYS 8 and 22 December**, and **5 and 19 January**

Come and join friends and neighbours for real coffee and homemade cake at **St Mary's Church, Temple Guiting**

No charge, but donations welcome

## COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES RUNNING THROUGH THIS WINTER

*All of these activities are for all, and with no charge:*

**St Andrew's Coffee Shop** – Every Thursday from 10.30am-12.30pm, come along to share drinks and biscuits and chat in the church in Naunton.

**Coffee and Cake in the West End** – 2 Fridays a month, at 10am in Temple Guiting Church, pop in for refreshments – upcoming dates are: 8 and 22 December, 5 and 19 January.

**Welcome Wednesdays** – A chance to meet others for a chat and a plate of soup in a lovely warm place. At the Cochrane Room, Guiting Power from 12-2pm on Wednesdays 31<sup>st</sup> January, 28<sup>th</sup> February and 27<sup>th</sup> March.

**Community Space at Lords of the Manor** – On the second Tuesday of these winter months, we will be hosting a space at Lords of the Manor Hotel in Upper Slaughter from 11am-12noon. Come along for coffee, tea, biscuits, a warm, lovely space and time together, on Tuesdays 12<sup>th</sup> December, 9<sup>th</sup> January, 13<sup>th</sup> February and 12<sup>th</sup> March.

## HIDDEN HARDSHIP RESEARCH

On 24<sup>th</sup> November, Katrina was invited to an event in Moreton in Marsh, sharing the findings of a research project focused around rural poverty. Dr Stephanie Denning lives in the North Cotswolds and is an Assistant Professor at the Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations at Coventry University. She is a social and cultural geographer whose research focusses on poverty, hardship, and faith-based responses to these.

In Spring and Summer 2023, Stephanie spent time at community groups and projects in a rural town and village in the North Cotswolds to gain understanding of the experience of people living in rural hardship. She interviewed staff, volunteers, and local people at the projects. She then worked with three households experiencing rural hardship – they kept diaries of their experiences and undertook three go-along interviews with Stephanie as they went about their daily life.

The research recognised that across the country, 17% of people living in rural communities are experiencing some forms of hardship. Dr Stephanie found that in areas like the North Cotswolds, this is often hidden within communities with greater affluence around and the financial income from tourism. This can make it harder for people to reach out and seek help. The diagram below shows some of the factors that families living in hardship face – amplified by the higher cost of living in rural communities.



The research came up with some recommendations as to how to make a difference – by raising awareness, promoting communities working together and advertising sources of help. Also, it is hoped this research will inform individual, voluntary sector and government responses to hardship. If you would like to find out more, have a look at:

[www.hiddenhardship.coventry.ac.uk](http://www.hiddenhardship.coventry.ac.uk)

## Quick and Festive Cranberry Meringues (serves 6/preparation time 10 mins)

75g (3oz) cranberries    4 tbsp maple syrup  
200ml (1/3 pint) double or whipping cream

6 ready-made meringue nests  
Zest and juice of 1 lime

- Put cranberries and maple syrup in a pan. Heat gently until syrup begins to bubble but don't let cranberries pop. Once cranberries are softened, place in a bowl and set aside until cold, stirring to keep them evenly coated in syrup.
- To serve, place meringue nests on individual plates. Whip cream to soft peaks and stir in lime juice and zest. Place a few prepared and chilled cranberries into the base of each meringue, spoon on some cream and top with more cranberries.
- Serve immediately.

# SERVICES IN DECEMBER

## **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December – Advent Sunday**

- 9.00am Zoom Morning Prayer
- 10.00am Holy Communion at Guiting Power
- 11.00am Matins at Upper Slaughter
- 6.00pm Evening Service at Temple Guiting – **Advent Carol Service**

## **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December**

- 9.30am Holy Communion at Farmcote
- 11.00am Holy Communion at Lower Slaughter
- 11.00am Holy Communion at Naunton

## **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December**

- 4.30pm Calm, Candles and Contemplation at Guiting Power

## **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December**

- 4.00pm Carol Service at Cutsdean
- 6.00pm Carol Service at Upper Slaughter

## **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December**

- 10.00am Holy Communion at Temple Guiting
- 11.00am Morning Praise at Lower Slaughter
- 6.00pm Carol Service at Naunton

## **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December**

- 6.00pm Carol Service at Temple Guiting

## **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December**

- 6.00pm Carol Service at Lower Slaughter

## **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December**

- 3.00pm Crib Service at Naunton
- 6.00pm Carol Service at Guiting Power

## **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Eve**

- 10.00am Holy Communion at Guiting Power
- 7.00pm Carol Service at Farmcote
- 11.30pm Midnight Holy Communion at Lower Slaughter
- 11.30pm Midnight Holy Communion at Naunton

### **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Day**

- 9.30am Holy Communion at Upper Slaughter
- 10.00am Family Holy Communion at Temple Guiting
- 11.00am Family Service at Guiting Power

### **Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December – New Year's Eve**

- 11.00am Benefice Holy Communion at Upper Slaughter

## **SERVICES IN JANUARY 2024**

### **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January - Epiphany**

- 9.00am Zoom Morning Prayer
- 10.00am Holy Communion at Guiting Power
- 11.00am Matins at Upper Slaughter
- 6.00pm Evening Service at Temple Guiting

### **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January**

- 9.30am Holy Communion at Farmcote
- 11.00am Holy Communion at Lower Slaughter
- 11.00am Matins at Naunton

### **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January**

- 4.30pm Calm, Candles and Contemplation at Cutsdean

### **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January – Plough Sunday**

- 9.30am Holy Communion at Cutsdean
- 11.00am Holy Communion at Upper Slaughter
- 3.30pm Wild Worship at Temple Guiting Village Field – celebrating Plough Sunday
- 6.00pm Zoom Compline

### **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January - Candlemas**

- 9.30am Holy Communion at Naunton
- 10.00am Family Holy Communion at Temple Guiting
- 11.00am Morning Praise at Lower Slaughter
- 6.00pm Evening Service at Guiting Power

*\*\*\* Our apologies if services have to be cancelled or altered at short notice. \*\*\**

# NEWS FROM THE PEWS AND VILLAGE EVENTS

## LOWER SLAUGHTER



Firstly, thanks to Steve Randles for this lovely photo taken near The Rectory recently. As the beauty of autumn gives way to winter, we can now begin to feel a distinct chill in the air.

Looking back, the last few months have been busy. In October we enjoyed a lovely Harvest weekend with a successful Coffee Morning and Sale on the Saturday followed by a wonderful Harvest Service on the Sunday with our church looking resplendent in autumn colours. We collected 64kg of food and £468.70 in donations for our local Food Bank who would like to pass on their grateful thanks to all for their generosity. After the

service everyone enjoyed a bring and share lunch in the Village Hall. Then in November, we marked the season of Remembrance with our church decorated in tribute to the fallen who gave their lives in conflict.

Now we look forward to the seasons of Advent and Christmas. Our Carol Service at 6.00pm on Wednesday 20 December will be followed by seasonal refreshments. Then on 24 December we celebrate Holy Communion at 11.30pm. So if you enjoy singing traditional carols at this most special time of year, do come along – a warm and very festive welcome awaits!

Wishing everyone a joyful, peaceful Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

**Marion Marshall**

## TEMPLE GUITING

After a very warm October we are now into a beautiful Autumn and have enjoyed two of the most anticipated events in Temple Guiting's Calendar! The Harvest Festival supper was a little different this year. After a lovely and thought-provoking service in St. Mary's church, we were treated to a delicious "bowl supper". In November, the annual quiz in the village hall was enormous fun, with questions set by Avril Vincent and brilliantly delivered by quizmaster, Robert Llewellyn. Huge thanks to Kate Mather for co-ordinating the catering for both these events and to everyone who contributed!

In early October we had a very interesting staged reading of "Forbidden Music" (a play written by Lou Beckett in Kineton), which centred around a young man who wanted to find and restore the music forbidden by the Nazis. A most enjoyable and informative evening and we hope to have more similar events in the future in the West End of the Church.

It may only be November but Christmas will be soon be upon us, so plans are in place for our Village Carol service on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 6.00pm. A wonderful, traditional event and everyone is welcome!

## **Val Littlewood**

### **NAUNTON**

Autumn has flown through Naunton in a blaze of colour. This must be the prettiest time of year in our community; the drive into the village from any direction is quite breathtaking in its beauty. We are indeed blessed to live in such a spectacular place!

Nestled as we are amongst fields and farmlands, it was good and right to celebrate a festival of Harvest at the start of October. The church was simply decorated with fruit, veg and garden flowers. This year, we welcomed Lucye Deacon to St Andrews as part of this worship. A Trustee of the North Cotswolds Foodbank (part of the Trussell Trust), Lucye gave an informative talk on the background of our local Foodbank and how it works within our local context. Sadly, as in so many places, the needs are great. On this occasion, the gifts of food etc that were brought to the Harvest celebration were destined for the Foodbank, alongside the generous donations given on a weekly basis by villagers (there's always a collection box outside Valley View, on Chapel Hill over the weekend). The gifts of cash (£472) at this service were sent to the British Red Cross Moroccan Earthquake appeal. Rev'd Katrina also used the opportunity for thankfulness to acknowledge those people who help and support the life and work of St Andrews Church.

We were privileged to welcome back Dr Paul Roberts, village resident and Roman archaeologist, to the village hall at the start of October, where he generously shared his expertise in an informative and entertaining talk about 'Ancient Faces; the Romans in Egypt'. As part of this event, a delicious supper was served showcasing North African flavours to complement the subject. Paul has given a few of these talks over recent years and they are always popular to the point of selling out as soon as tickets go on sale! This year was no exception, and the sum of £2279 was raised for St Andrews funds. We are grateful to Paul for his kindness.

The Church was absolutely packed for a Memorial Service for Richard Houldsworth on October 28th.

Remembrance Sunday was marked this year on 12th November; a well attended service in our Church calendar. The Army and Royal Air Force were represented by serving villagers and, as is usual, names of the 'Fallen' were read out after the two-minute silence. A trumpeter played the Last Post and Reveille at the appropriate moments and a wreath was laid in memorial within the Church, before we all processed to the village War Memorial in the courtyard of the former Baptist Chapel to lay a second poppy wreath. Coffee followed in the old Chapel.

It has been a joy to welcome back Rev'd Catherine from maternity leave, and by the time this is published she and her little family will be on the other side of the world in New Zealand, where she will complete part of her training. We wish all the Cowies well as they embark on this huge adventure, and pray for God's blessing and peace to remain with them all.

We are tremendously thankful for the clergy team who minister amongst us. We are fortunate indeed to have our spiritual needs met by them. However, we occasionally find it tricky to find a musician for the rota (keyboard or organ) to accompany us at worship ... is this something YOU could possibly help with (or perhaps you know of someone who can?). Don't be shy.. we'd be enormously grateful for some extra help from time to time! Please speak to Jen Houlden (07950370296).

As we move towards the season of Advent, as everything gets busier and time flies by twice as fast as usual, let's not forget the 'reason for the season'. In these darkening days of winter, the coming of baby Jesus at Christmas brings light into the world for us all.

**Moira Anderson**

***Check out Naunton Village Hall's updated website:***

**[www.nauntonvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.nauntonvillagehall.co.uk)**

*A superb venue in the heart of Naunton*

## **GUITING POWER**

In spite of the weather, beautiful autumn colour is still to be seen through the window as I write. Our celebration of God's gifts at Harvest and for our farming, community and church life was enjoyed by many at the end of September. The church looked beautiful and numerous were the gifts brought in support of the Foodbank. Thank you to all involved, and likewise with the Act of Remembrance on Armistice Day, which took place in glorious sunshine with one of the largest attendance to pause, reflect and give thanks.

Now we look forward with Advent and towards Christmas. The village Christmas Tree on the Green will be lit on Sunday 3rd December at 6pm with suitable festive ceremony, mulled wine and mince pies. If you would like to help prepare the church for Christmas, we will be having a 'spring' clean on Saturday 16th from 10am-12noon with some suitability seasonal refreshments. Our Christmas Carol Service will be held on Friday 22nd at 6pm, followed by more mulled wine and mince pies(!). Christmas Day Family Service will be at 11am. Do please join us if you can and may I take this opportunity to wish everyone many blessings for Christmas and the New Year.

**Simon Wallis**

## TEMPLE GUITING CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

Last half term, our whole school took part in iSingPop workshops and ended the week with two concerts in St Mary's Church. We had SO much fun!

iSing Pop is a Christian organisation who help school children like us to learn more about Christianity through singing and dancing. Throughout the week we looked at how the lyrics of the songs linked to the bible and we really enjoyed worshipping in this way.

We learnt 7 songs and dance moves that helped to make our relationship with God stronger, reminded us how to live as good people of God, and helped us to think about how we can live out our school values of respect, courage, perseverance, friendship, trust and forgiveness at school and at home.

We loved performing to our school community, blasting the music loud in church and singing out as brilliantly as we could! Our iSingPop teacher, Carys, even danced on the pews! We won't forget our iSingPop party in St Mary's for a long time and we look forward to singing the songs we learnt again and again in our school worship sessions.

**Class 3 (with some help from teacher Emily Chester)**



A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our clients,  
volunteers, funders and supporters

Cotswold Friends would like to say Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our clients, volunteers, funders and supporters. Our volunteer-led services support older and vulnerable people who may be lonely or isolated. Christmas can be a difficult time, so if we can help you or someone you know, please do get in touch on Tel: 01608 651415.

Thank you so much to everyone who has supported the charity in so many ways throughout the year – it is very much appreciated.

Best wishes from all at Cotswold Friends.



## **Volunteers Needed!**

**Do you have parenting experience?**

**Can you spare 2-3 hours a week to help a family with young children?**

Being a parent is hard for everyone. But sometimes it can be overwhelming, especially if you are dealing with other issues such as isolation, postnatal depression or multiple births. At Home-Start Cotswolds, we carefully match our trained volunteers with a family that they visit once a week, providing compassionate help and confidential support.

If you would like to help change the lives of families in the Cotswolds, access free, high-quality training and enhance your own well-being, please get in touch. Our next free, weekly training course starts on Thur 25<sup>th</sup> January and runs until Thur 21<sup>st</sup> March, 9.30am to 1.30pm, in Cirencester.

There is more information on our website, along with an application form.

- Visit [www.home-start-cotswolds.org.uk/volunteer](http://www.home-start-cotswolds.org.uk/volunteer)
- Call 01285 885391
- Email [office@home-start-cotswolds.org.uk](mailto:office@home-start-cotswolds.org.uk)

***'My volunteer makes me stronger. If my mum was still here, she would be telling me the same things that my volunteer does.'***

*(Mum supported by Home-Start Cotswolds)*

Paul Brookes MCFHP MAFHP

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