

SEVENTY TIMES SEVEN

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

April - May 2025



A very fond Farewell to Katrina, Nick, Ruth and Freddie
Sunday 2 March 2025 at St Mary's Temple Guiting

Rector: We are now in a Vacancy and awaiting the appointment of our new Vicar.

Rev'd Sue Pestell (Associate Priest): Email: susan.pestell@gmail.com

07514 542934

Jean Bird (Reader Emeritus) - 01451 850337

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SEVENTY TIMES SEVEN

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**DEADLINE for the next issue
20 MAY 2025.**

*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

DEAR FRIENDS

I'm writing this on a beautiful spring morning, the sun is shining, the crocuses and daffodils are out, the birds are singing, people are in their gardens enjoying the sunshine. We deserve this after all the wet and cold weather we've had! It's a time of new growth, looking forward to summer, and watching for what else might emerge from the earth.

In the church's year, it's also a time of watching and waiting as we continue in the season of Lent, and look forward towards Easter.

In our seven churches we are in a time of waiting too, since Katrina's leaving and we enter a time of "vacancy" in our parishes - until a new person is appointed.

It can seem like a long time, as if the people who make these decisions are dragging their feet, but there is much busyness behind the scenes. By the time you read this the churchwarden team will have met with the Archdeacon of Gloucester twice to speak about the shape of the ministry here in the North Cotswolds. Then there will be a time for our own representatives to listen and reflect on the type of person we need here, and then eventually an advertisement will go out.

In the meantime, we are still here, working to maintain our beautiful church buildings, worshipping together, and ready to make you welcome - whether that's to come and look around, sit quietly, or worship with us.

With love and prayers

Sue

MORNING PRAYER AROUND THE BENEFICE

APRIL 2nd - in St Peter's, Upper Slaughter

9th - in St James, Cutsdean

16th - in St Faith's, Farmcote

23rd – ***No Morning Prayers in church*** (*Sue on holiday*)

30th - in St Mary's, Lower Slaughter

MAY 7th - in St Michael and all Angels, Guiting Power

14th - in St Andrew's, Naunton

21st - in St Mary's, Temple Guiting

28th - ***No Morning Prayers in church*** (Sue on a training course)

JUNE 4th - in St Peter's, Upper Slaughter

11th - in St James, Cutsdean

18th - in St Faith's, Farmcote

Please note that Morning Prayers in St Michael and All Angels, Guiting Power at 9.15am on Tuesdays will continue.

MESSAGE FROM KATRINA

A huge thank you to you all from all of the family. Thank you for your best wishes, prayers, shared memories, gifts and generosity. We are sad to leave you all but feel so blessed to have journeyed with you all for these years.

Our last Sunday morning together felt very special with the bells, choir, flowers, refreshments, school involvement, speakers and warm welcome to all. We shall remember this forever!

With our love and prayers - and we look forward to our paths crossing again!

Katrina, Nick, Ruth and Freddie

KATRINA, ARCHDEACON OF CHELTENHAM



On Sunday 30th March, a good number of people from across our Benefice travelled by coach and car to Katrina's Collation and Installation Service at Gloucester Cathedral to see her become Archdeacon of Cheltenham. It was a wonderful service on a beautiful day and we send her every best wish for the future and have no doubt she will be brilliant in her new role. Many thanks to Simon Wallis for the photos.

COMMUNITY MINISTRY - we have shared in these services

Funerals

"May God grant them light and peace"

Funeral Service and Burial for Wendy Butler at Temple Guiting

on 28th January 2025

Burial of Ashes for David Trinder at Guiting Power on 5th February 2025

Burial of Ashes for Stuart Rigby at Upper Slaughter on 25th February 2025

During the Vacancy, if you are looking to enquire about different parts of our life together, please contact:

Baptisms – Moira Anderson at moira@andersonpage.com

Weddings – Rev'd Sue Pestell at susan.pestell@gmail.com

Funerals – Ruth Waller at ruth1waller@outlook.com

ZOOM ACTIVITIES AND LINK

We continue to offer worship on Zoom for all who would like to join us. The Sunday services continue with a 9.00am Morning Prayer on the first Sundays 6 April and 4 May. Please see service schedules for details.

We have new Zoom log in details so from now on our regular Zoom services and events will be hosted through this link:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/7250161799?pwd=xjPTuC2ljbPDnWRZiKZiihGcwmvJgY.1>

Meeting ID: 725 016 1799

Passcode: kG7BFy

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LENT

On Wednesday evenings during Lent we are talking about prayer and reflecting on different ways of praying.

Do come and join us on

Wednesday 2nd April at St Michael and All Angels, Guiting Power

We begin at 7pm with refreshments, and each evening ends with Compline.

Unfortunately we have had to cancel our Lent Wednesday event on Wednesday 9th April at St Mary's, Lower Slaughter. We apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

'Village Voices'

A very informal group of singers from local villages who meet on alternate Mondays, mainly in St Mary's Temple Guiting. Call Ali Clifton Barnard on 07583 415065 if you'd like to join us.

*** Please see back page for details of up-coming events in the Benefice. ***

*** Do join us if you are able. ***

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

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

Community Space at Lords of the Manor – On the second Tuesdays of these 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 8 April and 13 May.

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, St Mary's Church Temple Guiting -

At 10.00am on **FRIDAYS** 11 and 25 April, 9 and 23 May.

Come and join friends and neighbours for real coffee and homemade cake. (Donations welcome).

SERVICES IN APRIL 2025

Sunday 6th April

9am	Zoom Morning Prayer
10am	Holy Communion at Guiting Power
11am	Matins at Upper Slaughter
3pm	Wild Worship at Temple Guiting Village Field
6pm	Evening Service at Temple Guiting

Sunday 13th April – Palm Sunday

9.30am	Holy Communion at Cutsdean
11am	Family Service at Naunton

Thursday 17th April – Maundy Thursday

7pm	Holy Communion at Upper Slaughter
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Friday 18th April – Good Friday

11am	Children's Crafts and Service at Naunton
2pm	At the Foot of the Cross Service at Farmcote

Sunday 20th April – Easter Sunday

- 6am Dawn Holy Communion at Guiting Power
- 9.30am Easter Holy Communion at Naunton
- 10am Easter Family Holy Communion at Temple Guiting
- 11am Easter Holy Communion at Lower Slaughter

Sunday 27th April

- 9.30am Holy Communion at Naunton
- 10am Family Holy Communion at Temple Guiting
- 11am Morning Praise at Lower Slaughter
- 6pm Evening Service at Guiting Power

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

SERVICES IN MAY 2025

Sunday 4th May

- 9am Zoom Morning Prayer
- 10am Holy Communion at Guiting Power
- 11am Matins at Upper Slaughter
- 3pm Wild Worship at Temple Guiting Village Field
- 6pm Evening Service at Temple Guiting

Sunday 11th May

- 9.30am Holy Communion at Farmcote
- 11am Holy Communion at Lower Slaughter
- 11am Matins at Naunton

Sunday 18th May

- 9.30am Holy Communion at Cutsdean
- 11am Holy Communion at Upper Slaughter

Sunday 25th May Rogation Sunday

- 9.30am Holy Communion at Naunton
- 6pm Barn Service at Guiting Manor Farm

Thursday 29th May – Ascension Day

7pm Praise, Puddings and Prosecco at Temple Guiting

NEWS FROM THE PEWS AND VILLAGE EVENTS

TEMPLE GUITING SCHOOL

Reverend Katrina has been an incredible presence at the school over the past 10 years, and we are deeply grateful for her service. It has been a privilege for staff to teach both Ruth and Freddie, and to work alongside Nick. As a governor, Katrina played a key role in the life of the school, and her leadership of Messy Club, worship sessions and guidance in faith have had a lasting impact on the children, staff, and the entire school community.

Nick's visits to share his work as a prison chaplain sparked thoughtful and sometimes challenging discussions among the children, and Katrina's support in creating an environment where such big, tricky questions could be explored has been invaluable. We are also so grateful that Katrina and her family have made St Mary's a place where everyone feels a true sense of belonging.



The farewell service was a beautiful testament to Katrina's impact, with 30 children in attendance, reflecting how much she means to the children and the school community. The children sang 'My Lighthouse' beautifully, and Lily and Shayne's reading of the children's memories and views of Katrina was a touching

tribute. Here is a photo of Katrina and her famous water pistols!

While it's not goodbye, we look forward to seeing Ruth again in June when she returns for another work experience week with us. We are incredibly proud that Ruth plans to become a teacher. We wish Katrina

every blessing as she steps into her new role as Archdeacon of Cheltenham. Her contributions to our school have been immeasurable, and we are thankful for all she has given over the years.

As we look to the coming weeks, we are looking forward to taking part in 'Experience Easter'. This is all down to the hard work of our 'Spread the Word' worship team who will come in and act out each part of the Easter story for us to take part in. We have always enjoyed this occasion.

Emily Chester (Class Teacher)

FARMCOTE

The brave early snowdrops which heralded the New Year have passed the mantle to the daffodils and the warmer weather at the start of the month raised our hopes of a lovely warm spring. However, March has bitten back and temperatures plummeted in time to chill the vast crowds of racegoers with some Cotswold snow and there is talk of more of the white stuff to come before the month is out.

On 2 March Temple Guiting church was full to overflowing and the flowers were stunning when we said goodbye to Katrina and her family after ten years. It was a lovely service, devised by Katrina herself. However she was not expecting the anthem The Lord Bless You and Keep You sung by members from the whole benefice, under Ali Clifton Barnard's baton. The service was followed by delicious refreshments. The Scotts will be hugely missed.

The brief spell of warmer weather meant more people about and numbers visiting the church have increased. Luckily, the major road project by the highways team has been completed without too much disruption and the retaining wall looks good for hundreds of years!

We shall be holding a Plant Sale at Little Farmcote on Saturday 17 May 10-2 in aid of St Faith's church. Do come along! See poster on back page for details.

Lorna Eayrs

UPPER SLAUGHTER

Lent is a season of reflection and preparation, and for us in Upper Slaughter and the whole Benefice, it also marks a period of transition.



Our wonderful rector, Katrina, has now left to take up her new role as Archdeacon of Cheltenham. Her final service at Temple Guiting was a truly joyful occasion for our Benefice, the church was packed, full of children, laughter, and warmth. It was a fitting send-off for Katrina, Nick, Ruth, and Freddie, and we wish them every happiness in their new chapter.

With Katrina's departure, we have now entered the period of vacancy. It's a little daunting, of course, but thanks to her careful preparation and the support of so many, we are confident in keeping everything running smoothly. In particular, we are immensely grateful to Sue Pestell, who has taken on a great deal to ensure day-to-day church life continues seamlessly. Thank you, Sue for all your hard work and dedication, we really appreciate it.

As part of this year's church administration, we are renewing the Church Electoral Roll, as required every six years. Forms are being sent to everyone, and the new roll will be prepared and presented at our Annual General Meeting on 8th May in the Village Hall.

Amidst these changes, we also have exciting news from St Peter's Church. The organ has been officially certified under the Historic Organ Listing Scheme, recognising its historical significance. Built in 1855 by Joseph Walker, a highly regarded London organ builder, it is a rare survivor of Victorian craftsmanship. These small village church organs were designed to accompany hymn singing and simple voluntaries, and many have since been altered or lost. Ours remains largely unaltered, retaining its single manual keyboard, mechanical action, and original pipework, which gives

it a distinctive character and charm. However, after nearly 170 years, it is in need of careful restoration to ensure it continues to serve the church and community for generations to come. Securing this historic listing is an important first step, allowing us to begin working towards the considerable funds needed for its restoration. We are hopeful that some grant funding will now be available, but we will also need to fundraise to help cover the rest and preserve this special part of our church's heritage.

The bells of St Peter's have been getting some extra attention too! It's been wonderful to hear them ringing out again after their restoration. Recently, a visiting group from St John's, Redhill (Surrey) filled the village with their beautiful ringing, and another group of bell ringers from the West Country will be joining us on Thursday 27th March, a great opportunity to hear our bells in full peel once more.

As we move into spring, our warm space at Lords of the Manor continues to be a welcoming place to gather. Every second Tuesday from 11 am to 12 noon, we're able to enjoy a hot drink, biscuits, and good company. With the days getting longer, it's been a lovely opportunity to take a break, catch up with friends, and enjoy the changing season together.

Finally, we want to send our love and best wishes to Wayne Gough, who hasn't been well. A true stalwart of the church and village, we've missed seeing him around—whether it's opening up the church or tending his allotment. We hope he's up and about again soon and send our warmest thoughts to his wife, Anthea, who has now stepped down from her role as Church Warden but will continue to offer support at weddings in Upper and Lower Slaughter. We are truly grateful for everything she has done over the years. Liz Gibson has also been a great support to the church for many years, first as Church Warden and, since stepping back, continuing to carry out many duties behind the scenes. Her ongoing dedication is greatly appreciated, and we are thankful for all she does.

With Lent reminding us of patience, perseverance, and the strength of community, we look ahead with gratitude and hope.

Charlotte Van Rooyen

CUTSDEAN



The month of February will be remembered across the Benefice for saying goodbye to Katrina and her family after 10 years of being our Rector here. Her last service in Cutsdean was on Sunday 16th February which was well supported and when we said our goodbyes and thanks with a bouquet of flowers. We had a surprise

visit from Catherine and Alex Cowie plus children who were staying with friends locally. It was wonderful to see them especially at Katrina's last service with us in Cutsdean.

This was followed by a farewell Benefice service at Temple Guiting at the beginning of March. The church had been beautifully decorated with contributions of flowers from all the churches in the benefice. Daisy Evans and Deena MacGregor produced a stunning arrangement on the east window ledge. The congregation was swelled by the children from Temple Guiting school and their parents. There were lots of presentations to Katrina to wish her well in her new role as Archdeacon of Cheltenham and to say thank you for her time with us. We wish her and the family well.

We were delighted to welcome Bishop Robert of Tewkesbury to our March Benefice service on a sunny Sunday morning. Alistair Eden came to play our 'musical instrument' (a keyboard which can be wayward and break into an unwelcome samba rhythm at any time) and the singing of the 4 hymns was robust! The service was followed by cake and coffee in the church before we all went on our way.

Denny Beetson has been a long-time resident in Cutsdean along with her partner Keith Wyatt. Very sadly, she died in Moreton Hospital on the 9th March. She will be much missed by us all. She kept her horses in the Close for many years until a riding accident curtailed her much loved hobby, but she was a familiar sight walking her black Labrador, Cilla.

Our Community Orchard was very productive last year and there are still stocks of apple juice (£2.50/bottle) and delicious Cutsdean honey for sale (£6.50/jar). Please contact Ros 01386 584466 if would like to buy either or both!

Ros Hartnell

LOWER SLAUGHTER

As I write this Spring has sprung and with the clocks going forward we look forward to longer and hopefully warmer and sunnier days. Easter is well and truly on the horizon and on Easter Saturday we are holding a fundraising day in the Village Hall for our new church heating system. With scrumptious refreshments and a variety of items for sale, please do join us. Poster on back page gives more details.

As the weather has hopefully now improved, our services are back in church. Grateful thanks for use of the Village Hall - a warm and welcome space for our services over the winter months.

On Sunday 2 March we were all very sorry to see Katrina and her family leave our Benefice. It was a wonderful service, but with a tinge of sadness. Over 200 people came to wish them good luck and say thank you for Katrina's ministry here for the past 10 years.

As the days lengthen, we are again looking forward to and planning our Village Fete on August Bank Holiday Monday. Do pop the date in your diaries (Monday 25 August) and join us if you can.

From all at St Mary's and Lower Slaughter, we wish everyone a happy and peaceful Easter and a wonderful Spring. Enjoy your chocolate eggs!

Marion Marshall

*** Fundraising for Heating in Lower Slaughter Church ***

We are continuing to raise funds for a new electric heating system in St Mary's Church (following the failure of our gas boiler). This will be better for the environment and more energy efficient. If you are able to assist with this, please contact Sue.

TEMPLE GUITING

It feels like it's been a long, cold winter but we banished the February chill to welcome back to 'The West End' local duo Cathy and Guy (Mansfield-Smith) and enjoy an evening of well-loved songs and Guy's own compositions. A special guest appearance by rising star Freddie Ashbridge, was a great addition to the evening.

We were honoured to host Katrina's farewell service at St Mary's and somehow squeezed over 200 people into the building! The sun shone, the bells were rung and the church looked splendid, decorated with spectacular floral arrangements provided by each of the seven benefice churches. A choir of singers, again from across the benefice, led the hymns and their Anthem 'The Lord Bless You and Keep You' (John Rutter) was dedicated to the Scott family.

Katrina has been very involved with Temple Guiting Church of England School as a governor, leading assemblies and RE lessons and as a mum, so it was very special to have group of children representing the school to share their prayers, poems and a song. True to form, Katrina 'blessed' the congregation using water pistols!

As the service concluded, the family was showered with thoughtfully chosen gifts which recognised Katrina's Scottish heritage, her passion for Glasgow Rangers and included a beautifully embroidered priest's stole commissioned by the school.

Heartfelt thanks to everyone who cleaned, decorated, read, sang, provided refreshments and joined the congregation to celebrate Katrina's ministry among us and the love and joy that she and the family have brought to the benefice.

While we will miss Katrina and the family hugely, we have much to look forward to. Holy Week and Easter will be upon us soon with services across the benefice. Family Communion at St Mary's on Easter Sunday will be at 10.00am.

On May 30th at 7.30pm we welcome the amazing 5-piece band Boe Jigge, (cello, fiddle, harp, guitar and bodhran) to St Mary's. Their concerts are always very lively and huge fun. Highly recommended! Other 'West End'

events will be advertised in weekly news and on St Mary's Temple Guiting Facebook page. We look forward to welcoming you!

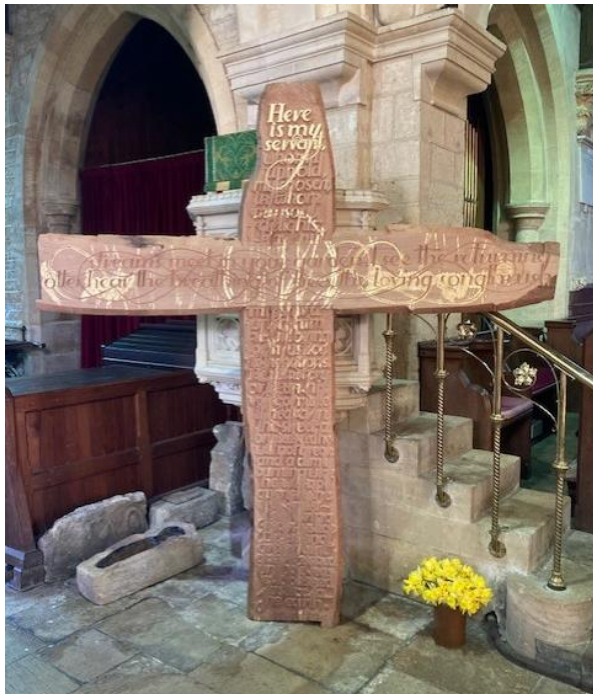
Ali Clifton Barnard

GUITING POWER

What a wonderful service we had for Katrina on the 2nd of March, and the weather equally perfect. No doubt there will be longer reports and photographs appearing elsewhere in this issue, so I would just like to say Thank You Temple Guiting team for hosting such a special and appropriate send off for Katrina, Nick, Ruth and Freddie. We wish them all well for the future, and by the time you read this a coach party of us

will have been to the Cathedral to celebrate with Katrina her Installation as Archdeacon of Cheltenham on Mothering Sunday.

Now we are in the season of Lent as we venture into Spring and journey towards Easter. To enhance our reflections and devotions in this season we have on loan a beautifully carved wooden cross, made by David Kennard whose family once lived at Guiting Grange. The cross is inscribed with a sentence of scripture "Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my



chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth..." (Isaiah ch.42, v.1-4). Do take the opportunity to go and sit in the church and enjoy it.

On Easter Day we will have our usual outdoor Sunrise Service of Holy Communion followed by breakfast in the church. Always a beautiful occasion, do join us.

At the beginning of May, alongside national events to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of VE Day and the ending of World War II in Europe, the Upper Windrush Local History Society will be staging an exhibition in the Village Hall during the weekend of 10th & 11th May, 11am-5pm both days. Entry is free and refreshments available.

Another date for your diaries is Guiting Power Open Gardens on Sunday 1 June. All details on poster on back page of this magazine.

Simon Wallis

NAUNTON

I'm sure that you'll all remember that I signed off on my last epistle in anticipation of the St Andrews benefit Burns Supper in the Naunton Village Hall. Well, what a riot that proved to be! It was a popular 'sold out' event, held on the Bard's birthday 25 January; it's become something of a 'not to be missed' thing in the village, held on alternate years.

For anyone who isn't familiar with a Burns Supper, it celebrates the life and legacy of Scots misogynist poet Rabbin Burns. Basically, it includes all things Scottish - starting with the feast of haggis, neeps and tatties, which are piped in by a bagpipe player dressed in full Highland regalia. There are poems performed, toasts to the haggis, the lassies (girls) and a reply on their behalf. Whisky is the drink of choice, of course, for these toasts. The second half of the evening is a ceilidh, a Scottish style barn dance. We were delighted to have a local band (Hetty Pegler's Tump) to 'call' the dances and play the tunes for us to dance to. There's always a good turnout and complete chaos on the dancefloor; people seem to forget their left and right, and move randomly in any direction. It's all great fun.

Why am I telling you this? Because we were truly honoured to have our very own Katrina and Nick Scott making the toasts this year, and they both performed their roles with confidence and hilarity. One more memory made of their ministry with us. We are thankful to both for their contribution to the evening which raised over £1000 for St Andrews Church funds.

Our Benefice-wide farewell to Katrina and the family was a magnificent affair in St Mary's Temple Guiting. The Church was packed, hearty singing rang out, bells were rung and our local School children had prepared a

special song. Holy Communion was offered. Gifts were presented to the Scott family, and refreshments served afterwards. The atmosphere was warm and it was good to be together to thank and celebrate Katrina for her care for us. She WILL be missed and we wish her well in her new role in Cheltenham. We are truly blessed by her ministry amongst us.

Now that we are in the season of Lent, the Church is bare of flowers. As we look towards Holy Week we are invited to consider and reflect upon the life of Jesus, that last week in Jerusalem, His death on the Cross ... and look forward to the joy of the risen Lord on Easter morning.

As is usual in St Andrews Church, there will be a family activity session of Easter Crafts on Good Friday 18th April, 11am to 12 noon, culminating in a short and informal act of Worship around the Easter story. All ages are welcome to come and join in the fun. With refreshments and plenty of people to chat to, we'd love to see YOU there!

A (not) 'Lent' Soup lunch is being planned for Saturday 26th April, to raise funds for UNICEF in support of children caught up in the Gaza conflict. Please do come along, bring friends and family; a warm welcome and delicious food awaits you... please see poster on back page for full details.

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Moir Anderson

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SALTERS LANE
NR HAILES
WINCHCOMBE
GL54 5AY

PLEASE COME & SUPPORT OUR
VILLAGE CHURCH

FOR MORE INFORMATION
CONTACT
LORNA EAYRS
07801960904



GUITING POWER OPEN GARDENS

SUN 1st JUNE 2025 1 - 5.30pm

Tickets, teas, maps, toilets & free parking
at The Village Hall, Guiting Power, GL54 5TX

Meet the gardeners & enjoy our teas!

Why not make a day of it... our two pubs, cafe & deli serve lunches & snacks