

# SEVENTY TIMES SEVEN

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

## June - July 2025



### **Vacancy Prayer**

Heavenly Father,  
We thank you for the blessings of our Benefice life together,  
and pray that we may continue to be a blessing to one  
another during this time of vacancy.  
We pray for the person you are calling to serve among us.  
Grant them vision, courage and love.  
Grant us open hearts to welcome and work alongside them.  
That together we may serve your kingdom faithfully,  
In this place and in this time.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

**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](mailto:susan.pestell@gmail.com)

**07514 542934**

Jean Bird (Reader Emeritus) - 01451 850337

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## 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: Sheila Woods*

### **Upper Slaughter (GL54 2JF)**

(Vacant)

*Safeguarding Officer: Ken Pascoe*

### **Guiting Power (GL54 5TX)**

Simon Wallis 01451 851806

*Safeguarding Officer: Tracy Formby*

### **Farmcote (GL54 5AU)**

Peter Loveday 01242 602887

*Safeguarding Officer: Tracy Formby*

## SEVENTY TIMES SEVEN

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**DEADLINE for the next issue  
20 JULY 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](http://www.templeguiting.gloucs.sch.uk)

## **DEAR FRIENDS**

Each day that I drive into our parishes from Winchcombe, and around them, I am truly blessed by everything I see and hear. When the weather is like this it's worth having the windows down to hear the birdsong, the new lambs and other uplifting sounds; the hedgerows are gorgeous. It's hard to believe that because of the way we live much of our natural wildlife is at risk.

So what's been going on in our churches?

It has been a busy time. By the time you read this we will have had five Annual Parochial Church meetings, the equivalent of an AGM in other organisations and a legal requirement. At these we elect Churchwardens, Parochial Church Council members, review the year past and look ahead. Each of our church councils is a small but faithful group who, especially in this time of vacancy, work hard to keep our churches alive, in terms of caring for the people, the worship, the building and the churchyard. Without them the clergy and the church would be unable to operate as they do. I would like to pay tribute to all members who have served and continue to serve on our PCCs so faithfully.

Would you consider being part of one of our PCCs? We might work hard but we have fun and there are some great friendships formed and still forming.

You may have noticed that some of our churchyards are looking a little wild at the moment. That isn't because we're too busy, although we could always do with a little more help! At this time of year we try to help some of our wildlife back by leaving the mowing a little later. Wild flowers, butterflies, insects and birds all benefit from leaving the churchyard unmowed for a time.

Behind the scenes, there is much activity in putting together a "profile" of our parishes for the benefit of potential applicants to the role of Rector here.

I hope that in the busyness of this time of year you will have time to relax, enjoy all that is around you.

**With love and prayers**

**Sue**

# MORNING PRAYER AROUND THE BENEFICE

**JUNE** 4<sup>th</sup> - in St Peter's, Upper Slaughter

11<sup>th</sup> - in St James, Cutsdean

18<sup>th</sup> - in St Faith's, Farmcote

25<sup>th</sup> - in St Mary's, Lower Slaughter

**JULY** 2<sup>nd</sup> - in St Michael and All Angels, Guiting Power

9<sup>th</sup> - in St Andrew's, Naunton

16<sup>th</sup> - in St Mary's, Temple Guiting

**23<sup>rd</sup> - No Morning Prayers - Sue on holiday**

30<sup>th</sup> - in St Peter's, Upper Slaughter

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

## COMMUNITY MINISTRY - we have shared in these services

### Baptisms

*"May God guide and protect them"*

Ella Eva Kay Henley on 6th April 2025 at Lower Slaughter

Aura Rose Cooper on 18th May 2025 at Lower Slaughter

Peggy Rose Sweeney-McDonald on 24th May at Naunton

Frances Mabel Sweeney-McDonald on 24th May at Naunton

### Weddings

*"May God bless them"*

Louise Stewart and Martin Sintler at Upper Slaughter on 29 March 2025

Charlotte Robinson and James Sharratt at Lower Slaughter on 25 May 2025

### Funerals

*"May God grant them light and peace"*

Funeral of Susan Denise Beetson on 27th March 2025 at Temple Guiting  
and Burial at Cutsdean

Funeral of William Pitcain Nunneley on 15th May 2025 at Naunton

Burial of Ashes of Maureen Ann Miles on 16th May 2025 at Guiting Power

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](mailto:moira@andersonpage.com)

**Weddings** – Rev'd Sue Pestell at [susan.pestell@gmail.com](mailto:susan.pestell@gmail.com)

**Funerals** – Ruth Waller at [ruth1waller@outlook.com](mailto: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 1 June and 6 July. 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=xjPTuC2ljbPDnWRZiKZiiGcwmvJgY.1>

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Passcode: kG7BFy

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## 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. We're in search of altos, tenors and basses. Call Ali Clifton Barnard on 07583 415065 if you'd like to join us.

**\* Please see News from the Pews and back page for details of upcoming events in the Benefice and 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 10 June and 8 July.

**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** 6 and 20 June, 4 and 18 July.

**Please Note:** *There are no coffee mornings during August holiday time.*

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

## WIDER CHURCH NEWS

On 10<sup>th</sup> June at 7pm the Rev'd Hannah Allen will be licensed as Priest-in-Charge of the Benefice of Bourton on the Water with Clapton and the Rissingtons.

Please pray for Hannah as she begins her new role, stepping from being a Curate to an Incumbent. We will be working closely with Hannah as we explore a closer relationship as a cluster with her Benefice and the Benefice at Stow.

## SERVICES IN JUNE 2025

### **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June**

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

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June - Pentecost**

11am Benefice Holy Communion at Lower Slaughter

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June – Trinity Sunday**

9.30am Holy Communion at Cutsdean

11am Holy Communion at Upper Slaughter

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June**

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

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June – St Peter and St Paul**

11am Benefice Holy Communion at Upper Slaughter

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

## **SERVICES IN JULY 2025**

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July**

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 13<sup>th</sup> July**

9.30am Holy Communion at Farmcote

11am Holy Communion at Lower Slaughter

11am Spirit of Naunton Service at The Black Horse

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July**

9.30am Holy Communion at Cutsdean

11am Holy Communion at Upper Slaughter

## **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> July**

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

# **NEWS FROM THE PEWS AND VILLAGE EVENTS**

## **TEMPLE GUITING SCHOOL**

### **Lamb Visit**

As part of our Science learning we have been looking at life cycles in Key Stage 1. We were offered the chance for some lambs to be brought into school and the chance for children to hold them and feed them. The children were so excited. Everyone got to hold the lambs and to learn about their care and feeding. They asked questions and learned so much – it was a very special afternoon.

### **Frog Release**

Continuing our theme of life cycles – we collected some frog spawn that we watched each day as the eggs grew, then watched as tadpoles emerged. Class 2 observed them each day as they grew legs and how fast they grew. Then finally the day arrived when they were too big for our tank and so we took them down to our pond so they could grow into frogs. It was such a worthwhile project.

### **Cotswold Wildlife Park trip**

The year 1+2 children continued their learning about animal life cycles and habitats with a visit to the Cotswold Wildlife Park. They were able to learn about habitats both at home and further afield. They had workshops on life cycles and caring and feeding of animals at the park and in the wild. The sun was shining and it was a wonderful learning experience.

### **Kingham Sculpture Festival**

Class 5 have been working with local artist Charlotte Stoneham and the Kingham arts. This year they have designed and created their own insects and then participated in a display including a dragon. The class then went



to see their work in situ at the Kingham sculpture trail. The sculptures were incredible and it was such a fantastic chance to see high quality sculptures in an amazing setting.

### **Year 4 languages day at the Cotswold School**

Our Year 4 children went off to the Cotswold School in Bourton on the Water. They had a whole day of language learning - French, Spanish, Ukrainian and other languages. Each language had its own station and activities and our children were given the opportunity to learn new vocabulary and speak a few words in each language – what a wonderful opportunity!

### **Swimming pool on site**

We have hired a large swimming pool that arrived on our site in hundreds of pieces, but this was quickly put together and a gazebo erected over the pool. It is 35 feet long and 12 feet wide. It took 4 days to fill and 3 days to heat. It is amazing and every child has had at least 5 lessons during the week. It is such a great way to learn to swim without even leaving the school grounds. The pictures below show a little flavour of the pool and lessons.



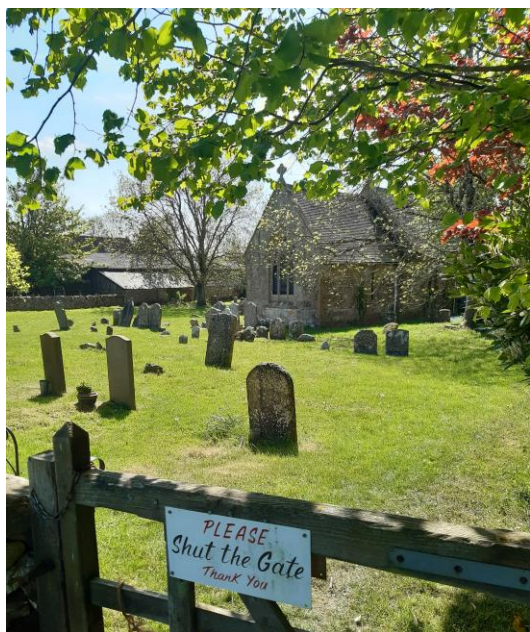
**Ann Barry (Executive Headteacher)**

## **FARMCOTE**

The Brew with a View held at Little Farmcote on 17 May was a huge success. Many thanks to Martin and Sarah Day for their generous hospitality and Sarah's organisational and gardening skills! Thanks also to those who welcomed visitors to their gardens, produced plants and baked large quantities of cakes and goodies. A good crowd of people from across the benefice and beyond came and partook, and to date we have raised in excess of £1050.

**Lorna Eayrs**

## CUTSDEAN



Spring 2025 will be remembered in the Benefice for a number of reasons. The long dry, warm, sunny spell has given us time to enjoy our gardens and the glorious Cotswold countryside with its billowing cow parsley on the verges as well as the extravagant show of hawthorn blossom decorating the field boundaries. The views across the Cotswolds have been magnificent. However, in this rural community, our farmers are perhaps not so beguiled by the beauty the rest of us

are experiencing, but are praying for rain for their crops which are suffering as a result of this extended dry period.

Following Katrina's departure, our PCCs are grappling with the intricacies of the process involved to secure our new priest. The producing of Parish Profiles for all our churches in the Benefice for the 'job advert' has been in the forefront of our minds recently. Certainly, photos of our Churches taken during this beautiful spring weather will seem very attractive to any prospective candidate!

Our friend and long-time resident of Cutsdean, Denny Beetson, was buried in St James' Churchyard at the end of March on a beautiful spring day following a service at St Mary's Church, Temple Guiting. The Church was packed with friends and family wanting to say their goodbyes to a very popular lady. Denny will be much missed.



One warm Saturday morning in early April, a working party set to and cleared much of the ivy from the south wall of the church. Two headstones that were completely covered in ivy and elder were cleared and we can now see who was buried there. There is still much to do in the churchyard, some of which has been recommended in the QR. Work to

rectify outstanding repairs to the Church, again recommended in the QR, will be started within a month or so.

We are now planning for Stanway Fete on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July, where the Church and the Orchard have a stall selling plants, bric-a-brac, preserves, cakes etc. It has been very successful in the past so we are hoping for good weather to bring the people in!

**Ros Hartnell**

## **TEMPLE GUITING**

The Conversion of the West End at St Mary's continues to be a great success; not only does it provide much more space for services such as weddings and funerals, but we are able to hold a variety of events aimed at bringing the community together, the latest being a "Pop up bar". Look out for further Friday nights when our outstanding barman, Kevin Bell, will be delighted to serve you a refreshing beverage!

Our thanks go to Kevin and Michael for opening their beautiful garden and inviting everyone to enjoy the lovely daffodil walk. This also raised funds for St Mary's.

As we near the end of May we look forward to Ascension on the 29<sup>th</sup> May. St Mary's will be hosting "Praise, Prosecco and Puds" for our Parish and Benefice. All are welcome to the service and please contact Sheila Woods regarding contributions to the refreshments which will be served afterwards.

We are also delighted to have 'Boe-Jigge' perform on May 30<sup>th</sup>. They are a fabulous collective of respected acoustic musicians presenting traditional and original music. Between them the five members of the group play harp, cello, violin, mandolin, guitar and bodhran (Irish drum)! Their music is a real mix of genres, including their own compositions. It will be a super evening. A licensed bar will be available, and any profit will go towards the maintenance of St Mary's. Contact Ali Clifton Barnard for tickets.

West End and other village events will be advertised in weekly news and on St Mary's Facebook page. We look forward to welcoming you!

**Val Littlewood**



## GUITING POWER

How far down the year we have come already! Our Easter Sunrise Service was a joy, as ever, even if the sun didn't show itself quite as early in the day as we could have wished. By the time you read this, we will also have enjoyed the Rogation Service in the Barn at Guiting Manor Farms (thank you Nick & co.).



VE Day's 80th Anniversary was commemorated with various village activities, including an excellent weekend exhibition, and the War Memorial will remain resplendent with its hand knitted poppies until VJ Day on 15th August, a date equally important to many.

Now begins the round of Summer activities, not least with Open Gardens on Sunday 1st June! Then the Village Fete & Fun Dog Show on Saturday 21st 12-4pm, and from 25th July the 55th annual Guiting Music Festival.

Meanwhile, in the background, a dedicated team is engaged with the process of working towards a new parish priest for our Benefice. Do pray for us, as we pray for God to lead that person to us, and in all we enjoy in the blessing of our surroundings this Summer and as we welcome visitors to join us, we give thanks. Enjoy!

**Simon Wallis**

## NAUNTON

As the year unfolds, accelerating headlong into Spring, so does the activity level within our Parish. We would do well to stop awhile and reflect that we are created 'human beings' rather than 'human doings'!

Folks are outdoors; gardening, walking, chatting with friends and strangers - all life affirming signs of the busy community where we live. The birds are singing in the trees from sunrise to sunset, seeking food for their young ... the cycle of life continues.



There was a good representation from Naunton and indeed from around the Benefice, at Gloucester Cathedral on the afternoon of Sunday 30th March. The 'event' was a Choral Evensong, with the Collation and Installation of Rev'd Katrina as Archdeacon of Cheltenham. It was truly magnificent! Glorious music provided the backdrop to the legal and spiritual affirmations. It was wonderful to see so many of Katrina's friends & family support her on that day, and it was especially poignant that she was vested with her late father's cope, which he had worn as archdeacon of Buckingham. Afterwards, refreshments were shared and there was an opportunity to chat ... Katrina must have been thoroughly exhausted and uplifted by the end of the day. Our love and prayers go with her, and with Nick, Ruth and Freddie.



Our love and prayers go with her, and with Nick, Ruth and Freddie.

The season of Lent led into Holy Week, the darkness of Good Friday and joy of Easter Sunday. As is our tradition, there was a family activity session on the morning of Good Friday culminating in a short act of Worship. The youngsters (and not so youngsters) made crafts, including an Easter Garden which remained in the Church - The Stone had rolled away from the entrance to the tomb on Easter Sunday morning, to cries of 'Alleluia! Christ is risen!'

Easter Sunday worship led by Rev'd Sue was especially joyous and uplifting. The Church was beautifully & simply decorated with jars of spring flowers, and smelled divine too!



There was a soup lunch in the village hall on Saturday 26th April, staffed by a happy bunch of volunteers, both those who made the food and those who served it. The event was well attended & donations were invited for the delicious homemade soup and scones / bread. Everyone was made welcome & the hall was buzzing with chatter between young and old alike. A grand

total of £825 including Gift Aid was raised for our chosen charity UNICEF/Children of Gaza. We are thankful for folks' generosity to those in such dire need of help.

During this time of Vacancy, we are working through a robust process with our sisters and brothers across the benefice to seek a new vicar. Please pray for all those involved in this journey. Working together with these other local parishes provides an opportunity for us to share gifts and skills, whilst working towards a common goal, and making new friends along the way.

Activities continue within our Church community; we are blessed to have a band of Bellringers who make our bells sing out regularly. They played rousing commemorative rounds to mark VE Day.

Our building welcomes one and all for a drop-in coffee morning on a Thursday, often offering refreshment and conversation to passing visitors. This feeds our souls as well as simply providing a meeting spot.

I do often wonder how many generations have felt peace and renewal in our beautiful Church and village over the years? Long may that continue!

**Moira Anderson**



## UPPER SLAUGHTER

As spring turns towards summer, life in Upper Slaughter continues at its gentle, steady pace and the numbers are on the rise. After many weeks of uninterrupted sunshine, we now find ourselves hoping for some well-needed rain to refresh our fields, allotments and gardens.



The lambs have brought cheer to the fields, and Easter saw St Peter's decorated with an abundance of beautiful flowers, thanks to our talented flower arranging team. The church looked particularly joyful and was much admired by visitors and villagers alike.

The vacancy period continues, and we're making steady progress on the Benefice Profile, which we hope will help attract the right person to lead our parishes forward. In the meantime, we've been fortunate to welcome several visiting priests to lead our

services—Sandra Millar, Louise Brown, and Jon Barwood—each bringing their own warmth and wisdom. We're grateful to them for their time and presence among us.

Looking ahead, preparations are well underway for the Upper Slaughter Village Fête, which will take place on Saturday 5th July. It promises to be a lively day for the whole village, with the usual stalls, games, and refreshments. The Tombola Team would be delighted to receive any bottles you can spare, the Raffle Team will be distributing tickets shortly, and the White Elephant Stall is calling for vintage items or anything curious and saleable. Please contact me directly if you have donations or would like to buy tickets.

Our coffee mornings at the Lords of the Manor continue on the second Tuesday of each month at 11:00, providing a welcome space for conversation, warmth and community.

As always, our thanks to everyone who helps keep church life running smoothly, whether by organising services, arranging flowers, ringing bells,

or offering quiet support behind the scenes. Every contribution makes a difference.

**Charlotte Van Rooyen**

## **LOWER SLAUGHTER**

I am writing this during some typical British summer weather – a warm sunny spell never fails to cheer us all up and remind us of how fortunate we are to live in such a wonderful place with its ever-changing scenery.

We continue to plan for our annual Village Fete from 11am to 4pm on August Bank Holiday Monday. As usual, we have a host of wonderful stalls and a variety of refreshments around the village and in the Village Hall. Do come along and grab a bargain or two! This year I am running a Bottle Tombola stall, and would welcome donations of any bottles. If you can help, please call me on 01451 810294 after 6pm.

Our church heating appeal is going from strength to strength. Many thanks to all those who have made generous donations and as a result we hope to be in a position to replace the heating early in the autumn. Many thanks also go to all those in the village who have been involved in running refreshment days in aid of the appeal.

Over the summer we have a number of weddings in church and we pray for all the couples as they start a new journey in life together.

On Sunday 25 May, a very uplifting and joyful Rogation service was held at the Manor Farm Barn in Guiting Power. We sang lovely hymns, heard all about the lambing season and crop production and enjoyed chatting to our Benefice family over refreshments afterwards. We look forward to joining in other Benefice services over the summer months.

We have just held our Annual Parochial Church Meeting and are delighted to welcome Rosie Russell-Allen to our PCC; many hands make light work - welcome Rosie.

Enjoy the summer and happy holidays everyone.

**Marion Marshall**



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## 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**

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