

SEVENTY TIMES SEVEN

The Parish Magazine of the Seven Churches

St Peter Upper Slaughter – St Faith Farmcote – St James Cutsdean – St Andrew Naunton
St Mary Lower Slaughter – St Michael Guiting Power – St Mary Temple Guiting



OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2020 Interim Edition

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SEVENTY TIMES SEVEN

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DEADLINE for the next issue TO BE ADVISED.

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DEAR FRIENDS ...

We are thinking of you all as we move into autumn, aware of the uncertainty that still faces us in the months ahead. Over this summer, we have been pleased to be able to begin to open our church buildings again, and to be able to meet in person as well as online for worship. Over the coming pages, we share some news and plans.

This edition of the magazine is again being produced largely digitally, but do let Katrina know if there is anyone who would like a paper copy and we will get some posted out.

As we step further into Autumn, I find it useful to look to the natural world for inspiration on how to make the most of this wonderful, albeit slightly challenging season. Whilst wildlife teaches us to make the most of our abundant hedgerows and orchards, the fresh Autumnal chill makes me want to curl up with the fire on and take time to be still with God.

St Francis of Assisi is one of my favourite Saints. He believed that nature itself was the mirror of God, and spent his life faithfully serving others and the natural world around him.

I share with you his prayer, as inspiration to brings us hope and peace this Autumn.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring love.
Where there is offence, let me bring pardon.
Where there is discord, let me bring union.
Where there is error, let me bring truth.
Where there is doubt, let me bring faith.
Where there is despair, let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness, let me bring your light.
Where there is sadness, let me bring joy.
O Master, let me not seek as much
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love,
for it is in giving that one receives,
it is in self-forgetting that one finds,
it is in pardoning that one is pardoned,
it is in dying that one is raised to eternal life.

With love and prayers,

Catherine, Katrina and Sue

WORSHIPPING IN THIS TIME ...

For the coming months, we have prepared a worship schedule that enables us to continue meeting on Zoom, as well as hosting some services in our church buildings. The details of these services are outlined on the coming pages.

Our focus in planning these services has been to offer as much as possible, whilst keeping one another as safe as possible. Everything we are doing is risk assessed and cleaning has high priority. The Zoom services will go ahead, whatever happens (if we have further lockdowns or necessary isolations) and we hope to be able to maintain the rhythm of a Communion Service and an Evening Prayer each week.

We are also having to be as creative as possible! Our big services (All Souls, Remembrance, Carols, etc) will not be able to go ahead as usual, because we need to maintain distancing within the buildings, and we can't really fit many more than 30 in, with that distancing. So, we are going to be trying to do some things differently, in order to be able to gather together.

Forest Church

This is something that we have been thinking about for a while and it seems perfect for this moment. Forest Church is focussed around being outside and worshipping God in creation. It is ideal for adults and children, and it designed to involve exploration, play and craft. We will be offering Forest Church worship once each month, in one of our churchyards. It will be around 30 minutes in length, and will go ahead whatever the weather (so come dressed for it!).

All Souls Day

All Souls is a time of year where we remember those who have died and those who grieve. This year, on Sunday November 1st, we will be offering a prayer space in the church in Farmcote, open from 1-5pm. It will be an opportunity to come into that beautiful building, to remember loved ones, to light candles, share their names and appreciate the peace.

In this year, when there has been so much grief, and where funeral services have been so limited, it feels right to be able to offer this space. All are welcome to drop in.

COMMUNITY MINISTRY ...

WEDDINGS

"May God bless them"

David THOMAS and Sarah HENDY at Lower Slaughter on 25th July 2020

Andrew HEMMINGS and Kelly SWALLOW at Royal Agricultural University Chapel
on 1st August 2020

Alexander CHRISTIANSEN and Katherine HEIL at Lower Slaughter on 29th August 2020

Paul KEAR and Sherrilee PEARCE at Lower Slaughter on 10th September 2020

FUNERALS

"May God grant them light and peace"

Judi RUSSELL, Funeral Service and Burial at Naunton on 18th June 2020

Reginald MANNING, Burial of Ashes at Upper Slaughter on 24th July 2020

Jean McCORMICK, Burial of Ashes at Lower Slaughter on 31st July 2020

Ernest BIRD, Burial of Ashes at Naunton on 18th August 2020

Marion and Thomas BARTLETT, Burial of Ashes at Guiting Power on 4th September 2020

Jean REIGNER, Funeral at Cheltenham Crematorium on 29th September 2020

Neville BARTON, Funeral at Cheltenham Crematorium on 30th September 2020

Robin HORLOCK, Funeral at Cheltenham Crematorium on 2nd October 2020

PRAYER LINES



We have set up a prayer network – a group of people who are willing to receive any requests for prayer and to pray for anyone in need. It is set up as a simple email group, co-ordinated by Jean Bird, and an email is sent to all the 'pray-ers' asking them to remember a particular person when there is a need. If you would like to be remembered in prayer, please contact Jean at jaybeepip@aol.com or Rev'd Sue Pestell

on susan.pestell@gmail.com.

THE NORTH COTSWOLD LONG TABLE

We have some food to share. Lovely comforting traditional meals. Do you know anyone:-

- ❖ who needs comforting,
 - is alone,
 - or bereaved,
 - has been in hospital,
 - ◆ just had a baby
 - or just needs a comforting meal?

It might be you or someone else.

This is about coming together as a community around food. We may not be able to meet in one another's houses, but we can share a meal with a neighbour, a friend or someone else we might know.

The food is sourced from farms and shops and funded through a pay as you need scheme.

That might be paying nothing at the moment, or a donation, or the cost or more. (The cost of a meal is £3.50 for an individual meal or £10 for a family meal.)

To join in or order food, contact Sue Pestell (susan.pestell@gmail.com) or come along to the Lower Slaughter Village Hall on a Tuesday morning between 10 and 11am.

CHURCH NEWS ...

APCMs

Back in March, our planned Annual Parochial Church Meetings were postponed, due to the lockdown. The timescale was extended until the end of October, and the legal preparations were made for the meetings to happen online where necessary. So, we now have a schedule of meetings to take place in the coming weeks.

The meetings are happening as follows:

St. Andrew's, Naunton: Monday 19th October at 7pm on Zoom

St. Peter's, Upper Slaughter: Tuesday 20th October at 6pm in the Church

St. Mary's, Temple Guiting, with St. James', Cutsdean: Wednesday 21st October at 6pm on Zoom

St. Michael and All Angels', Guiting Power with St. Faith's, Farmcote: Thursday 29th October at 2pm in Guiting Power Church

St Mary's, Lower Slaughter: Thursday 29th October at 7pm on Zoom

For each of the Zoom meetings, the log in will be:

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 797 986 7589

Password: 815669

It is possible to join in **by telephone** also, you should be able to do this by phoning: 0203 481 5237 and entering the above Meeting ID and password.

Please do join in with these meetings – all are welcome.

At these meetings, we will be electing Churchwardens, PCC members, Deanery Synod reps and reviewing the work and finances of the church for last year. We also look forward to what lies ahead.

CHURCH FINANCES

Thank you so much to so many of you who have continued to support our churches through this year. We know that for many this has been a tough year financially, and our churches are feeling that too, with a significant drop in income.

If you are able to support us with a donation, or by signing up for a regular standing order, that would be greatly appreciated. Do contact our clergy team, churchwardens or treasurers for more information. Thank you.

ORDINATIONS



It was a delight to be able to be alongside Sue and Catherine as they were each Ordained on Sunday 20th September.

The services in Gloucester Cathedral (postponed from June) were small in number, but large in meaning! Incredible words were spoken and prayers prayed for each of them, at this new stage in their ministries.

Congratulations to you both – we are blessed to have you here with us!



DRIVE-IN HARVEST CELEBRATIONS

Harvest is such a special and important time of year, and we were so keen to do something to mark it as a Benefice, so we had to think creatively about how to do this with the limitation on numbers in our buildings. The Drive-In at Guiting Manor Farm was great! Many thanks to Nick Bumford at the Farm and Rob Graves for the sound equipment. It was so fun to hear Harvest songs, to be that close to a Combine Harvester, to see so many people, and to know that everyone was safe (and relatively warm) in their cars!



NEWS FROM THE PEWS ...

Farmcote

During these peaceful quiet months here, we hear the constant sound of grain or bean harvesting, sometimes delayed by weather or shared combining equipment, followed by straw bailing, raking, ploughing, fertilizing and sowing. Yields are about 50% down this year due to an early hot summer, but sudden heavy rain storms and wind gales here all interfered with normal farming activity. For the first time we have an acreage of seed potatoes planted up here; if successful in our stony soil this may be repeated on other ground (the same soil cannot be replanted with a potato crop for a considerable time). Butterflies and some wild life have flourished in our gardens this year but there is concern over the quality of our soil. The writer (who recalls horse power in front of the hand plough) remembers a multitude of birds following and swooping for worms and other insects; this he has rarely seen for many years.

St Faith's will be open in October for walkers every Sunday; our first HC Service will be held on 18th for a limited number. On All Souls Day November 1st we will be open for prayer in the afternoon.

Peter Loveday

CUTSDEAN

The news from Cutsdean is that there is no news – which is a blessing given the everyday challenges we face, not to mention the potential threats of the virus. We are very grateful for the privilege of living where we do.

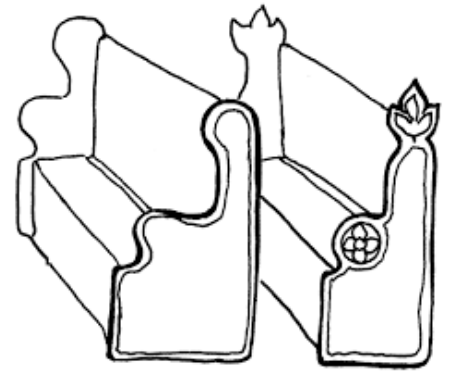
Sadly, St. James has not been able to reopen along with other Churches in the Benefice as the estimated reduced capacity is insufficient for us to welcome all worshippers and it is not our wish to say “sold out”! However, we are very fortunate to have our mother Church - St. Mary's, Temple Guiting - so close at hand and welcoming.

Finally, something to celebrate! All of us in Cutsdean send our congratulations and best wishes to Sue and Catherine on their respective ordinations in September and we look forward to having them officiate for us as soon as possible.

Mark Evans

St Andrew's, Naunton

It was a joy to be back in St Andrew's church for our recent service of Evening Prayer. Alistair Eden kindly played a well-chosen interlude on the organ, and we heard the colourful parable of the servant forgiven a huge debt who would not himself forgive a small one.



I am delighted we are now able to invite everyone to Holy Communion at 11 a.m. on 11th October, and to Evening Prayer at 6 p.m. on the 25th.

David Renney, Churchwarden

St Michael and All Angels, Guiting Power

Everyday life in Guiting Power, like everywhere else, continues under the shadow of the Covid-19 virus.

For the first time in 65 years Watsons Bakery is closed and empty awaiting renovation and new occupants. Dorothy Watson, Chris and Christine are now retired. Dorothy is now settled and comfortable in her brand new bungalow, with Churchwarden David Broad next door.

Strangely, during the Covid-19 restrictions the village has been teeming with visitors, mainly visiting the Old Post Office Shop and Tea Room, most are walkers and lycra-clad cyclists in large numbers.

Like all of our Benefice Churches St Michael's was not open at all during "lockdown", but now opens twice weekly, Tuesday's at 10am to 12 noon and Fridays at 2pm to 4pm for personal prayer. Services have now commenced and have been well attended, 31 and 35 at the last two services, very encouraging. The lifeline has been the very successful online Zoom Services, every Sunday, most enjoyable and spiritually enriching, but we must not forget that many people that are unable to use the online facility.

On Sunday 27th September, Michaelmas Sunday, our Patronal Holy Communion Service was led by the newly-Ordained Priest Rev Sue Pestell and assisted by our also newly-Ordained Deacon Rev Catherine Cowie. Rev Robert Pestell and Rev Canon Katrina Scott also assisted Rev Sue. A memorable occasion for all that were present. What an impressive Clergy team we now have in the Benefice!

During the short period between "lockdown" and the latest restrictions the St Michael's team managed to fit in two significant outdoor fundraising events. The first a rather large Bric-a-Brac sale in the Churchyard that raised £600 and then an Art Sale in an open-sided barn at Guiting Manor Farm that raised £400 - great thanks to Nick Bumford at Guiting Manor Farm and Bob Major who almost single handed, organised the whole event! It was somewhat of a gamble putting on these outdoor events - with further Covid restrictions and the weather likely to intervene - but the Lord was with us and the sun shone brightly!!!

Mr Bob Major, an ex Soldier living in Guiting Power, has for some time been concerned about the mental health of ex Service people, many with huge PTSD mental problems and living rough. Bob has secured a 7 acre area of ancient woodland for a project that he is setting up named "Woodland For Soldiers". The project will see groups of 4 or 5 ex service people living for a week in the woodland during "Coppicing Season", the week will concentrate on woodland conservation. Bob is looking for some financial sponsorship to facilitate the purchase of camping equipment, tools and feeding the men/women. Volunteers to assist will also be most welcome.

Winter will soon be upon us, Advent and the Christmas celebrations are just around the corner. I am sure that with our Benefice Leadership team of Rev Katrina and her Curates Rev Sue and Rev Catherine in place we can overcome any Covid-19 restrictions that may come our way.

We will worship the Lord and sing his praises throughout.

Best Wishes,

Mike Edwards, Churchwarden

Lower Slaughter

As I write this letter to you all from St Mary's, autumn is now well and truly with us bringing its wonderful colours into our landscape. How lucky we are to be able to harvest crops from our allotments and gardens, and to live in a country with an abundance of food. Unfortunately, due to the current Covid-19 restrictions, we are unable to host our normal Harvest Festival service this year. However, we plan to decorate our church and then open for private prayer from 1pm-4pm on Saturday 17 and 12noon-4pm on Sunday 18 October. If you are able, please do come along to enjoy the displays. As is our normal custom, we shall also be collecting non-perishable food items at this time for our local Food Bank, which has been exceptionally busy during the pandemic, so any donations will be very gratefully received.

It is with great sadness that I have to report the recent death of Mrs Robin Horlock from Copse Hill Manor. Robin was a regular worshipper at St Mary's along with the wonderful girls who provided her with such exceptional care. Robin was a real character, even in her latter years as she struggled with health problems she always remained positive, up-beat and had a smile and kind word for everyone. We will miss her and send our sympathies to her carers, family and friends.

It is wonderful to be back in church each week to worship and catch up with our church family. Our Zoom services have also been very uplifting and keeping us all very much in touch.

Please stay safe and well, and take care as the dark evenings of winter approach.

Marion Marshall

Benefice Services – OCTOBER 2020

| Time | Village | Service |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| First Sunday 4 October 2020 | | |
| 9.15am | | Zoom Service |
| 11.00am | Upper Slaughter | Holy Communion |
| 3.30pm | Guiting Manor Farm | Harvest Celebration |
| Second Sunday 11 October 2020 | | |
| 9.15am | | Zoom Service |
| 11.00am | Naunton | Holy Communion |
| 6.00pm | Guiting Power | Evening Prayer |
| Third Sunday 18 October 2020 | | |
| 9.15am | | Zoom Service |
| 11.00am | Farmcote | Holy Communion |
| 3.30pm | Temple Guiting Churchyard | Forest Church |
| Fourth Sunday 25 October 2020 | | |
| 9.15am | | Zoom Service |
| 11.00am | Lower Slaughter | Holy Communion |
| 6.00pm | Naunton | Evening Prayer |

All our Zoom services will be accessible on the following link:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7979867589?pwd=h6UaQN2Vhldx79AlafPNV50YxJVtZA>

Meeting ID: 797 986 7589

Password: 815669

It is possible to join in **by telephone** also, you should be able to do this by phoning: 0203 481 5237 and entering the above Meeting ID and password.

Occasionally it is necessary to alter services at very short notice.

Please accept our most sincere apologies for any inconvenience should this occur.

Benefice Services – NOVEMBER 2020

| Time | Village | Service |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| First Sunday 1 November 2020 | | |
| 9.15am | | Zoom Service |
| 11.00am | Temple Guiting | Holy Communion |
| 1.00-5.00pm | Farmcote | All Souls Prayer Space |
| 6.00pm | Guiting Power | Evening Prayer |
| Second Sunday 8 November 2020 | | |
| 9.15am | | Zoom Service |
| 10.45am | Lower Slaughter Churchyard | Remembrance Sunday Service |
| 10.45am | Naunton Churchyard | Remembrance Sunday Service |
| 10.45am | Guiting Power War Memorial | Remembrance Sunday Service |
| 6.00pm | Upper Slaughter | Holy Communion |
| Wednesday 11 November 2020 | | |
| 10.50am | Guiting Power War Memorial | Act of Remembrance |
| Third Sunday 15 November 2020 | | |
| 9.15am | | Zoom Service |
| 11.00am | Guiting Power | Holy Communion |
| 5.00pm | Temple Guiting | Evening Prayer |
| Fourth Sunday 22 November 2020 | | |
| 9.15am | | Zoom Service |
| 11.00am | Upper Slaughter | Holy Communion |
| 3.30pm | Guiting Power Churchyard | Forest Church |

*** Services from 29th November, for Advent and Christmas, are still being planned. ***

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Join Zoom Meeting

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