

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



Part of the Windrush Way footpath

MAY 2020 Interim Edition

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

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DEADLINE for the next issue TO BE ADVISED.

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DEAR FRIENDS ...

The process of putting together the Spring edition of the 70x7 seems a very long time ago! So much has changed since then. The impact of lockdown, the partial closing of schools and many businesses, the anxiety over health and the awfulness of the death toll of the Coronavirus across the world could barely have been understood back then.

You may remember that our Spring edition had something of a theme of the environment, and us reflecting on playing our part in helping God's creation at this time of climate emergency.

In this awful time, one 'gift' I have noticed, has been the gift of being able to spend more time noticing the beauty of God's creation. I have been driving around less, and walking more; I have been pausing and noticing the daily growth of the flowers in our garden; I have been hearing the birdsong more clearly. On the night we camped as a family in the garden – we heard the birds very clearly at 5.30am!

Whilst there is no doubt the Coronavirus Crisis has been awful – for families, for the NHS and Care systems, for many businesses, for those who are grieving and struggling with their well being – there has maybe been something of a gift in the way our slowing down seems to be helping the environment. We are staying still longer, noticing the beauty of the world immediately in front of us, appreciating the local farms and businesses who help us, and our carbon footprint for this year has been amazingly reduced.

The other often commented on 'gift' of this time has been the way in which our communities are supporting and reaching out to help one another. People are phoning up their neighbours, appreciating those who deliver their post, and empty their bins, shopping for those in need, delivering to the Foodbank in large quantities, and the 'clap for the NHS' is wonderful. It has been inspiring to see and hear about how this is working out, and changing lives for the better, even in the midst of this dark time.

These two gifts of this time are something I am hoping will shape how we look to the future – can we hold on to what we have learnt about community and environment and live better in the future because of this time?

This edition of the 70x7 is a bit of an 'interim' additional version, to keep us in touch with one another and to share bits of news.

At the moment, our church buildings have to remain closed in order to keep on protecting our communities, but our Churches are as alive as ever. We are praying, connecting, serving, worshipping and loving, and we are here if we can support you at all.

We are sending this edition out electronically, rather than through each door, so please do share with others and let us know if there is anyone who would like a printed copy posted to them.

With love and prayers,

Katrina and Sue

WORSHIPPING IN THIS TIME ...

Churches across the world have had to ask the question 'how do we gather to worship together if we can't meet, or be in our buildings?'. This is a question I couldn't have imagined having to face in December last year, and we have been faced with it suddenly and dramatically.

I have been so pleased that the BBC have improved their offering on both radio and TV, and there are some beautiful services going out across the country from them.

The National Church too, has helped, by offering the Daily Hope. This is a free phone line for anyone to connect with, that offers hymns, reflections and prayers. It is available 24 hours a day, and open to all. Call 0800 804 8044.

Here, we have been doing two main things:

- Encouraging daily prayers at home (and inviting people to join at the same time of day, 9.15am, if that suits). We have put together some short orders for Prayers, and sharing them.
- Having weekly Sunday services on 'Zoom'. This is a new technology to me, but we are learning about it fast, and it is a good way to see people and to be able to pray together. You are all very welcome to join us, online or by phone at 9.15am each week. The log in details are:

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.

I have also been trying to post some occasional 'thoughts for the day' videos on Facebook as a way of reaching a wider community too.

Here are some pictures of us worshipping as a family, in our garden:



Our Church Buildings Remain Closed...

... at the moment, but we are keeping in touch with the National guidance on this. The Church of England has committed to staying in line with the Government advice at every step – in order to contain the spread of the Virus, protect the most vulnerable and to save lives. As the advice develops, we will be working on the hygiene and safety of our contexts and will share any news with our communities.

Other Resources to support you:

The National Church and the Diocese of Gloucester has been great at stepping in to help with online and printable resources. Here are some highlights:

Growing Together

These are a set of resources designed to help households (including all ages) to explore and nurture their faith. Some of the pages link especially to issues we face in this time:

<https://www.gloucester.anglican.org/your-ministry/children-youth-and-families/growing-together/>

Helping our Mental Health

The Church of England website has gathered 5 top tips, for helping us be attentive to our mental health needs in this time of isolation:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-action/mental-health-resources/dealing-loneliness-and-isolation-five-top-tips>

Faith at Home

This is a webpage with lots of ideas and resources for helping children and young people engage with their faith at the moment:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-action/mental-health-resources/dealing-loneliness-and-isolation-five-top-tips>

ORDINATIONS ...

As a Benefice, we have been looking forward to a weekend of celebrations at the end of June this year. Sue, our Curate, is to be Ordained Priest, and Catherine Cowie will also be Ordained (as a Deacon) and will be starting her Curacy among us too. Both of these events will still happen, but given the current situation, we as unsure as to how and when they will take place. Please do pray for them both in the uncertainty. Bishop Rachel is very keen to go ahead as soon as it is possible to do so safely. Probably this will be a very small gathering (rather than the large Cathedral event that it usually is), but we hope to have a fuller celebration later in the year when we can.

Catherine and her family will be moving into a home in Guiting Power (thanks to the Diocese and the Guiting Manor Trust) in the early part of June. Do pray for them at this time of transition. In the following paragraphs, she tells us a little about herself:

Hello everyone. I'm Catherine, your new Curate.

It is such a joy to be joining Katrina, Sue and the team in the benefice and I am very much looking forward to meeting you all.



Before training for ordained ministry, I was the pastoral assistant at St Peter's Eaton Square in London. We lived in Battersea before moving to Ripon College Cuddesdon, where I read Theology and Religion at Oxford. Some of the many highlights of my training at Cuddesdon include placements at Westminster Abbey, Chelsea Old Church, Christ Church Oxford, and chaplaincy at the Royal Marsden Hospital.

My heart is rural and my husband Alexander and I are looking forward to moving back to the countryside. We both grew up in Gloucestershire villages and Alexander has happy memories as a child exploring the local area with the Heythrop pony club.

Alexander is a public speaking coach with a background in comedy. Alexander and I have one son, Alan, who is eighteen months old. Alan is already learning to love the countryside and particularly enjoys the sight of cows and sheep, as well as expressing (sometimes quite loud!) joy in taking our 'Hairy Maclary' styled jack-a-poo, "Nyxie", for a walk.

I trained as an artist in my first degree and I still enjoy expressing my faith and love of the natural world through the creative arts. I have been privileged to exhibit work nationally and internationally. Some highlights include New Wine art exhibition (Somerset 2015); "RED" exhibition (Bath 2011 - in aid of the Japanese Red Cross); New Designers (London 2009); Premier Vision (Paris 2008), Walcot Chapel (Bath 2008).

In my spare time I particularly enjoy yoga, meditation, surfing and swimming. Alexander and I both love good food, walking and travel, and have a new found love of gardening, foraging and hedgerow cocktail making since the lock-down!

Please do introduce yourselves over the coming weeks and months. Alexander, Alan and I look forward to meeting you all very soon.

Catherine

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

CHURCH FINANCES ...

We are acutely aware that one of the hard parts of our current situation is the economic impact that it is having and will have on many within our communities.

Throughout the Benefice, people are being affected by the lockdown in different ways. Some are challenged by loneliness or boredom, others struggle with their mental health, and others are rushed off their feet working, home schooling or trying to cope. Incomes have been affected in the same diverse ways. Some people have lost almost all their income, whilst others are finding they have more money in the bank because their usual spend on fuel, clothes, meals out and so on has reduced.

Small businesses and charities are, in particular, struggling with a sudden reduction in income.

Like many of them, our churches' income has steeply declined too. Where possible we have reduced costs, but we still have to meet outgoings including insurance, parish share (our contribution to clergy salaries) and utilities.

As there are no services, cash and envelope giving on the church collection plate has gone. In addition to this, there is a loss of income from visitor donations, fundraising events and wedding fees. At this stage in the year, we fear that all of our churches will be forced to run a deficit budget this year – eating into the small reserves that we have, but which won't last long.

We really appreciate those who give by Standing Order, as that income is still coming in. Thank you.

May we please ask you to think about how you could respond to the church financial situation? We don't wish to put any extra burden on those who have had significantly reduced incomes, but if your income is secure, would you consider doing what some others have done and increase your giving? Could you perhaps think about setting up a regular Standing Order to replace your usual 'collection' gift, or as an additional support?

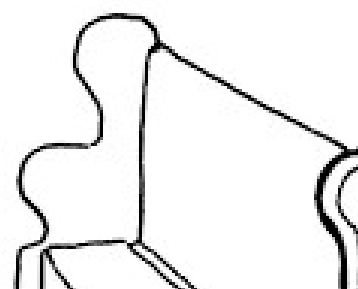
Everyone recognises that returning to a new normal is going to take some time. In the meantime, if you are in a position to help us to meet the cost of ministry and the practical care of our very special buildings, perhaps you might be able to make a donation or increase your financial commitment to God's mission in our parish.

If you are able to help us in this way at all, please contact the Churchwarden for your Church, or Katrina. With our most grateful thanks.

NEWS FROM THE PEWS ...

Lower Slaughter

As I write this letter to you we are all living through very different and difficult times. Most of us are very concerned for what the future will hold for our health, families and



employment.

Over the past 7 weeks we have had to make great adjustments to our lives – home working or not working, home schooling for the children, and we all greatly long for the day when we can be with our loved ones again and worry for their wellbeing. We miss our friends, church, sport, how rapidly our lives have changed beyond our wildest dreams. But, as usual, the “Dunkirk” spirit has shone through with many of us at a safe distance helping our friends and neighbours who are in isolation with shopping and collections of vital supplies, or even just being a friendly voice at the other end of the phone – extremely important for people who are living alone at present.

As we have more time on our hands, old friendships have been rekindled, new friendships made, all those jobs we have put off for so long now completed, our gardens have all had a makeover and possibly planted for the coming season. So out of these dark days there have been some wonderful blessings. And I am sure you would all wish to join me in thanking all our wonderful frontline workers for keeping our society going in numerous ways.

Hopefully our churches will reopen soon and “We’ll meet again” and indeed that will be a “sunny day”. But until then please do keep healthy and safe.

Marion Marshall

Temple Guiting

How incongruous it seems to sit in the garden under a lovely blue sky with all the beautiful blossoms and new green leaves on the trees and know that the whole world is in the grip of this terrible pandemic which is causing so many deaths. We pray for all the grieving families, and are so grateful for the wonderful dedication of so many people who are risking their own lives to care for others. How good it is that many of us can enjoy our Zoom services with Katrina at 9.15am on Sundays and even have a chat afterwards thanks to modern technology. We look forward to when this dreadful time is over and our lives return to normality.

Audrey Mather

St Michael and All Angels, Guiting Power

What strange times we live in, both pubs are shut, the Old Post Office only open for the travelling Post Office on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We are still in awe of Dorothy Watson (Churchwarden Emeritus) aged 100 and her Bakery Stores is still open, come what may, with Dorothy still running the shop, most of the time. What an inspiration she is to us all!!!

We are pleased to say that during the Corona Virus shutdown, that Community Spirit in the Village has broken forth. There are a number of Community Schemes going ahead, where the lonely, the vulnerable and self-isolated are supported. Meals are being provided and delivered to their door, especially on Sunday’s by Michelle Boote and Family. Shopping orders are being taken collected and delivered, coordinated by local

people. The Farmcote Estate are offering excellent meals at a very reasonable price, again delivered to the door of vulnerable village folk. We are all so proud to be part of this living working beautiful village and be amongst it's warm hearted folk.

With elderly Church Council members being in the vulnerable bracket age over 70, mostly in self isolation, the churchyard was beginning to look somewhat overgrown. The East family came to the rescue led by Andrew and Clare, with strimmer's and mowers taking the grass down to ground level in the general churchyard, leaving the private graves and are around the Church to be dealt with by Pat and David. A great thanks to all who helped, especially the East family, none of whom still reside in the village.

With the Church closed we have been having online Sunday Services at 9.15am, using zoom, it has worked exceedingly well and has allowed Christian Worship to continue.

I am pleased to announce that we have finally after 3 years of work by Roland, passed the final planning consent for the new outside toilet and store room, we now await news from the Diocesan Advisory Council at Church House in Gloucester to give the builders the go ahead, when building works on Church of England properties commence. After almost 800 years we will soon have a proper toilet in the Churchyard, which will also be open to churchgoers, walkers and visitors to the village also families and children using the playground.

We look forward to welcoming our new Curate who will be coming to live amongst us in Guiting Power with her family in June. The Benefice Clergy team will then consist of Rev Canon Katrina Scott, Rev Sue Pestell (Curate) and Rev Catherine Cowie (Curate).

Best Wishes

Mike Edwards, Churchwarden

Cutsdean

I started writing this on Good Friday when we commemorated the Greatest Sacrifice of all and my thoughts turned to those for whom the sacrifices and restrictions now forced upon us are causing unimaginable anxiety and distress. It also serves to remind how fortunate we are to live where we do.

At this end of the Benefice the community has come together brilliantly in mutual support and this was started by Liz who quickly set up an e-mail helpline which soon covered more than just our parish and this initiative has led to the creation of "micro" groups to help out immediate neighbours. All this is being wonderfully supported by Katrina and Sue's pastoral care.

Whilst we are all praying for the safe and well managed relief from the confinements, we remember Ian McLaughlan who passed away at the end of April, and our thoughts are with Joanna and his family.

Mark Evans

St Andrew's, Naunton

Those of us who are joining the benefice's services on Zoom are finding them cheering and helpful. I am sure we are all most grateful to Katrina and Sue for putting them on. The service on Easter Day was a triumph, and we enjoyed following the advice to go and sing a hymn in the street afterwards. I later heard it had been appreciated by someone who had not himself joined in. Do sign in for the service, at 9.15 a.m. on Sunday mornings, if you can. If anyone in Naunton needs help to do so, please let me know.

David Renney, Churchwarden

Farmcote

The last edition of 70x7 was full of hope and expectation with dates for the diary and lots of events to look forward to across the benefice. Spring was in the air and all was well. Who could have thought the whole of the UK, indeed the whole world, would have been turned upside down, and the lives of every single one of us affected by the coronavirus – Covid-19.

Living in the beautiful Cotswold countryside it seems to me somewhat reminiscent of the foot and mouth in 2001 when the post, milk, bread, papers etc for the whole village were left at the end of the lane, although footpaths and public rights of way were closed then. Strange or unknown vehicles were given a second glance – and we did eventually recognise Chris and Daphne's new car as they delivered the 70x7s! However, we were able to carry on with our "normal" lives, subject to enhanced biosecurity measures. This was of course before the World Wide Web came to play such a major part in all our lives.

But our lives have quickly evolved to face the challenges Covid-19 presents to us. We may only go out to shop as infrequently as possible – hurrah for the Watsons' bread, the milkman, Temple Guiting shop and others, but thanks to modern technology, many of us are able to work from home, subject to the vagaries of the internet connection, and who would have thought we would have been able to share in our church services online. In fact we are able to join friends and family as they "worship" electronically too. People are getting in touch with one another by telephone. I am steadily working my way through my Christmas card list. It's so easy to scribble "we must meet up this year" each year only to realise that it is in fact a number of years since we met face to face.

The resilience, camaraderie and sheer inventiveness of people is overwhelming. I am so glad I am spared the responsibility of "home-schooling" my children! Hats off to all mums and dads, taking on this additional mantle, many of whom are also trying to work from home. And hats off to all teachers for the amazing job they do. I think few of us realised just what an awesome job they do. One thing this ghastly disease has done is make us realise just how huge a debt we owe not only the NHS, but teachers, carers, truck drivers, binmen, farmers – it's a long list - whose skill, courage and hard work has enabled us to cope as best we can in these dark times.

Many of us live in ageing communities. I was horrified when I did a quick tot-up of the average age of our villagers. And it brought it home that most households have, to a greater or lesser extent, at least one deemed at risk. But we must continue to support one another in these scary times, stick to the rules, look out for one another and look to a better future at the end of it.

Lorna Eayrs

Temple Guiting School



As I write this we are in the middle of lockdown. I have just visited the school and it is so quiet and empty. We are really missing being together both staff and pupils.



I took a picture of the flowers growing to share that life still goes on even when we aren't there to see it.

We have all had to find a different way of working so our website has suddenly become very important. We put work on to the class pages and then children can send in their completed work for us to check. Do check out the amazing work that has been happening under the children's section in our class pages, it has been amazing to see the work that has been done from home.

<https://www.templeguiting.gloucs.sch.uk/class-pages/>

We also all get together once a week in an On-line class chat as you can imagine it is very noisy but such a happy time where we all get to see each other and catch up on the latest news from our classmates.



During the February half term we also expanded one of our classrooms. We have grown in number over the last few months and so had outgrown our smallest classroom. We now have a gorgeous, big, bright new classroom and Class 2 are very pleased with their new room.



We have a few places left in our school so please do contact the office if you would like further information or a visit to the school to see what we get up to:
admin@templeguiting.gloucs.sch.uk

Ann Barry, Headteacher

SOME GREAT COMMUNITY RESOURCES:

During this time, many local businesses and community groups have stepped up and are offering amazing help to the people around us. Here are some that have come to our attention:

- Temple Guiting Pantry Open Tuesday – Saturday 9am-4pm
Pre-orders for collection available
01451 850577
- Guiting Power Old Post Office Post Office open Tuesdays (10am-1pm) and
Thursdays (1-3pm) and Café too.
- Hayles Fruit Farm Offering collection or delivery, ring 01242 602123
- Notgrove Hub Ready cooked meals or fresh food collection
delivery, ring 07958007666
- Cotswold Foodstore Call on 01451 830469 www.cotswoldfoodstore.com
- Donnington Brewery Call 01451 830603 for orders and delivery
- The Halfway House Take away menu on Thursday and Friday evenings and
Sunday lunch (01451 850344)



In our Benefice here, we are joining with this project, helping alleviate food poverty at this time. Whether you are self-isolating, know someone who is, or would just like a great healthy and delicious dinner the Feeding the 5,000 project is now offering ready meals delivered to your door for free. The meals are cooked locally and delivered frozen so you can microwave, heat in the oven or store for later.

All dietary requirements catered for— let us know when ordering. If cost is a barrier then please let us know, free meals are available. There are three options:

1. Pay £25 for 7 meals
2. Request free meals – just call and ask
3. Donate to cover the cost of free meals for others

To order, email or call... cotswold@thelongtableonline.com

01285 323851