

# SEVENTY TIMES SEVEN

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

## AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2025



Upper Slaughter Fete 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

View online at [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com)

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

## CHURCHWARDENS

### **Lower Slaughter (GL54 2HR)**

(Vacant)

*Safeguarding Officer: Marion Marshall*

### **Naunton (GL54 3AX)**

(Vacant)

*Safeguarding Officer: Jane Pickup*

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

Ruth Waller 01451 850611

Sheila Woods 01451 850328

Ros Hartnell 07967 127581

*Safeguarding Officer: Sheila Woods*

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

(Vacant)

*Safeguarding Officer: (Vacant)*

### **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 SEPTEMBER 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**

I opened an email this morning from my bank and the headline was “Are we nearly there yet?”

I didn’t read any further (for now), because we’re currently getting ready to spend a week in the Lake District, and we’re nowhere near starting the packing, never mind starting out for our destination! I thought I was the only child that said that from the back of the car on a long journey, but clearly not!

Life is full of journeys, or if you prefer a different word, how about sojourn or jaunt or expedition?

Our jaunt up to the Lakes will be an opportunity to walk, rest and play, so we will pack accordingly! We hope that the weather will not be too much as it can be in the Lake District – very wet. But then that’s why it’s so beautiful up there, and you can’t have everything!

“Are we nearly there yet?” is my favourite question to myself as we approach June and the longer days. By the time the next 70x7 is due the Earth will have moved that little bit more around the sun, and the seasonal changes from Summer to Autumn will have started. Our journey around the sun – whatever you call it - brings changes all year through.

Particularly thinking about changes over this season, we remember the children who have started their summer holiday and will be thinking about moving up to the next class, but most especially the year 6 children at Temple Guiting School who will be heading to Secondary School in September.

We pray for them, that the changes they will go through will be exciting, challenging and full of opportunity.

May your summer go along jauntily and be blessed with every good thing.

**With love and prayers**

**Sue**

## **MORNING PRAYER AROUND THE BENEFICE**

**AUGUST**

6<sup>th</sup> - in St James’, Cutsdean

13<sup>th</sup> - ***no Morning Prayers – Sue on holiday***

20<sup>th</sup> - ***no Morning Prayers -Sue on holiday***

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

## **SEPTEMBER**

3<sup>rd</sup> - ***no Morning Prayers – Sue on retreat***

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

17<sup>th</sup> - in St Michael and all Angels, Guiting Power

24<sup>th</sup> - ***no Morning Prayers – Sue at the Clergy Conference***

## **OCTOBER**

1<sup>st</sup> - in St Andrew's, Naunton

***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"*

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### **Weddings**

*"May God bless them"*

Heather Rigby and Zedd Simpson-Smith at Lower Slaughter on 5 June 2025

Naomi Roberts and Jackson Watkins at Temple Guiting on 21 June 2025

Marcellin Hardouin and Katie Bailey at Lower Slaughter on 21 June 2025

Hannah Hambleton-Jewell and Theo Cassell at Lower Slaughter  
on 8 July 2025

### **Funerals**

*"May God grant them light and peace"*

Funeral and Burial of Brian MacDonald at Lower Slaughter on 5 June 2025

Funeral and Burial of Jennifer Falk at Lower Slaughter on 17 June 2025

Burial of Ashes of Robert Holland (Bob) at Guiting Power on 4 July 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](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 3 August and 7 September. Please see service schedules for details.

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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## '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.

## 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 12 August and 9 September.

**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 -**

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

Back at 10.00am on **FRIDAYS 12 and 26 September.**

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

## **WIDER CHURCH NEWS**

### **Calling All Young People aged between 13 and 18**

Bishop Rachel has launched an online survey for young people in Gloucestershire aged 13-18 on their views of the criminal justice system. She wants to hear what young people think about what prison is for and what would make society a better place.

Bishop Rachel says: "As Anglican Bishop for Prisons, I go into lots of prisons and speak to Ministers in Parliament. We hear a lot about what would make society better and thinking about how our criminal justice system fits in is crucial.

I'm taking time this year to listen to young people about what they think. They are the future and it's important we include their voices in policy-making. As well as this online survey, I'm speaking to groups of young people and holding a one-day conference in the autumn where I want to hear all their original thoughts and opinions."

The findings of the survey will inform Bishop Rachel's work in the House of Lords as she speaks to Government Ministers and as Anglican Bishop for Prisons.

If the young people in your life are interested in joining the survey, they can access it at: <https://gloucester.anglican.org/2025/voices-of-youth-2/>

## **80<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF VJ DAY - Friday 15 August**

Thanks to Guiting Power for commemorating this day – when, 80 years ago, fighting in the Far East ceased and World War 2 finally ended. My late Dad fought there and would be pleased that "The Forgotten War" and "The Forgotten Army" had been remembered. **Karen**

## SERVICES IN AUGUST 2025

### **Sunday 3 August**

- 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 10 August**

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

### **Sunday 17 August**

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

### **Sunday 24 August**

- 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 31 August**

- 11am Benefice Holy Communion at Farmcote

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

## SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER 2025

### **Sunday 7 September**

- 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 14 September**

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

### **Sunday 21 September**

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

### **Sunday 28 September**

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

## **PARISH PROFILE**

You might like to see the Parish Profile which the churchwarden team put together to tempt prospective candidates, which can be found by following the link below:

<https://gloucester.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/Benefice-brochure-spreads.pdf>

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

### **FARMCOTE**

As I write, we are enjoying a little light rain, a welcome relief after weeks of wall-to-wall sunshine, which some may enjoy, but farmers and gardeners alike have been suffering with burnt up fields and gardens and I wonder how the livestock are managing to find enough grass. Only the other day one sheep decided my garden looked more tempting and stripped all the Bramley apples off my tree. He was discovered and removed before doing the same to the laden pear tree. I only hope when



we do get some proper rain it doesn't go on for weeks, just when combines and balers are poised to go full swing into harvest.

We are now well into the summer season of fetes and holidays, with plenty of visitors from all over the world, including a Canadian lady I met recently, who was painting the view across to the Malverns. She had returned to the Cotswolds after her previous visit some 20 years ago and commented on how little had changed at Farmcote and elsewhere. This made me think back to how different things were then. No fast fibre broadband – dial-up if you were lucky - no Airbnb, no electric cars, no Netflix or Amazon Prime. The list goes on. But we did have a vicar!

I understand applications have closed and let us hope we are soon able to welcome someone to fill Katrina's big shoes and give Sue and her team the support they deserve. They have done sterling work, keeping our churches open and functioning as usual, and let us all be grateful for the job Simon Wallis and his team have done in drawing up an attractive profile for the benefice and we hope it will have the desired effect.

**Lorna Eayrs**

## **CUTSDEAN**

We have all been experiencing the heat of recent weeks, even on the high Cotswold hills the heat has been insufferable, occasionally tempered by a drying wind which blows the petals off the roses, desiccates tender leaves and dries the already parched soil. The farmers are facing reduced crop yields due to the prolonged lack of rain and we gardeners are facing a hosepipe ban from 22<sup>nd</sup> July and the water butts are empty.

Over the last 6 weeks or so, St James' Church has undergone redecoration as well as repairs to the crumbling plasterwork on the north wall and elsewhere; the gutters are newly painted and cleared. As a scaffolding tower was erected in the church for repointing the stonework, all the unsightly, very old, dust covered cobwebs have been removed. They have been a source of irritation for ages! So the warm, dry weather has been to our benefit in allowing the new plaster to dry (with the help of electric fans) quicker than had it been a wet summer as last year. We were very grateful that Caleb and Alex left the church so clean and tidy when the job was completed with the minimum of builders' dust. The



cleaning team had a 'mega session' mopping the floors, polishing the pews, dusting the hymn and prayer books, cleaning the brass, hoovering the carpets etc etc. Our little church is now sparkling! At the same time, the 'chaps' tackled the hedge adjacent to the path leading to the church,

cleared debris and weeds from around the church, cut back overhanging shrubs, cleared everything away and had a bonfire! As Chapel Warden, I am most grateful for everyone's help making the church and surrounds presentable for our first service after redecoration.



As a small community, fund raising is always an issue. However, Stanway Fete has become an annual major fund-raising event for both the church and the Community Orchard. This year, we excelled ourselves and despite the blistering heat on

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July, we had plenty to sell on our stall and plenty of buyers. The Bric-a-Brac was selling well even before the fete opened; we sold all the cakes which had been generously donated as well as jams, preserves, Cutsdean honey and apple juice. We had a huge variety of plants which created a lot of interest and sold well and even better when towards the end of the afternoon, they were half price! But it was a hot afternoon and, not surprisingly, the attendance was down on last year, but our takings were more this year than last. Good news! All the 'workers'

relaxed together in the evening with an Indian takeaway and cold beer or two and enjoyed the cool of the evening after a long, hot but satisfying day.

As we progress through the vacancy, we are enjoying meeting the visiting priests who take our services and are forever thankful to Katrina for going above and beyond her duty before she left, organising the rota of priests to cover the services up to Christmas. We are all praying for a suitable applicant to come to our very special Benefice in the North Cotswolds.

**Ros Hartnell**

## **TEMPLE GUITING**

St Mary's has been looking wonderful during the glorious sunshine and warm weather we've been experiencing. The wild gardening in the churchyard has brought an abundance of butterflies, grasshoppers, and blackbirds. It's a delightful place to sit and enjoy the view down the valley. If you're lucky, you'll hear the church clock chime on the hour. Thanks to Andrew Jones, who climbs up the tower and winds the clock weekly.

The church building itself stands proud and magnificent, despite the pressures of repair and maintenance. A big thank-you to the many volunteers who clean the inside of the church and arrange the flowers. It wouldn't be the same without your hard work.

One of the joys of St Mary's is our wonderful organ, ably put through its paces during Sunday services by our organist, Peter Forshaw. His "mini-recital" at the end of each service is a pleasure to listen to and always receives a round of applause.

We've had some well-attended services over the past few months, notably the Ascension Day service at the end of May. Our service in late June was led by the Revd. Dr Sarah Bush of Cuddesdon. She was ably assisted by her dog, who sat patiently throughout the service and nodded at all the appropriate moments. St Mary's is dog-friendly, and we've been fortunate to have Oscar from Kineton and Dita from Temple Guiting attend on various occasions with their well-behaved owners.

On 17 July, there was a school leavers' service at St Mary's. It was a lovely occasion, led by the children from Temple Guiting School, with a mixture

of songs, poems, and music. Revd. Sue Pestell presented each child with a Bible.

A big thanks to Ben Hughes for organising the Charity Clay Pigeon Shoot in June, which raised over £1,800 for much-needed church funds. As well as locals, people came from as far as mid-Wales, North Yorkshire, and Northamptonshire to take part. Thank you to Val Hughes for feeding everyone, and to those in the village who provided the cakes. We now have an events team at St Mary's to help raise funds for the church. If anyone would like to get involved in planning future events, please contact Ruth Waller.

Events in the West End have been extremely well attended. At the end of May, we were superbly entertained by the musicians Boe-Jigge. The acoustics in the church worked beautifully, and the blue lighting at the back of the nave created a stunning backdrop.

In July, we hosted the Upper Windrush History Society, where Oliver Lewis of Reading University gave the 2025 Templar Heritage Trust William Chapman Memorial Lecture. It was titled: "Knight Templar Gloucestershire – Patronage, Property, and Political Machination." The 80 people in the pews learned a lot — life was tough and challenging in those times!

Looking forward — if you haven't already done so, grab your tickets for the Safari Lunch on Sunday 17 August, starting at 12:30 p.m. Tickets are available from Kate Mather on 07776 180121. On Friday evening, 26 September, the Bochmann Trio will be performing at St Mary's. Details will be shared on Facebook and circulated shortly.

Coffee mornings will be held on Fridays 12 and 26 September at 10am. If the weather is kind, we may be able to host them outside.

Let's continue to enjoy summer in this glorious part of the world.

**Kevin Bell**

## **QUITTING POWER**

There is always a particular joy in every season, and first sight of the Combine Harvester at work each year is one such for me! It takes me straight back to childhood and my Uncle's farm; riding in the cab of the

combine or tractor, “Barley 1” and “Barley 2” the call-signs on the CB Radio, lunches at the farmhouse, and the sun always shining (as it always does in one’s memory!). Yes, Joy! With the hot and dry weather, this year it was a particularly early sighting in late June as it harvested a field of barley near Hinchwick.

Early June brought a perfect weather day for our Open Gardens when we welcomed many visitors to enjoy our village. May I take this opportunity to say a collective heartfelt ‘Thank You’ to everyone involved, particularly our tireless organisers Roland and Richard. It was another very successful day and helps to ensure that our church is able to continue in good health for another year.

As you will be aware, we continue in Vacancy, and we continue to be blessed with some lovely people to lead our services, not least among them our own Sue Pestell! With our Benefice Profile completed (please do take a look at the link elsewhere in this issue) we have now undertaken a first period of advertising in the Church Times, receiving a positive response. After prayerful consideration, we have decided on a second period of advertising before proceeding to interview stage, and we continue to pray for the person whom God is calling to our churches.

With Summer officially with us (although slightly damper than of late as I write) there is plenty to enjoy. The Guiting Music Festival will be in full swing by the time you read this, and on August Bank Holiday Monday there will be a Village Picnic & Games Afternoon on the Playing Field from 2pm with music, bar and BBQ (bring your own food).

To end where I began, following the success of other joint Benefice Services, we have decided to extend the format and this year have a joint Harvest Festival. There will not, therefore, be our usual celebration in St. Michael’s at the end of September, but may I encourage you all instead to join with us at St. Peter’s, Upper Slaughter on Sunday 5th October at 11am.

As we enjoy the Summer ahead, blessed by our beautiful surroundings and all the fruits of harvest, may we give thanks and thought for those who have the responsibility of care of them and as we share with those who come to visit.

**Simon Wallis**



# NAUNTON

And here we are, already in the second half of 2025!



Naunton is looking at its best in the blazing heat, in spite of the lack of rain to keep our gardens lush. The ancient stone simply glows in the clear light and radiates heat into the evening long after the sun has set. We mustn't forget how this warmth feels for it will be

gone when the seasons change. This reminds me that a kindness, a word or gesture, has the same effect of warming the heart long after it was delivered. For we are called to love one another, and that it is this shared love that will sustain us and bring us peace in bleaker times.

The village seems a bit quiet when it's so hot. We may be finding shade in our gardens or perhaps taking a trip further afield. But we still look out for each other; dropping in for a chat, or watering plants and feeding pets when the neighbours are away. And the reunions and retelling of travel tales are joyous!

We continue to see walkers in the village. It's always fun to engage with them, finding out a little about what has brought them here. Sometimes a tradition of meeting and walking around these parts, sometimes looking for a new experience... but always pleased to feel the history and peace of our community. St Andrews church is often commented on, particularly if there's been a Thursday coffee morning or some bell ringing. But mostly for the peace found there, and tradition of continuous worship over many generations.



Worship wise, we have been richly blessed during this period of 'vacancy'; our Sunday worship has been led by various priests and our own associate priest Rev'd Sue, who has taken care of our pastoral needs too. Sue has, in addition to preaching around the benefice, diligently attended meetings, community events and generally made herself available to all who seek her. Thank you Sue - we truly 'Suelebrate' you for all you are!

A stronger benefice-wide collaboration has grown out of this vacancy too. We are 5 parishes, with an additional two Chapels. We are working together more closely, exploring how we can share gifts, opportunities and resources, and getting to know one another. We are loving it all! We have enjoyed benefice-wide formal worship on three occasions in the last couple of months. There was a wonderful and joyful Ascension Day "Prosecco & Puddings" evening worship at Temple Guiting on 29 May, and joint services of Holy Communion at both Lower (8 June) and Upper Slaughter (29 June). Everyone mixed well and was warmly welcomed at each. There were joint Bellringers too at Lower Slaughter. Of course we are all welcome to worship wherever we'd like at any time, but it's special to get together!



We have most recently held our annual 'Spirit of Naunton' service at the Black Horse. This year - Rev'd Sue's first - we were able to enjoy outdoor worship in the pub garden; just as well because we had a congregation of 39 villagers, including 4 youngsters and a pony! There was lusty singing accompanied by a piano (also outdoors) and prayers written and read by villagers. It's a celebration of and thanksgiving for the special community spirit in Naunton. We are grateful to Jo and David at the Black Horse for always making us so welcome!

Sadly our community Fun Day and Dog Show has had to be postponed due to the extreme heat, but more and varied village events are in the pipeline for the autumn.

Naunton Music Society has enjoyed three out of the four concerts in this year's series, held in St Andrews Church. All exceptional musicians performing memorable music. Retiring donations to benefit relief work split equally between Gaza and Ukraine have been invited this year and have been generously given.

We are thankful to Ba Steiner for her organisational gifts!

Finally and importantly, as the school summer holidays approach, we remember and consider our Foodbank and the needs of those in hardship. The people of Naunton are generous in supporting this - THANK YOU - and a reminder that the location of the village drop off has now moved to the War Memorial courtyard, at the west end of the former Baptist Chapel. The Foodbank folks rely on donations of food to distribute; a list of current needs is found on the website of the North Cotswold Foodbank ([www.nothcotswold.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.nothcotswold.foodbank.org.uk)) along with details of how to donate cash.

Enjoy these Summer days!

**Moir Anderson**

## **UPPER SLAUGHTER**

After months of dry weather, as I write this, we're finally having some much-needed rain. The fields around us are parched and it has been a difficult year for farmers. Dog walks have been blissfully mud-free, but there's something reassuring in the way the countryside begins to soften again with the weather. I noticed the first blackberries the other day, quietly ripening in the hedgerows, a small, familiar sign that the seasons are already turning.





We were grateful the rain held off for our village fête on 5 July. As ever, it was a joyful day with all the familiar favourites; raffle, tombola, village teas, Pimms, “splat the rat”, plants, white elephant and the ever-popular Duck Racing - always an opportunity for James to get his yellow crocs out!



The whole village came together and, after expenses, we raised over £6,200 for the Church and the Village Hall.

In the evening, many of us gathered again to share a meal, a lovely way to round off a truly communal day. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped or attended.

We are now well into the rhythm of the vacancy. Our services have been taken by

Louise Brown, Jon Barwood, Ken Pascoe, and of course the indomitable Sue. One of the unexpected blessings of this time has been the way the Benefice Churchwardens Team have drawn closer and worked so well together. The small group who prepared the Benefice Profile did so under a very tight timeline, and the feedback has been universally positive. We are confident that it will help us attract the right person to lead our churches.

Finally, we are very sorry to say goodbye to our much-loved Lay Reader, Ken Pascoe, who has left the parish and moved to Hertfordshire to be closer to his daughter. Ken has played such a valued role in our church

life, faithful on the PCC, thoughtful in his preaching, and a trusted safeguarding officer. Known for his cheerful manner and tendency to wear shorts, he brought both warmth and dedication to all he did, we will miss him. We know it was a difficult decision to leave, and he goes with our prayers and heartfelt thanks.

**Charlotte Van Rooyen**

## **LOWER SLAUGHTER**

As I write, summer is well and truly with us and the school holidays are about to begin. We hope everyone gets some down time and relaxation to enjoy this lovely time of year in this beautiful area. Someone said to me the first summer I was in Lower Slaughter in 1987 “when the sun shines in Gloucestershire it is the finest and most scenic county in England”. How true it is. Nothing like a bit of sunshine to lift our spirits.

We are more than delighted to report that our new heating system is due to be put in church in mid-September before the chillier days of autumn set in. A massive “THANK YOU” to all who donated or fund-raised to make this happen.

Our next project is replacement of the altar carpet and curtains to the flower vestry. God’s house is just like our own – as you address one thing another becomes due!

We have had a few weddings so far this year with more to come into autumn.

Preparations for our annual Village Fete (11am-4pm on August Bank Holiday Monday) are well under way. With a wonderful array of stalls and catering, dog show and games for the children, it should again be a lovely day so please do come along if you are able and pick up a bargain or two!

Our church will be decorated for the August Bank Holiday weekend to the theme of “Songs”. Thanks to our Flower Team who do some fantastic arrangements, it will be well worth a visit.

Many thanks for Sue and all the clergy who are supporting us and enabling us to continue with services during this time of vacancy. May God’s Hand guide us in finding a new Priest.

Happy holidays everyone, hope to catch up with many of you at the Fete.

**Marion Marshall**

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