

SEVENTY TIMES SEVEN

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

DECEMBER 2025 - JANUARY 2026

Wishing you all joy and peace this Christmas
and a very happy and healthy New Year



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 Anne who you are calling to serve among us.
Grant her vision, courage and love.
Grant us open hearts to welcome and work alongside her.
That together we may serve your kingdom faithfully,
In this place and in this time.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Rector: Our new Priest-in-Charge will be in post in early 2026.

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

07514 542934

View online at 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:

Kate Trenaman 07506 685494

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

Joint Editor: Rev'd Sue Pestell

**Joint Editor/Advertising/
Production:**

Karen Randles 01451 821964

Copyright © Seventy Times Seven

Articles may only be reproduced with the prior **written** permission of the author. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the Editors. The Editors reserve the right to edit articles submitted for publication and may not accept late submissions.

DEADLINE for the next issue

20 JANUARY 2026.

*This magazine is free to parish residents. Otherwise, the charge is
50p per copy.*

Temple Guiting Church of England Primary School

Head Teacher: Mrs Ann Barry

Tel: 01451 850304

www.templeguiting.gloucs.sch.uk

DEAR FRIENDS

We've had a very busy time since our last 70x7, aside from the usual services and community services, we've had some successful events as a Benefice. I include in that the wonderful news of the appointment of our new Priest-in-Charge, Anne Curtis. You will read more from Anne, and about Anne, later in the magazine.

I'm writing this in what we call the Kingdom Season, when we particularly contemplate Jesus as a King.

His is a Kingdom of justice, love and peace, and we think of how we can live those values to promote his Kingdom.

The season ends and Advent begins....

I hope you will enjoy reading all the things that have been going on around our Benefice, and all we have to offer through Advent and Christmas. All details are further on through these pages.

You will be most welcome at all our services and events.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all the happiest of Christmases, and a New Year full of justice, love and peace

With love and prayers

Sue

A MESSAGE FROM REV'D ANNE CURTIS

I am delighted that I have been appointed as your Priest in Charge of the Benefice of The Guitings, Cutsdean, Farmcote, Upper Slaughter and Lower Slaughter with Eyford and Naunton. Subject to the usual statutory HR processes, I will be Licensed in early 2026.

I first visited in August, exploring and praying in various churches. It was the Flower Festival in Lower Slaughter, and I felt touched by God's presence. I felt drawn in by the peaceful Witts prayer chancel at Upper Slaughter, loved the cheerfulness of Bob's notice



on Naunton church door and much appreciated Temple Guiting's invitation to a pub night. Guiting Power church was busy with a wedding rehearsal, and reading 70 x 7, I felt a sense of your faith already being lived out in so many relatable ways. In September I enjoyed some Sunday services and even rang a bell at Guiting Power.

I thoroughly enjoyed meeting Bishop Robert and your Patrons, Revd Sue and the Deanery team. I visited Temple Guiting Primary School and had a delicious lunch chatting with the parish representatives and parishioners. I am so thankful to God for leading me here, and for everyone's openness, welcome and enthusiasm. I am really looking forward to moving in early in the New Year, getting to know everyone and working with you in this beautiful Benefice.

As we remember Jesus Christ, the baby laid in a manger, this Christmas, may our own hands and hearts stay open to receiving more of the love of God in our lives. May the peace and blessings of Christ Jesus surround you, and all those you love, this Christmas and New Year.

In Christ, Anne

JEAN BIRD

Jean died peacefully in the early hours of Thursday 6 November. We will miss her very much.

Jean was a Reader in this Benefice, leading worship and preaching in all of our churches, and having a committed involvement in Temple Guiting School. More recently after retirement, she still did readings, and was a wise advocate and friend. She led a weekly Bible Study in her home right up to when she went into Nazareth House, and even while she was there.

She was a faithful and prayerful Christian, a great example of love and determination. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

Her funeral will be in St Michael and all Angels Church on Wednesday 3 December at 11am.

MORNING PRAYER AROUND THE BENEFICE

DECEMBER 3rd - in St Mary's, Temple Guiting

10th - in St Peter's, Upper Slaughter
17th - in St James, Cutsdean
24th - ***no Morning Prayers***
31st - ***no Morning Prayers*** – Sue on holiday

JANUARY 7th - in St Faith's, Farmcote
14th - in St Mary's, Lower Slaughter
21st - in St Michael and all Angels, Guiting Power

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"

Ebba Joy Adamson on 26 October 2025 at Lower Slaughter
Caesar Arturo Iyan Wallace on 2 November 2025 at Lower Slaughter

Weddings

"May God bless them"

Funerals

"May God grant them light and peace"

Funeral service and burial of Kevin Bell on 16 October 2025
at Temple Guiting

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

Baptisms – Moira Anderson at moira@andersonpage.com

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

Funerals – Ruth Waller at ruth1waller@outlook.com

ZOOM ACTIVITIES AND LINK

We continue to offer worship on Zoom for all who would like to join us. The Sunday services continue with a 9.00am Morning Prayer on the first Sundays 7 December and 4 January; please see full 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

One tap mobile

+13052241968,,7250161799#,,,,*971618# US

+13092053325,,7250161799#,,,,*971618# US

BIBLE STUDY ON ZOOM

Please contact Sue Pestell if you would like to join us as we explore and learn about the Bible Readings from the Sunday before our meeting.

WIDER CHURCH NEWS

BENEFICE HARVEST FESTIVAL, Upper Slaughter

Our Harvest Thanksgiving Service on Sunday 5 October was a time of joy and celebration. St Peter's Church looked beautiful and, as well as plenteous gifts of food (some 91kgs in total), £450 was raised for the North Cotswold Foodbank. Thank you all so much for your generosity.

Kevin Carden, Foodbank Manager, wrote:

On behalf of the Trustees and all the Volunteers of the North Cotswold Foodbank, I would like to thank all in the Guiting Power Benefice for the generous Harvest Festival donation received recently.

The North Cotswold Foodbank is getting busier each year and we have been able to feed many local families who have found themselves in

desperate need. The majority of our clients are low-income, working families and they are all deeply grateful that others would consider them at a very difficult time in their lives.

With rising prices in energy and food, your donation will help to ensure that our Foodbank is well stocked so that we can meet any further increase in demand, and help those in our community who are struggling.

Without your generosity, we would not be able to offer this help, so thank you for your support and kindness - it is very much appreciated and it really does make a difference to so many lives."

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 9 December and 13 January.

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

Come and join friends and neighbours for real coffee and homemade cake at **10.00am** on **Fridays 5 and 19 December** and **2, 16 and 30 January 2026**. (No charge, but donations welcome).

'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.

BENEFICE FUNDRAISING EVENTS

CHASTLETON HOUSE TEAS



Around midday on Saturday 11 October a merry band of intrepid Volunteers from our Benefice, armed with enough cake to feed a large Army descended upon the tiny Church adjacent to Chastleton House, a National Trust property near the Oxfordshire border.

The House itself is a typical NT pile, dustier than most and ever-so-interesting to mooch around, except that they have NO tea room!

Let's face it - we mostly visit NT properties for the tearoom. It's a prize, earned after reading all about those people who have gone before and left their stuff to the nation. It's all about the cake!

At Chastleton however, there's a great model which works to the benefit of all involved; in a nutshell (there were plenty around the Churchyard), here's how it works:

The little church rents itself (its pews, seats, tables, chairs, mugs, urns - all that useful stuff - alongside graveyard space aplenty) out for a modest amount and volunteers from willing local 'charitable' groups provide the tea and cake to the expectant House visitors and keep the balance of the earnings. It's a win-win!

So there we were! This had all come about from an idea birthed at an early Joint PCC meeting where Benefice representatives from the 5 parishes and 2 chapels came together to exchange ideas. When the inevitable 'fundraising' agenda item was raised, Marion from Lower Slaughter spoke of recently having been a part of this opportunity (as part of another group) to raise funds. What a great idea!! We jumped on it, got in touch with the co-ordinators of this and were offered a date in October 2025.

Of course it's so weather dependant, this 'having a cup of tea outside' malarkey, in England (not something even considered in Scotland) and in October? Well, we'd give it a whirl to see if it might be worth doing

again; nothing ventured and all that ... And, as everyone knows, if it's a good bit of home baking you're after, a Church is a safe bet!

Having agreed to do this as a Benefice group, splitting our winnings 7 ways equally, we got planning; making and rechecking lists, meeting together to share tasks and baking orders. Each parish enlisted bakers and helpers.

And our God is good! The October morning dawned dry and sunny, we convened at Chastleton, set up our travelling tearoom and had a wonderful afternoon. We had a steady stream of tea-seekers, all good natured and enthusiastic about the makeshift tearooms. Those who knew how it worked were interested in who we were, and what our fundraising goals were. (We shall make more of that next time). Everyone was delighted and delightful, without exception. One said it was the best NT Tearoom experience they'd ever had, and another that it was the perfect end to a perfect day! And lots of compliments on the baking too. Folks really appreciated it!

Our takings amounted to £911 - we had served around 180 people.



We all agreed that it had been well worth the shared effort, that we had thoroughly enjoyed getting to know our Benefice siblings and we really did have fun! We are truly grateful to those who provided the baking for the day.

We've applied for a few dates for the same next year and we'll see whether these are accommodated. It would be great to put our joint Benefice earnings towards a shared goal.

Moiria Anderson

ST MICHAEL'S GUITING POWER CHRISTMAS FAIR on Saturday 6 December, 12-4pm in the Village Hall. Any bottle donations, raffle prizes and good quality bric-a-brac (no glasses please!) or donations of money will be gratefully received. If you have anything to offer, please speak to Sue Pestell and she will tell you where to drop them off. Thank you.

SERVICES IN DECEMBER 2025

Sunday 7 December

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 December

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

Thursday 18 December

6pm Carol Service at Temple Guiting

Friday 19 December

3pm Crib and Crafts at Naunton
6pm Carol Service at Guiting Power

Saturday 20 December

4pm Carol Service at Cutsdean
6pm Carol Service at Upper Slaughter

Sunday 21 December

10am Holy Communion at Temple Guiting
4pm Carol Service at Lower Slaughter
6pm Carol Service at Naunton

Tuesday 23 December

3pm Fun Family Nativity at Guiting Power

Wednesday 24 December – Christmas Eve

- 7pm Carol Service at Farmcote
- 11.30pm Midnight Communion at Naunton
- 11.30pm Midnight Communion at Lower Slaughter

Thursday 25 December – Christmas Day

- 9.30am Holy Communion at Upper Slaughter
- 10am Family Holy Communion at Temple Guiting
- 11am Family Service at Guiting Power

Sunday 28 December

- 11am Benefice Holy Communion at Lower Slaughter

SERVICES IN JANUARY 2026

Sunday 4 January

- 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 11 January – Plough Sunday

- 9.30am Holy Communion at Farmcote
- 11am Holy Communion at Lower Slaughter
- 11am Morning Praise at Naunton

Sunday 18 January

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

Sunday 25 January

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

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

NEWS FROM THE PEWS AND VILLAGE EVENTS

TEMPLE GUITING SCHOOL



We are delighted to share that our Worship Leaders for this school year have now been selected. - Congratulations to **Jacob and Anastasia**, both in Year 6, who have already embraced their new roles with enthusiasm and maturity. Their first major responsibility was to help lead our **Remembrance Day service**, a very special and reflective occasion for our whole school community. Children from across the school took part: *Ted* played the 'Last

Post; beautifully on his trumpet, several pupils from across the school, laid wreaths on our remembrance display, poems were read with great thoughtfulness, and Jacob and Anastasia led us in a prayer honouring servicemen and women from past conflicts and those affected by wars today.

Our **Worship Leaders** prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for all the special moments we have shared this term.

Thank you for the kindness shown through Operation Christmas Child and for the generosity shown on Children in Need.

Please help us to continue Jean Bird's legacy in our school. Thank you for her life and her dedication to us.

As we prepare for Christmas, help us remember the hope and light that Jesus brings.

Bless our carol services and all who take part.

Guide us into the next term with courage, friendship, and respect, and help us to carry your love into everything we do.

Amen

In school, we are currently supporting **Operation Christmas Child**, with children and families generously filling shoeboxes to be sent to communities in need around the world. It has been wonderful to see the

kindness and thoughtfulness that the children are putting into their donations.

We recently held a lively **non-uniform day** to raise money for *Children in Need*, and we are grateful for the fantastic support from our families. We also recently celebrated **European Day of Languages**, a wonderful opportunity to recognise and appreciate the many languages spoken in our school community. As a school proud to learn **Spanish from Reception upwards**, each class prepared and performed something special. Reception confidently shared their Spanish greetings, Years 1 and 2 sang a joyful song about Madrid, Years 3 and 4 performed *La araña pequeña*, and Years 5 and 6 presented impressive role play scenes. It was a vibrant celebration of language, culture, and confidence.

As always, children have been continuing to thoroughly enjoy our '**Spread the Word Worship**' sessions each Thursday, where we have been learning about the meaning of The Lord's Prayer. The STW team have been helping us to make sense of what the words mean. We are always super impressed by the amazing teaching, wonderful costumes, creative tech, and good humour that these sessions bring to our school - they have always been a highlight of the week.

Many of our KS2 children recently had the privilege of taking part in a **Water City Music** performance at Northleach Church. They were able to experience live music led by Michael Bochmann and even perform alongside the professional orchestra. It was a truly fantastic and special opportunity for our young people, and one we know they will remember for a long time.

Looking ahead, many of our children will be taking part in the **Carol Service at St Mary's**, something we are already very much looking forward to. We are also excited to be preparing for our **own school carol service in St Mary's** which is always a highlight of our festive celebrations.

Finally, and with love, we, as a school family, took time to remember a very special member of our school community, **Jean Bird**, who dedicated so much of her time, care, and wisdom to Temple Guiting C of E School. Upon her retirement as a school governor, Jean kindly donated a school cup – the **Jean Bird Values Cup** - which is awarded each year to a pupil who consistently demonstrates our school values, something that Jean

believed so much in. It remains a treasured part of our annual celebrations and a fitting legacy for someone who gave so much to our school.

We are thankful for a busy and meaningful start to the academic year and look forward to all that is to come.

Emily Chester, Class Teacher

FARMCOTE

Sometime in the next few months – when we have found a house in Hampshire near our daughter – we shall be leaving Farmcote after living here for 35 years (and knowing it well for 50). Friends have said ‘this is HUGE’ – and so it is proving to be. We represent just over a fifth of the population (excluding visiting children): this will be like leaving extended family, we know each other so well.

After a career writing about art, dealing and curating exhibitions I was able – or found it necessary – living here to practice art which after several art courses led to opening my studio in aid of various charities including our church of St. Faith’s. That in itself was the source of much pleasure organizing events in it such as a concert for the Millenium with Gina Bochmann and a celebration of Palm Sunday in words and music - all with the encouragement of the Rev’d John Fieldgate. Also the Carol Service, now going for over 30 years, church always packed, where my aim was to vary the rather hackneyed version (we are not King’s College Cambridge after all), with some modern readings and children performing. The church school in Temple Guiting was where I enjoyed volunteering for eight years.

I shall miss the scale of Farmcote: living with a horizon in a landscape. I think the grandchildren will too, playing in our field, chasing our errant dog down into the valley. Learning about farming when John Hughes has time to stop and talk; watching his lambs cavort in the ditch which serves as a haha. As I write he is awaiting open heart surgery in Bristol and will not be working until January. I shall miss playing tennis with Jane every week (thankyou Udales). I shan’t miss the power cuts, the weather (wind and snow), or running out of food. New beginnings beckon.

Sarah Loveday

CUTSDEAN

On Friday 17th October, representatives from the Benefice with the Patrons, the Archdeacon of Gloucester and The Bishop of Tewkesbury selected our new Priest in Charge, The Rev'd Anne Curtis. We were all delighted when we heard that Anne had accepted the offer but then had to contain our excitement until the appointment was officially announced. She, along with her husband, won't be moving into The Rectory, which is having some renovation work, until early 2026. Meanwhile, we are all grateful to Sue for steering us through the Vacancy so efficiently as well as to the visiting priests who have been a pleasure to meet over the last months.

St James' is now closed to the public from 1 November until 1 April 2026 except for services. As Chapel Warden, I am extremely grateful to everyone who helps, in whatever capacity, with the general running of the Church:- the cleaning and flower arranging, churchyard maintenance working parties, the key holders who daily open and close the church for visitors. Your support is invaluable and helps keep our church alive.

After the long hot summer, our Community Orchard produced a bumper crop of apples and pears this year. There has been an abundance of fruit due mainly to the very wet summer and autumn of 2024 plus no late frosts which can do so much damage. The apples were picked and were taken to be juiced at Clive's near Upton on Severn. Bottles of Cutsdean apple juice which is sweet and delicious can be bought for £2.50/bottle from Ted Smith. The proceeds cover bottling and transportation costs.

We are now looking forward to the season of Advent and Christmas as the year draws to a close and the Carol services which are so well supported throughout the Benefice. Cutsdean's Carol service is on Saturday 20 December. The service is always well attended at our Church in the farmyard and we look forward to getting together afterwards for refreshments and Christmas cheer.

Merry Christmas to all and a peaceful and happy 2026!

Ros Hartnell

TEMPLE GUITING

Well, the mild start to November suddenly changed didn't it!

That snow on Wednesday morning was breathtaking, but the start of a few days of freezing temperatures.

Who knows what December will bring?

As we move towards Advent and, of course, Christmas Day, everything is already starting to look a little festive – an ice rink in Cheltenham Imperial Gardens, the Christmas Tree in the river in Bourton-on-the-Water and lights appearing almost everywhere!

Meanwhile, the Church is getting ready for Advent Sunday – this year the Benefice service will be in St. Mary's, Temple Guiting on Sunday 30th November at 11am.

We are planning on having the Church look magical for the Carol service – taking place at 6pm on Thursday 18th December. We will be joined by the school choir and Village Voices. Do come and join us!

And not forgetting our Christmas Day service, commencing at 10am. All welcome!

Ruth Waller

GUITING POWER

How very beautiful the Autumn was this year, with such vibrant and lasting colours, and what an enjoyable combined celebration of Harvest Festival we had at St. Peter's, Upper Slaughter at the beginning of October with amazing food donations received for the North Cotswold Foodbank. Thank you! We also enjoyed a very successful first combined Benefice fundraiser serving Teas at Chastleton (see full details elsewhere in this issue). Thank you to all my colleagues and our cake bakers, and particularly to Moira and Marion for organising both us and the day. It was great fun!

Shakespeare wrote "...Summer's lease hath all too short a date", a sentiment equally applicable to Autumn and now already, as I write, are we experiencing a first taste of Winter...

You may have heard, and I hope you have, the excellent news that we were successful in our second round of advertising and interviewing in appointing Anne Curtis as our new Priest-in-Charge for the Benefice, and

we so look forward to welcoming Anne at her Licensing at the beginning of March next year. A letter from Anne also appears earlier in this issue.

As so often in life, happiness and sadness are often never far apart, and November brought the sad passing of Jean Bird, known to many in our Village and Benefice, and a lady I am privileged to have been able to call a friend. In spite of very limited mobility, Jean remained very much part of our church and community life and even in her last illness, her knowledge and love of God and her Lord Jesus Christ never dimmed. Jean's funeral will be held at St. Michael's at 11am on Wednesday 3rd December and we remember in our prayers all who knew Jean and will mourn her loss, one person in particular (though they would not thank me to name them).

As the season changes again and we prepare to celebrate Christmas once more, the lighting of the Tree on the Green accompanied by Carols and Mulled Wine will take place on the evening of Friday 28th November. Unfortunately in October we had to cancel our planned Soup & Sale at short notice and my apologies for any disappointment caused. We hope instead that you will enjoy our Christmas Fair in the Village Hall on Saturday 6th December from 12noon-4pm. We also look forward to the pleasure of your company at our various Christmas services at St. Michael's: traditional Carols followed by Mulled Wine & Mince Pies at 6pm on Friday 19th, a Fun Family Nativity at 3pm on Tuesday 23rd, and on Christmas Day as usual, a Family Service at 11am - do please join us!

Wishing everyone the joy of the Christmas season, and peace, health and happiness for the New Year ahead.

Simon Wallis

NAUNTON

It's a funny thing; the shorter the daylight hours, the faster the days fly by! Who'd have thought that Advent would come around so quickly after the end of Summer? Yet here we are; the trees are already bare, there's talk of 'wreath making' and other festive preparations along with more than a whiff of wood smoke in the air.

It's here... we're nearing the end of the year. Advent is upon us. That magical time of light in the darkness, with prophecy, anticipation and joy of the birth of the Christ child.

And as surely as the past couple of months have flown by, a lot has happened in our community.

Village resident and archaeologist Dr Paul Roberts generously gave a most interesting and entertaining talk on October 3rd to benefit St Andrew's Church. The subject matter this time was Queen Cleopatra; once again very well attended and the evening included delicious canapés after the talk. A whopping £2,500 was raised ! Thank you Paul.

On 5 October, we shared in the Benefice-wide Harvest Festival at Upper Slaughter. It's always a joy to worship alongside our Benefice family. Thank you for hosting us this year.

9 October saw the annual village coffee morning for Macmillan Cancer Support and local hospice-at-home charity Kate's Home Nursing. This raised a total of £943 which was split between the two charities. Many thanks to those who donated raffle prizes, delicious homemade cakes (we are blessed by generous and gifted bakers within our community!) and helped and supported us on the day.

Then, hot on the heels of that coffee morning, on Saturday 11 October a delegation from Naunton equipped with more cake headed for NT Chastleton House, to join our Benefice brothers and sisters. This is covered elsewhere, but suffice to say it was great fun!

The annual river clearance working party was out on 25 October to help ensure that the river Windrush would flow freely through the village, in preparation for the winter.

Most recently, the annual Bonfire and Fireworks event was held on 1 November. Always labour intensive, many volunteers stepped up to make this a successful and safe event, enjoyed by many families from within and outside the village.

The rich tapestry of life in Naunton demonstrates the strong community spirit that exists here. Everyone is always welcome at our events!

At St Andrew's we have shared in a rich variety of worship too. We supported Prison Sunday on 12 October, when some of those from our congregation who are actively involved in Prison Ministry held an informal 'question and answer' type dialogue, with further questions from others in the congregation, raising awareness of life in our prisons and the work of the Chaplains there. This year once again we shall support the Prison Fellowship / Angel Tree project, which coordinates and facilitates the buying of gifts for children of prisoners on their behalf. We are also a part of the Welcome Directory, which would support people leaving prison and looking to join a Church community.

Our Act of Remembrance was very well attended on 9 November, with wreath laying at both St Andrews Church and the village War Memorial by the former Baptist Chapel, with coffees there afterwards. It's poignant to recall those names of people who made the ultimate sacrifice in conflicts, and we are proud to have acting Service personnel to represent the forces within our Village community. We are also hugely privileged to have had young Harry Delicata play the Last Post for us, followed by the Reveille. Harry was a student at Temple Guiting School and is now in his second year at the Cotswold School.

And we are very excited to learn of the imminent arrival of our recently appointed new Priest-In-Charge, Rev'd Anne Curtis, to be licensed 'early in the New Year'. We continue to pray for her as she prepares for the move and the role and we look forward to welcoming Anne and her husband Tom and their family.

The village continues to support the North Cotswold Food Bank, whose needs don't diminish and we look forward to many Festive events over the next few weeks!

Moirra Anderson

UPPER SLAUGHTER

Brrrrr! Winter has arrived properly now, with the first sharp frosts and the sort of mornings that make you reach for a second jumper. The days are shorter and the light fading fast, but village life is just as busy as ever as we head towards Christmas.

Our Remembrance Service this year was especially moving. Robert Cookson told the story of a local officer in the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars who was killed in action, along with his second-in-command. It was a powerful reminder of the real people behind the names on the memorials. My great-great-uncle, Lt Col Maurice Nicoll Kennard, who was killed on the first day of the Somme was also remembered. He was awarded the Military Cross and mentioned in dispatches three times. In The Bradford Pals, there's an account of him standing upright with only a walking stick, calling his men to follow as the bullets came in from both sides. He was killed moments later. He walked forward, and they followed. It's beyond comprehension.

We've also said goodbye to two much-loved members of our community.

Jean Bird, who lived in Upper Slaughter and later in Guiting Power, died recently. She was a Lay Reader and a highly valued part of our community and church life. Jean was thoughtful, faithful, and quietly determined. She was a wise presence and a loyal friend. Many will remember her calm strength, her love of Scripture, and the quiet way she encouraged those around her. She will be deeply missed.

Tom Rucker (5 July 1941–13 November 2025). Tom and his wife Betty moved to the UK from the US in 1970 and to Upper Slaughter in the early 1990s where they quickly became part of its fabric. He was a long-serving churchwarden, involved in all aspects of village life from the fête to the PCC and everything in between. Known for his white T-shirt, shirt, jeans and battered cap, Tom was a steady, thoughtful presence who was always ready for a chat and often had a new idea to share. He spent his final years at Edwardstow Court and will be fondly remembered and much missed.

On a lighter note, thank you to Kate and Paul Trenaman, Liz Gibson and Liz Wills, who helped with baking cakes and serving teas at Chastleton House in October. It was a lovely day and there's a fuller write-up elsewhere in the newsletter, but it was good to be part of a benefice-wide effort and raise much-needed funds for our churches.

We're thrilled that Revd Anne Curtis has been appointed as our new vicar. She'll be joining us early next year and we look forward to welcoming her and beginning a new chapter.

And just a reminder that our warm space coffee mornings at Lords of the Manor are continuing through the winter. We meet at 11am on the second Tuesday of each month. Everyone is very welcome.

As we move into Advent, we hold close the memory of those no longer with us and look ahead with hope for new beginnings.

Charlotte Van Rooyen

LOWER SLAUGHTER

It's difficult to believe that this is the last letter of 2025 - how the year has flown by! There have been many challenges for us at St Mary's this year with various major repairs and hopefully some light at the end of the tunnel.

We are pleased to welcome, in the early New Year, our new Priest-in-Charge, the Rev'd Anne Curtis and her husband Tom, to our parish and Benefice. We look forward to Anne leading us in worship and ministering to our spiritual needs. We all extend a warm Christian welcome to them and look forward to them joining village life.

During the vacancy Rev'd Sue Pestell and her husband Rev'd Robert have been an inspiration to us, leading us in worship and guiding us in our church life and we all send our thanks to you both.

In October we joined with our fellow parishes to raise much needed funds by serving teas at Chasleton House. What a successful afternoon - new friendships made and we intend to repeat this in the New Year. Many thanks to Moira Anderson for co-ordinating this event.

We are now looking forward to our Christmas services and events. Our Carol Service will be at 4pm on Sunday 21 December. This will be led by Bishop Robert, who has also been looking after us during the vacancy. We will have all the joyful carols and readings followed by seasonal refreshments. Do come and join us - you will get a doubly warm welcome as our new heating system is now fully functional!

On behalf of us all at St Mary's, we wish you all a joyful and peaceful Christmas however you choose to celebrate and a happy, healthy New Year.

Marion Marshall

MILLHAM PLUMBING & HEATING SERVICES

OUR SERVICES

- GENERAL PLUMBING REPAIRS, MAINTENANCE, & SMALL ELECTRICS
 - COMPLETE BATHROOM FITTING & DESIGN
- ENERGY EFFICIENT HEATING INSTALLATIONS
 - UNDERFLOOR HEATING
- SURESTOP® WATER SWITCH INSTALLER

CALL FOR A FREE QUOTATION
07495 293127

EMAIL:

NICKTUSTIN4U@GMAIL.COM

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

@MILLHAMPLUMBINGANDHEATING

NICK TUSTIN
GAS SAFE REGISTERED



CHORLEY'S AUCTIONEERS

Cotswolds Heritage since 1862



Complimentary Auction Valuations

Monthly Auctions of Art & Antiques
Probate & Insurance Valuations

Open Valuation Thursdays 10am-1pm

Prinknash Abbey Park
Gloucestershire
GL4 8EU

01452 344499
info@chorleys.com
Chorleys.com

**PLEASE MENTION THIS MAGAZINE WHEN CONTACTING
OUR ADVERTISERS.**

To advertise your business:

- Please see contact details inside front cover.
- **Next deadline:** 20 January 2026
- **Costs:** £60 p.a. 1/8 page
 £100 p.a. ¼ page
 £180 p.a. ½ page
 £360 p.a. full page

Paul Brookes MCFHP MAFHP

Foot Health Professional

Fully Qualified & Insured



For all your foot health needs

Including treatment of:

Callus • Verrucas • Ingrown Toenails

Corns • Nail Cutting • Fungal Nail

Tel: 01451 810981 Mobile: 07725 185843

Visiting Practice brookes1977@yahoo.co.uk

J. TAYLOR Vehicle Services

Mobile Servicing that comes to you.

All makes. 30 years in motor trade.

Vehicle diagnostics + electrics.

Vehicle inspection. Dealer trained.

No VAT

Jonathan Taylor AAE, MIMI

01242 675650 or 07850 686847

ALLEN & SON

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

EST 1928

Independent family-owned Funeral Directors

Always here to care for your family

- Friendly and professional care and support
- 24 Hour Service
- Qualified Funeral Director
- Funerals tailored to individual needs and wishes
- Peaceful and spacious Chapel of Rest
- Funeral pre-planning
- Convenient on-site parking

Tel: 01608 650633 ~ 24 HOUR SERVICE

London Road, Moreton-in-Marsh, GL56 0HH

Email: office@allenfunerals.co.uk

Website: www.allenfunerals.co.uk



Allen & Son Ltd is an appointed representative of Golden Charter Limited trading as Golden Charter Funeral Plans which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FRN:965279).

KENDALL & DAVIES
SOLICITORS



Established 1742

- Conveyancing
- Leasehold transactions & Enfranchisements
- Matrimonial & Divorce
- Probates, Wills & Trusts
- Company & Commercial advice
- Inheritance Tax Planning
- Litigation

Bourton-on-the-Water: 01451 820277

Burford: 01993 822025

Moreton-in-Marsh: 01608 650312

Stow-on-the-Wold: 01451 830295

Winchcombe: 01242 602378

www.kendallanddavies.co.uk

David Moore Family Butchers Ltd

Game Specialist

The Forge, High St. Mickleton, Chipping
Campden, Gloucestershire, GL55 6SL

Local Deliveries

Tel: 01386-438288 Mob: 07917 640311

**TIRED OF POTHOLES
DOG POOP VANDALISM
BROKEN STREET LIGHTING
FLY-TIPPING LOOSE PAVING?**

REPORT THEM TO THE COUNCIL WITH

FixMyStreet.com by mySociety