

SEVENTY TIMES SEVEN

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

April - May 2024



Photo by Revd Canon Katrina Scott
on the Walk of Witness on Sunday 24 March 2024

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

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(Vacant)

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Naunton (GL54 3AX)

(Vacant)

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Upper Slaughter (GL54 2JF)

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SEVENTY TIMES SEVEN

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DEADLINE for the next issue

20 MAY 2024.

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

Temple Guiting Church of England Primary School

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www.templeguiting.gloucs.sch.uk

DEAR FRIENDS

I write this on what feels like the first day of Spring. The daffodils are out, the hedgerows are in bud and the magnolia is in bloom.

We live in the most beautiful part of the world. For someone who has just been to the other side of our globe, seeing the Cotswolds with fresh eyes, I can see so clearly how full of God's glory our precious wolds are.

We have taken quite the journey together, through the tarrying of Lent, of watching and praying, through the passion of Holy Week, and finally the joy of Easter. To celebrate Easter with the aesthetic of Spring colour, we are indeed surrounded in the light of the season in all her glory.

We invite you all in this Easter season, to be present in this place we find ourselves in today. To be present with one another, to be mindful of the extraordinary beauty we see around us, and to allow all of these relationships and this beauty to nourish and sustain us in community. As the Glory of God really is all around us.

Happy Easter!

With our love and prayers,

Catherine, Katrina, and Sue

Sue's working days in the Benefice are Wednesdays and Sundays.

MORNING PRAYER IN THE BENEFICE

Mondays : 9.15am at Lower Slaughter

Tuesdays : 9.15am at Guiting Power

Wednesdays : 9.15am at Naunton

Thursdays : 9.30am at Temple Guiting (after Open the Book in School)

Fridays : 9.15am at Upper Slaughter.

Do join in if you'd like to.

COMMUNITY MINISTRY - we have shared in these services

Baptisms

"May God guide and protect them"

Iona Froy at Naunton on 11th February 2024

Annabelle Farnham at Lower Slaughter on 11th February 2024

Flora Lafrance at Lower Slaughter on 24th February 2024

Maisie Ellam at Lower Slaughter on 16th March 2024

Weddings

"May God bless them"

Edward Bethell and Milly Earnshaw at Lower Slaughter on 10th February 2024

Funerals

"May God grant them light and peace"

Audrey Waller at Temple Guiting on 30th January 2024

Hugh Corbett at Guiting Power on 2nd February 2024

Sheila Jeffrey at Lower Slaughter on 8th February 2024

Ailsie Corble at Cheltenham Crematorium on 18th March 2024

Are you interested in a Wedding or a Christening in one of our churches?

Do contact us to find out more!

ZOOM ACTIVITIES AND LINK

We continue to offer worship and Bible Study on Zoom for all who would like to join us. The Sunday services continue with a 9.00am Morning Prayer on the first Sunday 7th April, and a 6.00pm service of Compline on Sundays 21 April and 19 May. Check out the service schedule for all the details.

For all Zoom events please follow link below:

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 797 986 7589

Password: 815669

To join by telephone please call 0203 481 5237 and enter Meeting ID and password.

BIBLE STUDY

Each month we have Bible study group for an hour on Zoom. We look at a Bible passage together, discuss our thoughts on it and learn from one another. Everyone is welcome to join this group - no preparation is needed, just join and add your reflections.

Our Zoom Bible Study evenings will take place on Wednesdays 3rd April and 1st May.

WIDER CHURCH NEWS

ACTING ARCHDEACON OF CHELTENHAM

Katrina has been asked (and has agreed) to step up for a couple of months and support the wider Diocese, taking on the role of Acting Archdeacon. Our Archdeacon is on Sabbatical, and sadly the Archdeacon of Gloucester has had to step back for a period due to family ill health. So, Katrina wanted to help out and offer support. This means that from now until the middle of May, Katrina will largely be working in that Diocesan role – but you will still see her around the Benefice too.

SHARING COMMUNION

At our Joint PCC meeting in February, we agreed that from Easter onwards, we will begin to offer the common cup again within our communion services. This means that we will go back to the ancient (and pre-Covid) practice of taking bread, and then wine from the chalice at communion. If anyone would prefer just to take the bread, or to ask the priest to intinct the wafer for them, then we can do that too.

We will begin again on Maundy Thursday and then on Easter Sunday.

ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?

Did you know that this year, over 50% of the world's population will be in a place where there will be leadership elections? Of course, this includes us!

Do think about whether you need to register – or help others to.

BENEFICE TREASURER

A big “thank you” to Ethan Waller from Temple Guiting who has very kindly taken over as Treasurer of the benefice account.

LET’S TALK ABOUT DYING, DEATH AND GRIEF

Talking about death and dying can be tough. It can be an uncomfortable conversation that many of us may want to avoid. It can be a time of great confusion and pain whether expected or unexpected and a time where you will need to make decisions and face difficult choices. The saying goes that it can take a village to raise a child but it can also take a village to look after someone who is dying and to support their family.

Wright’s Funeral Directors have organized a drop-in evening at the Royal British Legion in Bourton on the Water on Thursday 9th May 2024 from 6.30pm until 9.00pm with the aim to get people talking openly about dying, death and grief – to reduce anxiety and isolation - and to bring together a range of information and organisations that provide physical, practical and emotional support and care – to open our arms to our community, friends and family.

Come for an evening of answers to some of the most difficult questions below.

Living with an illness or a terminal diagnosis.

How can I plan for my care or my funeral?

What happens when someone is dying?

What can I do to help someone who is dying?

Where can I get support, what practical help is available and where?

What happens when someone dies? Who do I call?

How do I register a death?

What is a Coroner and why are they involved?

What type of funeral do I want?

How do I tell my family?

Where can I access counselling or support?

Is it normal to feel the way that I am feeling?

Why?

I’m worried about money – what financial support is available?

Do I need a solicitor to settle an estate?

What is probate?

What is the inheritance law?

I need to make a Will.

Catherine will be attending this and representing our benefice. She will be on hand to help answer questions. PLEASE JOIN US - WE ARE HERE FOR YOU.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1st April - Easter Fair and Egg Hunt at Guiting Power Church 2-4pm

26th April - A Rose by Any Other Name - Performance at Temple Guiting Church - 7.30pm

5th May - Rogation Sunday

26th May - The Archbishop of Canterbury at Gloucester Cathedral

2nd June - Open Gardens at Guiting Power 1-5.30pm

15th June - Guiting Power Fayre - 12-4pm

16th June - Open Gardens in Naunton

7th July - Open Gardens at Kirkham Farm, Upper Slaughter

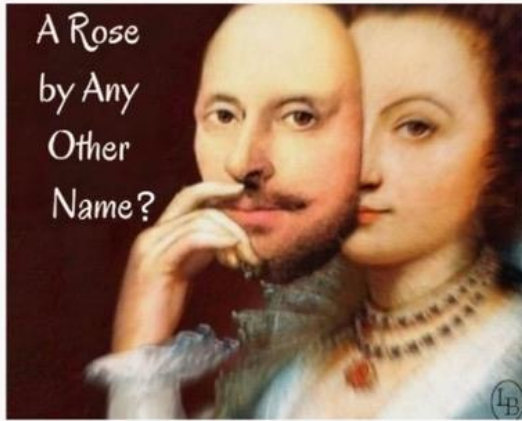
13th July - Naunton Donkey Derby

26th August - Lower Slaughter Fete

AROUND THE BENEFICE

**EASTER FAIR AT ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGEL'S CHURCH,
GUITING POWER on Monday 1 April from 2-4pm.**

Enjoy delicious cake, hot and cold drinks, bric-a-brac and a free Easter egg hunt for children. All Welcome!



In 2016, a young couple's love story takes a dramatic turn as they passionately debate the authorship of Shakespeare's works. Experience a captivating journey where personal conflicts intertwine with literary history.

*'Thought provoking and fascinating.'
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Friday 26th April 7.30pm, Tickets: £14/£15
St Mary's Church, Temple Guiting, GL54 5RW

For information visit: www.loubeckett.com
Tickets available: www.ticketsource.co.uk



Parrot Productions Thanks Cheltenham Arts Council for Funding

COFFEE AND CAKE IN THE WEST END

At **10.00am** on **FRIDAYS 12 and 26 April**, and **10 and 24 May**

Come and join friends and neighbours for real coffee and homemade cake at

St Mary's Church, Temple Guiting

No charge, but donations welcome

ROGATION SUNDAY – 5TH MAY

Come and walk across our extraordinary Benefice this Rogation Sunday.

New for this year, we will have a new path crossing some of the most beautiful parts of our very special benefice. Our walks will conclude at Guiting Manor Farm where we will have a community service at 6pm.

Look out in the weekly news emails for more details soon.

JOIN THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY AT GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL

On Sunday 26th May, the Archbishop is visiting the Diocese, so our service for that day will be joining him at the Cathedral at 3pm.

Would you like to come with us by coach? If so, a coach will be leaving Lower Slaughter Church at 12noon (to give time for some lunch in Gloucester), and returning by 7pm. If you can make a donation to cover the travel, £10 per person would be great. Do let Sue Pestell know if you would like a seat on the coach.

'VILLAGE VOICES'

We are a very informal group of singers from local villages who meet on alternate Mondays, mainly in St Mary's, Temple Guiting. Please do ring me if you enjoy singing and would like to come along - Ali Clifton Barnard 07583 415065.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES THIS SPRING

All of these activities are for all, and with no charge:

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 – 2 Fridays a month, at 10am in Temple Guiting Church, pop in for refreshments (see details above).

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 9th April and 14th May.

SERVICES IN APRIL

Sunday 7th April

9am Zoom Morning Prayer
10am Holy Communion at Guiting Power
11am Matins at Upper Slaughter
6pm Evening Service at Temple Guiting

Sunday 14th April

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

Sunday 21st April

- 9.30am Holy Communion at Cutsdean
- 11am Holy Communion at Upper Slaughter
- 3.30pm Wild Worship at Temple Guiting Village Field
- 6pm Zoom Compline

Sunday 28th April

- 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

SERVICES IN MAY

Sunday 5th May – Rogation Sunday

- 9.30am Holy Communion at Temple Guiting
- Walks in the afternoon, concluding with*
- 6pm Rogation Sunday service at Guiting Manor Farm

Thursday 9th May – Ascension Day

- 7pm Praise, Prosecco and Puddings at Lower Slaughter

Sunday 12th May

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

Sunday 19th May - Pentecost

- 9.30am Holy Communion at Cutsdean
- 11am Holy Communion at Upper Slaughter
- 3.30pm Wild Worship at Temple Guiting Village Field
- 6pm Zoom Compline

Sunday 26th May – Trinity Sunday – Archbishop of Canterbury's Visit

- 3pm *Celebration service at Gloucester Cathedral.*

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

NEWS FROM THE PEWS AND VILLAGE EVENTS

UPPER SLAUGHTER

Spring heralds a period of renewal in Upper Slaughter, marked by significant projects including the restoration of the village church bells, the renovation of the Village Hall, and the recent repairs to the listed bridge and ford over the River Eye.

The church bells at St Peter's Church, an integral part of our village's heritage, have undergone a major restoration. We have 5 historic bells in the tower and are proud of their rare and historical value, two of the bells, incredibly dating from around 1490 and 1499, unsurprisingly have preservation orders on them. This restoration, was aimed at preserving the unique sound and heritage of each bell and the structures that support them. Completed in February, the restoration ensures that the bells continue to play a central role in village life, marking events and celebrations with their chimes for generations to come.

Over Easter, the bells will ring out on Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday, marking these important moments in our community calendar. The restoration was supported by the PCC and community contributions, in memory of Peter von Holzing, reflecting our collective commitment to preserving this important part of our village's identity.

In parallel, plans to renovate the Village Hall are underway. The aim is to create a space that is not only structurally sound, addressing issues like dampness and inadequate heating, but also welcoming. The vision is for the Hall to become a hub for various community activities, from workshops to social events, enhancing the village's social interactions. Fundraising efforts are crucial to realising this vision, and those wishing to contribute can reach out to our Village Hall Treasurer, Lisa Harvey, (lisamayharvey@me.com) for donation details.

In addition, the essential repairs to the bridge and ford over the River Eye have been nearly completed after months of closure and delicate negotiations with Council and Highways departments. Reopening is anticipated very soon.

These projects reflect the community's commitment to preserving our heritage and enhancing communal spaces. As we welcome the warmer

days of spring, they stand as examples of our collective effort to maintain and improve the facilities that serve as focal points for community life in our village.

Charlotte Van Rooyen

GUITING POWER

I'm sure that I am not alone in feeling how long and wet the winter has been, but now with the joy of Easter hopefully also comes the glory of Spring. We are always blessed in our surroundings, but especially as new life and new growth appear and if a warm spell after the rain, our gardens should be encouraged to flourish for our Open Gardens later in June! (Full details elsewhere in this issue).

Before then we look forward to our annual Rogation Sunday walks followed by refreshments and service in the barn at Guiting Manor Farms, 6pm Sunday 5th May, with thanks to Nick Bumford and team for your hospitality once again. The social group have a Bingo evening with bar in the Village Hall from 7pm on Saturday 13th April, full details at www.guitingevents.co.uk

Spring is also a time of annual meetings and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting for St. Michael's Guiting Power with St. Faith's Farmcote will be held in St. Michael's Church at 7pm after Evening Service on Sunday 28th April with refreshments provided. The Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting takes place on Thursday 23rd May at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, again refreshments provided. All are welcome, so do please come along to both and hear about the activities of our community over the past year and anticipations for the year ahead.

A warm welcome to the Guest House new owners Ray and Glen and may you be very happy here; also wishing a happy and enjoyable retirement from the same to Graham and Lou, pleased that you are remaining here in Guiting!

May we all enjoy together the blessings of the season of Easter and Spring.

Simon Wallis

LOWER SLAUGHTER

How lovely it is to see the Spring flowers and blossom appearing in our gardens and countryside, especially when the sun shines!

We enjoyed Lent, catching up with our church family again. Grateful thanks to all who contributed to and supported our Lent Lunch. It was really enjoyable and raised £132.00 for our local Foodbank.

This year we join Upper Slaughter for our Easter Day service, but our church will be decorated as usual in celebration. Do pop in if you have a moment.

Plans are now underway for our late August Bank Holiday Fete with further information to be shared in later editions.

Wishing you all a very Happy Easter.

Marion Marshall

TEMPLE GUITING

January and February can be quiet after the excitement of The Nativity, so we were very pleased in February to have our local very talented duo Guy and Cathy Mansfield-Smith play for us in St Mary's West End. With a bar and nibbles and great music it was a very enjoyable evening.

Our next "West End" evening on Friday April 26th is a new play from our local playwright Lou Becket. "A rose by any other name" is the story of when a literary journalist starts to ask questions about the authorship of the Shakespeare plays, she finds herself facing a wave of hostility. When she has the temerity to suggest a woman, Mary Sydney, might have contributed to the plays, the Twittersphere lights up. Tickets are £14 in advance and £15 at the door.



Looking ahead, save the date for Michael Bochmann performing with a string trio on Friday May 31st.

On a Sunday in March, Kevin and Michael kindly invited locals to walk among the daffodils on their land at Wells Head. After a wet morning, it brightened up and we were treated to a beautiful, tranquil avenue of daffodils alongside the ponds

and streams. It is very generous when those fortunate enough to have wonderful grounds are happy to share it with the community. Thank you, Michael and Kevin.

Val Littlewood

NAUNTON

The mornings are light, the early evenings are light... it can only mean one thing: Spring is on its way at last! After what feels like a longer than ever wet winter, bulbs are up, brightening the spirits of all who see them. Is it a coincidence that 'garden bulbs' with their uplifting blooms, and 'light bulbs' both provide light to us in different ways?

On February 11th at St Andrews, within Morning Worship, Rev'd. Katrina baptised Iona Patience Froy, daughter of Joanna and Tim and baby sister of Bramwell. Baby Iona smiled and gurgled throughout, delighting everyone. Her mum Joanna had written a beautiful and moving poem for her daughter which she read, called 'My Girl'. We have permission to share this below.

*I want the world for you my girl
Whether it be big or small
Whether you stay nearby
Or try to see it all*

*I want the world for you my girl
Whether it be deep or tall
For now we'll carry you up the hills
And teach you how to fall*

*I want the world for you my girl
Whether it be loud or quiet
If in books you find your peace
Or in music, colours riot*

*I want the world for you my girl
When you're accompanied and alone
I wish you life's contentment
And its freedom to roam*

*I want the world for you my girl
And one day a world of your own
But know we all love you dearly
And we will always be your home.*

And so the Christian Church moved into the period of Lent. Locally, talks and other events are offered during this period of reflection, leading up to Holy Week and Easter.

In Naunton, we held a Lent Soup lunch, catered by a group of villagers, and held in the Village Hall. This was well attended, and there was a lot of chatter and a warm atmosphere in the Hall, as friends and neighbours from around the Benefice shared food together. Although there was no charge, donations were invited to benefit Save The Children Emergency Appeal for the Gaza crisis. These totalled over £1000, and we are grateful on behalf of the charity for the generosity to those in need.



On Mother's Day in March, we were delighted to welcome Rev'd Catherine to St Andrews for family worship, celebrating all those who have nurtured us. It was a delight to have some youngsters in Church with us! Small bunches of flowers had been prepared, and these were prayed over and blessed before distribution to those present and in our community.

We are thankful to our team of bellringers who brightly ring most Sundays, reminding our community that we are open for worship!

Looking forwards to Holy Week, on Good Friday 29th March at 11am at St Andrews, there will be the usual Easter craft activities for young people and their families, including building an Easter Garden, with refreshments and culminating in a short age-appropriate act of Worship.

Wishing you peace and joy as we move together as a community through the sad events of Holy Week to the elation of Easter Sunday!

Moira Anderson

TEMPLE GUITING SCHOOL

It's been a very busy few weeks as always at school.

STEM (Science, technology, engineering and maths) **Project:**

We have been so privileged to take part in a project funded by Porterbrook. We have been creating locomotives from scratch and then designing and making engines to make them move independently. It has been an amazing project that the children have worked so hard on and learned a huge amount from. There are lots of pictures on the website showing the progress. We will be attending an award ceremony later in the term to celebrate all the hard work.



FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD!

This term we have 2 classes who have been learning about food as part of their Geography and History learning. Class 2 had a topic all about China - they created dragons and learned dragon dances that were performed on the playground. They also learned how important food is in Chinese celebrations. They tasted an amazing array of food and discovered how delicious many Chinese dishes are. Class 3 have been studying food from around the World – this term with a European focus. The range of different foods from various countries and even the regions within these countries is huge. They went on a trip to Pizza Express in Witney where they created their own pizza and discovered the wide range of places where good ingredients come from. It was a great lesson in what food miles are and the choices we make to ensure our diet is balanced and healthy – they also reported the pizzas were delicious!

VALUES

Our core value this term has been Forgiveness – very apt for this time of year. We have been learning stories from the Bible that show forgiveness but we have also been looking at stories of how forgiveness has been so hard and yet it happens all around the world. This is a powerful lesson for our children to learn and as they grow older we hope the values they

learn at school will be lived out in their lives as they make choices for themselves.

Our British value this term has been Democracy – we are very conscious of all the elections that will happen across the world this year and how much can change due to the leaders chosen. We have our own democratic processes here in school when we choose House captains and School councillors. We also had a visit from a representative of the Houses of Parliament to show our older pupils how democracy works in our country.

SPORT

This term our children have participated in Tag rugby, football and floor ball competitions against many other schools. We've done really well and are through to the finals in a few competitions in the coming weeks.

Ann Barry, Head Teacher



Spring into Action: Join our Community Activities!

Cotswold Friends has a whole host of Activities aimed at older and vulnerable people for you to get involved with this Spring.



As the weather begins to improve this month (hopefully!) you might feel like getting out and about a bit more. At Cotswold Friends we have an abundance of Community Activities running throughout each month from Lunch Clubs to Singing, Walking Football to our four Men in Sheds projects across the North Cotswolds. We hope there is something for everyone and we'd love you to

join us, either as an attendee or as a volunteer.

It's with particular excitement that we have our beautiful Community Garden at Stow-on-the-Wold Surgery re-opening at the end of March. The garden is a

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