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

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

Rector's Annual Report
For the year January – December 2018

2018 was again a full and good year in the life of our Churches and Benefice. I love living and sharing in ministry here and I am so grateful for all who support me and share in our Church life with me.

Some reflections around from our Benefice life together, based around the four key areas of our Diocesan Life Vision:

Life

“I have come that they may have LIFE, and have it to the full”

Leadership: Committed to transformation:

- Many thanks to Jean Bird, David Quin, John Stanley, Nick Scott, and Rod Lee for regular and thoughtful leading of worship across the Benefice and to Karen Randles for her work as Benefice Administrator.
- We have been pleased to mark David's work amongst us by sharing with him the title of 'Honorary Associate Priest'.
- Jean Bird has stepped back from some of her up front ministry but continues to support the Benefice in prayer ministry and by offering a wise and listening ear.
- Three members of our community, David Broad, Ann Marshall and Mike Edwards attended a 'Leading Worship' course in the autumn and are now able to lead some of our regular services. This has been much appreciated already.
- Sue Cox continues to join us in worship and our social activities when she is able.
- I enjoyed being made a Canon of Gloucester Cathedral in May and appreciate the connections between life here and across the Deanery and Diocese.

Imagination: Opening new paths to faith:

- During 2018 we shared in 19 funeral services, 33 marriages, 2 wedding blessings and 22 baptisms. The weddings included one of our own Churchwardens!
- We are looking to build on our work with baptism families especially, helping them to become more embedded into church life.
- Links with Temple Guiting Church of England Primary School are very strong. We are awaiting a SIAMS Inspection in the summer term 2019 and we hope this will celebrate the positive links and the spirituality embedded into the School. A lovely example of this link was the wedding of 'Miss Chester' in August at Temple Guiting.
- Our Churches have enjoyed some greater creativity within some of our worship, including two Barn Services, a 'Praise, Prosecco and Puddings' evening (for Ascension Day), a Church Family Celebration in Naunton at Pentecost, plus the introduction of some more themed liturgy around the church seasons (beginning in Advent 2018).

- Work continues in all our Churches to ensure that our buildings are well maintained and fit for mission. Cutsdean saw their windows repaired this year, and Guiting Power and Temple Guiting have been working on fundraising for their building projects (toilets and West End respectively).

Faith: Living as adventurous followers of Jesus Christ:

- In October we hosted Bishop Robert, Bishop of Tewkesbury and a team of curates from around the Diocese, for a Mission Weekend. The weekend included four events encouraging us to reach out to the communities around us and share our faith and God's love. Guiting Manor Farm was amazing in the way they gave us space and supported a family event on the Saturday – there was a bouncy castle, pig roast, farm walk, games, crafts and it concluded with a service led by a Praise Band in the Barn. On the Sunday, Upper Slaughter hosted a morning Harvest themed service and the Temple Guiting Church of England School choir impressed us all. That afternoon, we enjoyed the Afternoon Tea in the beautifully refurbished Naunton Village Hall.
- Our Remembrance and Christmas events were hugely well supported across the Benefice. In November, we connected with many people wanting to mark the Centenary of the signing of the Armistice and our 'There but not there...' displays, along with the Upper Windrush History Group's exhibitions seemed to add to people's participation.
- Temple Guiting Church is now using its Facebook page regularly and I am using Twitter to share some of our activities and news (@KatrinaKrgscott).
- Our Lent evenings focussed on prayer with some excellent speakers sharing different styles of prayer.

Engagement: Living out Christ's love and hope:

- Our Churches continue to seek ways to support those who are suffering – through collections and actions. During Lent, we worked with the School to support the charity 'Hands Around the World' and our Lent Lunches at Upper Slaughter supported the North Cotswold Foodbank again.
- Temple Guiting Church is exploring becoming an EcoChurch and Guiting Power have been experimenting around how to preserve the churchyard as a haven for wildlife.
- The National Church has been working on our Safeguarding procedures and have produced new guidelines that we will be adopting at these APCMs.

Looking forward into 2019, all of our Churches are exploring our finances and the question of how we raise funds, meet our expenses and respond to God's generosity.

I am delighted that we will be joined on 30th June, by Sue Pestell, who will be ordained deacon at Gloucester Cathedral and will join us here as our Curate for the coming years.

I would like to conclude by saying a huge thank you to you all for all you do for our Churches and communities.

Rev'd Canon Katrina Scott