

DECEMBER 2025

THE FORERUNNER

The monthly newsletter for the Kingscote parish
including Bagpath, Newington and Kingscote

ALICE COOPER

WELCOME to the
December 2025
edition of
The Forerunner

Please note that any items of interest for next month's magazine should be sent to this email address: brianmctear@btinternet.com (Pauline McTear) by noon on the 20th of the month (01453 861311).

To join the mailing list for parish email alerts and the monthly Forerunner please go to the [Kingscote online website](#) and scroll down to join the mailing list.

In this month's magazine:

Rev Caroline Bland has returned to the Parish from her Sabbatical.
So a welcome return to her Monthly Letter.

Village Hall Bar Night will be held on **Friday 5th December.**

Village Hall 'Festive' Coffee Morning will be held on **Tuesday 16th December.**

Events at the Kingscote Barn and the Tetbury Goods Shed Arts Centre are detailed.

AND AS THIS IS THE DECEMBER ISSUE, WE WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS
OPPORTUNITY OF WISHING EVERYONE A **VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS !!**



VICAR'S LETTER

Dear Friends

I have not long returned from a three month sabbatical. For a priest this is a time of reflection, prayer, study, learning and refreshment. As I write this letter, I recall my trip to Rome, where I undertook a theological study on the paintings in galleries and churches, including the panels of the Sistine chapel.

A journey through the Vatican Museum leads to the Sistine Chapel and the wonderfully inspired paintings. The famous ceiling paintings by Michelangelo telling the great story of God's love for the world and for humanity and the foretelling of the coming of a Messiah.

As we look towards the Christmas season, we look to celebrating the fulfilment of this foretelling, the heart of God's plan and the promises and hopes of long ago that were fulfilled in the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem.

Christmas is a time for great celebration throughout the world, when more people come to church than at any other time to celebrate the greatest gift the world has ever received - God coming to us in love and humility.

Part of the message of Christmas is to share God's love with others, especially with those who find this season difficult, those who feel alone or anxious and experiencing difficult times.

As we prepare to celebrate the Christmas season - the carols, the giving and receiving, the chance to be with family and friends - may we also remember the deeper meaning; that God has kept his promise and come to us in Jesus; the love, hope, joy and peace to all.

Come and join the churches this Christmas in celebrating the greatest gift!
Everyone welcome!

I wish you and your loved ones a very happy and peaceful Christmas, and every blessing for the new year.

Rev. Caroline

Tel: 01453 836536

rev.carolinebland@gmail.com

www.thenailsworthbenefice.co.uk

KEY DATES

Events at the Church of St John the Baptist, Kingscote

Sunday 7th December, 9.30am – Holy Communion

Sunday 21st December, 9.30am – Morning Worship with Baptism

Monday 22nd December, 6pm – Candle lit Carol Service

Christmas Day, 9.30am – Christmas Day Communion.

Services in the Nailsworth Benefice

St George's Parish Church

Sunday 7th December, 11am – Morning Worship with baptism

Wednesday 10th December, 10am – Holy Communion

Sunday 14th December, 11am – Holy Communion

Wednesday 17th December, 10am – Holy Communion

Sunday 21st December, 11am – Holy Communion

6pm - Town Carol Service

Christmas Eve, 4pm – Family Nativity Service

Midnight Service, 11.30pm – Christmas Communion

Christmas Day, 11.00 – Christmas Day Communion

St Martin's

Sunday 14th December, 9.30am– Holy Communion

Sunday 21st December, 6pm – Candle lit Carol Service

Christmas Eve, 4pm – Family Crib Service

Christmas Day, 9.30am – Christmas Day Communion.

All are welcome to services and events.

KEY DATES

Church flowers

Thank you to those who are on the flowers rota to supply one flower arrangement in the church per year. We would love to have a few more people join the team, so if you feel you could do this, please contact Lorna Reynolds (telephone - 01453 860231).



30 November - Advent	Soffi Bond
07 December - Advent	Soffi Bond
14 December - Advent	Soffi Bond
21 December - Advent	Soffi Bond

KEY DATES

Book Club

10th December at Ruskin Mill.

Meet at Horsley Car Park 1.00 p.m. and then walk to Ruskin Mill for lunch or tea and cake, etc.

Book to be discussed:

The Land in Winter by **Andrew Miller**.

Shortlisted for this year's Booker Prize and Winner of the Walter Scott Prize and the Winston Graham Historical Prize.

On the 19th November, we had a cosy book club meeting in the upstairs room of the Village Hall.

So the room has returned to its roots of being a Reading Room. We're going to try having the meetings there from January 2026; come and join us. We describe ourselves as a book and coffee club.

Angela Wooldridge.

If anyone else would like to come and join the Book Club, please contact Angela Wooldridge on 860697.

Kerbside Waste & Recycling Collections

Food waste – Friday 5 December and weekly thereafter.

Recycling and garden waste & black bin – Friday 5, 19 December, and then Monday 5 January but no garden waste that day.

The 2025-26 calendar is available on the CDC website:

<https://community.cotswold.gov.uk/s/waste-collection-enquiry>

Recycling Centre

Pyke Quarry (Horsley tip) is open for pre-booked appointments. It is usually open in the winter from 10am to 4pm on all days except Wednesdays.

Book your visit [here](#). Phone bookings are possible only for those without internet access- phone 01452 596 626.

Post Office

The mobile post office will be at Kingscote Village Hall from 9am to 10am every Monday and Thursday except bank holidays.

KINGSCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

1. Accidents on the A4135 near Hunters Hall

There have been two similar accidents recently where cars waiting to turn right off the A4135 into Kingscote village have been hit in the rear and pushed into the path of oncoming traffic. Head-on collisions were narrowly avoided – fortunately – but both incidents were frightening experiences for the drivers and both cars were seriously damaged.

We are also aware that vehicles turning right when leaving the village or when exiting the road from Bagpath or Hunters Hall car park there is restricted visibility.

We will be raising our concerns about the safety of these locations with GCC Highways.

If you have any feedback you'd like to share about the safety of these road junctions, your recent experiences or ideas for improving the safety, please contact our parish clerk, Simon Hale at clerk@kingscoteparishcouncil.gov.uk

2. Revision of the Cotswold District Council Local Plan

The Government now requires Cotswold District Council (CDC) to plan for 1036 new dwellings per year or a total of 18,650 new homes during the 18 years between now and 2043. Since this is roughly double the previous target, CDC has to prepare a new Local Plan. This will go through two stages of consultation before it is sent for Government approval at the end of 2026.

CDC has written twice to the Housing Ministers (Angela Rayner and now Steve Reed) to argue that the target for new homes is excessive, especially since 84% of Cotswold District is Cotswold National Landscape (AONB) where major developments are not permitted.

The November report from our district councillor, Tony Slater, gives some additional detail, along with a map of the proposed areas for new homes. Please take time to read his report, published [This report](#) is also published on the Kingscote parish council website under County & District News The report can also be viewed with this [link](#).

KINGSCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

2. Revision of the Cotswold District Council Local Plan (cont)

Consultation on the draft Local Plan is now live and the following link gives full details of the documents available and of how to submit comments:

<https://your.cotswold.gov.uk/en-GB/folders/preferred-options-consultation-2025>

You are also encouraged to attend the local presentation at The Goods Shed, Tetbury on Monday 1st December at 7pm or

the public consultation drop-in session in the Winstone Room at the Corinium Museum, Cirencester on Thursday 18th December between 2pm and 7pm.

3. Local Government Reorganisation

On a similar timescale to the production of a new Local Plan for Cotswold District, there will be a major reorganization of local government in Gloucestershire which is intended to eliminate the six District Councils and have one, or perhaps two, unitary council(s) covering the whole county.

3. Local Government Reorganisation (cont)

There are three alternative proposals, and Government will decide in mid 2026 which to accept.

New Neighbourhood Partnerships will be established to provide a link between the unitary authority and Town/Parish Councils.

This reorganization will affect us all. For more information and the latest updates, visit

<https://futuregloucestershire.org.uk>.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the parish council will be on Tuesday 13th January at 7.30pm in Kingscote village hall.

All parishioners are welcome to attend.

Kingscote Parish Council

KINGSCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

Current Planning Applications

1. Non-Material Amendment (to relocate the approved proposed garages and design amendments) of permission 24/00953/FUL - Erection of two single storey garage blocks and associated works

The Grove Kingscote Tetbury
Gloucestershire GL8 8YN

Ref. No: 25/03596/NONMAT | Validated:
Wed 12 Nov 2025 | Status: Awaiting
decision.

2. Addition of electric gates to entrance of drive

Westcote House 2 The Walled Garden
Kingscote Tetbury Gloucestershire GL8
8YP

Ref. No: 25/03402/FUL | Validated: Mon
03 Nov 2025 | Status: Awaiting decision.

3. Compliance with conditions 3 (Bat mitigation strategy), 4 (Drainage), 7 (Sample materials) and 8 (Sample panel - stonework) of permission 25/00333/FUL - Erection of replacement self-build dwelling

Upper Hazelcote Cottage Hazlecote
Farm Lane Kingscote Tetbury
Gloucestershire GL8 8XX

Ref. No: 25/03167/COMPLY | Validated:
Tue 21 Oct 2025 | Status: Awaiting
decision.

VILLAGE HALL

Events This Month

Bar Night

Friday 5th December

7.00 – 10.00 p.m.

Alcoholic & non-alcoholic beverages at reasonable prices. Enjoy time with your neighbours. Cash only. This event is to raise money for Village Hall maintenance. Everyone very welcome.

Kingscote Village Bar

Friday December 5th

7-10 pm



**Come along and enjoy a Xmas drink
with friends and neighbours.**

Alcohol and alcohol free drinks

Cash Bar

'Festive' Coffee Morning

Tuesday 16th December

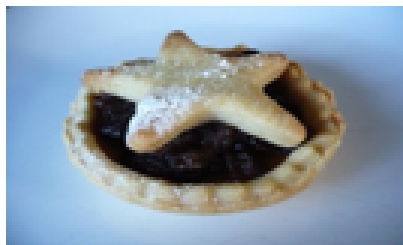
10.30 – 11.30 a.m.

Celebrate start of Christmas !

As well as the usual, home-made cake, coffee (or tea if preferred), there will be sausage rolls, mince pies and Christmas crackers.

And just the usual charge of £3.00.

Everyone very welcome.



COMMUNITY CORNER

We welcome your contributions to this, our parish newsletter, in whatever format- photographs, puzzles, recipes, poems and stories and will try to publish a selection each month. Please send them to

Pauline McTear brianmctear@btinternet.com

Seasonal Poem

An extract from

Another Night Before Christmas

By **Carol Ann Duffy**

On the night before Christmas, a child in a house,
As the whole family slept, behaved just like a mouse . . .
And crept on soft toes down red-carpeted stairs.
Her hand held the paw of her favourite bear.

The Christmas tree posed with its lights in its arms,
Newly tinselled and baubled with glittering charms;
Flirting in flickers of crimson and green
Against the dull glass of the mute TV screen

The hushed street was in darkness. Snow duveted the cars –
A stray cat had embroidered each roof with its paws.
An owl on an aerial had planets for eyes.
The child at the window stared up at the sky,

Where two aeroplanes sped to the east and the west,
Like a pulled Christmas cracker. The child held her breath
And looked for a sign up above, as the moon
Shone down like a gold chocolate coin on the town.

COMMUNITY CORNER

Classic Christmas Pudding

Serves 6

Ingredients:

- 125g dried mixed fruit
 - 150g currants
 - 150g raisins
 - 150g sultanas
 - 20g stem ginger in syrup, drained and finely chopped
 - 1 orange, zest and juice
 - 1 lime, zest and juice
 - 5 tbsp calvados or brandy
 - 115g butter, softened, plus extra for greasing
 - 115g dark muscavado sugar
 - 2 tsp ground mixed spice
 - 1 tsp ground cinnamon
 - 1 tsp ground ginger
 - 115g self-raising flour
 - 100g fresh breadcrumbs
 - 2 British Blacktail Medium Free Range Eggs, beaten
 - 2 tbsp milk.
-

COMMUNITY CORNER

Classic Christmas Pudding (cont)

Method:

1. Mix together all the dried fruit, stem ginger, citrus zests and juice, and the Calvados or brandy in a large bowl. Cover and leave overnight.
2. Grease a 1.2 litre pudding basin with butter and place a small circle of baking parchment in the base. Beat the butter and sugar together until light and fluffy, then mix in the spices, flour and breadcrumbs. Add the eggs and milk, then the fruit mixture and any soaking liquid.
3. Spoon the mixture into the basin to 1cm below the rim. Cover with a double layer of greased baking parchment followed by a large piece of foil. Tie loosely around the rim with string so that there is room for the pudding to expand. Put the basin in a steamer, or a saucepan with an up-turned heatproof saucer on the base. Add boiling water to come two-thirds of the way up the sides of the basin. Cover the pan with a tight-fitting lid and simmer for 4 hours. Keep the water bubbling throughout and top up with extra boiling water as necessary.
4. Remove from the pan, cool, then wrap in fresh baking parchment and foil. Store for up to 3 months in a cool, dry place or in the refrigerator. When needed, reheat by steaming the pudding in the same way as above, for about 2 hours, until piping hot.

Waitrose.

COMMUNITY CORNER

Many thanks to Carl Walker for supplying these recent, beautiful photos.



A Puzzle

Answers published next month.

[illegible]

1. Disappear like a commercial vehicle (6)
2. Trainee told where to find tea in Yorkshire (6)
3. Hamlet is a doctor in a Somerset spa (7)

NOVEMBER 2025											
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1. Sign saying 'Watch out duckie!' (10)
2. Is found on the wing, playing Real Madrid (3, 7)
3. Labour shadow cabinet was once so downtrodden (9)

Kingscote Barn

We are opening up the barn for one night only to everyone to pop in for dinner!
We would love you to join us. <https://kingscotebarn.co.uk/feast-nights/>

THE KINGSCOTE BARN

WE WOULD LOVE TO WELCOME YOU TO OUR

FESTIVE
Feast Night

FRIDAY 5TH
DECEMBER
FROM 6.45PM

£69.50

BOOK YOUR
TICKET

[Epic 3 course
Feasting menu](#)

Cosy candlelit
barn

Live music

Add an overnight
stay in our unique
rooms

KINGSCOTE BARN

Festive Feast Menu
05.12.25

Mezze Board

Selection of cured meats
Roasted red pepper & potato tortilla
Vegetable empanadas
Grilled flatbreads with tomato and red pepper hummus
Sun dried tomato & organic arancini with garlic aioli

Sharing Mains

Smoked ham, chicken & cider pie
Slow & sticky braised beef with stout
Smashed jackets topped with smoked salt & gouda
Crispy corn ribs with kypee mayo sprinkled with cumin
Sticky Roasted Vegetables with Honey & Mustard
Buttery mash folded with spring onions

Decadent Desserts

Served with an Espresso Martini shot
Black forest chocolate with cherries & boozy kirsch
Winterberry cheesecake flowerpot

Non alcoholic options available
Vegetarian/Vegan available, please request on booking

KINGSCOTE BARN

Vegetarian Menu
05.12.25

Mezze Board

Selection of chargrilled mediterranean vegetables
Grilled flatbreads with tomato and red pepper hummus
Vegetable empanadas
Sun dried tomato & oregano arancini with garlic aioli
Fennel & pea bhajis, pomegranate, sweet turmeric Dip

Sharing Mains

Cauliflower, cumin & lentil pie
Smashed jackets topped with smoked salt & Gouda
Spicy halloumi shawarma
Crispy corn with kypee mayo sprinkled with cumin
Sticky roasted vegetables with honey & mustard
Buttery mash folded with spring onions

Decadent Desserts

Served with an Espresso Martini shot
Black forest chocolate with cherries & boozy kirsch
Winterberry cheesecake flowerpot

Non alcoholic options available
Vegetarian/Vegan available, please request on booking

Longfield Community Hospice

Now is the chance to sign up to dispose of your Christmas Tree in the most eco-friendly way possible and raise money for Longfield Community Hospice.

In return for a voluntary donation, Longfield Hospice's team of volunteers will collect your trees from your home at the end of the festive season and take them to be chipped for chippings to be reused locally, making this the most eco-friendly way to dispose of your tree.

Hoping to collect and recycle more trees than ever this year, Longfield in partnership with Just Helping, is aiming to raise more than £85,000, which could help fund over 1,000 hours of Hospice at Home care, or support free wellbeing, bereavement and counselling services for those in Gloucestershire. This is a huge operation for Longfield and last year an army of 180 volunteers collected more than 4,000 trees over four days from households throughout Gloucestershire.

To arrange collection of your tree, simply visit

www.just-helping.org.uk/register-tree

and enter your postcode, where you can make a voluntary donation to your local community hospice. Bookings can be made from 14 November until 6th January 2025.

Longfield is a Community Hospice based in Minchinhampton. As well as providing Hospice at Home care, Longfield also offers help and support to patients, families and carers through a range of Wellbeing services at the hospice in Minchinhampton.



Christmas Tree Recycling

LONGFIELD
Community Hospice

In Partnership with Just Helping

Collections 10th -13th January
Registration Closes 6th January

JUST HELPING
Helping people help others

Take the hassle out of disposing of your Christmas tree and have Longfield collect it for a voluntary donation. *

You will not only be helping reduce your carbon footprint but also supporting your community hospice providing Hospice at Home care and Wellbeing, Counselling and Bereavement Support for individuals facing a life-limiting condition.

just-helping.org.uk/register-tree
Registered Charity Number 298627

FR
Registered with
FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR

*After costs, over 80% of monies raised will go to Longfield Community Hospice with around 13% going to Just Helping charity and over 5% to other local charities.

TETBURY GOODS SHED

A R T S C E N T R E

DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS AT THE GOODS SHED



- December 6/7** **Christmas Craft fair:** Stock up on Christmas gifts for the whole family and enjoy festive music and delicious treats. 10-4 Admission free.
- December 13** **Dickens' A Christmas Carol:** Happy Valley actor Vincent Franklin brings Dickens seasonal story to life in an amazing one-man show which will leave your blood chilled and heart warmed. Tickets in Advance £15, family of 4 £45. 7.30.
- December 18** **Film- The Nutcracker:** Ukraine's National Opera Ballet Company bring us this sumptuous staging of Tchaikovsky's perennial Christmas favourite. Tickets in advanced £7.50. 7pm
- December 19** **Community Carol Concert:** Traditional carols and modern with the added attraction of mulled wine and mince pies. Admission free. 6pm
- December 20** **Abba Fever:** Take a chance on a great pre-Christmas sing-along with family and friends. Abba Fever are known for great musicianship, choreography and authentic costumes. Tickets 27.50 in advance. 7.30
- January 2** **Wonder Pantomimes Robin Hood:** Join in as Robin and his Merry Men take on the evil Sheriff of Nottingham in this family-friendly event for all ages. Tickets in advance £13.48 adults, £9.70 child, family of 4 £37.73. 2pm and 5.30

For more details of our other events including film, talks, exhibitions, and afternoon tea concerts and to book tickets visit our website:

www.tetburygoodsshed.co.uk

PARISH DIRECTORY

Forerunner Editor

Pauline McTear

Vicar

Reverend Caroline Bland

Vicar of the Benefice of Nailsworth including the parishes of Horsley and Newington

Bagpath with Kingscote:

3 Vicarage Gardens, Nailsworth, GL6 0QS

01453 836536

Rev.carolinebland@gmail.com

Nailsworth Benefice website

www.thenailsworthbenefice.co.uk

Members of the Parochial Church Council

Jane Nichols (Treasurer, 01453 860534); Elin

Tattersall; Chris Alford, Jacqui Crew

Safeguarding officer for the PCC

Jennifer Tibbert ridingswood@gmail.com

Vestry Silver and Brass Team

Teresa Day, Angela Wooldridge, Liz Widdows,

Pauline McTear

Nailsworth Mothers' Union

Trissa Jones, 01453 832551

Church Flowers Rota

Lorna Reynolds, 01453 860231

Organist

Rosemary Sims, 15 Badger's Way, Forest

Green, Nailsworth, GL6 0HE. 01453 832446

Sidespersons

Jane Nichols, Chris Alford, Jacqui Crew,

Elin Tattersall

Church Electoral Roll

Elin Tattersall

Churchyard mowing and hedge trimming

Kingscote: Rick Bond, Sebastian Cooper,

Charlie Knights, Brian McTear, Rich Lukes,

John Moore, Steve Tattersall, Tony

Wooldridge, Matt Wookey. Coordinator -Chris

Alford. Bagpath: Alex Stephens.

Village Hall

Bookings: [Pauline McTear](mailto:Pauline.McTear@btinternet.com), 01453 861311

e-mail brianmctear@btinternet.com

Secretary: [Angela Wooldridge](mailto:Angela.Wooldridge@btinternet.com), 01453 860697

Treasurer: [Pauline McTear](mailto:Pauline.McTear@btinternet.com), 01453 861311

Parish Council Chairman

[Tony Wooldridge](mailto:Tony.Wooldridge@btinternet.com), 43-45 Kingscote, GL8 8XY.

01453 860697. Tony.wooldridge1@gmail.com

Parish Council Clerk

Simon Hale,

clerk@kingscoteparishcouncil.gov.uk

Parish council website

<https://www.kingscoteparishcouncil.co.uk>

The Forerunner is published by an editing team of volunteers from the parish and we welcome copy from parishioners, however opinions and views expressed by other contributors are not necessarily those of the editors.