

DECEMBER 2026

THE FORERUNNER

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



WELCOME to the December 2026 edition of The Forerunner

In this month's magazine:

At the Village Hall, there will be:

- Bar Night on **Friday 4th December.**
- Coffee Morning on **Tuesday 8th December.**
- Book Club on **Wednesday 9th December.**

Services at St John the Baptist will be:

- **Sunday 6th December, 9.30 a.m.** - Holy Communion.
- **Sunday 20th December, 9.30 a.m.** - Morning Worship.
- **Monday 21st December, 6.00 p.m.** - Carol Service.
- **Thursday 25th December, 9.30 a.m**. - Holy Communion.

Events at Matara and the Tetbury Goods Shed are detailed.

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.

Items of interest for next month's magazine should be sent by email to webmaster@kingscoteonline.co.uk (Andrew Adamson) by noon on the 20th of the month.

VICAR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

December is a special time of year, bringing the joy, warmth and anticipation of Christmas. As our homes and villages sparkle with festive lights, we are reminded of the true meaning of Christmas — God's love revealed through the birth of Jesus Christ.

For Christians, Advent is a time of preparation and reflection. Amid the busyness of shopping, decorating and celebrations, it is good to pause and remember the angel's message to the shepherds:
"Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people." (Luke 2:10)

Christmas is a joyful season, but we recognise that it can also be difficult for those facing loneliness, bereavement, illness or financial worries. A friendly visit, a kind word or a simple act of thoughtfulness can make a real difference.

The Christmas message of Emmanuel, meaning "God with us", reminds us that we are never alone. It is a message of hope, peace and love for everyone.

As we celebrate this special season, you are warmly invited to join us at St John the Baptist on Sunday 20th December, when we will come together for a service with the opportunity for all ages to make Christmas decorations. Our Carol Service will be held on Monday 21st December, followed by our Christmas Day Communion service on Friday 25th December. We look forward to welcoming you as we celebrate the joy of Christmas together.

May the peace and joy of Christmas fill your hearts and homes, and may we all share a little of its love and kindness with those around us.

Wishing you all a blessed, peaceful and joyful Christmas.

With every blessing,

Reverend Caroline
Tel: 01453 836536
rev.carolinebland@gmail.com
www.thenailsworthbenefice.co.uk

KEY DATES

The Nailsworth Benefice
Nailsworth, Horsley & Kingscote

The Anglican churches of
St George, Nailsworth,
St Martin, Horsley
St John the Baptist, Kingscote

WORSHIP – DECEMBER 2026

SUNDAY 6th	**2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT**		
	Kingscote	9.30am	Holy Communion
	Nailsworth	11.00am	Christingle Service
Wednesday 9th	Nailsworth	10.00am	Holy Communion
SUNDAY 13th	**3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT**		
	Horsley	9.30am	Holy Communion
	Nailsworth	11.00am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 16th	Nailsworth	10.00am	Holy Communion
SUNDAY 20th	**4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT**		
	Kingscote	9.30am	Morning Worship
	Nailsworth	11.00am	Holy Communion
	Nailsworth	6.00pm	Town Carol Service
	Horsley	6.00pm	Carol Service
Monday 21st	Kingscote	6.00pm	Carol Service
Wednesday 23rd	Nailsworth	10.00am	Holy Communion
THURSDAY 24th	**CHRISTMAS EVE**		
	Nailsworth	4.00pm	Crib Service
	Horsley	4.00pm	Crib Service
	Nailsworth	11.30pm	Holy Communion
THURSDAY 25th	**CHRISTMAS DAY**		
	Kingscote	9.30am	Holy Communion
	Horsley	9.30am	Holy Communion
	Nailsworth	11.00am	Holy Communion
SUNDAY 27th	**1st SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**		
	Nailsworth	11.00am	Benefice Communion
Wednesday 30th	Nailsworth	10.00am	Holy Communion

KEY DATES


CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT
St John the Baptist Church
Candle Lit Carol Service
Monday 21st December
6.00pm
A service of lessons and carols,
followed by mulled wine and mince pies.
A chance to hear the Christmas message
while enjoying singing with friends and neighbours.
Have you got a favourite Carol?
We'd love to hear your choice!
Send your choice to jane@nicholsfarming.co.uk
by 7th December
The Carol with the most votes
will be sung at the service!
A collection will be taken during the service
which will be divided between Emmaus* and the church.
*Emmaus is a Gloucestershire based charity working to overcome
homelessness and social exclusion.

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 (01453 860231).



6th December	No flowers (Advent)
13th December	No flowers (Advent)
20th December	No flowers (Advent)
25th December	Sheila Grey

KEY DATES

Kerbside Waste & Recycling Collections

Food waste - Friday 27th November, Friday 11th and Thursday 24th December. Food waste, recycling, garden waste and black bin – Fridays 4th and 18th December.

The 2026-27 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 open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 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 9 to 10 a.m. every Monday and Thursday except bank holidays.



KINGSCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

1. Local Government Reorganisation and Parish Council Elections

It appears that the Government will proceed with the creation of a unitary authority in Gloucestershire and the abolition of the District Councils, but the implementation has been delayed a year until April 2029.

There will be elections to existing councils in May 2027, and this will include Kingscote Parish Council. Elections to the new shadow unitary council will be in May 2028.

2. Refresher training in the use of a defibrillator and (CPR)

If there is sufficient interest, we plan to arrange refresher training in the use of a defibrillator and CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation).

This would be a hands-on session offered by a local health charity and free of charge. Anyone interested is requested to email our parish clerk:

clerk@kingscoteparishcouncil.gov.uk

3. Maintenance of village assets

Councillors will be carrying out their annual inspection and maintenance of the parish assets (war memorial, phone box and bus shelter) on Saturday 21 November.

We are also hoping to organise a wider parish clean-up in the spring to include the village hall and a litter pick.

4. GCC Highways and safety measures at Hunters Hall junctions

We continue to press GCC Highways to progress the safety measures which they have proposed near Hunters Hall and to deploy speed monitoring equipment to record the extent of any excessive speeds.

We are also chasing multiple other outstanding issues to which GCC Highways has agreed.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the parish council will be on Tuesday 12th January 2027 at 7.30 p.m. in the village hall.

Kingscote Parish Council

KINGSCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

Current Planning Applications

1. Cut to ground level 2 large Beech trees approximately 20meters tall due to leaf litter, light level and root growth encroaching the building

Parkview, Kingscote, Tetbury, Gloucestershire GL8 8XZ

Ref. No: 26/03546/TCONR · Received: Mon 16 Nov 2026 · Validated: Mon 16 Nov 2026 | Status: Awaiting decision.

2. Internal and external alterations including insertion of floor structures within the nave and tower, extension to the vestry, reinstatement of blocked windows and former doorway, formation of new entrance doorway and associated conservation and repair works

Bartholomew House, Newington Bagpath, Kingscote, Tetbury, Gloucestershire GL8 8GH

Ref. No: 26/03383/LBC · Received: Fri 30 Oct 2026 · Validated: Fri 30 Oct 2026 | Status: Awaiting decision.

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3. Installation of roof lights

Bartholomew House, Newington Bagpath, Kingscote, Tetbury, Gloucestershire GL8 8GH

Ref. No: 26/02982/LBC · Received: Mon 28 Sep 2026 · Validated: Fri 09 Oct 2026 | Status: Awaiting decision.

4. Opening of new principal entrance doorway and installation of door to the North elevation of the Tower

Bartholomew House, Newington Bagpath, Kingscote, Tetbury, Gloucestershire GL8 8GH

Ref. No: 26/02894/LBC · Received: Tue 22 Sep 2026 · Validated: Tue 22 Sep 2026 | Status: Awaiting decision.

KINGSCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

Current Planning Applications

(cont.)

5. Demolition of 2x existing agricultural workers' dwellings and 1x existing shed. Erection of replacement 2x agricultural workers' dwellings and 2x new garages

Calcot Poultry Farm, Calcot, Kingscote, Tetbury, Gloucestershire GL8 8YJ

Ref. No: 26/02409/FUL | Received: Mon 10 Aug 2026 | Validated: Wed 19 Aug 2026 | Status: Awaiting decision**.**

6. 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.

7. Compliance with condition 7 (Architectural recording) of consent 25/04049/LBC - Structural repairs to tower roof. Repairs to nave and chancel roofs including installation of thermal insulation and associated works. Works to tower render and windows. Works to nave window and Norman doorway (part retrospective)

Bartholomew House, Newington Bagpath, Kingscote, Tetbury, Gloucestershire GL8 8GH

Ref. No: 26/01425/COMPLY | Validated: Thu 07 May 2026 | Status: Awaiting decision.

VILLAGE HALL

Events This Month

Bar Night

Friday 4th December
7.00 – 10.00 p.m.

Alcoholic & non-alcoholic beverages at reasonable prices (cash or card), helping to raise money for Village Hall maintenance.

Enjoy time with your neighbours; everyone welcome.



Festive Coffee Morning

Tuesday 8th December
10.30 - 11.30 a.m.
Tea or coffee with mince pies, crackers and sausage rolls. £3.00.
Everyone very welcome.



VILLAGE HALL

Events This Month (cont.)

Book Club



At **1.30 p.m.** on **Wednesday 9th December** in The Reynolds Room at the Village Hall, we will be discussing:

'**Theo of Golden'** by **Allen Levi.**

One morning, a stranger arrives in the town of Golden. No one knows who he is or where he came from…

His name is Theo and he's arrived there by chance – or has he? He visits the local coffeehouse, where ninety-two pencil portraits hang on the walls, portraits by a local artist of the people of Golden.

He begins purchasing them, one at a time, and putting them back in the hands of their 'rightful owners'. With each exchange, a story is told, a friendship born, and a life altered.

A story of seeing and being seen, *Theo of Golden* is a beautifully crafted novel about the power of creative generosity, the importance of wonder to a purposeful life, and the invisible threads of kindness that bind us to one another.

Do come along if you're interested.

If anyone else would like to come and join the Book Club, please contact Angela Wooldridge on 01453 860697.

Film Night

Details for December to be confirmed.

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 webmaster@kingscoteonline.co.uk



An entertaining evening describing some of the history of the Parish and its people was held in the Kingscote Village Hall on Saturday 24th October 2026.

Thanks are due to Tim Sage for organising and hosting the event, and to Colonel Michael Kingscote, Graham Nichols and Tony Blackwell for their recollections.

Naomi and Steve Teague continued their excellent work of serving refreshments and George Godsal did a great job of recording proceedings for posterity.

The video of the event is hosted on YouTube and can be viewed using this link

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=chindWslnAE



COMMUNITY CORNER

Kingscote War Memorial

The article below featured in the Forerunner 6 years ago.
We think it worthy of re-publication.
Hat tip to Sebastian Cooper for his research and its compilation.

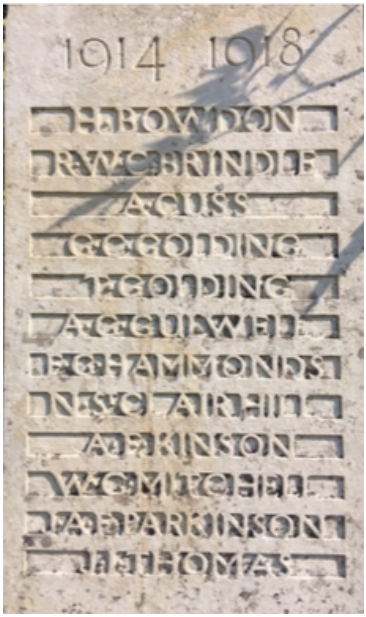
Many of us walk or drive past the beautiful war memorial outside Kingscote Church most days, but how often do we stop to read the names of the men written on it?

What do we know about these eighteen men, all of whom had an association with our parish and who died for King and Country in the two world wars?

We honour their memory every year on Remembrance Sunday without really knowing anything about them.

So I decided to do some research into who they were, where they came from, how and when they died and where they are buried.

What my research revealed is that several of them were very young and many of them died in far-flung corners of the world. They came from varied backgrounds, some had very close associations with our parish and others less so but all of them deserve our respect and gratitude for making the ultimate sacrifice on our behalf.



COMMUNITY CORNER

Kingscote War Memorial (cont.)

1914 - 1918

H BOWDON

Horace Bowdon, born in Devon in 1883. In 1901 his family was living in the schoolhouse at Bagpath, where his father was the schoolmaster (and remained so until 1934) and Horace was an apprentice blacksmith. He was a Farrier, Staff Sergeant and Carriage Smith, Royal Field Artillery, attached to 1/1 Devonshire Regiment.

Died 23rd September 1916, aged 33 and buried in Barrackpore New Cemetery, Kolkata, India. Posthumously awarded the British War Medal.

R W C BRINDLE

Robert William Charles Brindle, born in Castle Eaton, Wiltshire, March 1900, son of a farm labourer.In 1911 he was living with his parents in Latton, near Cricklade. He was a Private in the Hampshire Regiment followed by the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry.

Killed in action 1st October 1918, aged 18 and buried in Anneux British Cemetery, France. Residence at the time of his death recorded as Tetbury. Posthumously awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

A CUSS

Albert Sidney Cuss, born in Tetbury in October 1896, the fifth child of a brewer's drayman. Living in Church Street, Tetbury in 1911. He was a Private in the 4th Coldstream Guards.

Killed in action in December 1916, aged 20 and buried in Guillemont Road Cemetery, Guillemont, France. Posthumously awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

G C GOLDING

George Christian Golding, born in Kingscote in 1877, one of eight children of a herdsman. In 1911 he was living at Ashel Barn and working as a waggoner on a farm, married with two children. He was a Private in the 7th Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment. Killed in action at sea in January 1916, aged 39 and commemorated on the Helles Memorial, Gallipoli, Turkey. Various members of his family are buried in the churchyard. Brother of Thomas, see below.

COMMUNITY CORNER

Kingscote War Memorial (cont.)

T GOLDING

Thomas Golding, born in Kingscote in August 1879. In 1911 he was living in Hereford with his wife and two children and was employed as a cab driver - domestic. Private in the 17th Veterinary Hospital, Army Veterinary Corps.

He was killed in action in December 1917, aged 39 and buried in Mikra British Cemetery, Kalamaria, Greece. Posthumously awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

A G GULWELL

Albert George Gulwell, born in Kingscote in October 1898, the son of a groom and later a coachman. He was working as a farm labourer when he joined up in 1917 and was a Private in the 16th (Reserve) Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment.

Died 5th April 1917 at the Military Hospital at Chiseldon, Swindon, aged 18, one month after joining the army and buried in Kingscote churchyard. His is the only military grave in the churchyard and his parents are also buried in the churchyard.

E G HAMMONDS

Edward George Hammonds, born in Leighterton in 1892, the son of Joseph Hammonds, a labourer. In 1911 the family was living at Park Cottages, Kingscote and Edward was an under gardener (domestic) and he was a Private in the 1/5th Gloucestershire Regiment.

Died of wounds 14th October 1918, aged 25 and buried in St Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, France. His parents and other relations are buried in the churchyard. Posthumously awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

N St CLAIR HILL

Norman St Clair Hill, born in Slad in 1894, the son of the publican of the Star Inn, Slad. In 1911 the family was living at Star Farm, Avening; Norman was assisting on the farm and his father was the farm bailiff. Norman was a Gunner in the Royal Field Artillery.

Killed in action 8th November 1917, aged 23 and buried in Duhallow Advance Dressing Station (A.D.S) Cemetery, Belgium.

COMMUNITY CORNER

Kingscote War Memorial (cont.)

A E KINSON

Albert Edward Kinson, born in Ozleworth in 1897, one of ten children of an agricultural labourer. In 1911 the family were living in Newington; Albert was a carter on a farm, aged 14 and he was a Private in the 20th Royal Fusiliers. Killed in action 28th November 1917, aged 20 and commemorated at Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium. Posthumously awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

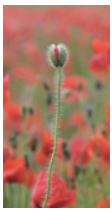
W G MITCHELL

William George Mitchell, born in December 1896 at Calcot and baptised in Kingscote, the only child of a farm labourer. In 1911 the family was living in Kingscote and William was a 'gardener domestic', aged 14. He was a Private in the 7th Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment.

Killed in action 10th February 1917, aged 20 and buried in Amara War Cemetery, Iraq. His parents were living at The Folly, Didmarton at the time of his death.

Next month we will look at the men who died in the Second World War.

Sebastian Cooper.



J A F PARKINSON

Joe Anthony Francis Parkinson, born in Carmarthenshire in 1888, the only son of a solicitor. Lieutenant, 1st Dorsetshire Regiment, joined the army before WW1 and his residence at the time of his death is recorded as The Ridge, Wotton-under-Edge.

Died at Bethune, France 13th October 1914, aged 26 and buried in Le Touret Memorial Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. His parents are buried in the churchyard. Posthumously awarded the 1914 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal.

I J THOMAS

I believe this is an error and that the authorities confused Ivor James Thomas, who died at Gallipoli on 10th August 1915, aged 23, a private in the Welsh Regiment, who seems to have had no connection with Kingscote, with Harry Thomas, born in 1895 in Shropshire, one of seven children of a domestic gardener, who was a Lance Corporal in the 9th Sherwood Foresters, Notts & Derby Regiment, and was killed in action at Gallipoli on 21st August 1915 (ten days after I J Thomas), aged 20. He was living in Cirencester at the time of his death and is commemorated on the Helles Memorial at Gallipoli.

Matara Pizza Pop-Up

Our next pop up pizza night will be on **Friday 27th November, 5.00 p.m**. to **8.00 p.m**.

Take-away or enjoy in our front courtyard with a drink from our bar.

Pop in or ring to pre-order (07359 718811) to ensure you don't miss out.





An Invitation

We would love to bring everyone together this Christmas as a little way of giving back and spreading some festive cheer!

All volunteers who come to Matara, friends of Rory's Wells Charity, and members of our wonderful local village community are warmly invited to join us at Palm House, Matara, for a festive get-together.

Friday 18th December from **11am**

Come along and enjoy some festive drinks, delicious nibbles and lovely company.

It's an opportunity to say thank you, celebrate the wonderful people who make our community so special, and enjoy a little time together during the festive season.

Whether you volunteer, are part of Rory's Wells Charity or are one of our lovely local villagers, we would be delighted to see you.

Let's come together, share a few smiles, raise a glass and spread a little Christmas magic!

With warmest wishes and heartfelt thanks,

Geoffrey



TETBURY GOODS SHED

ARTS CENTRE

DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS AT THE GOODS SHED



Dec 2/3 **Christmas Wreath Workshops:** Deck your door and get into the Christmas spirit! Join Emma for a hands-on evening making your own wreath from scratch. £60 to include materials. Evenings at 6.30

Dec 5/6 **Christmas Craft Fair:** Get into the Christmas spirit with hand-made gifts, festival stalls and a dose of Christmas cheer all under one roof. Entry free. 10-4pm

Dec 11 **Johnny Coppin and Friends:** Johnny returns with a rich mix of carols, songs folklore and stories All On A Winter's Night. He's joined by multi-instrumentalists Paul Burgess, Dik Cadbury and Geoff March. Tickets from £27. 7.30pm.

Dec 12 **Tribute – Seriously Collins**: An electrifying tribute to Phil Collins and Genesis, fronted by a vocalist who looks uncannily like the man himself! You'll get two hours of hits played with warmth and no gimmicks. Tickets from £28. 7.30pm

Dec 17 **Ballet on Screen -Cinderella:** A screening of Matthew Bourne's acclaimed ballet now marking its 30th anniversary. Its re-imagining of the story is set in wartime London to Prokofiev's sweeping score. Tickets from £13.50. 7pm

Dec 18 **Community Carols:** Ten years on we once again open our doors to the local community for our annual sing-along. Celebrate our tenth anniversary with mulled wine and mince pies and favourite carols. Admission free. 6pm.

Dec 27 **Pantomine – Cinderella:** Oh, yes it is! Enjoy all your panto favourites with the whole family – the perfect way to see out the Christmas holidays together. Tickets from £10. 2pm and 5.30pm.

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

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Jane Nichols (Treasurer, 01453 860534);
Jacqui Crew (Secretary, 07973 284242);
Josie Gale (Safeguarding Officer, 07758 217688);
Hubert Velge (07940 540397); Chris Alford.

Vestry Silver and Brass Team
Teresa Day, Angela Wooldridge, Liz Widdows

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.

Church Electoral Roll
Jacqui Crew.

Churchyard mowing and hedge trimming
Kingscote: Rick Bond, Sebastian Cooper, Charlie Knights, Brian McTear, Rich Lukes, John Moore, Andrew Adamson, Tony Wooldridge, Matt Wookey. Coordinator -Chris Alford. Bagpath: Alex Stephens.

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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.