

St Guthlac's Church

70p

February 2026



Peter Davies, our Director of Music,
celebrates ten years at St Guthlac's Church.



The Churches Together stall at the Christmas market, and two church arrangements (photos from Kate Brown)



Rector Rev'd Georgina Holding.

01778 342237.

 St Guthlac's, Market Deeping.

 www.stguthlacs.org.uk



For a Baptism, Wedding, or any general enquiry, please telephone the Parish Administrator Charlotte Bates who is available **Monday and Wednesday evenings** on 07972 839963. Beyond that time please leave a message.
Alternatively email administrator@stguthlacs.org.uk

Churchwardens

Nick Evans
Roger Stokoe

Readers

Canon Nigel Bacon
Mrs Kate Brown

Director of Music

Peter Davies

PCC Vice Chair Hon Treasurer

James Ward
Mrs Julie Bacon

Children & Youth Worker Andrew Mitchell

Other Parish Representatives are listed on a later page in this publication.

The Daily Office of Morning Prayer is said at 10.00am Monday to Saturday. The Evening Prayer is at 5.00pm Monday to Friday. All are welcome.

For details of our on-line services please refer to our website or facebook page.

If previously arranged any Baptisms will take place at 12noon on the first or third Sunday of the month.



Dear Friends,

February can perhaps be a time of adjustment and hope. By now we've likely worked out which of our January or new year's resolutions are likely to stick and which aren't. We also start to see flowers like snowdrops coming up in gardens and parks, and the days slowly start getting lighter for longer.

During February we also have Valentine's Day, which though many view as overly commercial, is a chance to express love, perhaps to those who we sadly can take too much for granted at other times. So, Valentine's Day is not primarily about flowers and chocolate; It is about expressing love. Love, which is the centre of our Christian faith. God is love. This is not a once a year grand gesture like being given the biggest bunch of flowers you've ever seen. This is a steady love, a generous love, a self-giving love, which is constant. A love which listens, forgives and cares. A love which calls us to want to do better and to be better, to be more loving ourselves in our actions, interactions, thoughts and prayers.

It is somewhat fitting that soon after Valentine's Day we start Lent. Many of us take time during Lent to reflect honestly on the times we should have been more loving, the times we need to be forgiven, and the times that we need to forgive. Several of us start Lent with being marked by the sign of the Cross at an Ash Wednesday service – showing us that God meets us exactly where we are. This is not a time to feel more burdened, it is a time to free us – Inviting us to make room for what really matters, so that love can take place deeper in our hearts. It's about drawing closer to God, and to one

another. It is then about life, hope, change and renewal, as much as it is about love.

This year, as we journey through February and Lent, let's notice and share love, not necessarily in grand gestures, but in authentic, caring, faithful acts in our everyday lives. May our hearts grow lighter though they are fuller, as we make space for love, hope and renewal.

With all best wishes and prayers,

Rev George.

Lent 2026: Hearts on Fire!

This Lent, you're warmly invited to join us for a five-week course exploring how our faith is deepened when our hearts are set on fire with love for God. Meeting on Monday evenings in the Green School, starting on 23rd February, at 7:30pm, though hot drinks and company will be available from 7pm.

Lent invites us to look inward, so we'll be gently asking, what parts of our lives might need renewing. Come along and share, or to sit and listen. The course offers a mix of conversation, shared reflection, and reading Bible passages, as we explore together how faith shapes our daily living and our love for God and others. Each week offers a different focus, so you can still come and join in even if you cannot make them all. The first session focuses on prayer, and other themes include generosity and wonder.

Whether you've been to a similar group before, or this is the first time you want to put time aside to pause and prayerfully reflect with others, you are welcome to come along.



Churchwardens' Notes.



Dear Friends,

We are so grateful for all of you who give your time and talents so generously, often going unnoticed and unpraised.

Dorothy Harriss has been responsible for producing the parish notices for years (Rev George thinks it's over 35 years!) Without her unfailing service and love for the fellowship at St Guthlac's those sheets of paper, setting out the life of our church, would not be there. We wouldn't know what was going on. Nor would we be able to follow the readings each week as Dorothy has made sure these are faithfully reproduced.

It is sad that it is only now Dorothy has decided it is time for someone else to take this responsibility that we make space to thank her – and we are so thankful for all Dorothy does to support the mission and witness of St Guthlac's.

There are so many of you that give tirelessly and unmentioned to our fellowship. Please let the wardens know of someone you know who falls into this category so we don't wait another 35 years to thank them!

We would also like to thank Nigel Coke-Woods who has offered to take responsibility for the weekly notice with effect from 1 February so, if you have something you want included, please email him (nigelcw@icloud.com) with the details.

You may have noticed that the light in the church porch and the one just outside the church porch are now working.

Please let either of us have any comments you have on the new church heating. We are still experimenting as to how to ensure the church is warm.

Finally a couple of dates for your diaries. The Jazz Breakfast is taking place on Saturday 7 February in the Green School. Tickets will be available from Helen Evans and Kate Brown with more details in the notice sheet. The next Parish Lunch is taking place on 1 March at The Deeping Stage. There is a sign-up sheet in church. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know other members of our fellowship better. Final numbers are needed by 22 February please.

Yours in Christ,

Roger

Nick.



Burns Night

from Anne Guthrie,

I am writing this in advance of the actual event but we were happily surprised by the number of people who wanted to join in the traditional Scottish celebrations. It was a test of the new kitchen area and a certain amount of ingenuity to provide a hot 3 course meal of soup, haggis and dessert.

Thirty five people signed up and more had asked if there was space. Thirty had been our original top number but somehow it crept upwards before the list could be closed!

Greg led the organisation of the evening and tried to maintain order re toasts and entertainment . In the kitchen Joanne supervised our teenage waiting staff and Daniel carried the haggis in triumph around the table for Greg to attack it and Lyall to praise it with the Ode. A wonderful mix of whisky, poems, music , jokes and quizdifficult to find the time for attempting some Scottish dancing. Donations were taken to cover the cost of the food .

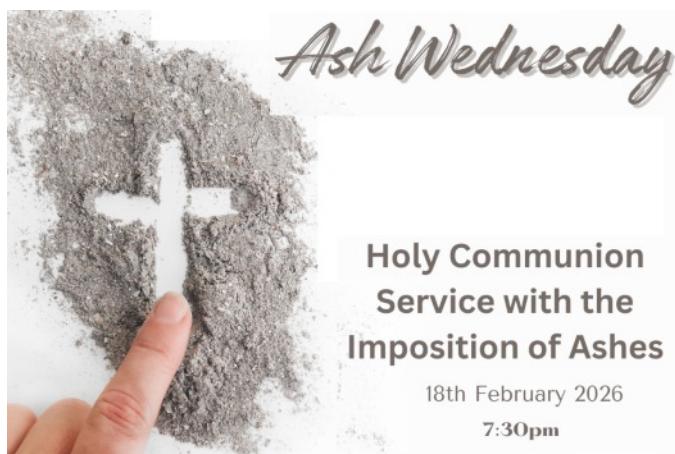
Thank you to everyone who helped to prepare, cook, peel the mounds of potatoes , lay tables and serve.

The Bereavement Cafe

Our second meeting took place on Thursday 8th January and we welcomed a wide range of people , those who have lost many years ago to those who have lost much more recently , even during the Christmas season. Please think of the cafe as an opportunity also for those who may be facing the imminent death through illness of themselves or loved ones, or living will the long term effects of caring for dementia sufferers.

There is time to chat and share and learn what has helped or hindered other people in their own experiences of grief. The adviser from W P Legal is able to share information regarding the practical administrative tasks that can seem overwhelming and the well being practitioner from the surgery can offer advice . People chat and listen in small groups or one to one and then towards the end of the morning gather together. This time views were expressed about how to try and explain your wishes to family and friends, the refusal sometimes for family to accept that having maybe lost one parent the other is growing older, that even though you may not be around to participate in your own funeral a few plans might help stave off family heated discussion!

Please come and join us on Thursday 5th February 10.30 – 12.0 in The Green School , you are welcome to drop in for a short time or stay longer.



W&P LEGAL & ST GUTHLAC'S CHURCH

Bereavement Cafe



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- Informal advice on Probate
- Safe space for everyone
- Share memories and experiences with others

For more information contact Steina on 07842448212 or
steina.mckenna@wplegal.co.uk

First Thursday of every month | 10.30 - 12.00

📍 The Green School, 30 Church Street, PE6 8DA

Special Evening Service - Sunday 8th February 5pm

from Revd George and Peter Davies,

We warmly invite you to a special service of Choral Evensong on Sunday 8th February, 5pm in Church, as we celebrate 10 years of our Musical Director, Peter Davies, musical ministry among us.

This service will be a moment of thanksgiving for a decade of faithful music-making and an opportunity for us to enjoy singing together. So whether you're a regular member of the congregation, a former choir member, or someone who simply loves music and would like to try something new, you will be very welcome to come along to this service - Come to listen, come to sing, or come simply to pray and enjoy the beauty of the service as we mark this special anniversary together. And do stay afterwards if you can to share some refreshments. We look forward to you joining us for this special Evensong service.



It's not too late to join in with the rehearsals (Saturdays 2-4pm) to learn the music (hymns, a psalm, the responses and specially written Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis). All are welcome. However, if you want to come, please either ring Peter (07779 780021) or email him (peter.davies@abcd.org.uk) so that he can ensure that enough copies for everyone are provided. The church choir will sing an Introit at the start and an anthem towards the end of the service.

You don't need to be able to read music. You don't need to think that you have to be a Pavarotti (or Kathryn Jenkins for that matter). If you can speak, you can sing. Peter has years of experience helping folk get the best out of their voices (and in some cases, discover voices that the owners didn't even know existed within them)! Fun packed, learning sessions are guaranteed.

Come along and be inspired (again) by the words of the Book of Common Prayer, now almost 500 years old!

All best wishes and thanks, Peter.



Hidden treasure short story competition

From Judy Stevens,

That window that you pass daily on your way to work – the one with the little glass paperweight in the corner. The one that twinkles in the early morning sunlight reminding you of the paperweight that stood on your grandfather's desk holding down a sheaf of papers. Is that your hidden treasure? The memory that you have treasured since that fateful day? Let your creative juices run wild and pen your contribution to the 2026 Short Story Competition organised by the Deepings Literary Festival – 1,000 words for adults and 500 words for 8-15-year-olds.

The adult competition will be judged by award winning crime writer Vaseem Khan and the young persons' category by children's author Barbara Henderson. For t&cs see www.deepingsliteraryfestival.co.uk

Entries must be submitted by midnight on Monday 9th March 2026.

The Magazine

Thank you to all who contributed; copy for the March magazine is required please not later than Wednesday 18 February.

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ALL CHANGE!

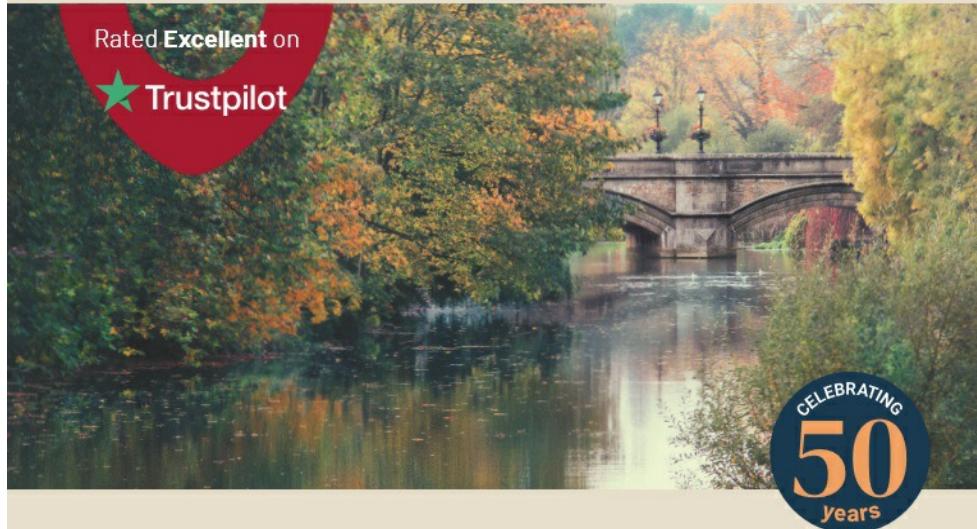
For as long as I can remember Mothers' Union meetings have taken place on the third Thursday of the month in the evening (unless of course they haven't) A few years ago we tweaked the timing of the meetings slightly so we started earlier at 6:30 pm rather than 7:30 pm but the committee and those present at January's AGM felt that the time had come for more radical change. So, from February onwards we will still meet on the third Thursday in the Green School but **at 10:00 am** rather than the evening. We hope it will still be possible to offer the same range of speakers and activities as previously and that those who have been unable to attend during the evenings may find it easier to make a morning meeting. As I write this in mid-January we haven't finalised a programme for the year yet, but I hope it will be available at February's meeting.

A reminder that our meetings are open to all and you do not need to make a commitment to joining the Mothers' Union unless you want to make that step. Perhaps a day-time meeting will encourage more people, men as well as women, to come along even if it is just the once.

Looking ahead to March there are a couple of regular events that Mothers' Union members generally get involved in. On the first Friday of the month, which this year falls on the 6th, there is a World Day of Prayer Service which is held at different local churches in rotation. This year is St Guthlac's turn again so we will host the service at a time yet to be decided. The order of service has been produced by the women of Nigeria on the theme of Together in Prayer. There will be more about this in next month's magazine but make sure the date is at least in your diary.

The other regular event in March is the Lady Day Service on March 25th. This year it is Bourne's turn to host and so we have been invited to join them at 2:30 pm in their Church Hall. Rev Sylvia Rice-Oxley, our former Diocesan President, will preside at an informal Eucharist and we will be joined by our new Diocesan President Isobel Glenister. It will be an opportunity for us to meet

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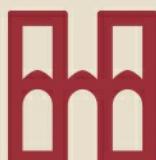
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St Guthlac's Church Flower Rota 2026.

4 January	Christmas & New Year
11 & 8 January	Kate Brown, in memory of dad, Ted
25 January, 1 February	Anne Guthrie
8 & 15 February	Morag Miles
22 February - 29 March	Lent, no flowers
5 & 12 April	Easter, pedestal of lilies plus bunches of flowers
19 & 26 April	Joanne Fowler
3 & 10 May	Jean Jones
17 & 24 May	Kay Bunn
31 May & 7 June	Anne Guthrie
14 & 21 June	Sharon Gurney
28 June & 5 July	Pat French
12 & 19 July	Marilyn Brown
26 July & 2 August	Helen Evans
9 & 16 August	Jean Jones
23 & 30 August	
6 & 13 September	Susanne Denton
20 & 27 September	Clare Andrews
4 & 11 October	Elizabeth Miller
18 & 25 October	Pam Pearson (June Garland)

To pull out and keep; for Arrangers as a reminder and for Admirers to know who has created the floral display.

If anyone would like to donate or sponsor flowers in memory or celebration please contact Anne Guthrie.

1 & 8 November	Julie Bacon; All Souls' & Memorial Service. Remembrance Sunday
15 & 22 November	Kate Brown, in memory of mum Isabella
29 November - 20 December	Advent, no flowers Advent Wreath & Candles
20 December	Christmas decorations by the various church groups

St Guthlac's Green School

offers a spacious and recently decorated premises with a brand new fitted kitchen; including an oven and hob, Quooker heated water tap and remodelled accessible toilet and baby changing facilities.

The premises have been updated into a larger open-plan area offering a more inclusive and brighter environment. Why not take advantage of our refurbished premises for your meetings, groups and events such as children's parties, wakes, Christenings and other life celebration events.

To hire the Green School costs just £14 per hour.

Please contact Roger Clarke on 07902 928782 or email greenschool@stguthlacs.org.uk for the Conditions of Hire, and with any questions you might have.
We will be happy to offer a viewing if required.



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01778 344 454

35a Church St, Market Deeping,
Lincolnshire, PE6 8AN

www.countrycourtcare.com



Isobel who has great plans for Lincoln MU. I hope that as many MU members as possible will be able to be there.

Kate Brown 01778 343981 kabstg@btinternet.com

Ladies' Guild.

Our Committee Members are;
Julie Bacon 01778 342737,
Jean Jones 07976810654,
Ann Lymburn 01778 703269,
Carol Moore 01778 342979,
Liz Parkinson 01778 347020.

By the time you read this we will be looking forward to our next meeting on 24th February. This will be Mick Smith talking about "The Peregrine Falcon & Practical Falconry".

Looking back to 2025 we had a fun filled evening in December in our now traditional way with the "Sunset Road" musical group led by Andrew. The group work hard on these evenings & raise money for cancer research. We all appreciate their work.

We know the format – some quizzing, some singing of Christmas songs & of course those Christmas cracker jokes! Then there was the buffet, generously provided by everyone with Julie serving our mulled wine. New members were welcomed into the group.

Our January meal will also have passed by on 26th January at the Three Horseshoes in Thurlby. How time flies!

Liz Parkinson

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Huge thanks to everyone who made donations to WaterAid at Christmas. Taxpayers sent £150 (including Gift Aid) directly to them via their website and £125 was collected by our treasurer from donors giving through her.

This money will help the charity achieve results like these from last year:

441,387 people turned on the taps to health and happiness in their communities, close to their homes.

108,028 children and their teachers turned on the taps to better learning and brighter futures at school.

189,064 healthcare staff and their patients turned on the taps to reducing the spread of infection in health facilities.



Simply type WaterAid into your search engine to visit the website and read more inspiring stories about the fantastic work done by this charity over the last year. Then, bearing in mind how easy it is for you to fill a kettle to make a cup of tea, flush the toilet whenever you need to, take a shower or run a bath, maybe you will consider making a regular donation - £2 per month is all they ask for, less than half the price of a cup of coffee.

Every year, we get closer to a world where everyone, everywhere has clean water to drink, somewhere safe to go to the toilet and good hygiene to stay healthy. Change starts with water. Thank you so much for being a part of it.

Dorothy Harriss.



**Pancake and
Beetle Drive**



**17th February 2026
6:30pm**

The Green School, Church Street, Market Deeping.

Peterborough Soup Kitchen

As many of you know, once a month we do a duty on a Friday evening serving soup, sandwiches, and cake to the homeless clients. We have had numbers ranging from 40 - 90 and they are always delighted to see our team knowing that they will be served with amazing sandwiches and homemade cakes.



Unfortunately, we have lost two valuable members of our team who occasionally made a couple of loaves of sandwiches for us. We are therefore looking to see if anyone would like to join our team to make a loaf or two. We would also welcome anyone who would like to join us serving from the van on a rota basis. It is a small but valuable commitment of approximately 3 hours preparing the soup in the kitchen, loading the van, and serving and chatting to the clients.

If you feel that you can help, please contact Kevin or Heather Dawson on 07759878675 who can supply you with more information.

“The Bread and Butter Thing”

What is the “Bread and Butter Thing”? It is a nationwide organisation that matches surplus food to people who need it, cutting down on food waste and enabling people to access fresh food at a price they can afford.

It operates as a club which people join. Every Tuesday a van delivers food to the scout hut on Wellington Way where a team of volunteers packs the food into bags. The members then turn up to collect the food paying a set amount, currently about £8.50, for 3 bags of food, one of fresh items, one of chilled goods and one of store cupboard items, which would typically be worth about £35 if bought in the shops.

Anyone can join the club and you do not have to buy the food each week. The food varies from week to week depending on what has

been made available, so you take what you are given. The £8.50 pays for the transportation and other running costs, the salaries of a few national employees who run the scheme and for some of the fresh food which would otherwise be sold at a reduced rate for animal feed. This scheme sits alongside foodbanks rather than replacing or competing with them. It is aimed at people who sometimes have difficulty stretching their budget and at those who are committed to eliminating food waste.

The food is not donated by local supermarkets unlike some other schemes but is available direct from farms, manufacturers and distributors and is all good quality and within "use by" dates although fruit for example may be smaller than supermarkets require, and other items may be past "best before" dates though still safe to use.

There are some flyers at the back of church for anyone who is interested in joining the scheme or knows anyone they think might be interested. Volunteers to unload the van and then pack the food into bags are always welcome. If this is something you could do please have a word with Kate Brown. More information is available on the website www.breadandbutterthing.org.uk.

JAZZ
BREAKFAST

Saturday 7th February - 10 till 12noon

Enjoy live jazz music by Deeping Dixielanders
accompanying a continental breakfast and a
refillable hot drink

£14 adult, £4 children

Tickets must be bought in advance; they will not be
available at the door

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when	sidespeople	readers	servers	offertory
		1 February		
10.00 am	Joy Elliman Roger Clarke Di Wheatley	Child Reader	J Ward L Ward C Gaughan	Dorothy Harriss, Iris Newson
		8 February		
10.00 am	Kay Roberts Henry Roberts Chris Warren	Nigel Coke-Woods	N Bacon	Janice Hewitt Kay Bunn
5.00 pm	David Betts	Joy Elliman		
		15 February		
10.00 am	Janis Hewitt Lyall Seale Keith Warren	Daniel Fowler	G Bacon D Fowler C Fowler	Nettie Mitchell Linda Bates
		18 February	A Grey	
		Helen Evans		
		22 February		
10.00 am	Carol Cooper Lorna Mellowes Geoff Chambers Nick Evans	June Davies	N Bacon	Lyall Seale Geoff Chambers



ChuckSe With Charsie

My sister is 4 years old, but she can't even say "please" in Spanish! That's Porfavor!

I went to see a clairvoyant on Great Yarmouth seafront, but it was closed due to unforeseen circumstances.

Calendar of Services and Events February, Year A

Sunday 1st February

	8:00 am	Candlemas	Said Holy Communion
	10:00 am		All Age Service
			Malachi 3:1 – 4 ; Luke 2: 24 - 35
Wednesday 4th	10:30 am		Said Holy Communion
Thursday 5th	10:30 am – 12:00 pm		Bereavement Café in the Green School
	2:00 pm		The Laurels
	7:30 pm		Bell Ringing Practice
Friday 6th	6:30 pm		Choir Practice
Saturday 7th	10:00 – 12:00		Jazz Breakfast in the Green School
	2:00 pm		Come and Sing Evensong Practice in the Church

Sunday 8th

	8:00 am	Racial Justice Sunday	Said Holy Communion
	10:00 am		Parish Holy Communion
			Galatians 5:14, 22 – 26; Luke 10:25 – 37
	5:00 pm		Festival Evensong
			Proverbs 8: 1, 22 – 31; Revelation 4
Wednesday 11th	10:30 am		Said Holy Communion
Thursday 12th	7:30 pm		Bell Ringing Practice
Friday 13th	6:30 pm		Choir Practice
Saturday 14th	10:30 am		Coffee morning in the Green School

Sunday 15th

	8:00 am	First Sunday Before Lent	Said Holy Communion
	10:00 am		Parish Holy Communion
			Exodus 24: 12 – end; Matthew 17: 1 – 9
Tuesday 17th	6:30 pm		Pancake Party in the Green School

Wednesday 18th

	10:30 am	Ash Wednesday	Said Holy Communion
	2:30 pm		Rose Lodge
	7:30 pm		Holy Communion with Ashing
			Isaiah 58: 1 – 12, John 8: 1 – 11
Thursday 19th	10:00 am		Mothers' Union in the Green School
	7:30 pm		Bell Ringing Practice
Friday 20th	6:30 pm		Choir Practice

Saturday 21st 2:30 – 4:30 pm Messy Church in the Green School

Sunday 22nd

First Sunday of Lent

	8:00 am	Said Holy Communion
	10:00 am	Parish Holy Communion
		Romans 5: 12 – 19; Matthew 4: 1 - 11
	5:00 pm	Compline
Monday 23rd	7:30 pm	Lent Study Group in the Green School
Tuesday 24th	7:30 pm	Ladies' Guild in the Green School
Wednesday 25th	10:30 am	Said Holy Communion
Thursday 26th	7:30 pm	Bell Ringing Practice
Friday 27th	6:30	Choir Practice
Saturday 28th	12:00 pm	Lent Lunch in the Green School.

Diary Dates

Friday March 6th	World Day of Prayer time and venue tbc
Saturday March 7th	Concert by Peterborough Cathedral Choir 7:30 pm in Church
Saturday March 28th	Barn Dance at the Open Door Church (Not February as stated in January magazine)
Thursday April 2nd	Maundy Thursday Service and Meal in the Green School
Sunday April 5th	Easter Sunday

Friday Crafting in The Green School 9.30-11.30 £5

We began the new year with a session on repurposing our old Christmas cards – nothing like being ready in advance! There are themes for each session to Easter but people are also welcome to pop in for coffee and a chat or to bring their own projects . It's an opportunity to set aside 'jobs' and enjoy a break.

Friday 13/2/26 Decoupage – small box and/or coaster led by Nina
Friday 27/2/26 Fabric session, maybe linked to making/decorating a tote bag

Parish Directory

Secretary of Bell Ringers	Dawn Richie	
Eco Church Coordinator	Liz Gray	
Guthlac's Young Explorers	Andrew Mitchell	
Safeguarding Officer	Anne Guthrie	
Wellbeing Group Co-ord	Keith Warren	
Friends of St Guthlac	Rev'd George Holdin	
Stewardship Coordinator	Carol Cooper	
Convener of Sidespeople	Keith Warren	
Coordinator of Servers	Graeme Bacon	
Lesson Reading Rota	Kate Brown	
Flower Arranging Rota	Anne Guthrie	
Church Cleaning Rota	Kay Roberts	
Parish Notices	Nigel Coke-Woods email nige...	
Mothers' Union	Kate Brown	
Ladies Guild	Jean Jones	
Floodlight Booking	Kay Roberts	
Magazine	Distribution	Dorothy Harriss
	Advertising	Roger Clarke
	Production	Gordon Tyler email gordonftyler@btinternet.com
Green School	Cleaning	Chris Gaughan
	Booking	email greenschool@stguthlacs.org.uk

Safeguarding

Remember that if you experience difficulties related to what you think may be abuse in some form (domestic, emotional, financial, spiritual) or you are concerned about anyone amongst our church family and community that you may speak in confidence to Revd. George or Anne Guthrie, the Parish Safeguarding Officer.



The Ladies' Guild December Social Evening.





‘The human heart has hidden treasures, In secret kept, in silence sealed’

~ Charlotte Brontë

Short Story Competition

‘Hidden Treasures’ is your theme

Closing date 9th March 2026

8-15 years

500 words

judged by

Barbara Henderson



Adults

1k words

judged by

Vaseem Khan



www.deepingsliteraryfestival.co.uk