

St Guthlac's Church



COME AND SING EVENSONG

8th February 2026

Peter Davies, Director of Music writes;

February 8th 2026 will be, almost to the day, 10 years since I became Director of Music. It seems a wonderful opportunity to celebrate with a very special full Choral Evensong. It will be a unique service with specially written music. However, this isn't a service that you'd come and just listen to (though, of course, you could if you wanted to). On the four Saturday afternoons 17th, 24th, 31st January and 7th February at 2.00pm, we'll have rehearsals in church for anyone to come along and learn the music we can then ALL sing in the service. I'm writing a new arrangement of the Magnificat to go with one already written of the Nunc Dimittis. We'll also have a chance to practice the Psalm and Responses. During the service, the church choir will sing a specially written introit and anthem. Led by our Rector, Revd George, don't miss the chance to join in St Guthlac's first COME AND SING EVENSONG. Singing together is so much fun and, with the opportunity to praise God in our church that well predates even the prayers we'll use, it becomes so much more special!

ALL voices are welcome! You might think your voice is 'rubbish' (I've heard that so many times and it's never true). Come and give it a try. I'll be able to give hints and tips which might help you sing even better. And, of course, singing with others is definitely rewarding. It's all free and the welcome will be incredible! All music will be provided (though you don't need to be able to read music either)!

For more information or to register your interest in joining in with the rehearsals (if you can only make some rather than all, that's OK too), please either email me at peter.davies@abcd.org.uk or ring me on 07779 780021 (June and I no longer have a landline).

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

ne

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,

How strange our weather patterns have become, and who knows what 2026 holds in store? One thing we can be fairly certain of is that sooner or later we'll have a cold spell, and we'll be trying our hardest to keep warm. It's then that we'll find out how much better our new church heating system is than the old one which broke down almost every winter.

Important as it is for us to stay warm at this time of year, Bishop Stephen, the Bishop of Lincoln, is urging us to be mindful of our spiritual warmth throughout the year. He calls it "raising the spiritual temperature" and it's something in which we can all join.

Up and down the country, including in some places within our own diocese, there are signs of a revival – of people coming to faith in Jesus. Why? Because the message of acceptance, assurance, hope and love which are at the heart of our faith stands in such stark contrast with the shallowness of life in the midst of uncertainty and discord that so many sadly experience.

I'm sure we would all like that revival take hold here, and for our church to grow, both numerically and in the strength of our witness to Jesus. It can happen, and it will happen, if people can see in us, and hear from us, the difference Jesus brings to our lives. That is why Bishop Stephen wants us to raise our spiritual temperature, to be more confident in our faith as a church and as individuals.

There are many ways we can each set about raising our spiritual temperature; here are a few suggestions. Join the "Set Our

Hearts on Fire" Lenten Study Group. Listen regularly to one of the short services available daily on the Church of England website: <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>. Read a different Bible passage each day. Set aside 5 minutes every evening to reflect on the day's joys and challenges, thank God for being there with you and ask for his blessing through the night and the day to come.

What will you resolve to do in 2026 to raise your spiritual temperature?

Nigel

Special recognition for Nigel

We are delighted to share that Nigel Bacon, Licensed Lay Minister, has been granted the title of Canon Emeritus by the diocese!

The diocese has chosen to honour Nigel's many years of faithful service with this special lifelong distinction -

Congratulations Nigel! And thank you for your years of dedication, leadership and care you've brought to our church community and diocese, and for continuing to do so.

Bereavement Café CHANGE OF DATE

Please note that the January Bereavement Café will take place on 8th January 10:30am in the Green School.

After this, from February onwards, it will revert back to the first Thursdays of the month, 10:30am-12:00noon, at the Green School.

A detailed article on the Bereavement Cafe appears on page 7.



Churchwardens' Notes.



A happy and healthy new year to everyone.

We hope that you are all well and that you had a wonderful Christmas. A time for children and families, a time for rest, and a time for reflection and thankfulness.

The church looked as wonderful as always, and our thanks to all the church groups who helped with the decorating of the church. Also a big thank you to the people responsible for the crib and to those who put the tree up, and to those who decorated it. We are blessed by our wider community who help out whether or not they are members of the church family. Thank you to all of those people. The tree was again donated by Tallington Farms and a big thank you to them for their generosity.

We have had some lovely services over the Christmas period and a big thank you to the Ministry Team, Peter and the choir, the sides people and, not to forget, the bellringers for making them run so smoothly.

In the last few weeks the Fabric Group have been busy keeping the building maintained. Every year, after the autumn leaves have fallen, the Fabric Group clears them from the gutters and drains. Again we have generous support from the wider community to help us. Thank you. Continuing with the fabric of the building, we have not forgotten about the clock, and have had a specialist company come to inspect it and are waiting for their recommendations and quotation.

At long last there has been some progress with repairing the Baptistry window. We have seen photographs of the replacement pieces of stained glass so, hopefully, they will soon be installed.

Can you also make a note that the next parish lunch will be on 1st March at 12:30 at the Deeping Stage.

Again, a big thank you for all the support that you give us and if you have any questions, please speak with one of us.

With best wishes from Nick and Roger.



Christmas has been and gone and we are now looking ahead to 2026. Those MU members who were at the November meeting were in agreement that the time has now come to move to daytime meetings and the day and time that suited most of us was the 3rd Thursday at 10:30 am although such a momentous change will need to be approved at the January AGM.

January's AGM will take place at the usual time of 6:30 pm but keep a close eye on next month's magazine for details of any changes. Another change is likely to be that we discuss and make decisions as a whole group rather than as a depleted committee.

November's meeting was given over to the MU Wave of Prayer Service but then as Safeguarding Sunday was still fresh in our minds Anne Guthrie gave us a brief overview of her role as safeguarding officer. This was followed by an interesting and wide-ranging discussion on the subject. Thanks go to Anne for her work in this vital area.

One of the things I do in my role as diocesan Faith Coordinator is to visit other branches to give talks. In 2025 I have visited Thurlby to talk about Lincoln Cathedral's Forest Stations of the Cross, taken prayer stations to Washingborough and Horncastle, talked about angels in Bourne and St Guthlac in Moulton and given a Godly Play demonstration in Skegness. This is an aspect of the role I really enjoy and I'm pleased to say I already have some bookings for 2026.

Kate Brown 01778 343981 kabstg@btinternet.com

The Bereavement Cafe

A new venture between ourselves and the team at W & P Legal, our first cafe session happened on Thursday 4th December. It was a lovely meeting point for people who had been bereaved both recently and a much longer time ago. We provided space to chat with individual volunteers, welcome drinks and biscuits, and gradually moved together to explore what might happen at these cafe sessions. There will be an opportunity to write a message to your loved ones and sheets printed with seeds to take away and plant but the chance to talk and exchange memories of how people feel now, as they face life without their partner, child, parent, friend , pet is likely to be cathartic. A common theme people mentioned was not wanting to 'bother' their children, to find people who understood the loss and the need to talk about it time and again, to look for ways to combat the loneliness and to make new routines.

There are so many business changes to consider on death and if people want advice this is available but W P Legal are not looking for work , they are there to provide a community service in



partnership with ourselves. We talked about the fact that some people who are facing loss through long term illness or dementia could find coming to the Cafe helpful in providing an outlet for their grief and worry in a safe space. This is not a cafe just for religious people, it is for everyone who has faced the death of someone and is looking for friendship and understanding amongst those who have experienced loss.

A mixed group of people attended the first session, from church members to recent arrivals in the community , we look forward to welcoming them again and hopefully the word will spread that this new initiative is being held on the first Thursday of each month , 10.30 – 12.0 in The Green School. Please spread the word.

Having said that – the first Bereavement Cafe of 2026 will be held on Thursday 8th January rather than Thursday 1st January , New Years Day!

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Friday Crafting

It is amazing to realise that we have just completed a fourth year of Friday Crafting sessions preparing for Christmas. These past weeks since September have been led by various members of the group and culminated during December with Clare leading a session learning to fold old books into candles – these have been so popular that we have found ourselves busy folding away for friends and relatives , the finished items look very professional and you may see similar in National Trust gift shops! We have been very thrifty and used old hymn books which provides a link between the music and the joy of Christmas. There was an additional felting session to make fairiessome of us more adept than others in creating these rather pre Raphaelite looking fairies/angels for the tree.

We have the dates planned for the New Year:

Friday 16th & 30th January, 13th & 27th February, 13th & 27th March.

In addition there will be a felting session on Friday 20th March and a group visit to The Wildflower cafe in Deeping St James on Wednesday afternoon 25th March for a session on Indian bloc printing for spring/Easter.



Fridays 9.30 – 11.30 in The Green School – all welcome, people come regularly or drop in when they are able. We have drinks and cake , chocolate or fruit. Cost £5- sometimes extra for special mornings . It is a lovely group for people from church and community. We look forward to meeting you.

Anne & Kate



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Ladies' Guild.

'On November 25th we welcomed Ajay Tegala (and Oakley the dog!) to speak on 'East Anglian Ranger Tales'. We were also joined by visitors and guests. Ajay grew up in Market Deeping and attended The Deeping School. His love of wildlife was nurtured by visiting and volunteering at Peakirk Wildfowl Trust and The Deeping Lakes and he showed slides from his childhood to the present day where he works as a Ranger at Wicken Fen, a National Trust run nature reserve.

He outlined some of the different jobs he had done over the years from sedge harvesting to the ingenious method used to count seabirds and the way they limit the size of the herd of Konik ponies. He told us about frequent visitors which included little terns, bitterns, hobbies, various types of swan and other wading birds and encouraged everyone to visit.

At our meeting on 16 December we were entertained by Andy and friends and enjoyed Christmas treats provided by members.

For further information, you can contact any of the Committee;

Jean Jones 07976 810654
Julie Bacon 01778 342737
Ann Lymburn 01778 703269
Carol Moore 01778 342979
Liz Parkinson 01778 347020.

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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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Flowers

from Anne Guthrie.

Wonderful Christmas decoration of the church. It is always a jump in the dark asking for help and I find it hard to delegate without wanting to know all the details in advance! However this year I sent emails to all the church groups and 'gave' them a pedestal or window sill to decorate – the only stipulation that it should be in traditional Christmas colours of green, red, white, gold & silver to provide links across the decoration.

You all rose brilliantly to the occasion and all was revealed for the Community Carol service. It is always special to move from the sombre lack of flowers during Advent into the blaze of Christmas itself. Thank you very much.

Now I am calling for all of you to fill 2026 with flowers, plants, vases or arrangements – please let me know if you would like to join the Flower Team. People undertake to take responsibility for

two Sundays and everyone helps at the big church Festivals. If you would like to remember an anniversary, death, birth, celebration we can accommodate your special dates. Last year every week was covered, although this was because people stepped in to help where there were gaps.



Please offer your services , no need to be an expert but just love playing with flowers and foliage.

Safeguarding

Revd George and myself have renewed our leadership training at the end of November. The course has been evolving over the past ten years since I first completed it. There are various tweaks to good practice that we will be discussing and putting into place during 2026. One which we are already planning will be the completion of a Basic Awareness course by all volunteers – this is through the Church of England safeguarding website and we will offer people the opportunity to work together at a session in The Green School or complete online at home.

Another change will be producing 'job descriptions ' for the different voluntary roles in church. I have found it illuminating having discussions with people about Safeguarding – how to make sure people know who they can contact, what is the role of Parish Safeguarding Officer, how to react to a situation that makes people uncomfortable, the various behaviours that may indicate some form of abuse may be taking place . We listen , we do not judge and we cannot keep confidentiality if there is a real danger of activity that police or social services need to know about.

Anne Guthrie 07979106822 safeguarding@stguthlacs.org.uk

The Magazine

It has been decided that the price of the magazine will remain at 70p. There are eleven issues in the year (one covers August and September); if you wish to subscribe in advance for the year the cost is £7.00, Buy Ten Get One Free. To subscribe put £7 in an envelope marked "Magazine" and your name, and place in the money collection box in St Guthlac's.

Apart from reporting on the church community and publishing forthcoming activities this magazine is here for anyone to submit

personal articles and interests. Please make use of it, we welcome your input.

Copy for the February magazine is required please not later than Wednesday 21 January.

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Here I am, faced with three-quarters of a blank page and nothing to put in it. So I clicked on Copilot, the Artificial Intelligence which comes with this computer, and requested "An article on Robbie Burns, 200 words". This is the result;

"Robert Burns (1759–1796) remains one of Scotland's most enduring cultural figures, celebrated for his lyrical genius, sharp social insight, and deep connection to ordinary life. Born in Alloway, Ayrshire, to a farming family, Burns grew up amid hardship, an experience that shaped both his empathy and his rebellious spirit. His first major collection, Poems, Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect (1786), brought him immediate acclaim and earned him the affectionate title "The Ploughman Poet".

Burns wrote in Scots, English, and a blend of both, capturing the humour, struggles, and humanity of rural Scotland. His works range from tender love songs like "A Red, Red Rose" to biting political commentary such as "A Man's a Man for A' That". He also played a crucial role in preserving Scottish folk tradition, collecting and adapting songs from across the country, including the globally beloved "Auld Lang Syne".

A pioneer of the Romantic movement, Burns influenced generations of writers and became a symbol of liberal and egalitarian ideals. Though he died young at 37, his legacy endures through annual Burns Night celebrations, where poetry, music, and Scottish heritage come together to honour his remarkable contribution to literature."

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when	sidespeople	readers	servers	offertory
		4 January		
10.00 am	Joy Elliman Roger Clarke Di Wheatley	Child Reader	J Ward D Fowler C Fowler	Dorothy Harriss, Iris Newson
		11 January		
10.00 am	Kay Roberts Henry Roberts Chris Warren	Di Wheatley	N Bacon	Janice Hewitt Kay Bunn
5.00 pm	David Betts	Donald Monk		
		18 January		
10.00 am	Janis Hewitt Lyall Seale Keith Warren	Lyall Seale	A Gray D Fowler C Fowler	Nettie Mitchell Linda Bates
		25 January		
10.00 am	Carol Cooper Lorna Mellowes Geoff Chambers Nick Evans	Kay Roberts	G Bacon	Lyall Seale Geoff Chambers



Chuckse With Charsie

I saw this bloke chatting-up a cheetah and thought - "He's trying to pull a fast one".

I rang my local swimming baths. I said "Is that the local swimming baths?" He said "It depends where you're calling from."

Calendar of Services and Events January, Year A

Thursday 1st	7:30 pm	Bell Ringing Practice
Sunday 4th January		Epiphany
	8:00 am	Said Holy Communion
	10:00 am	All Age Service
		Readings TBC
Monday 5th	10:00 am	Prayer meeting in Church
	7:30 pm	House Group at 7 Suttons Lane
Wednesday 7th	10:30 am	Said Holy Communion
Thursday 8th	10:30 am - 12:00 pm	Bereavement Café in the Green School
	2:00 pm	The Laurels
	7:30 pm	Bell Ringing Practice
Friday 9th	6:30 pm	Choir Practice
Saturday 10th	10:30 am	Coffee Morning in the Green School
Sunday 11th		Baptism of Christ
	8:00 am	Said Holy Communion
	10:00 am	Parish Holy Communion
		Isaiah 42: 1 – 9, Matthew 3: 13- end
	5:00 pm	Evensong
		Joshua 3: 1- 8, 14 -end, Hebrews 1: 1 - 12
Monday 12th	7:30 pm	House Group at 7 Suttons Lane
Wednesday 14th	10:30 am	Said Holy Communion
	2:30 pm	Rose Lodge
Thursday 15th	6:30 pm	Mothers' Union AGM
	7:30 pm	Bell Ringing Practice
Friday 16th	6:30 pm	Choir Practice
Saturday 17th	2:00 pm	Come and Sing Evensong practice in Church
	2:30 pm to 4:30 pm	Messy Church in the Green School
Sunday 18th		Second Sunday of Epiphany
	8:00 am	Said Holy Communion
	10:00 am	Parish Holy Communion
		1 Corinthians 1: 1 – 9, John 1: 29 - 42
Monday 19th	7:30 pm	House Group at 7 Suttons Lane

Wednesday 21st	10:30 am	Said Holy Communion
Thursday 22nd	7:30 pm	Bell Ringing Practice
Friday 23rd	6:30 pm	Choir Practice
Saturday 24th	12noon	Soup and Social in the Green School
	2:00 pm	Come and Sing Evensong practice in Church
	6:30 pm for 7:00 pm	Burns Night Supper in the Green School

Sunday 25th

Third Sunday of Epiphany

8:00 am	Said Holy Communion	
10:00 am	Parish Holy Communion	
	1 Corinthians 1: 10 – 18 Matthew 4: 12 - 23	
6:00 pm	Churches Together Service at the Priory Church DSJ	
Monday 26th	7:30 pm	House Group at 7 Suttons Lane
Wednesday 28th	10:30 am	Said Holy Communion
Thursday 29th	7:30 pm	Bell Ringing Practice
Friday 30th	6:30	Choir Practice
Saturday 31st	2:00 pm	Come and Sing Evensong practice in Church

Diary Dates

Saturday 7th February	Jazz Breakfast TBC
Sunday 8th February	Come and Sing Evensong
Tuesday 17th February	Pancake Party
Wednesday 18th February	Ash Wednesday
Saturday 28th February	Bandless Barn Dance at the Open Door Church
Sunday 1st March	Parish Lunch at the Deeping Stage
Saturday 7th March	Concert in Church by Peterborough Cathedral Choir TBC

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
Newsletter	Dorothy Harriss
Mothers' Union	Kay Roberts
Ladies Guild	Kate Brown
Floodlight Booking	Jean Jones
Green School Cleaning	Kay Roberts
Magazine	Chris Gaughan
Distribution	Dorothy Harriss
Advertising	Roger Clarke
Production	Gordon Tyler
Green School Booking	email gordonftyler@btinternet.com
	email greenschool@stguthlac.org.uk

Ajay Tegala speaks to the Ladies' Guild.





The Wine Evening 28 November.

Inset; Winner Keith Fowler
receiving the Wheelbarrow of
Wine from Nick Evans.