




The Red Arrows - A noisy weekend ahead

	<p style="text-align: center;">South Cotswold Team Ministry 20th July 2025</p>	
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Clergy

Vicar: Rev'd Caroline Symcox - 01285 712467

carolinesymcox@googlemail.com

Curate: Rev'd Vicky Falvey – 07356 234248

revvickyfalvey@gmail.com

SERVICES

Sunday 20th July – 5th Sunday after Trinity

8.00 am BCP Holy Communion

10.00 am Common Worship Holy Communion

Sidespeople: Jenny Hewes and Carol Thompson

Readings: Stewart Benzie Intercessions: Janet Edwards

Offertory: David/Sally Salter

Prayer Rota: Denise Hyde and Val Trafford

Coffee: Amanda and Mervyn Cully

Monday 21st July

5.00 pm Community Prayers

(No Community Prayers on 28th July)

Thursday 24th July

10.30 am Holy Communion

Sunday 27th July – 6th Sunday after Trinity

8.00 am BCP Holy Communion

10.00 am Family Service

Coffee: Sarah Bottomley and Carol Thompson

6.00 pm Healing Service with Holy Communion

From Rev'd Vicky - revvickyfalvey@gmail.com - 07356 234248
Sunday's Readings: Genesis 18:1-10a, Colossians 1:15-28, Luke 10:38-end

Have you ever found yourself so busy doing things for others that you miss out on just *being* with them? If so, you're not alone. In Luke 10:38–42, we meet two sisters, Mary and Martha, who illustrate this very tension — and offer us a beautiful reminder about what really matters.

As the story goes, Jesus visits the home of Mary and Martha. Martha, the practical and hospitable one, gets right to work preparing the meal, cleaning, and making everything perfect for their honoured guest. Mary, on the other hand, sits at Jesus' feet, soaking up every word He says. Martha, understandably, becomes frustrated. She's doing all the work while Mary simply sits and listens. So, she speaks up: "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

But Jesus responds with unexpected gentleness:

"Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things, but few things are needed— indeed only one. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

What a moment. Jesus doesn't scold Martha for serving; after all, hospitality is a good thing! But He gently redirects her heart. Martha's busyness, though well-intentioned, distracted her from the best part: being present with Jesus.

Since arriving at St. Mary's, I've experienced so much of that same beautiful hospitality. People have gone out of their way to welcome me, share kind words, offer help, and make me feel at home. It's clear that many here have the heart of Martha—a desire to serve and care deeply for others. And what a gift that is! Your warmth and generosity reflect the love of Christ in action.

Still, this passage reminds all of us that even good things—like serving and doing—can sometimes get in the way of simply *being* with Jesus. In a world that praises productivity and constant motion, we might find ourselves becoming more like Martha—busy, overwhelmed, and even a little worn out.

But Jesus is still inviting us, like He did Mary, to pause and choose what is better: time with Him.

This doesn't mean we abandon our responsibilities. Martha's work wasn't wrong—it just wasn't the most important thing at that moment.

So, let this story encourage you today. Maybe it's time to slow down. To put the to-do list aside for a few minutes. To sit, like Mary, at the feet of Jesus—whether that's through prayer, reading Scripture, or simply being still and listening.

Rev'd Vicky

Join us for Morning Prayer via Zoom on Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday at 9am every week. Click below for the week starting 21st July:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89380373589?pwd=1bbTLkJWbTGhP01BgQt3QAnYf7lxZ6.1>

Meeting ID: 893 8037 3589

Passcode: 891108

From Heather Email address: fairfordpcc@gmail.com or heathergorton31@gmail.com. Telephone: Office: 01285 712611 or home 01285 712428

My office hours are 10.00 to 1.00 on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. I am also continuing to work from home so you can contact me at either the office (712611) or home (712428). The office is closed on Mondays and Michelle will be in on Fridays from 10.00 to 12.00.

If you are sending in your articles, photos etc. for the bumper copy at the end of the month I will need them by 12 noon on the last Wednesday of the month. For the weekly newsletter I would still like articles in by Wednesday midday.

oOo

Please remember the following in your prayers:

Those who are ill: Grace Slack, Hannah, David Lawrence, Laurence Burgess, David and Glynnis Langley, Geoff Close

Those who have died:

Pat Russell – Funeral 1.30pm Wednesday 23rd July in St. Mary's

David Backhouse – Memorial Service 2.30 pm 29th July in St. Mary's

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

Community Prayers

All are welcome to come and pray together for the world, the nation and our community along with any prayer requests that are placed in our prayer box in the Lady Chapel. We meet every Monday at 5pm for 30 minutes in the Chancel. Please use the north door.

(Please also note we do not always meet on Bank Holidays, please check notices above for clarification)

For further details contact Rev'd Canon Denise Hyde

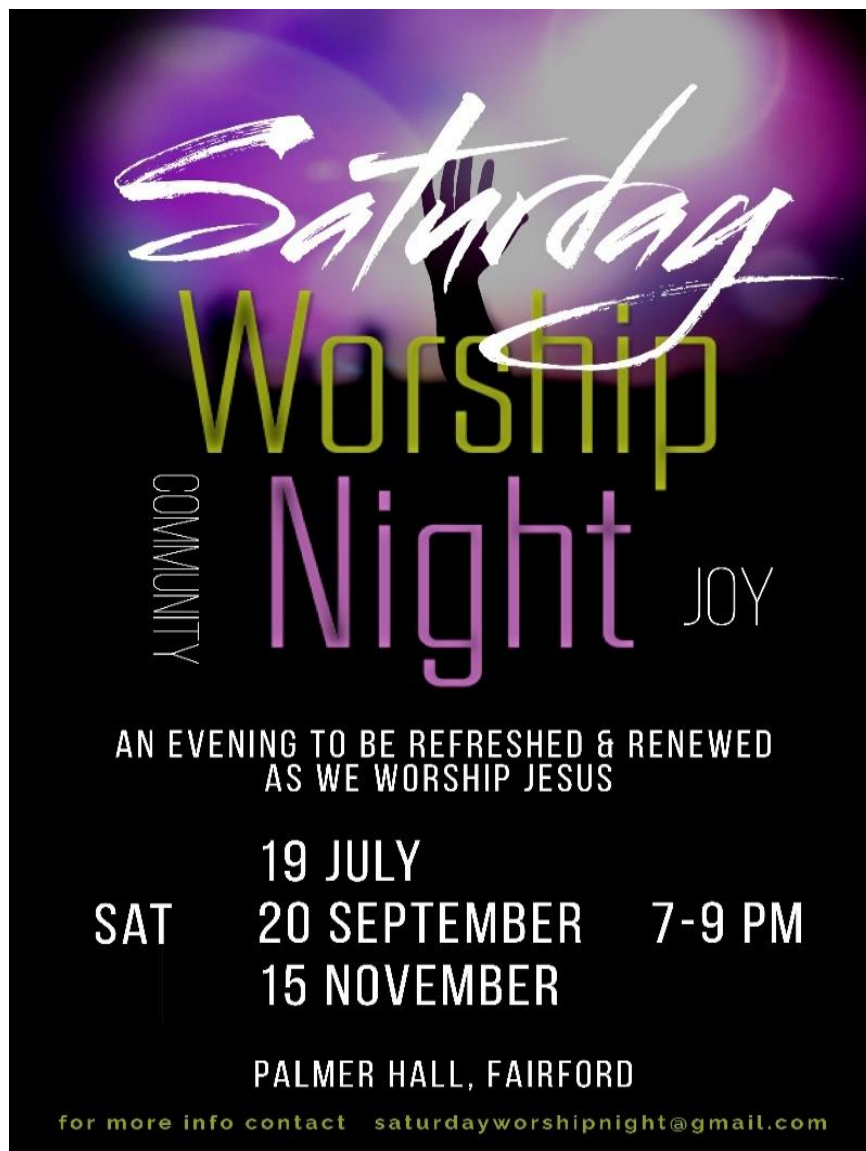
denisehyde15@gmail.com

From Ann Nicholls

Let go of hatred. Endeavour to forgive those who have done you wrong, just as Christ has forgiven you. Bitterness is fatal, it kills your joy and breeds more bitterness.

Loving God, thank you for hearing our cries. When we are most in need, you are always there beside us. Thank you for the different ways in which you speak to us, challenge and sustain us, and most of all for the forgiveness we receive from our Lord Jesus Christ, which helps relieve us of our bitterness.

We pray in his most holy name, AMEN

A poster for Saturday Worship Night. The background is dark with a purple and blue bokeh effect. A hand is visible in the center, reaching upwards. The text 'Saturday' is in a large, white, cursive font. 'Worship' is in a large, yellow, sans-serif font. 'Night' is in a large, purple, sans-serif font. To the left of 'Night' is the word 'COMMUNITY' in small, white, vertical capital letters. To the right of 'Night' is the word 'JOY' in small, white, capital letters. Below this, in white capital letters, is 'AN EVENING TO BE REFRESHED & RENEWED AS WE WORSHIP JESUS'. Further down, in white capital letters, are the dates '19 JULY', 'SAT 20 SEPTEMBER', and '15 NOVEMBER'. To the right of these dates is '7-9 PM'. Below the dates is 'PALMER HALL, FAIRFORD'. At the bottom, in small white capital letters, is 'for more info contact saturdayworshipnight@gmail.com'.

NOTICES

Torches in Churchyard

Whilst the work is continuing in the Church Porch it is advisable to take a torch with you if you are going to a late service or a concert as the walk to the West Door is not very well lit and the path is uneven in parts. Do be extra careful.

St Mary's Church, Fairford

Glass doors update

The picture shows the newly laid floor, mat well (under preparation) and the oak frame which has been fitted to carry the doors. The glass doors have been at the London Studio for several weeks now where, Tracey Sheppard, was doing the engraving - detailed work which was completed some weeks ago.

We are currently awaiting delivery of the door mechanism boxes (which will be set into the floor under the doors) and the controls. In the meantime preparation of the floor to accommodate the operating mechanism was under way early last week - all in anticipation of the doors being returned to the church to start fitting. That was due last Thursday 10th July, but unfortunately we were informed at the last minute that there was another delay and we are currently awaiting a new start date for the installation. This will obviously take some time once the doors arrive, with connection to the power supply thereafter.



Mervyn Cully

Continuing to Help People in Ukraine

Very many thanks again for all you are giving for the people of Ukraine, who still very much need our help. We had another car full of your kind gifts including some fine blankets and candles when we took them to the Ukrainian Church in Gloucester. We are grateful to those who have given blankets but they have said they don't need any more at present. All the smaller items such as toiletries, medical supplies and candles are still very much wanted. Many thanks.

Geoff and Hope Price

Used Cards

Thank you for all those who have donated their used Cards to The Cobalt Unit. They continue to be very grateful for all cards.

If you have any Easter; Mothering Sunday, Birthday; Thank you; New House etc – they can be recycled to raise funds for The Cobalt Unit to help diagnose Cancer and Dementia. Please put your cards (there is no need to cut off the written bit as they put a cover over this) in The Paper Recycling box in The Corpus Christi Chapel in St Mary's Church Fairford.

Thank you in anticipation. Carol Thompson

Save the date!

A Sustainable Church Flowers event is planned for the morning of Friday 19th September in the church. It will include flower arranging demonstrations, a talk from a representative of Flowers from the Farm, a question and answer session and, of course, coffee and cake. It will be possible to book places in advance. Further details to follow.

Beth

07791 841201

Support our Churches One Step (Or Pedal) at a Time

Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust (GHCT) is delighted to announce that Ride+Stride is back for 2025, taking place on the 13th of September.

This annual event invites people across Gloucestershire and North Bristol to visit churches by walking, cycling, horse-riding or using public transport, all while raising money to support their upkeep. Funds raised are split between the participant's chosen church and GHCT, which provides grants for vital repair and improvement work.

Ray Singleton, Ride+Stride Co-ordinator, said:

"Ride+Stride is a great way for people to come together, enjoy our local area and support these important buildings so they can continue to serve their communities. It's not just about worship. Many churches host school events, local clubs and charities that rely on the space.

We're already hearing that some fascinating routes are being planned and many churches will be putting on special events for participants to enjoy on the day. In past years, we've seen everything from tower tours and heritage open days to organ recitals and bake sales. There's always something exciting happening along the way."

In 2024, Ride+Stride raised over £36,000, supporting projects such as roof repairs, fire door replacements and improved wheelchair access. If you'd like to get involved this year, further information can be found on our website: <https://ghct.org.uk/ride-and-stride>

Go Wild






BUG HUNT



*In St Mary's Churchyard
Fairford*

*Tuesday 5th
August*

10am-12pm

-  Scavenger hunts
-  Quiz
-  Bug facts
-  Crafts
-  Refreshments (Yes that means biscuits!)

*All ages welcome!
Children please bring an
accompanying adult*


St Mary's Church
• FAIRFORD •





We plan to play host to a series of musical concerts this year to raise money and the profile of our beautiful church.

28th July – a late afternoon (5pm) concert with cellist Orlando Jopling with refreshments

23rd September – the internationally acclaimed Carducci Quartet returns in a very special evening concert accompanied by the peerless baritone, Roderick Williams OBE.

29th November – Fairford & District Choral Society Winter Concert

13th December - Coln Choir Concert

This is an exciting programme, and it needs good organisation. Thank you to everyone who has offered to help make these events a success. If you would like to help with making these concerts a success in raising money for the church. Please speak to a member of the PCC to find out more or to express an interest. Your PCC members are (in order alphabetical): Doug Crowley, Jackie Cullum, Fiona Gilroy, Alison Godsal, Sheila Hughes, Jane Emma Peerless, Jos Price, Meg Ralph, David Salter, Michael Vann

News from the PCC

Help wanted:

A Treasurer. Our current excellent Treasurer Jos Price has let us know she wishes to step down, so we are looking for someone new to take on this vital role. Ideally you will be very comfortable with financial spreadsheets and financial accounting. The role involves handling incoming and outgoing funds and working with our accountant to deliver the end-of-year accounts. Familiarity with financial technology a bonus.

MUSIC

• AT ST MARY'S •

Orlando Jopling plays Bach Cello suites 1,2 and 3



**Church of St Mary the Virgin, Fairford
5.00pm Monday 28th July 2025**

**Join us for a late afternoon concert with drinks and
canapés as part of Orlando's Cello Pilgrimage.**

Tickets £15. School students £7.50

**Buy on the day from 4.15pm or in advance from the
Parish Office or Fairford Opticians on 01285 713313**

**Concert in aid of the Church Roof
Charity Number 1211718.**


St Mary's Church
• FAIRFORD •

Unaffordable bills?

A home that's hard to heat?

Come and chat to us about energy-saving in your home and free government-funded improvements



10:30am - 12:00pm



Wednesday 16 July



Fairford Talking Café - Fairford Community Centre

- Warm Homes Local Grant scheme details
- Eligibility requirements
- Examples of funded home improvement measures



0800 500 3076

severnwyewell.org.uk/upgrade



Charity No: 1083812

