



*Fairford Steam Rally will be in the  
Market Place on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> August at 5.00 pm*



## South Cotswold Team Ministry Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2025

### Clergy

Vicar: Rev'd Caroline Symcox - 01285 712467

carolinesymcox@googlemail.com

Curate: Rev'd Vicky Falvey – 07356 234248

revvickyfalvey@gmail.com

## SERVICES

### **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> August** – 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity

8.00 am BCP Holy Communion

10.00 am Common Worship Holy Communion

Sidespeople: Michelle Harris and Heather Gorton

Readings: Meg Ralph

Intercessions: Alison Godsall

Offertory: Wendy Close/Alison Cohoon Prayer Rota: Valerie Trafford and

*Coffee: Kathleen Hall and Sheila Hughes*

Rev'd Canon Denise Hyde

### **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> August**

5.00 pm Community Prayers

### **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> August**

10.30 am Holy Communion

### **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August** – 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity

8.00 am BCP Holy Communion

10.00 am Common Worship Holy Communion

Sidespeople: Kim Sutton and Carol Thompson

Readings: Linda Howlett

Intercessions: Janet Edwards

Offertory: Fiona Gilroy

Prayer Rota: Sheila Hughes and Mary Mawle

*Coffee: Christine and Stewart Benzie*

**From Caroline** - [carolinesymcox@googlemail.com](mailto:carolinesymcox@googlemail.com), 01285 712467

Readings for Sunday: Jeremiah 23.23-29; Hebrews 11.29-12.2; Luke 12.49-56

It feels as if we're living in a very strange time. Or perhaps 'strange' is the wrong word. It feels as if we're living in a hateful, divided time, when everything seems to be mixed up and confused. We see the news coming in, of events in our own country, and from overseas, and we wonder what on earth is going on. Have people changed so much? When did people stop valuing peace? When did they stop caring about human lives? When did empathy become a negative attribute? It can make us feel lost. It can even make us feel despairing – because what is the right path in the midst of so much awful strangeness?

The words of our scriptures this Sunday, especially in Jeremiah, and Jesus in Luke's gospel, may initially feel discomforting. They speak of conflict and division and hardship, and that feels at odds of what we so often want to hear from Jesus – words of peace and salvation. Not today. "Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth?" Jesus demands. "No, I tell you, but rather division!"

But as we reflect upon God's words, I find that there is a message for us there that might not promise smoothness and ease, but which instead leads us to something far better. Jeremiah's time, Jesus' time, and the time of all those heroes of the faith named in Hebrews, are times of conflict and decision, and their call is a call to faith. Yes there is division. Yes there is hate. Yes, there are people who claim to be speaking truth who we know in our hearts cannot be doing so. God never calls us to hate, only to love, and holding on to that requires courage. It requires faith, and a willingness to face the challenge of division firmly anchored to our rock and cornerstone, Jesus Christ.

Are we told that to empathise is to be weak? We know better. We know, because Christ shows that to us. Are we told that to love every human being is foolishness? We know better, because Jesus tells us to love as he loved us – with sacrifice, with strength, and with a willingness not to count the cost. We are led to courage and steadfastness, measuring our steps alongside that 'great cloud of witnesses' that have gone before us.

We look around and we can interpret the present time. We know that it is a time to turn to Christ, and hold fast, in his strength.

*Rev'd Caroline*

Join us for Morning Prayer via Zoom on Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday at 9am every week. Click below for the week starting 18<sup>th</sup> August:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87240572771?pwd=hw4iTbJpaGRfJPLIyfwUbhB3SgoKaY.1>

Meeting ID: 872 4057 2771

Passcode: 375008

**From Heather** Email address: [fairfordpcc@gmail.com](mailto:fairfordpcc@gmail.com) or [heathergorton31@gmail.com](mailto: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.

o0o

**Please remember the following in your prayers:**

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

**Those who have died:**

Susan Rushton, Valerie Cole, John Coates

## **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](mailto:denisehyde15@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 collected by the contractors from the London Studio where Tracey Sheppard did the engraving - detailed work which was completed some weeks ago.

It appears that the mechanism boxes (which will be set into the floor under the doors) and the controls are now imminently available, so assuming the preparation of the floor is in order for the boxes, we have a new date for receiving the doors at the church and starting the installation - namely Thursday, 14th August.

Given that there is no further delay, fitting the doors will obviously take some days, with connecting up 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. Our next visit to Gloucester will be on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September. 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*

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

***Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust (GHCT) is delighted to announce that Ride+Stride is back, taking place on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2025.***

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>*



## **Fairford Steam Show 2025**

It's full steam ahead for the Fairford Steam, Classic & Retro Show 2025 taking place on Saturday and Sunday August 16 and 17.

Get a taster before the weekend by coming to see some of the steam engines and exhibits in Fairford Market Place GL7 4AF for the Steam in the Square free event on Friday August 15 from 5pm-10pm.

The Bull Hotel's bar will be open, as well as an outside bar in the Market Place where you can order drinks and food.

This is Fairford Steam's third year back and organiser, Steve Evans said: "I'm thrilled to say that exhibitor numbers are well up on previous years. We are now at full capacity! I think we must be doing something right and giving people in and around Fairford an annual Steam show to look forward to."

Many favourites will be returning including Ken Fox's Wall of Death and there'll be lots of new exhibits and things to do for all ages as well as live music on the Saturday night.

The popular free bus service will also be running all weekend in and out of Fairford to the Show at Lake Field GL7 4BT and return.

Fairford Steam that aims to showcase local businesses and what's good about Fairford is open:

On Saturday at 9am, last entry 7pm ready for the evening entertainment. Entry between 5pm-7pm will be charged at £5 per person. On Sunday between 9am-5pm.

### **Tickets**

- Advance discounted tickets can be bought online at [www.fairfordsteamshow.co.uk](http://www.fairfordsteamshow.co.uk) (up to the evening before the event) – adults £8; children 5-16 years £4; under 5 years free; family tickets (2 adults + 2 children) £20.
- Or on the gate on the day – adults £10; children 5-16 years £5; under 5 years free; family tickets (2 adults + 2 children) £25.
- Saturday entry after 5pm-7pm only on the gate - £5.



## **The Churchyard was Buzzing!**

St Mary's Churchyard was literally buzzing on the morning of Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> August, and it wasn't just the resident insects! The bike rack near the gate was full as over 54 children, all with accompanying adults, enjoyed the activities which had been planned and set up by members of St Mary's Eco Church Group, along with other church and community volunteers, led and organised by Rosannah (Rosy) Bruce-Gardner using her nannying and childcare skills to great effect.

Children, parents and carers joined in, with magnifying glasses, activity sheets for different age groups and five different craft activities, laid out on the grass and tables. There were picnic rugs and cushions where groups sat and chatted or looked at nature books whilst enjoying some of the delicious refreshments provided. Others just enjoyed exploring and running around. Information boards showed hundreds of different types of insects, including many that mimicked each other for their own benefit. These were provided by Sarah Lovatt, who has encyclopaedic knowledge of insects and will be giving a talk entitled 'Small Creature Magic in Fairford' on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> August, in the Community Centre at 7pm.

It was an opportunity to learn new facts, for instance, I learnt that the collective noun for ladybirds is a 'loveliness'! It was a place to be creative, with a choice of craft activities including insect masks (butterflies were popular), pictures using pressed dried flowers and leaves, a natural collage and leaf rubbings. It was a chance for children and adults to socialise and to enjoy being outside in a beautiful space, surrounded by nature and members of our community. The sun shone and it felt like Fairford at its best.

Thank you so much to all those who helped and to those who came along, for making it such a very special morning.

Beth Bruce-Gardner on behalf of St Mary's Eco Church Group  
August 2025



## SMALL CREATURE MAGIC IN FAIRFORD

### A TALK WITH SLIDES

by Sarah Lovatt

**Wednesday**

**20 August 2025**

**7.00pm for 7.30pm**

**Farmor Room**

**Fairford Community Centre**

**Free entry**

**Refreshments by donation**

**(In aid of the Church Roof)**

*There are clever cuckoo bumblebees  
and colourful cuckoo wasps.  
There are flies that look like bees  
and bees that look like wasps.  
There are hoverflies that look like bees and wasps  
and one that looks like a hornet.  
Some sawflies look like wasps and then,  
there are wasps that look, well, frankly odd!  
It is the wasp season after all and there are around  
9,000 species of them in this country.  
Confused? Intrigued? Would like to see?  
Then do come along - brilliant disguises by  
interesting small creatures will be shown together  
with some familiar favourites and possible  
seasonal sightings.*





*Cirencester Deanery invites you to*  
**A Morning of  
Sustainable  
Church Flowers**

**Friday 19th  
September  
9.30am-12.30pm**

**At St Mary's  
Church, Fairford  
GL7 4AF**



- *Flower arranging demonstrations*
- *A talk about 'Flowers from the Farm'*
- *Ideas for harvest and winter*
- *Tea, Coffee and Cake*

**Tickets  
Cost £6 cash  
on the day.**

**Bookings  
Rosemary Bailey  
[meajrb@aol.com](mailto:meajrb@aol.com)**

 **SCF**  
SUSTAINABLE CHURCH FLOWERS



# CONCERT

CARDUCCI STRING QUARTET  
RODERICK WILLIAMS (Baritone)

Schubert Quartet D87: Die schöne Müllerin (arr.for quartet)



**Church of St Mary the Virgin, Fairford**  
**7PM Tuesday 23 September 2025**

**Tickets £25 or £20 | £10 for Student & Under 18's**  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/carducci-fairford25](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/carducci-fairford25) (fees apply)  
0333 666 3366 or by cash at Fairford opticians 01285 713313

  
**St Mary's Church**  
• FAIRFORD •

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*Windows*



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

**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

**13<sup>th</sup> 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**

### ***Searching for a new Treasurer:***

Our excellent Treasurer, Jos Price, has now stepped down after two years of hard work. This means we are in dire need of someone to step forward to take on this vital role.

Ideally we would be looking for someone comfortable with financial spreadsheets and financial accounting, but a dedication and willingness to learn is a great place to start. 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.