



A good year for blackberries.



South Cotswold Team Ministry Sunday 14th September 2025

Clergy

Vicar: Rev'd Caroline Symcox - 01285 712467

carolinesymcox@googlemail.com

Curate: Rev'd Vicky Falvey – 07356 234248

revvickyfalvey@gmail.com

SERVICES

Sunday 14th September – 13th Sunday after Trinity – Holy Cross Day

8.00 am BCP Holy Communion

10.00 am Common Worship Holy Communion

Sidespeople: Jill Connell and Heather Gorton

Readings: Peter Howlett

Intercessions: Meg Ralph

Offertory: Wendy Close

Prayer Rota: Ruth Blackwell & Ann Nicholls

Coffee: Linda and Peter Howlett

Monday 15th September

5.00pm Community Prayers

Thursday 18th September

10.30 am Holy Communion

Sunday 21st September – 14th Sunday after Trinity

8.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.00am Common Worship Holy Communion

Sidespeople: Kim Sutton and Andy Wilkinson

Readings: Mike Godsall

Intercessions: Ruth Blackwell

Offertory: Jane Easton

Prayer Rota: Val Trafford and Sheila Hughes

Coffee: David and Sally Salter

From the Rev'd Vicky Falvey

The Cross: Lifted Up for Life

Readings: Numbers 21: 4-9, Philippians 2:6-11, John 3:13-17

The Feast of the Holy Cross- which we mark as a Church on Sunday- reminds us that what once was an instrument of shame and suffering has, in Christ, become the greatest symbol of hope, healing, and life. The cross stands at the centre of our faith because it is where the love of God was lifted high for the whole world to see.

In *Numbers 21:4–9*, the people of Israel were discouraged and rebellious in the wilderness. When serpents came among them, many were bitten and died. Yet God, in mercy, provided a way of healing: a bronze serpent lifted high on a pole. Whoever looked upon it lived. That moment of being “lifted up” was a turning point between death and life.

In *John 3:13–17*, Jesus uses this image to explain his own mission. “Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.” On the cross, Jesus was lifted up—not to condemn the world, but to save it. The cross becomes the clearest picture of God’s love: “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son.”

St. Paul, in *Philippians 2:6–11*, reminds us that Christ humbled himself, taking the path of obedience even to death on a cross. But because of that humility, God exalted him, lifting him up and giving him the name above every name. The cross was not the end—it was the beginning of glory.

The Feast of the Holy Cross invites us to see how this “lifting up” speaks to our lives today. Each of us knows the weight of sin, worry, or grief. Each of us knows what it means to feel pressed down by the burdens of life. Yet the cross reminds us that Christ has carried the heaviest burden already. He was lifted up so that we might be lifted into forgiveness, healing, and hope.

The cross also calls us to a way of life. To “take up the cross” is not to live in despair, but to follow Jesus in humility, service, and love. It is to trust that God’s way of lifting up comes through the path of self-giving.

As we mark the Feast of the Holy Cross, let us look to the cross not only as a symbol of suffering but as a sign of salvation. Not as defeat, but as victory. Not as death, but as life. For Christ was lifted up for the world—and through him, God promises to lift us up too.

Join us for Morning Prayer via Zoom on Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday at 9am every week. Click below for the week starting 15th September:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82935916039?pwd=JrlsJG9qsYK7MozuvG5mjsKBa9sP8w.1>

Meeting ID: 829 3591 6039 Passcode: 636874

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.

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Please remember the following in your prayers:

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

Those who have died:

John 'Des' Coates, Rosemary Westlake, Brenda Alder, Mike Fidler
Jane Kidd – Memorial service 2.30pm, Monday 22nd Sep – St Mary's
David Lawrence – Funeral service 2pm, Thursday 18th Sep – 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

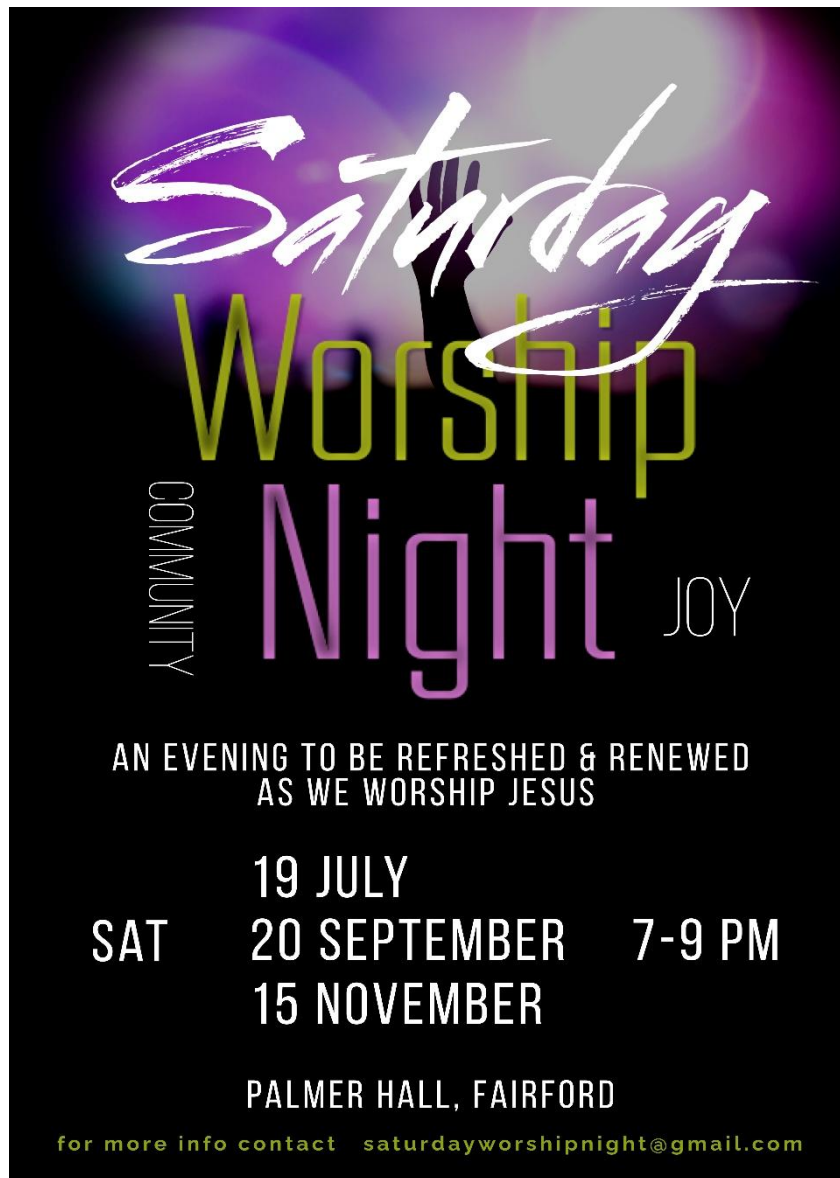
From Ann Nicholls

Words of affirmation will always create an atmosphere in your home that is conducive to calm and repose.

O Lord, we are all travellers in this world and we are all traveling to your country. May we not treat anyone as a foreigner or as an outsider, but simply as a fellow human being made in your image. Help us not to despise or oppose what we do not understand.

For the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

AMEN



NOTICES

Technical assistance needed please on Friday 19th September!

Would you be willing to help set up and operate the screen in the church including linking to a laptop, for a flower demonstration and talk on Friday 19th September in the morning? If you think you could help, please message or call Beth on 07791 841201 or smileitsbethbg@gmail.com

Tea, coffee and cake provided! Thank you!

Coffee Rota

Every Sunday refreshments are available after the 10am service, served by a trusty group of volunteers. We now have a few vacancies in the rota (for one or more helpers) so this would be a good time to join it! We have about 20 people on the rota so it's not too onerous - your turn would only come up every 2 or 3 months. It's an enjoyable way to meet people and is much appreciated. If you are interested in getting involved please talk to Sarah Bottomley on 01285712074 or stmaryslmt@gmail.com



The New Glass Doors – update 10th September

The doors have now been fitted as you can see from picture the view into the church during the day will be obstructed only by the new glass doors which feature the enchanting manifestation by Tracey Sheppard. When fully operational, both the metal gates and the oak door will be fixed open when the church is open, and both closed when the church is locked for the night.

The doors are controlled by electric mechanism boxes which have been fitted into the floor under the doors and are activated by push buttons mounted on the wall inside the church and on a separate post in the porch. The correct post has been supplied and is being fitted this week, following which it should be possible to use the porch with the doors operating as designed.

One or two adjustments are still required which may require the west door to be used for the odd day but nothing more. The new mat well has been screeded and the new mat will be fitted, following which the porch will get a thorough clean!

In short, it should be possible to use the porch within a couple of days, complete with working glass doors!

As the final phase of this project, it is hoped to fit a single hanging lantern but difficulty in establishing the roof strength means that certain investigations have to be concluded before being able to make a definite commitment. In any event this will be dealt with as a separate item always assuming we are confident as to the loading capacity of the roof.

Mervyn Cully

Mervyn Cully

Items for Ukraine

The people taking a van to Ukraine no longer have room for bedding, clothing or shoes. They are VERY grateful for all the items on the blue poster here. We will continue to take them to the Ukrainian Church in Gloucester who are transporting them to Ukraine. If you have a question about any other items, please phone us on 0779 555 4102

Thank you.

Geoff & Hope

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



Please Save the Date!

Fairtrade Fortnight is coming up (22nd September until 5th October) with the theme 'Brew it Fair' and we will be holding a Fairtrade Tea Party on **Saturday 27th September** in the Barker Room. Although a tea party, fitting in with this year's theme, it will be in the morning from 10.30 – 12, and yes, coffee will also be available! Please pop the date in your diary now and come and join us on the day.

Dates for your diaries

- St Mary's Church Choir Autumn Concert, Sunday 19th October 2.30pm – 4pm. Come along to enjoy a selection of sacred and secular music, with refreshments included! Free entry, but donations gratefully received.
- Remembering Service, Sunday 2nd November, 3pm. We remember those who have died, especially in the preceding year, but anyone we have lost and wish to remember and name.
- Remembrance Sunday, Sunday 9th November, starting 10.50am in church, or 10.30am outside the Hyperion House Nursing Home.

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.

**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

COFFEE MORNING



Saturday 13th September

10:30 - 11:45 AM

Quenington Village Hall

In aid of

**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**



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**

 **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 (fees apply)
0333 666 3366 or by cash at Fairford opticians 01285 713313


St Mary's Church
• FAIRFORD •

sponsored by

HOLDSWORTH
Windows



CRAFT & CHAT

Hosted by I Felt Fantastic

£7



THURSDAY
25TH
SEPTEMBER

We will be joined by I Felt Fantastic to make felted sunflower. This is a wet felt something we haven't done before!

- Just bring your chat and laughter
- Fairford Community Centre 7pm-9pm

Contact Mary Ann for more details
07555738138

Churches Together around Fairford

Harvest Supper



Thursday, October 23rd

at 7:00 pm in the Farmor Room,

Fairford Community Centre

Cottage pie (vegetarian option) and apple crumble

Entertainment by Barry and Jean Kilgariff

Tickets £5

Proceeds to : Christians Against Poverty

and : Help Madina

Tickets are available now!

Please contact Jeremy and Katie Blake by email - ekatie.blake@gmail.com - or message on 07480 235066.

We also need people to provide either a cottage pie or an apple crumble for 8 people. If you can help with this, please contact us using the above details.



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.

11th October – The Blue Notes and Coln Choir sing 'Harvest Harmonies'

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, Meg Ralph, David Salter, Michael Vann