

The colours are spectacular this Autumn



South Cotswold Team Ministry Sunday 26th October 2025

Clergy

Vicar: Rev'd Caroline Symcox - 01285 712467 carolinesymcox@googlemail.com

Curate: Rev'd Vicky Falvey – 07356 234248 revvickyfalvey@gmail.com

SERVICES

Sunday 26th October – 19th Sunday after Trinity

8.00 am BCP Holy Communion

10.00 am Family Service

Coffee: Janet Edwards and Beth Bruce-Gardner 6.00 pm Healing Service with Holy Communion

Monday 27th October

5.00 pm Community Prayers

Thursday 30th October

10.30 am Holy Communion

Sunday 2nd November – All Saints Day

8.00 am BCP Holy Communion

10.00 am Common Worship Holy Communion Sidespeople: Jenny Hewes and Jilli Connell

Readings: Fiona Gilroy Intercessions: Meg Ralph

Offertory: David/Sally Salter Prayer Rota: Ruth Blackwell and Michelle Harris

Coffee: Christine and Stewart Benzie

3.00 pm Remembering Service 6.00 pm Prayer and Praise

From Rev'd Vicky - revvickyfalvey@gmail.com, 07356 234248

The Most Valuable Thing This World Affords

(Matthew 13:44-58)

"This Book, the most valuable thing that this world affords."

— from the Coronation Service

During the coronation of a new monarch, a Bible is presented with those moving words — a reminder that the Scriptures are not simply ancient writings, but a **living treasure**. The Bible is the Word of God, offered to guide, challenge, and sustain us.

On this **Bible Sunday**, we are invited to rediscover that treasure — to hold it not only in our hands, but in our hearts and daily lives.

In Matthew 13:44–58, Jesus tells two short but striking parables — the **Hidden Treasure** and the **Pearl of Great Price**. In both, someone finds something of immeasurable worth and joyfully givesup everything to possess it.

These parables show us what it means to encounter the Word of God. Like treasure buried in a field, Scripture often lies waiting to be uncovered. Like the pearl, it reveals its beauty and worth to those who seek it with devotion and love.

Finding the treasure is discovery; attaining it is transformation.

Such transformation doesn't happen by accident. Just as the man sold all he had to buy the field, we too must make **space for God's Word** in our lives.

Building a **regular pattern of Bible reading** — a few verses in the morning, a psalm at night, or a Gospel passage each day — allows the Word to become familiar ground, a place where God's voice can be heard amid life's noise.

If you're wondering where to start:

- Sign up for the Bible Reading Fellowship's daily Bible notes (details are in this newsletter from Sarah).
- Challenge yourself to read a short section of a Gospel each day, listening for what Jesus might be saying.
- Try a devotional app like *Lectio 365*, *Bible in One Year*, or *YouVersion* for daily readings and reflections.

The important thing is not *how much* you read, but that you read *regularly* and with an open heart.

So, this **Bible Sunday**, may we take up again "the most valuable thing that this world affords."

Let us dig deeply into the field of God's Word — not just to **find** it, but to **attain** it. May the Scriptures be our daily joy, our guide, and our pearl of great price.

As Rev'd Caroline is away from 22nd October, there will be no Morning Prayers. It will return on Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday at 9am beginning in the week commencing 3rd November.

From Heather - fairfordpcc@gmail.com or heathergorton31@gmail.com 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 or home. 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

Those who have died: Tony Gray, Ronald Cole

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

Remembering Service 2nd November at 3pm

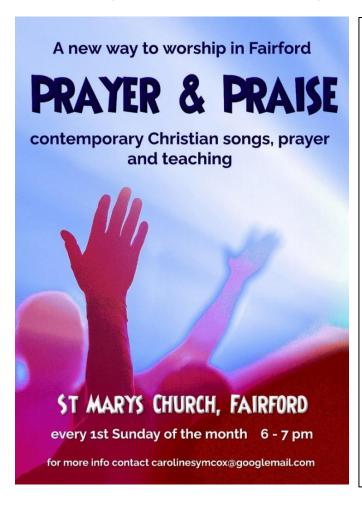
This is a simple, quiet and reflective service, remembering our loved ones who have died. During the service the names of those who have died during the past year from this parish will be read out before God. If you would like to add other names to this list of your loved ones who have died, please contact Rev'd Denise.Contact details - denisehyde15@gmail.com or 01285 713285

Prayer/Thought for the Week

A higher price was paid by God to show his love for us. Through Christ, that love is freely available.

O love, that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee, I give thee back the life I owe, that in thine ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be. O cross that liftest up my head, I dare not ask to fly from thee, I lay in dust life's glory dead, and from the ground there blossoms red life that shall endless be. George Matheson 1842-1906 If you have a favorite verse, prayer or hymn that you would like to see in this slot please email or give it to me Ann, at nichollsander@btinternet.com

Next Prayer and Praise – Sunday 2nd November



<u>Prayer and Praise – first Sunday</u> of the month 6 – 7 pm

We are delighted to invite you to our contemporary-style service at St Mary's. Everyone is welcome.

This is a wonderful opportunity to invite family, friends and neighbours to church, especially those who have never been to church, those who haven't been for years or those who have never found a church that feels 'just right' for them. We very much look forward to seeing you at our next service.

For more information please contact:

<u>carolinesymcox@googlemail.com</u> or <u>pa.wilkins@hotmail.co.uk</u>

NOTICES

We need some willing person/persons to help put up the knitted remembrance poppies for the **Remembrance Services** (2nd and 9th **November**) in the porch (involves a ladder) or by the font. If you are interested please contact the Parish Office or email me at fairfordpcc@gmail.com and I will let you know where they are stored. Many thanks Heather

Bible Sunday 26th October.

On this day we will have available some resources for you to look at from the Bible Reading Fellowship. They publish 5 different books of daily Bible Reading notes and examples of these will be on display. If you'd like to learn more about regular Bible Reading do contact Sarah Bottomley on 01285712074 or Sarah.bottomley@btinternet.com or online at brfonline.org.uk/notes

Baby Memorial Service

Thank you so much to everyone who supported our Baby Memorial Service in any way. It was so wonderful to have people from at least four different churches involved with refreshments, prayer, leading the service and providing knitted and crocheted balls. Blessings to all who came. It was a beautiful service.

Kate Lee

Vicar on Holiday

Rev'd Caroline will be taking a few days away from the parish on annual leave between 22nd and 29th October. In her absence, please contact Rev'd Vicky with any clergy matters!

Rev'd Vicky will also be on holiday between 27th October- 5th November. While both clergy are away, please contact the churchwardens.

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, 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*

Harvest Flowers

Thank you to everyone involved with the Harvest flower arrangements. The church looked beautiful with the lovely Autumn colours.

Dates for your diaries

- Remembering Service, Sunday 2nd November, 3pm. This is simple, quiet and reflective service, remembering our loved ones who have died. During the service the names of those who have died during the past year from this parish will be read out before God. If you would like to add other names to this list of your loved ones who have died, please contact Reverend Denise.
- Remembrance Sunday, Sunday 9th November, starting 10.50am in church, or 10.30am outside the Hyperion House Nursing Home.

St Mary's Church Website - Sermons and Readings

Just in case you haven't found them, the sermons and readings are now on the website. These are audio versions of both Caroline's and Vicky's sermons together with the Bible reading references for the week in question and the article from the Parish Newsletter based on the readings written by either Caroline or Vicky.

For those using a desktop layout the menu Sermons and Readings can be found in the right hand column under the Search button. If you are using a mobile phone the right hand column menus can be found at the end of an article.

The button <u>Sermons and Readings</u> will take you to a page listing all the current sermons (from mid September) from which you can select the one you wish to read and listen to.

Doug Crowley

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

Geoff & Hope

Thank you.



Advance Notice - The Fairford Christmas Day Lunch will of be taking place as usual in the Community Centre on - no surprises! - 25th December. Further information and contact details will be available towards the end of October.

Amanda and Mervyn Cully

Fairford & District Choral Society Christmas Concert will be held at 7pm on Saturday 29 November at St Mary's Church, Fairford. The choir will be performing Benjamin Britten's Ceremony of Carols accompanied by Reuben West on the harp. The choir will be joined by Fairford Primary School to perform Wassail by Alexander L'Estrange. The Musical Director will be Nia Llewelyn Jones. Tickets are £15 and available from Fairford Opticians.

A Generous Gift

St Mary's has been given a rare book about the stained glass 'The Fairford Windows' by Rev. J.G.Joyce, published in 1872. The book is very large, (57x16cm) and as well as carefully researched history, has detailed exact drawings of many of the windows. It is now regarded as the standard text on the Fairford glass. Rev Joyce described the difficulties of "carrying out, upon scaffolding at great height, a series of cartoon drawings of which accuracy of line, shading and manner was required." Thin paper was fixed close to the glass and traced with great care, then taken off and coloured on the scaffolding, close to the original, to give as accurate a copy as possible. This paper was then mounted on the thickest continuous paper available to give a life-size exact copy, which was then photographed to give smaller copies to scale. The original drawings are now in the V & A Museum.

Rev. Joyce was Rector of Stratfieldsaye but must have spent hundreds of hours in St. Mary's. The book is dedicated to his wife Ellen, who was the daughter of the Vicar of Fairford, and is described as "records of the much-loved church of her native parish".

The donor was Mr. Francis Witts, who came for a private window tour some weeks ago, bringing the book with him. We greatly enjoyed comparing the 1872 pictures with the present-day restored windows, noticing the differences, and we are extremely grateful that he subsequently decided to give it to the church. Mr. Witts is the great- grandson of the Rev Francis E. Witts who wrote 'The Diary of a Cotswold Parson' and has generously donated the full published Diary (9 large volumes + 2 index volumes) to Fairford History Society. 'The Fairford Windows' has been deposited for the time being for safe keeping in the Archive room of Fairford History Society in the Community Centre. *Margaret Bishop*

Articles and Information

Review of 'The Golden Rule' by Amanda Craig

Fairford Library has worked its magic again and introduced me to a new writer, Amanda Craig. I read her book The Golden Rule - it's a kind of combination of a Hitchcock thriller, a Daphne du Maurier quasi-romance and that relatively new British genre - the Brexit novel. Hannah is newly separated from her husband with a young child, not getting enough support from him and eking out an existence via cleaning jobs to put food on the table. She meets another similarly maritally-estranged woman on the train and they exchange plans to murder each other's troublesome other halves. But needless to say, plans go awry once Hannah arrives in tumble-down Cornish seaside, Gothic mansion with fascinating owner etc.... However the story which ensues does not follow a predictable line, takes some detours to comment on modern Britain - rich vs poor, urban vs rural, incomers vs established Cornish residents, literary fiction vs interactive gaming, and has some nail-biting adventure scenes along the way. Some of the storyline is a bit far-fetched and there is one comically over the top villainous character who is not really believable, but the travails of Hannah to care for her daughter come what may, whether in Hackney or Cornwall, are convincingly portrayed, and the positive and supportive relationship at the heart of the novel rings true and keeps the reader turning the pages to reach a satisfying conclusion. The Golden Rule is, by the way, do as you would be done by.

Lucy Hodson

Fairford History Society – a lovely description of the harvest festival in 1886; the churches in the villages served by Fairford Cottage Hospital all gave their harvest festival offertories to the Cottage Hospital.

From the North Wilts Herald 1 October 1886

On Sunday the annual service of thanksgiving for the ingathering of the harvest were held in the parish church. During the previous days a perfect wealth of corn, flowers, and fruit had been contributed by all sorts and conditions of people in the parish – one proof amongst many of the widespread interest taken in the festivals of the parish church. Willing hearts and clever hands were at work from an early hour on Saturday in bestowing the numerous offerings about the church with much taste and care. The reredos, the decorating of which was undertaken by Miss Duncomber and Mrs Roberts, was thrown into relief by a background of crimson cloth, bordered with corn, surmounted at the pinnacles with groups of bulrushes, festooned with Virginia creeper and very graceful ferns from Colonel. Archer's conservatory. Several rich bunches of grapes (the gift of Lady Katherine Barker) were dependent from the centre of each arcade, Offerings of corn and wine, bread and honey were placed upon the altar-table. The font presented its usual chaste and festal appearance, having been encircled with choice flowers

and ferns, arranged with her never-failing care by Mis Nellie Iles. The prayerdesk, with its chaplet of corn and barberries, and its surroundings of foliage plants was the tasteful work of Mrs and Miss White. A simple vine shaft, with its symbolic fruit, encircled the lectern, the work of Mrs Cox. Mrs Bloxsome, Mrs Tovey, Miss Miller, Mrs Simpson, Mrs Kimber, and many other parishioners rendered valuable assistance. A large selection of hot-house plants were brought by Mr Charles Kibblewhite, and on Sunday arranged by him with excellent taste. There was a celebration of Holy Communion at 8.30am, Full choral service at 11 o'clock was followed by a festival evensong at six pm. At the former the Rev A Lediard preached. In the evening the Vicar, in pleading for the Cottage Hospital, announced that a site had been granted for the long-talked of new building by Mr Barker; also that a portion of the necessary funds was in hand, and that the new building would at once be proceeded with. A large congregation was, as usual, present at the evening service, and the offertories during the day amounted to £6 9s 11d – a sum which will be doubtless supplemented by those who were unable to be present. A word of praise must be given to the choir for the hearty manner in which the services were sung – both boys and men acquitted themselves with great credit. The fruit, corn and vegetables were afterwards distributed to the sick, and to other inhabitants of the parish.







In May 2025 a ground-breaking display of plastic-free funeral flowers was awarded a gold medal at RHS Chelsea Flower Show. This was the first time ever that funeral flowers had been exhibited at Chelsea.

Putting sustainable funeral flowers on such a high-profile stage had a hugely positive effect on starting public conversations about the role of both funerals and funeral flowers and attracted widespread media attention.

Making plastic-free funeral flowers easy to find

By asking florists to highlight compostable designs on their websites, the Directory encourages us to think about how we can move away from using plastic-derived foam for the majority of floral tributes seen in crematoria and cemeteries across the country.

The Farewell Flowers Directory is an online, not-for-profit organisation, launched in May 2024. In addition to making sustainable funeral flowers easier to find, it aims to bring discussions about funeral flowers into the public realm.

Working with the funeral industry

The Farewell Flowers Directory has provided speakers for the conferences of The Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management and for The Association of Green Funeral Directors.

It's estimated that every year, over 14,670 cubic metres of floral foam and single use plastic are sent to landfill from crematoriums across the UK. That's the equivalent of 6 Olympic swimming pools.

Promoting naturally beautiful, plastic-free funeral flowers

Farewell Flowers want to show just how beautiful funeral flowers can be, and the huge range of choices available. The aim is to inspire and spark conversations about ideas for flowers and to encourage more open discussions around funeral wishes in the widest sense. They think that talking about these issues gives us all more choice, and also more power to take control over how we say goodbye and the environmental legacy we leave.

Directory founder, Gill Hodgson, was awarded an MBE in the King's New Year's Honours list 2025 for her work in transforming UK flower growing and floristry.

For more information or to find local funeral flowers:

https://www.farewellflowers.co.uk

This article has been compiled using information from the Farewell Flowers website.

Beth Bruce-Gardner October 2025

Pictures show part of the Farewell Flowers Gold medal winning exhibit at Chelsea with Gill Hodgson, founder of Farewell Flowers and the Flowers from the Farm directory, also Kathryn Hurst, one of the founder members of Sustainable Church Flowers (and Beth!)

The picture at the beginning of the article shows the sustainable arrangement made in memory of our friend Jane Kidd.



About October

October is seen by many to be a time of real seasonal change, both in the northern and southern hemispheres. For those in the north, fall is really kicking into gear and the nights are getting cooler. October is also a time to start stocking up on firewood for the long winter season to ensure you're kept warm all the way through until spring. October is unsurprisingly quite different for those who live in the southern hemisphere.

Like every other month of the year, October has plenty to show for itself. The meaning behind October's name is far from accurate these days. The ancient Roman calendar was based on the lunar cycles, as opposed to our current calendar which is based on the solar cycles. This meant that there were originally 10 months in their calendar, and October was the eighth month. Its name literally translated into "the eighth month" in Latin. In 451 BC the two months of lanurarius and Februarius were added to the beginning of the calendar, making October the 10th month.

There are seven months in the year with 31 days and October is the sixth of them. The amount of days hasn't changed over the ages either, with the ancient Roman calendar also placing 31 days in October. The Anglo-Saxons' name for October was Winterfylleth, with its name containing the words for winter and full moon respectively. It was named this because winter was said to begin from the first full moon of the month.

The Saxons had a name for October, too. Theirs was Wyn Monath, which translated into "wine month" because it was the time of the year for making wine. I'm not sure about you, but I think October just became my favourite month! October is a rather beautiful time of year if you live in the northern hemisphere. It's the time of year that the colour of leaves begins to change into a magnificent array of hues.

The Twyford church in Hampshire has a tradition of ringing its bells every year on October 7th. The origin of this tradition goes back to the 18th Century when a local resident called William David became lost in heavy fog while riding home at night. Much to his luck, he heard the church bells toll and from this, he managed to find his way home. As a form of thanks, he left some money to the church when he died so that the church could continue to ring their bells on October 7th every year, just in case there were any other lost travellers.

The first full moon after the Harvest Moon quite often falls in October and even has its own name. Known as the Hunter's Moon, it's one of the only two full moons (along with the Harvest Moon) that aren't connected to a specific month. Depending on the year the Hunter's Moon either falls in October or November.

The world-famous Indian political and spiritual leader Mahatma Gandhi was born on October 2, 1869. His worldwide renown is attributed to the nonviolent way in which he resisted the colonial British rule of India.

If you live in the northern hemisphere, you'll be rewarded for keeping your eyes to the skies in October, as the Draconid Meteor Shower can be seen. It contains a single comet that is visible exclusively in the northern hemisphere between October 6th and 10^{th.} An even more impressive meteor shower that is visible in both hemispheres is the Orionid meteor shower, which runs from October 2nd until early November. It is named after Orion as it is usually visible in the same part of the sky as the constellation. At the peak of the meteor shower, as many as 20 meteors are visible every hour.

Taken from the FACTsite



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 2 people to provide a cottage pie for 8 people or 4 people to provide a cottage pie for 4. If you can help with this, please contact us using the above details. Many thanks!



GRAFT & CHAT Hosted by Craft with Amy





THURSDAY 30TH **OCTOBER**

Wire & decoupage insects- might even be some spooky spiders

No experience needed. All materials supplied.

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

Contact Mary Ann for more details 07555738138

The Jane Kidd Eco Talks

Presented by St Mary's Eco Church Group Fairford

Thursday
30th
October

'Building with Cannabis-Industrial Hemp' A talk by architect Jeremy Blake

Farmor Room
Community Centre
Fairford
7pm refreshments

7.30pm start

Future Talks

- Thu 27th Nov
- Thu 29th Jan
- Thu 26th Feb



Advanced booking is not required

There is no charge, but donations to help cover costs would be gratefully received





The Warm Welcome Room & Warm Working
Space is back from 1st of October but also a
Quiet Corner café every Wednesday from 3rd
October!





Tickets are available from Val Trafford. Raising funds for Quenington Village Hall



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

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

contacto for our mary o charon	
Rev'd Caroline Symcox	01285 712467
carolinesymcox@googlemail.com	
Rev'd Vicky Falvey	07356 234248
revvickyfalvey@gmail.com	

<u>Church Wardens</u> David Salter 01285 713062

 Meg Ralph
 07709671845

 Stewards: Alison Godsal
 01285 713101

 & Sally Salter
 01285 713062

Organist: Jean Kilgariff/Choir 01285 712347
Bell Ringers: Tower Captain - Peter Harris 07973686455

Secretary – Michelle Harris 07977472761

St. Mary's Parish Office - Administrator

Contacts for St. Mary's Church

Heather Gorton 01285 712611/712428 Electoral Roll Officer: Heather Gorton 01285 712611 PCC Treasurer: Jos Price 01285 239985

Mobile 07549 627687
Church Flowers: Heather Gorton 01285 712428
Youth Leader: Chris Saunders 01452 301042

Healing Prayer Team Contacts

Mary Mawle 01285 712174
Ann Nicholls 01285 713063
Rev'd Denise 01285 713285

Useful Contacts in Fairford

De	entists:
Μ	Milntho

M Milnthorpe and S. Steer,	
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White Cottage, London Street	01285 713993
Doctors' Surgery:_Keble Lawns,	01285 712377
Fairford Community Centre: High Street,	01285 711571

Fairford & District Choral Society:

James Chute, Chair. 07870 383682

Fairford Firecrackers Womens Institute:

President- Maxine Wells

Secretary- Angela Gardner

Fairford History Society: Alison Hobson

07528041333

07846 314264

01285 711768

Lechlade and Fairford Mothers' Union:

Kathleen Hall

Fairford Hospital (Day Centre): The Croft,
Fairford Pre-School: Leafield Road
Fairford Primary School: Leafield Road,
Fairford Sports Centre
Fairford United Church
Farmor's School: The Park

O1285 712583

0300 4216470

01285 713176

01285 713786

01285 712586

Flying Start Nursery School 01285 711711

Friends of Fairford Church:

Simon Mumford <u>simonmumford@outlook.com</u>
Friends of Fairford Hospital <u>admin@friendsoffairford.org.uk</u>
Library: London Street 01285 712599

Palmer Hall (Bookings): London Street. 01285 712189/711657

Patients Participation Group:

Chairperson: Emma Saxby emmasaxby.coach@gmail.com
St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Church 01285712586
Theatregoers: David & Alison Watkins-Nash 01285 713182

- bookingftg@btinternet.com

Town Council Offices, Community Centre, 01285 712344 U3A: Sue Snell membershipsec@fairfordu3a.org.uk

Wellbeing coordinator-Mary Ann Dibbs -

coordinator@working4wellbeing.org.uk Mobile 07555738138