



The Oxpens

This area was where wooden stalls were used for tethering oxen and other livestock, the hitching rings can be seen.



South Cotswold Team Ministry Sunday 11th January

Clergy

Vicar: Rev'd Caroline Symcox – 01285 712467

carolinesymcox@googlemail.com

Curate: Rev'd Vicky Falvey – 07356 234248

revvickyfalvey@gmail.com

SERVICES

Sunday 11th January – Baptism of Christ – 1st Sunday of Epiphany

8.00 am BCP Holy Communion

10.00 am Common Worship Holy Communion

Sidespeople: Kim Sutton and Heather Gorton

Readings: Fiona Gilroy

Intercessions: Janet Edwards

Offertory: Fiona Gilroy

Prayer Rota: Lucy Hodson and Val Trafford

Coffee: Mary Mawle and Margaret Frazer

Sunday 18th January – 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

8.00 am BCP Holy Communion

10.00 am Common Worship Holy Communion

Sidespeople: Eleanor Toby and Jenny Hewes

Readings: Sally Salter

Intercessions: Alison Godsall

Offertory: Jane Easton

Prayer Rota: Michelle Harris and Sheila Hughes

Coffee: Linda and Peter Howlett

From Rev'd Caroline – Email carolinesymcox@googlemail.com

Readings for Sunday: Isaiah 42.1-9; Acts 10.34-43; Matthew 3.13-end

In this season of Epiphany we are guided to reflect on that central message of Christmas – that Jesus is 'Emmanuel', 'God-With-Us', and all the ways in which we can see that communicated and borne witness to in the life of our Lord.

Last week we looked at the Visitation of the Magi – the visitors from a far land who travelled vast distances to see and worship the new-born Saviour. This week our attention is drawn to the Baptism of Christ, which is the starting point of his ministry proper. From this point we meet Jesus himself, and are shown just who he is, in what he does, says, and embodies. In fact, in Mark's Gospel we don't spend any time on Jesus' birth story at all, but instead begin right in this moment, where Jesus comes to the Jordan to be baptised by John.

In this wonderful event of Jesus' baptism we see two absolutely crucial things about who he is showing himself to be. Firstly, he is showing himself to be humble, and obedient to where the Father is leading him. John doesn't want to baptise Jesus, because he thinks he isn't worthy of that honour, but Jesus reassures him – this moment is bigger than them both: "...it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness." In this moment Jesus is living out solidarity with all those he has come to save. He shares all our experiences, even this one, as he places himself into God's hands.

Secondly, in this moment we see inarguable evidence that Jesus is the Son of God, right here as his story begins. Everyone gathered there, from John the Baptist, to the smallest member of the crowd, hears the voice of God: "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." Out loud, right there on the shore of the Jordan River, God's own voice rings out and declares the truth of who Jesus is. The Holy Spirit, descending like a dove and alighting on Jesus, is anointing Jesus, blessing and preparing him for the long journey to come.

Here we realise that Jesus is being recognised, not by human beings this time, but by God, in the sight and hearing of everyone gathered there. It is a moment of revelation that will then mark the beginning of everything that lies ahead.

For us, this is a great moment to reflect on our baptisms – the moment when we were welcomed into the family of God, and heard God's love for us and blessing upon us pronounced out loud. We too, just like Jesus, have been seen and loved; and in some small way, just like him, are then sent out to live as witnesses to that love. May that amazing revelation live in our hearts this week!

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 12th January.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86481058661?pwd=FeGshzpoy7X6jtffnRmVBjBIFLQ4mC.1>

Meeting ID: 864 8105 8661

Passcode: 548975

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, David and Glynnis Langley

Those who have died: Geoffrey Hawkes, Bob Skinner

Geoffrey Hawkes 1940-2025

We are saddened to hear about the passing of Geoff Hawkes.

Geoff passed away peacefully, in Kendal, Cumbria. He leaves behind Frances, Philip and Simon.

Many of you will have known Geoff, across the 46 years he lived in Fairford. He was very active in Friends of Fairford Church, particularly around the restoration of the windows. He was a familiar face in the church itself, hosting tours and singing in the choir.

A memorial service will be held at 2.30pm in Fairford Church on February 7th, and everyone is warmly invited to celebrate Geoff's life and join in remembering him in love.

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

Prayer/Thought for the Week

Jesus said, "Whenever you offer your gift at the altar and you remember that someone has something against you, leave your gift and go and make peace first." It's still the best advice for reconciliation.

Lord God, we thank you for the message of peace that Christmas brings to our distracted world, give peace among nations, peace in our land, peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts, as we remember the birth at Bethlehem of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ our Lord. We pray in his most holy name, AMEN

NOTICES

Vicarage Telephone

Sadly, the usual telephone line to the Vicarage has developed a fault over the festive season, and is currently non-operational. BT have promised they are on the case, so watch this space, but in the meantime, please do contact Rev'd Caroline via email – carolinesymcox@googlemail.com

PCC Meeting

The PCC will meet at 9am on Tuesday 13th January in the Church Room. Please do hold us in prayer as we seek to discern God's will and follow his directing in the building up of the Church in Fairford.

Church Flowers

We need more volunteers to arrange the church flowers. If you would like to help please contact me. It is a fortnight at a time and at least twice a year. No need to have any experience but willing to help. Please contact Heather – 712428. Thank you.

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*

Fairford Christmas Day Lunch 2025



There were 52 individuals and couples who sat down for the annual Fairford Christmas Day Lunch in the Community Centre in Fairford and it was voted a great success.

The event was due to start at 12.30 and many guests arrived early so as not to miss the first glass of bubbly! Fortunately the invaluable team of volunteers, without whom the event would not happen at all, were there too.

Lunch - turkey with all the trimmings followed by Christmas pudding and custard or fruit salad and cream - was served at about 1.15pm.

The guests were given a quiz over coffee and then watched the King's speech at 3pm, following which everyone enjoyed a game of pass the parcel before departing with a goody bag to sustain them in the evening.

As already mentioned the lunch would not be possible without the support of an invaluable and dedicated team of volunteers who are responsible for every aspect of the event, from a "meet and greet" role to cooking the food, serving it, clearing up, acting as car drivers (for those who do not drive or are disabled) and organising the entertainment.

Thanks are also due to outside local support, particularly the Lechlade & District Lions Club, Andrew Butler Butchers and the Church Lands Trust, as well as very generous financial contributions from many local individuals and other supporters who were prepared to display posters.

(The lunch has been a regular annual event since it was started in 2013 and is offered to individuals and couples who are residents of Fairford, the surrounding villages - and Lechlade who would otherwise be on their own at Christmas and would like to spend some of the time in company).

WHAT'S ON

TRIPS

Friday 30th January W4W go shopping!
£3 join us for Swindon Orbital.
Contact Mary Ann for your place.



January 2026

TODDLER Group

Fridays term time 930am-11am

£1 per family

United Church

Friday 9th January Peppa Pig theme

16th January Soft Play must book for this session

23rd January Under the sea

30th January Teddy bear picnic.

Bring your teddy bear for cake and story time

Family Hub every Wednesday 1030am-12pm Free refreshments and play and stay

Fairford Community centre



WARM ROOM

Tuesday 13th January 1130am-1230pm
hot chocolate and cookies. A talk from Ian about his adventures in Antarctica.

Friday 23rd January 12-2pm Afternoon tea and card games.

Friday 13th February Love quiz and toasties.

Sunday 8th March is a community meal in Lechlade 12pm-2pm Roast dinner.



CRAFT AND CHAT

January Craft and Chat will be Thursday 22nd of January this month.

Join Janet our volunteer for Macrame bracelets 7pm-9pm at Fairford Community Centre. £5



COOKING FOR ZERO WASTE

Last year W4W cooked for friendship coming in April we will have sessions for cooking for Zero Waste. Please contact Mary Ann to book your space.

REGULAR EVENTS

- Monday:** Senior Yoga class £3 currently full. Warm room 10am-2pm
- Tuesday:** Digital Drop in 10am-11am Warm Room 10am-2pm
- Wednesday:** Peer movement class 930am-10am
Fairford Talking Cafe 1030am-12pm
Family Hub 1030am-12pm
- Thursday:** Lechlade Talking Café 1030am-12pm Digital Drop in also available . Lechlade Baptist Church

CONTACT DETAILS

Mary Ann

07555738138

maryann.dibbs@w4w.uk

**Come along to Jos's house in The Croft
for**

Early 9.15 or Lie-In 11.00

Continental Breakfast

**Fruit juice, muesli, yoghurt,
a hot prepared breakfast dish,**



**fresh fruit salad, croissant and jam,
coffee or tea.**

Saturday 24th January

£10.00

Tickets: Church Office, Community Centre.



All proceeds in support of High Five Children's Charities





Come along to our very own Songs of Praise Event in the spring - including



**your chosen favourite hymns and songs, followed by tea and cake.
With the Church Choir and Special Guests**

Fill in the Hymn Choice Form in the Church by 31st January

Donations for:

 ***High Five Project 2026 Fundraising for Children's Charities***
The Magic Breakfast Glos Young Carers The Rainbow Trust
Smile Train Home Start Cotswolds

