



South Cotswold Team Ministry

Sunday 22nd February

Clergy

Vicar: Rev'd Caroline Symcox – 01285 712467

Curate: Rev'd Vicky Falvey – 07356 234248

Pastoral Priest: Rev'd Canon Denise Hyde - 01285 713285

carolinesymcox@googlemail.com

revvickyfalvey@gmail.com

denisehyde15@gmail.com

SERVICES

Sunday 22nd February – 1st Sunday of Lent

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

Thursday 26th February

10.30 am Holy Communion

Sunday 1st March – 2nd Sunday of Lent

8.00 am BCP Holy Communion

10.00 am Common Worship Holy Communion

Sidespeople: Jill Connell and Andy Wilkinson

Readings: Val Trafford

Intercessions: Janet Edwards

Offertory: David/Sally Salter

Prayer Rota: Sheila Hughes and Val Trafford

Coffee: Amanda and Mervyn Cully

6.00 pm Prayer and Praise

From Rev'd Caroline – 01285 712467 – carolinesymcox@googlemail.com
Readings for Sunday: Genesis 2.15-17; 3.1-7; Romans 5.12-19; Matthew 4.1-11

We are now heading into the season of Lent, when we seek to examine ourselves, to recognise our flaws and sins, and to draw closer to God, seeking his forgiveness and promise of new life. This Sunday we start at the beginning, as our readings prompt us to think about the nature of temptation and sin.

Back in the history of the Church, in the 5th Century, one of the major conflicts in what people believed about Jesus' saving power took place between two great thinkers, Augustine and Pelagius. Pelagius argued that people were capable of overcoming temptation and sin themselves, and that Jesus was just an example and encouragement for them to do better. Augustine on the other hand understood sin as something that people simply weren't able to overcome by themselves. Everybody without exception needed the power of Jesus to save them from that sin and temptation and place them on the right path.

We see in the Bible again and again the story played out of how right Augustine was. Human beings might desire to do good, but time and again they fall short. Temptation is too much for them, and they fall away, even with the best of guidance. Jesus offers us something that is otherwise unreachable for us. Only he was able to stand against the temptations offered to him, in the Wilderness as in our reading this morning from Matthew's Gospel, but throughout the rest of his life as well. Jesus is the only human ever who was without sin, even though he was tempted and tested as all of us are.

In the world today, through the marvels of the information age, we see in glorious technicolour just how terrible human beings can be. We turn against God's commands to love the world, to till and keep it; to love Him; to love one another. We see violence, selfishness, hatred and cruelty displayed in crystal clarity. We see how wrong this is. And often we can see no way beyond it. What can one person do against this tide of evil?

When these feelings rise in us, then is the time to turn to our readings this morning. This evil that humanity can brew up can be resisted, can be conquered, and has been – by our Lord and Saviour, who offers us hope and strength day after day to start afresh and to do better, for ourselves and for others. In Lent we don't look away from sin – we look at it directly, even if that looking hurts. We've seen this sin defeated. Jesus didn't give up, and with his power, we won't either.

So at the beginning of this season of penitence and reflection; my prayer is for courage. For that stout-hearted refusal to give up or give in to despair or nihilism, because we are people of the light, and Jesus shines with and for us. Be brave, and let's stand together.

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 16th February.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87108333037?pwd=a7MCjLSDrBFumzCsZrDVubdOvfFI4b.1>

Meeting ID: 871 0833 3037

Passcode: 499423

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.

o0o

Please remember the following in your prayers:

Those who are ill: Grace Slack, Hannah, David and Glynnis Langley, Stewart Benzie, Tabi Berry.

Those who have died: Bob Skinner, Mark Vaughan, Pauline Gray

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)

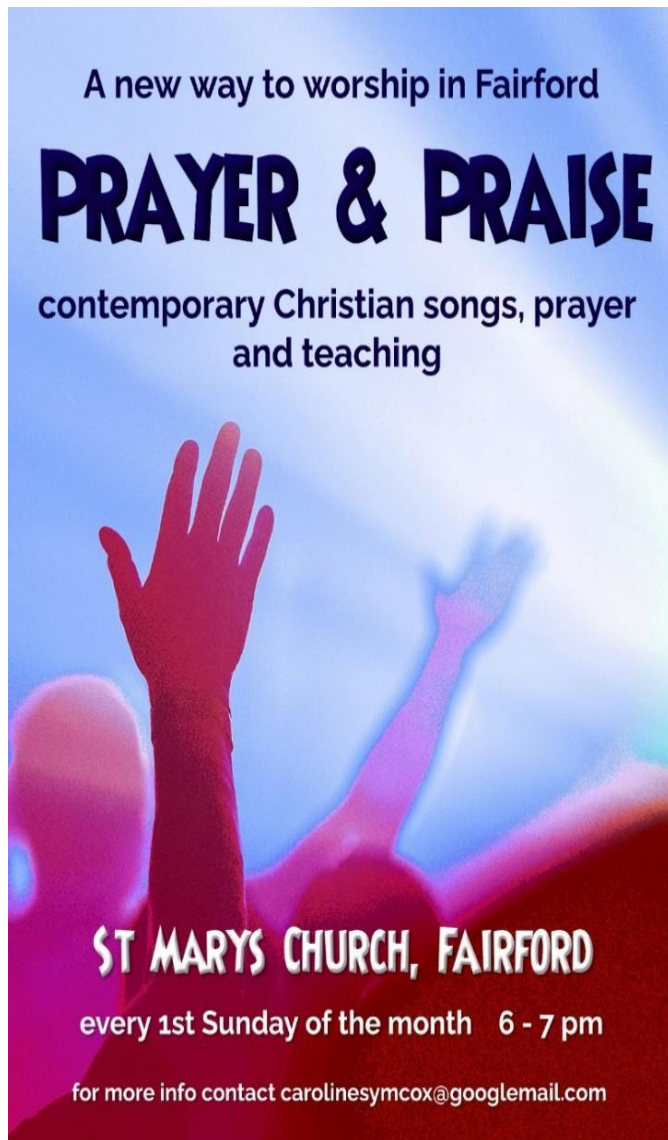
For further details contact Rev'd Canon Denise Hyde denisehyde15@gmail.com

Lent Groups

Lent is with us, and as always we are offering Lent Groups to help us study and reflect through this special season of preparation. They are:

- Wednesday afternoons – contact Rev'd Denise for more information.
- Thursdays 4pm via Zoom – reading the Archbishop's Book for Lent: "Dancing to the Heartbeat of God". The book is available via Kindle or in hard copy, and we can source copies if required. Contact Rev'd Caroline for more information.
- Fridays 10.30am starting 27th February in the Church Room, led by Rev'd Vicky, and studying Paula Gooder's 'Lentwise' course for five weeks

Next Prayer and Praise – Sunday 1st March



Prayer and Praise – first Sunday 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:

carolinesymcox@googlemail.com or
pa.wilkins@hotmail.co.uk

Prayer/Thought for the Week

True love does not come by finding the perfect person, but by learning to see an imperfect person perfectly.

God of beauty, ruler of life, we thank you for the beauty of the natural world in which we live, we pray for the places within our world which are struggling to come to life in some way, whether through human action or natural means.

We pray for those places within our local community which are struggling to come to life in some way whether through the actions of local people or broader governmental decisions. As we see new life increase around us in the natural world, may we be inspired to revitalize our own lives at this Lenten time and allow your Holy Spirit to cleanse and work through each one of us.

We pray in Jesus' name and for his glory. AMEN



Faithful Generations

Pass it on

Saturday 28 February 2026

12 noon to 4pm

at St John Baptist, Cirencester

To everyone of grandparent generation
and the children they love and care for
in their families, churches and communities.

Explore **Christian faith** and
spirituality through....

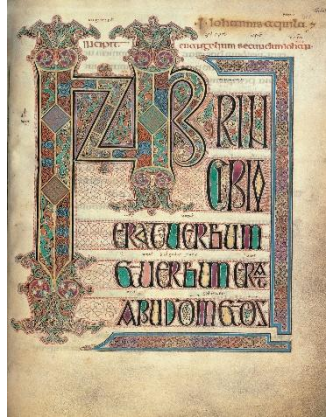
- > Dance
- > Prayer space
- > Stories
- > Interactive worship ... and more



The Fairford Gospels

Fridays during Lent

at St Thomas's Church in Horcott



- ❖ Listen to all or part of the gospel
- ❖ Enjoy a Soup Lunch (Feb 27th refreshments only)
- ❖ Come when you can, stay as long as you are able

February 27th **2.00pm** Mark's Gospel

March 13th 12 noon Matthew's Gospel

March 20th 12 noon Luke's Gospel

March 27th 12 noon John's Gospel



Churches Together Around Fairford

NOTICES

EMAIL SECURITY GUIDE

How to Protect Yourself and What to Do if Your Email is Compromised

If Your Email Account Has Been Hacked – Act Immediately

Step 1: Try to log in to your email account

- If you **can still log in**, change your password immediately.
- Choose a **strong, new password** you have never used before.
- If you can't log in, use your recovery email (if you have one set up) or contact your email provider for help.

Step 2: Check your sent emails

- Look at your **Sent Items folder**.
- Check if emails were sent that you did not send.
- If so, **call your contacts** and warn them not to click any links.

Step 3: Check for sensitive information

Look for emails containing:

- Bank details
- Passwords
- Personal information
- Account login details

If found:

- Contact your **bank immediately**
- Change passwords on important accounts
- Ask providers to **freeze or secure your accounts if necessary**

Step 4: Check for email forwarding rules

Hackers often create hidden rules to spy on your emails.

Check for:

- Forwarding to unknown email addresses
- Rules you did not create

If you find any:

- Delete them immediately

Step 5: Enable Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA)

This adds an extra layer of protection.

- You will receive a **code on your phone**
- Even if someone knows your password, they cannot log in
- Enable this in your email account security settings

All major providers support MFA:

- Gmail:

<https://support.google.com/accounts/answer/185839?hl=en&co=GENIE.Platform%3Desktop>

- Outlook / Hotmail:

<https://support.microsoft.com/en-gb/account-billing/how-to-use-two-step-verification-with-your-microsoft-account-c7910146-672f-01e9-50a0-93b4585e7eb4>

- Yahoo:

<https://help.yahoo.com/kb/add-two-step-verification-extra-security-sln5013.html>

- iCloud:


<https://support.apple.com/en-gb/102660>

How to Prevent Email Hacks

- ✓ Use a strong password
- ✓ Never share your password
- ✓ Be cautious of unexpected emails
- ✓ Do not click suspicious links
- ✓ Enable Multi-Factor Authentication

Warning Signs of a Hacked Email

- You cannot log in
- Password has changed
- Contacts receive strange emails from you
- You see emails you did not send
- New rules or settings you did not create

 **If unsure, ask a trusted family member or IT professional for help**
Acting quickly can prevent financial loss and protect your identity

News on Church Flowers from the General Synod

The General Synod has backed on 12 February 2026, a motion encouraging churches and cathedrals to explore ways of arranging flowers that are both beautiful and environmentally responsible.

The motion passed was:

That this synod:

- a) embrace the principles of the Sustainable Church Flowers movement which encourages a living into the Fifth Mark of Mission by promoting the use of local, seasonal and fully biodegradable/compostable flowers and foliage.
- b) encourage cathedrals, churches and churchyards - wherever possible - to source flowers and foliage locally and seasonally for use in worship and church life.
- c) call on cathedrals, churches and churchyards to eliminate the use of floral foam (oasis) and all similar non-biodegradable and non-reusable products and techniques, while rediscovering traditional environmentally friendly methods of presentation and display.

As an ambassador for the Sustainable Church Flowers movement since its inception in 2019, and keen church flower arranger, I welcome this news and am truly thankful to the many clergy of our diocese, including Bishop Robert, who supported the motion.

More information, including a 7 minute film which describes the reasons for and practicalities of the motion, is available on the Church of England website www.churchofengland.org

Beth Bruce-Gardner

Beth@honeymoonfern.com

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 & District Choral Society will perform Mozart's *Requiem* and his *Te Deum* and *Ave Verum Corpus* on Saturday 28 March at 7pm at St Mary's Church Fairford. There will be professional soloists and an organ accompanist. Tickets are £15 and are available from Fairford Opticians.

High Five Project 2026 – Raising Funds for Children's Charities



The Magic Breakfast. Glos Young Carers.

The Rainbow Trust. Smile Train. Home Start Cotswolds.

We have lots of exciting events coming up and need your help! Can you offer a RAFFLE PRIZE for our Wine Tasting Quiz Evening on 7th March? There is a box in the church office for collection. Could you be a QUICHE COOK for the event as well? We're happy to pay for ingredients.

Help us make the world a better place for the children supported by these charities. Read all about the project, the team, the individual charities, and our events in the High Five Booklet by the Stewards' Desk in the church. A summary is also on the church website.

Thank you. Linda, Meg, Jos, and Hope.



Dancercise. A Dancercise Group meets at Poulton Village Hall every Tuesday 10.30-11.30am, especially for those 'not so young', with music from the 60s, 70s, 80s. Nothing too taxing – simple exercises and fun dancing. £3 a session on the day – all subs go to High Five Project.

A request from the Parish Office

When sending in posters etc for the Parish News. If possible could you please include posters which are image files. These image files will have file extensions of the form .jpg or .png. It would be a great help. Thank you.

From Fairford History Society

The next FHS meeting is on Friday 20 February at 2.30pm when Edwin Cuss will be presenting Fairford in Close up. Refreshments will be served from 2pm and after the meeting. A used book sale will also take place in the Heritage Room. These books are from the library of the late Geoff Hawkes and we are selling them to raise funds for new display boards in memory of Geoff. The subjects covered are diverse: fiction,

literature and classics, religion, biography, poetry, cricket, UK local geography, history, music, art, food and drink, nature and gardening, etc. We are not pricing the books but asking for donations. There is no need to attend the meeting but come along to the book sale, 2-4pm!

Keith Barley, restorer of the Church windows completed in 2010 attended Geoff Hawkes Memorial Service and brought with his latest book on illuminating stained glass with the sub-titled 'creativity, conservation and craft at Barley Studio' The first section entitled 'Conservation and craft' describes work completed at various churches and cathedrals across the country and includes St Mary's, Fairford describing Keith's 20-year project. It is illustrated with the before restoration and after restoration in the east window, specifically the crucifixion of Christ and the two sinners where their faces have been sympathetically restored.



There follows a section about Helen Whittaker, MBE the Creative Director at Barley Studio. It describes her concepts and creative approach, and the variety of techniques used in creating stained glass and how they conceive projects for new buildings which blend the traditional and contemporary design. The book is beautifully illustrated with examples of their old and new designs. It shows how stained glass can play a significant role in our visual culture and heritage. The book is at the Steward's point in the Church.

Illuminating stained glass by Juliette Macdonald, Helen Whittaker and Keith Barley. Lund Humphries, 2025



The Jane Kidd Eco Talks

Presented by
St Mary's Eco Church Group Fairford

Thursday
26th
February

'Water is life'
by Carrie Lomas



Farmor Room
Community Centre
Fairford
7pm refreshments
7.30pm start



Future Talks
-Details of next
series coming
soon



Advanced booking is not required

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



SHOPPING TRIP WITNEY

£4



**FRIDAY 27TH FEB 12PM
LECHLADE AND FAIRFORD
PICK UPS
2 HOURS OF SHOPPING**

**CONTACT MARY
ANN
07555738138**

Wine Tasting Call My Bluff

A fun evening of tasting, guessing, and quizzing,
with cheese and savoury snacks.

Can you guess which
“connoisseur” is right about
the wine you’re sampling?



Saturday 7th March 7.00pm
Fairford Community Centre

**£10.00 Tickets (cash only): Church Office,
Community Centre, Fairford.**

Non-alcoholic drinks and other wines available

Proceeds to  **High Five Project 2026 – Fundraising for Children’s Charities**
The Magic Breakfast. Glos Young Carers. The Rainbow Trust.
Smile Train. Home Start Cotswolds.


St Mary's Church
• FAIRFORD •

COME AND BAG A BARGAIN AT THE SOUTHROP SCHOOL PTA



SOUTHROP VILLAGE HALL

SATURDAY 7TH MARCH 2026

1 – 2.30PM

CLOTHING, BOOKS, TOYS, BRIC A BRAC



ENTRANCE £1
CASH ONLY



Donation Times: Wednesday 4th March 9-11am
Friday 6th March 1-2.30pm, Saturday 7th March 10-11.30am
For more information contact PTA@Southrop.gloucs.sch.uk

Useful Contacts in Fairford

Dentists: M Milnthorpe and S. Steer, 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 – Beth Bruce-Gardner	07791 841201
Secretary – Hayley Evans	07866 518830
Fairford History Society: Alison Hobson	01285 711768
Lechlade and Fairford Mothers' Union: Kathleen Hall	01285 712583
Fairford Hospital (Day Centre): The Croft,	0300 4216470
Fairford Pre-School: Leafield Road	01285 713176
Fairford Primary School: Leafield Road,	01285 712543
Fairford Sports Centre	01285 713786
Fairford United Church	01285 712586
Farmor's School: The Park	01285 712228/712302
Flying Start Nursery School	01285 711711
Friends of Fairford Church: Simon Mumford	simonmumford@outlook.com
Friends of Fairford Hospital	admin@friendsoffairford.org.uk
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	01285 712586
Theatreagoers: David & Alison Watkins-Nash	01285 713182
	- bookingftg@btinternet.com
Town Council Offices, Community Centre, U3A: Sue Snell	01285 712344
	membershipsec@fairfordu3a.org.uk
Wellbeing coordinator-Mary Ann Dibbs - coordinator@working4wellbeing.org.uk	Mobile 07555738138

If any changes are made to the above please contact the Parish Office with the details. Thank you

