



Mothering Sunday Flowers



South Cotswold Team Ministry

Sunday 15th March

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 15th March – 4th Sunday of Lent

Mothering Sunday

8.00 am BCP Holy Communion

10.00 am Common Worship Holy Communion

Sidespeople: Kim Sutton and Michelle Harris

Readings: Mike Godsal

Intercessions: Alison Godsal

Offertory: Heather Gorton

Prayer Rota: Rev'd Denise Hyde and Lucy Hodson

Coffee: Mary Mawle and Margaret Frazer

Thursday 12th March

10.30 am Holy Communion

Sunday 22nd March – 5th Sunday of Lent

8.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.00am Common Worship Holy Communion

Sidespeople: Heather Gorton and Michelle Harris

Readings: Fiona Gilroy

Intercessions: Ruth Blackwell

Offertory: Jane Easton

Prayer Ministry: Mary Mawle and Michelle Harris

Coffee: Sarah Bottomley and Carol Thompson

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

Mothering Sunday

My daughter is really into fairytale stories at the moment. Almost every night we read about princesses, brave heroes, and magical kingdoms. No matter how difficult things become in the story, they nearly always end the same way: 'and they all lived happily ever after.' It's a comforting ending where every problem is resolved and joy lasts forever.

Yet when we turn to Scripture- especially when reflecting on motherhood- we find that the stories are often more complex than a fairytale ending. The Bible does not present motherhood as simple or sentimental. Instead, it shows us that love, faith, sacrifice, and even sorrow are often intertwined.

Mothering Sunday itself can feel complicated for many people. While it is a day of gratitude and celebration for mothers and those who have nurtured us, it can also stir many differing emotions. Some remember mothers they have lost. Others long to become parents but have face disappointment. Some carry difficult memories of family relationships. Because of this, the day calls for sensitivity and compassion, recognising that each person's experience of motherhood- whether as a parent, a child, or someone who offers care in other ways- is different.

In 1 Samuel 1:20-end, Hannah's story begins with deep longing. After praying earnestly for a child, she finally receives the son she had longed for. It might seem like the moment where the story should end with a joyful 'happily ever after.' But Hannah's faith leads her to keep her promise to God. She brings Samuel to the temple and dedicates him to the Lord's service. Her joy as a mother is intertwined with the pain of letting go, trusting that Samuel's life belongs to God.

Similarly, in Luke 2:33-35, Mary hears Simeon's words about the child Jesus. Alongside the wonder of who her son will become comes a solemn warning: 'a sword will pierce your own soul too.' From the very beginning, Mary's motherhood carries both joy and the shadow of suffering.

These stories do not offer a simple 'happily ever after.' But through Jesus, they point us to something deeper: a hope that holds joy and sorrow together, and a love that ultimately leads to redemption and life.

So on this Mothering Sunday, we give thanks for those who have loved, nurtured and cared for us. We also hold before God the complexities, the joys and the pains that this day may bring.

Rev'd Vicky

Join us for Morning Prayer via Zoom on Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday at 9am every week. Click below for the week starting 16th March.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83312075380?pwd=BGcC4Cu6Ff066Js2wgLWr0VW0gYOJd.1>

Meeting ID: 833 1207 5380

Passcode: 730151

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, Jean Griffiths, Christine Stephens.

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.

Prayer/Thought for the week

What greater peace of mind can be achieved than when you know you are doing God's will.

Dear Lord, help us to keep our eyes on you, knowing that you are with us even when the night is long.

Thank you for guiding us as we show your love to others. Help us to trust in the plans that you have for us as we seek your plan and purpose for our lives. Keep us from leaning on our own counsel, may we stay on the straight path of your ways. Lord, in a world filled with people who are hurting and in need, help us always to imitate your compassion.

Lord Jesus we pray in your most holy name, AMEN

NOTICES

Church Cleaning – Seeking New Organiser!

I am giving up organising the cleaning rota at the end of March.

Is there anyone who would like to take on this much appreciated task?

Carol Thompson

TeaTowels – We are short of tea towels. Have you washed tea towels from an event in the Community Centre (CC). Would you please return any you may have to the Kitchen. Also any donations of tea towels would be gratefully received. This is an ongoing request as they seem to vanish more quickly than ever as use of the CC increases over the year. Thank you. Helen Evans.

Five Star Talks

In support of St Mary's Church and Children's Charities

Five fabulous Fairfordians will be Guest Speakers over the coming year, each giving a specialist talk on subjects that are interesting, entertaining, demonstrative, participative, and enlightening.

Our first one is on **Friday 10th APRIL 7.15pm in The Farmor Room - "What a Difference a DNA Makes"**. A true account of ancestry search and finding unknown relatives in 2026. The wow factor is included! Light refreshments follow - do come along. Retiring donations to our children's charity project, and to St Mary's Church Fund.

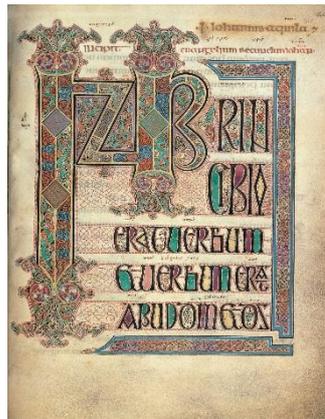
Help make the world a better place for the children supported by these charities – The Magic Breakfast, Glos Young Carers, The Rainbow Trust, Smile Train, and Home Start Cotswolds. We are grateful to St Mary's for their blessing and support. Thank you.

Meg, Linda, Jos, and Hope.

The Fairford Gospels: This year St Mary's will be reading Matthew on March 13th and Luke on March 20th. We will need readers for this and if you would like to be involved, please contact Katie Blake on 07480 235066 or ekatie.blake@gmail.com. On March 27th we will also need people to make soup for this event. If you can help, please contact Katie as above for more details. Many thanks!

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

March 13 th	12 noon	Matthew's Gospel
March 20 th	12 noon	Luke's Gospel
March 27 th	12 noon	John's Gospel



Churches Together Around Fairford

CANTORES

CHAMBER CHOIR

Directed by Simon Harper

Darkness, Devotion and Hope

Reflective choral works for Lent

featuring

Bach: Jesu meine Freude, MacMillan: Miserere
plus pieces by Byrd, Lassus, Schütz, Howells and Sanders

Saturday 21st March at **4.00pm**
St Mary's Church, Fairford GL7 4AF

Saturday 28th March at **4.00pm**
Holy Trinity Church, Minchinhampton GL6 9BP

Tickets £15 (Under 18 and Students £5)
from cantores.net

Fairford & District Choral Society
SPRING CONCERT

MOZART REQUIEM

AVE VERUM • TE DEUM

Saturday 28 March 7pm
St Mary's Church, Fairford

Musical Director: Nia Llewelyn Jones

Organist: Ian Crabbe

with professional soloists

TICKETS: £15 (£5 for under 18s)

From:

- Fairford Opticians
01285 713313 (cash only)
- Choir Contact
07770 638227
- Available on the night
(cash/card)





Thanks to the Barn Theatre's wonderful Bus to Theatre project, W4W is delighted to be partnering with them to bring residents of Fairford and Lechlade to a special performance of Otilie.

THURSDAY 26TH MARCH

1:15PM LECHLADE LIBRARY

FAIRFORD COMMUNITY CENTRE

1:30PM

THE

BARN theatre

BUS



Tickets and transport are fully provided, making this a fantastic opportunity for anyone who might find travel and navigating tickets difficult.

Spaces are limited — booking essential. For more information or to reserve your place, please contact W4W 07555738138.



INTERGENERATIONAL GAMES NIGHT

Classic games hosted by Fairford Cubs for their community badge. Come and enjoy a game of cards, a round of bingo or dominos.



TUESDAY 24 MARCH

5:30pm-6:30pm Games FREE

Stay 630pm for Fish and chips £5 donation



CONTACT MARY ANN TO BOOK
07555738138





Newsletter

March

🌸 What's Coming in March 🌸

March is shaping up to be another busy and exciting month at W4W!

This will also be the final month of our Warm Welcome Room, so if you haven't popped in yet, please do come along and enjoy the space while you still can. It has been wonderful seeing so many people use and enjoy it over the winter months.

🍴 Community Meal – 8th March

On 8th March, we will be hosting our final community meal in Lechlade – a full roast dinner with all the trimmings. There is still time to book your place for this delicious Sunday lunch, so please contact Mary Ann if you would like to attend.

☕ Talking Café Special Guests – 11th March

Our W4W Talking Café will welcome:

- A PCSO from the local police – drop in for an informal chat, ask questions, or raise any concerns about what's happening in the town.
- The DAISI Project, who will be helping people learn how to use the NHS App and how to order repeat prescriptions online.

👤 Lechlade Talking Café – 12th March

The PCSO will also be dropping into the Lechlade Talking Café on 12th March, offering another opportunity to connect and chat.

🍵 Warm Welcome Afternoon Tea – 13th March

We'll be saying goodbye to our Warm Welcome Room with a special Afternoon Tea on 13th March.

This event is already fully booked with 30 people attending – a big thank you to our wonderful volunteer Tina, who has taken the lead in organising this lovely send-off.

🗣️ W4W in the Community – 17th March

On 17th March, I'll be visiting TT Electronics to give a talk about the great work W4W does within our community.

If any other organisations or businesses would like to learn more about W4W or arrange a talk, please do get in touch – we'd love to hear from you.

🚌 Bus to the Barn – 26th March

The Barn Theatre has launched a fantastic new initiative called Bus to Barn, and W4W is delighted to be partnering with them in their pilot scheme across Fairford and Lechlade.

We have successfully filled a bus to see Otilie on 26th March! If you would have been interested, please get in touch – we can add you to the waiting list and give you first priority for the next trip.

Contact

Mary Ann

Wellbeing Coordinator

07555 738138

Talking Cafes:

Every Wednesday Fairford
Community Centre 10:30am-
12pm

Every Thursday Lechlade
Baptist Church 10:30am-12pm

📖 Craft & Chat – 26th
March 7pm-9pm Craft &
Chat that evening!

Our amazing volunteer
Janet will be leading a
quilling workshop from
7pm-9pm.

Cost: £5 per person.

🌿 End-of-Month Trip –
Dobbies Garden Centre
We'll be finishing the
month with a trip to
Dobbies Garden Centre.

Free if you have a bus pass

£4 if you do not

Time to be confirmed
Please get in touch if
you're interested in joining
us – it promises to be a
lovely outing.

Regular events continue
Monday Senior Yoga
Tuesday Digital Drop in's
10am-11am

Wednesday Peer
Movement Class 9:30am-
10am

Family Hub now sponsored
by Friends of Fairford and
Lechlade

Thursday Lechlade Talking
Cafe

10:30am-12pm

Friday term time only First
Steps Toddler group
United Church 9:30am-
11am



CRAFT & CHAT

Hosted by our Volunteer Janet

£5



THURSDAY

26TH

MARCH

Janet is not a professional tutor but she has skills she would love to share with us. Come along and have fun Quilling

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

Contact Mary Ann for more details

07555738138

