



Bluebells at Badbury Clump

*Folklore tells that the bluebell's scent induces a deep, dreamless sleep. Its former botanical name, *Endymion non-scriptus*, recalls the tale of Endymion, the youth beloved of the moon goddess Selene, whom she lulled into an eternal slumber to preserve his youth. Spring seems to have plenty of interesting folklore with the spring flowers, so more to come. Ingrid*



South Cotswold Team Ministry Sunday 26th April

Clergy

Vicar: Rev'd Caroline Symcox – 01285 712467

Curate: Rev'd Vicky Falvey – 07356 234248

Priest – Pastoral Care: Rev'd Canon Denise Hyde
01285 713285

carolinesymcox@googlemail.com

revvickyfalvey@gmail.com

denisehyde15@gmail.com

SERVICES

Sunday 26th April – 4th Sunday of Easter

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.00 am Family Service

Coffee: Doug and Jean Crowley

6.00 pm Healing Service with Holy Communion

Thursday 30th April

10.30 am Holy Communion

Sunday 3rd May – 5th Sunday of Easter

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.00 am Common Worship Holy Communion

Sidespeople: Eleanor Toby and Jenny Hewes

Readings: Sally Salter Intercessions: Val Trafford

Offertory: David Salter Prayer Rota: Ann Nicholls and Sheila Hughes

Coffee: David and Sally Salter (in the Meeting Room)

6.00 pm Prayer and Praise

From Rev'd Caroline Symcox – 01285 712467 – carolinesymcox@googlemail.com
Readings for Sunday: Acts 2.42-47; 1 Peter 2.19-25; John 10.1-10

There is one question that comes up again and again when we as believers talk about our faith with others. Nor is it a shallow or a foolish question, but a fundamental one, which cuts at the heart of the belief we might want to share. And that question? “*So what?*”

So what, if you think there is a God out there who created the world and everything else? So what, if you believe that he came to live with us as a human being, and died on a cross? So what, if he rose again? What difference does that make to you? What difference should it make to me? Often the question comes with a particular edge – the assumption that to be a Christian is to be boring, or strait-laced, or weighed down with guilt. The assumption that being a Christian is basically *unrewarding*.

To some extent, we might allow that they have a point. Jesus never promised that following him would be a walk in the park. He would lead us forward, certainly, like a shepherd with his sheep, but that path was not going to be safe and smooth. Peter, in his letter to the churches that we read from on Sunday, makes no bones about it: “If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God’s approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.”

Following Jesus means embracing suffering, because the world is unjust, and yet must seek to live righteous lives within it. Jealousy and anger will come our way, because we mark ourselves as different, and as everyone knows, to be different is to be targeted.

But of course, this is only one side of the life we are called to when we believe in and follow Jesus. The other side is the answer to that ‘so what’ question. Why should I follow him? Because “I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly”. Jesus brings life with him, in all its fullness. Life, with purpose, and meaning, and rich understanding. Life, with its promise of death defeated, and eternity opened up to those who believe. Life, shaped by joy and the peace that comes from knowing that we are becoming who we were always meant to be.

To be a Christian isn’t to be dull, or boring, or joyless. It should be the opposite. And if it currently isn’t? Well then something has become twisted somewhere down the line, and it’s time to return to the Good Shepherd who will lead us to the fresh water and rich pastures he knows we need.

This week we renew our commitment to choose life, and life in abundance. And if we have the opportunity to share why it is we follow Jesus? Let this be our answer!

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 27th April. Join us at the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88993598015?pwd=02gaUTJDIsfINcl6lJwkh4i09awbX2.1>

Meeting ID: 889 9359 8015, Passcode: 069035

From Heather -

Office: 01285 712611 fairfordpcc@gmail.com

or

Home 01285 712428 heathergorton31@gmail.com

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, Tabi Berry, Jean Griffiths, Christine Stephens.

Those who have died:

Martin Lee-Browne—Memorial Service 3.00 pm on Saturday 30th May in 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

Prayer is the answer to every problem in life. It puts us in tune with divine wisdom, which knows how to adjust everything perfectly.

I submit this day to you Lord, and everything that is in it. This is the day that you have made and I will rejoice and be glad in it.

Lord show me how I can shine for you. Let my life be bold and bright as I share you with those around me. Give me the courage and awareness to stand for you even when things seem dark. Thank you for being our perfect example and the light of the world, in Jesus name, AMEN.

Rev Vicky's Ordination as Priest

All are warmly welcomed to a service at Gloucester cathedral on Saturday 27th June at 3pm to join Vicky as she celebrates her ordination as priest.

The service will also be live-streamed if you would like to join in, but are unable to make it to the cathedral.

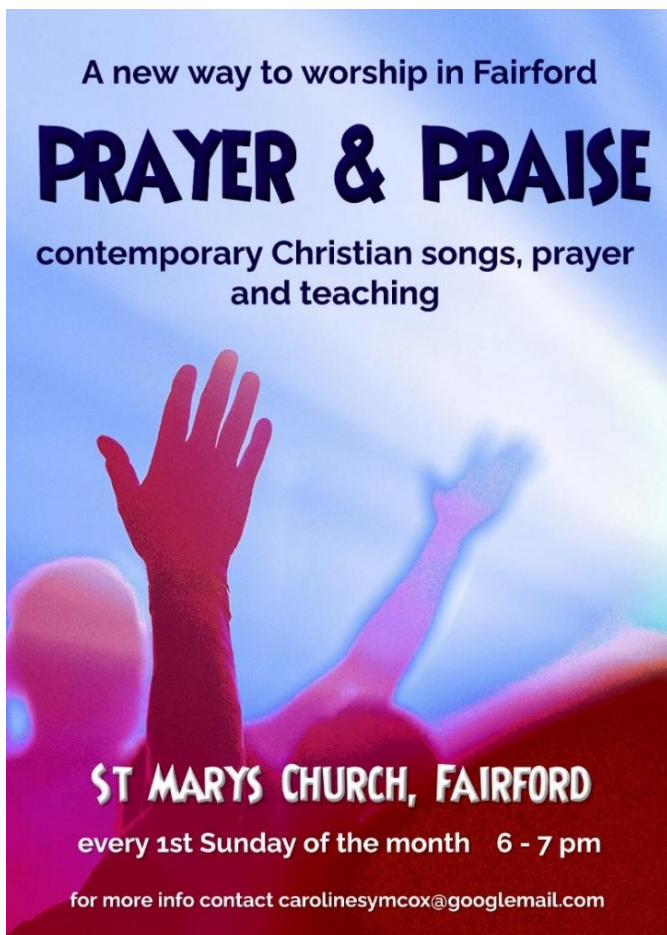
Vicky will preside at Communion for the first time on Sunday 28th June at 10am.

St Mary's APCM – Sunday 10th May, 12pm

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting, at which we elect our churchwardens, PCC members, and representatives to Deanery Synod and Fairford Area Churches Together, is due to be held at 12pm on Sunday 10th May, immediately following our 10am service.

Do take some time in prayer to consider if God may be calling you to one of these roles! Forms will be available in the church to nominate anyone who wishes to stand for election.

Sunday 3rd May



A new way to worship in Fairford

PRAYER & PRAISE

contemporary Christian songs, prayer
and teaching

ST MARYS CHURCH, FAIRFORD
every 1st Sunday of the month 6 - 7 pm
for more info contact carolinesymcox@googlemail.com

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

The King's Men in Concert

St Mary's Church, Fairford, Saturday 25th April 7pm

Expect a vibrant evening of music as the King's Men, the renowned a cappella group from King's College Cambridge perform live at St Mary's Church on the 25th of April 2026 at 7:00 PM

Expect rich harmonies, playful arrangements, and the unmistakeable charm that has made The King's men one of the UK's most beloved vocal ensemble.

Set in the beautiful acoustic of St Mary's this one-night concert promises an uplifting blend of contemporary hits, choral favourites and irresistible energy - a perfect spring night out for music lovers of all ages.

Tickets £25/£20/£12.50 from [Eventbrite](#) or in cash at Fairford Opticians 01285 713313

Music at St Mary's

A new menu item - Music at St Mary's has been added to the website. By clicking on this you will see the home page for the Music at St Mary's project. By clicking on the links on this page you will find more details about the individual concerts.

Registered Charity No: 298627



SPRING CONCERT

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Friday 24th April, 7.30 p.m.



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blue
notes

MUSIC
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Photo by Martin Bond

Church of St Mary the Virgin Fairford
7PM Saturday 25th April 2026

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www.eventbrite.co.uk (fees apply)
or Fairford opticians from 9th March 01285 713313


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FREE

- **THURSDAY 16TH APRIL**
- **THURSDAY 23RD APRIL**
- **THURSDAY 30TH APRIL**
- **THURSDAY 7TH MAY**

🕒 TIME: 10AM - 12:30 PM

📍 LOCATION: FAIRFORD COMMUNITY CENTRE



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THE KITCHEN CLUB
Learn to cook, eat well for life





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 **DOUBLE DOUBLE - A ROMANTIC THRILLER** With stars of Coronation Street - Daniel Brocklebank and Faye Brookes

THE

From the writer of Jersey Boys...

BARN theatre

**THURSDAY 7TH MAY
1PM ONWARDS PICK UPS
PICK UP POINTS TBC
RETURN APPROX 5PM**

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.

SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY 9 MAY, QUENINGTON VILLAGE HALL

A POTTED OPERA: Join Carmen in her boudoir as she tells her own story in words and music.

Concert, Theatre and Comedy

CarmenCo is an ensemble comprising Emily Andrews, flautist/mezzo; David Massey & Francisco Correa, guitars. They are all Royal Academy of Music graduates, and perform entirely from memory, often incorporating storyline, acting, movement and humour into their shows and concerts.

Having toured their sell-out show A Pocket Opera (about Carmen) to more than 50 places over the last two years, from Orkney, Highlands, Cairngorms, Wales and Dorset to Kings Place in London, their reputation as innovators and stellar performers is well established all over the UK.

www.carmencotrio.com

**SATURDAY
MAY 9TH**
7.30pm
Doors 7pm

"A simply fantastic show: surprising, hilarious, and moving. Get a ticket at all costs - a great evening out."
STEPHEN GOSS

**A Pocket Opera
Carmen**
Join Carmen in her boudoir as she tells her own story in words and music.
Concert • Theatre • Comedy

"A playful and well-crafted performance with a depth of exceptional musical talent that audiences both respect and adore."
ED O'DRISCOLL - (AIR IN G)

TICKETS: £20
available from
Cain Community Stores or
queningtonvillagehall@gmail.com

**QUENINGTON
VILLAGE HALL
GL7 5BS**
RCA location
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CARMENCOTRIO.COM

Here Comes Summer!



***Summer Events for your diary
from the High Five Project Team***

***(See separate details in Church
Newsletters & on Notice Boards nearer the time)***

***“Angels – True Stories and How They
Affect Our Lives” talk by Hope Price -
Friday 1st May***



***Jos & Ian’s Summer Barbecue – Saturday
20th June***

***Songs & Music Concert in the church –
Saturday 4th July***



***Amanda & Mervyn’s Strawberry Tea &
Prosecco Afternoon – Saturday 25th July***

***Katie & Jeremy’s Blackbirds & Pimms
Afternoon Tea - Saturday 22nd August***



High Five Project 2026

Raising Funds for Children’s Charities

The Magic Breakfast Glos Young Carers The Rainbow Trust Smile Train Home Start Cotswolds


St Mary's Church
FAIRFORD



**Major Churches
Network**



Great St Mary's
THE UNIVERSITY CHURCH CAMBRIDGE

The Inaugural **Major Churches Music Conference**

for Church Musicians and Clergy

Saturday 13 June 2026

at Great St Mary's
The University Church
Cambridge

Keynote speaker:
Carl Jackson MVO
*"Why music in major parish
churches matters"*

Panel discussions:
Choir Recruitment
Fundraising

Vocal workshop:
Vocal health for
young and old

Ending with
Choral Evensong
sung by all delegates

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to find out more
& book your place



QR code here

<https://www.greatstmarys.org/major-churches-music-conference>

RIDE + STRIDES for Churches

**12TH
SEPT
2026**

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Gloucestershire's &
North Bristol's
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the stunning churches and
chapels of Gloucestershire
and North Bristol.**



**Your sponsorship
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Churches Trust and your
chosen church or chapel.**



Join Us!

Any Questions? Email us at;
ride-and-stride@ghct.org.uk



**Gloucestershire
Historic Churches Trust**

Your local church is:

St. Mary's Church
Fairford
Glos

Please Contact:

Parish Office
01285 712611

For some useless information the 26th April is National Pretzel Day!!

So here is the recipe!



Easy Pretzels (*Taken from 'Sally's Baking'*)

This is one of the easiest ways to prepare homemade soft pretzels for beginners, and the results are extra delicious!

2 and 1/4 teaspoons (7g) instant or active dry yeast (*1 standard packet*)

1 tablespoon brown sugar or granulated sugar

1 and 1/2 cups (360ml) warm water (around 100°F/38°C)

1 tablespoon (14g) unsalted butter, melted and slightly cooled

1 teaspoon salt

3 and 3/4–4 cups (469–500g) all-purpose flour ([spooned & leveled](#)), plus more as needed

coarse salt, for topping

Baking Soda Bath

1/2 cup (120g) baking soda

9 cups (2.13L) water

Whisk the yeast and sugar into warm water. Cover and allow to sit for 1 minute.

Whisk in the melted butter and salt. Add 3 cups (375g) of flour. Mix with a wooden spoon (or dough hook attachment if using a stand mixer) until combined. Add 3/4 cup (94g) more flour until the dough is slightly tacky and pulls away from the sides of the bowl. If it is still sticky, add up to 1/4 cup more (31g) flour, 1 tablespoon at a time, as needed. Poke the dough with your finger—if it bounces back, it is ready to knead.

Keep the dough in the mixer and beat for an additional 3 to 5 full minutes, or knead by hand on a lightly floured surface for 3 to 5 minutes. If the dough becomes too sticky during the kneading process, sprinkle 1 teaspoon of flour at a time on the dough or on the work surface/in the bowl to make a soft, slightly tacky dough. Do not add more flour than you need because you do not want a dry dough. After kneading, the dough should still feel a little soft. Poke it with your finger—if it slowly bounces back, your dough is ready to rise. You can also do a “windowpane test” to see if your dough has been kneaded long enough: tear off a small (roughly golfball-size) piece of dough and

gently stretch it out until it's thin enough for light to pass through it. Hold it up to a window or light. Does light pass through the stretched dough without the dough tearing first? If so, your dough has been kneaded long enough and is ready to rise. If not, keep kneading until it passes the windowpane test!

Shape the kneaded dough into a ball. Cover lightly with a towel and allow to rest for 10 to 30 minutes

Preheat oven to 400°F (204°C). Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper or silicone baking mats paper. If using parchment paper, lightly spray with nonstick spray or grease with butter. Set aside. With a sharp knife or pizza cutter, cut dough into 75g sections, which is about 1/3 cup of dough each. Roll the dough into a 20–22-inch rope. Form a circle with the dough by bringing the 2 ends together at the top of the circle. Twist the ends together. Bring the twisted ends back down towards yourself and press them down to form a pretzel shape.

Bring baking soda and 9 cups of water to a boil in a large pot. Drop 1–2 pretzels into the boiling water for 20–30 seconds – no longer . Using a slotted spatula, lift the pretzels out of the water and allow as much of the excess water to drip off. Place pretzels onto prepared baking sheet. Repeat with remaining pretzels. If desired, cover the boiled, unbaked pretzels with lightly oiled plastic wrap and refrigerate for up to 24 hours before baking

Sprinkle the tops of the pretzels with coarse salt. Bake for 12–15 minutes or until dark golden brown. Remove from the oven and, if desired, serve warm.

Cover and store leftover pretzels at room temperature for up to 3 days. They are suitable for freezing

The baking soda bath is strongly recommended because it helps create that chewy texture and distinctive pretzel flavor. If skipping, brush the shaped and unbaked pretzels with a mixture of 1 beaten egg & 1 tablespoon of milk. Sprinkle the brushed pretzels with salt.

Cinnamon Sugar Pretzels: Skip the coarse salt topping and egg wash. Bake as directed above. Meanwhile, melt 4 tablespoons (56g) of unsalted or salted butter. Brush the baked and warm pretzels with melted butter, then dip the tops into a mix of cinnamon and sugar. Cinnamon-sugar pretzels taste best the day they're made because the melted butter topping causes them to become soggy after a few hours.

Useful Contacts in Fairford

The Parish Office (is open from Tuesday to Friday every week 10.00 am to 1.00 pm Tuesday to Thursday, 10.00 am to 12.00 pm Friday)	01285 712611 fairfordpcc@gmail.com
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	01285712586
Theatreagoers: 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 -	ordinator@working4wellbeing.org. Mobile 07555738138

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