



*Praying for the gift of God's Holy Spirit and His Kingdom to Come
14th – 24th May 2026*



**South Cotswold Team Ministry
Sunday 17th May**

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 17th May - 7th Sunday of Easter - Rogationtide

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.00 am Rogation Day Holy Communion Service – starting outdoors

Sidespeople: Michelle Harris and Heather Gorton

Offertory: Jane Easton Prayer Rota: Mary Mawle and Lucy Hodson

Coffee: Sarah Bottomley and Carol Thompson

Thursday 21st May

10.30 am Holy Communion

6.00 pm Thy Kingdom Come Prayer Service

Sunday 24th May – Pentecost

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.00 am Holy Communion Service

Sidespeople: Eleanor Toby and Jenny Hewes

Readings: Linda Howlett

Intercessions: Janet Edwards

Offertory: Heather Gorton

Prayer Rota: Ruth Blackwell and Mary Mawle

Coffee: Kathleen Hall and Sheila Hughes

From Rev'd Caroline Symcox – 01285 712467 – carolinesymcox@googlemail.com
Readings for Sunday: Deuteronomy 8.7-10; Matthew 6.25-34

This Sunday we mark Rogationtide, a time of reflection on God's Creation, the natural world around us, and those who live and work in close connection with the natural world and the countryside. Traditionally this would be a time when we would 'Beat the Bounds' – walking the entire boundary of the parish as we pray for the countryside, our communities, and most particularly the farmers and countryside workers. On Sunday we aren't going to walk that far, so as not to exclude the people for whom that would be a tough walk to make, but we will be starting our service outside. There in the open air we will pray for all God's wonderful Creation.

One of the most wonderful elements of reflecting on the beauty of Creation is to notice and give thanks for God's glorious abundance. God showers us with abundance in Creation – in nature, in people and in his Word to us. On Sunday we take time to accept and treasure this outpouring of God's gifts.

I'm sure we all can think of a moment when the glory and abundance of God's world has broken into our understanding. Perhaps there was a moment when we were surrounded by incredible mountains, or deep in a forest, or looking into an ocean teeming with life. Sometimes such moments can hit us even closer to home. Looking up to see a red kite circling overhead, walking through a churchyard, or seeing a field filling with growing crops. Jesus reminds us in his words to the gathered crowd that God has provided for and loves his creation: 'Consider the lilies of the field...' and in this period we indeed take time to consider.

We know indeed that God has promised to us a new heaven and a new earth, eternal life beyond this one, but that doesn't mean that the here and now is any less glorious or blessed. "God saw all that he had created, and saw that it was very good." So let's work to cultivate an appreciation of his abundance in the everyday!

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 18th May. Join us at the link below:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89947692072?pwd=aWVaY5rEvJmAu015aGcqzufeEQrBM.1>

Meeting ID: 899 4769 2072, Passcode: 536306

Please remember the following in your prayers:

Those who are ill: Grace Slack, Hannah, Tabi Berry, Jean Griffiths, Meg Ralph

Those who have died:

Martin Lee-Browne—Memorial Service 3.00 pm on Saturday 30th May in St. Mary's Ronald Thornton, John Peregrine Preece-Smith, Christine Stephens, Yvonne Cuss, Peggy Vagasky

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

From Ann Nicholls

For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies, for the love which from our birth over and around us lies. Lord of all to thee we raise, this our sacrifice of praise.

Dear Lord, when we feel lost in our daily routines, help us to trust your guidance and find purpose in serving you. Bless our Farmers and all who work on the land, strengthen them when they are discouraged, and help us all to work together as good stewards of this earth and its crops, and creatures. We also pray for those whose work takes them to the oceans, keep them safe and give them integrity and strength to fish the waters.

Lord God, we thank you for your provision for our welfare, and we pray in Jesus' name. AMEN

Rev'd 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. We would love to fully support Vicky on this special day, so would be happy to organise lifts or even a coach or mini-bus if enough people are interested. Please speak to Rev'd Caroline to put your name down.

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.

NOTICES

Rogation Service – 10am 17th May

This Sunday we will be having a special service to mark Rogation, a time when we think about and pray for the natural world, our countryside, and everyone involved in agriculture and working on the land. We'll be gathering outside at the war memorial where the service will begin, and we'll then proceed inside for our Bible readings and the remainder of the service. Hope to see you there!

Thy Kingdom Come – 14th-24th May

Between Ascension and Pentecost we hold a time of special prayer, as we anticipate God's gift of his Holy Spirit. Do join us in marking this time by taking one of the reflection booklets in the church (a donation of £2 would be appreciated), and/or coming along to our special prayer service at **6pm on the 21st May**, as we pray for God's world, and all that is on our hearts.

Bible Study – Fridays

Rev'd Vicky Falvey is leading a new Bible study group starting this Friday, 10:30-11:30am in the church room, all welcome. We will be meeting fortnightly. Do let Rev'd Vicky know if you'd be interested in coming along.

Volunteers needed for 16th May – Town Council Event

The Town Council is holding an event on the 16th May, 11:30-1:30pm, for local groups and organisations to advertise and promote options to get involved. St Mary's will have a stall at this event. We are looking for a couple of volunteers to oversee the stall and engage with those attending. Please contact Rev'd Vicky (revivckyalvey@gmail.com) if you feel you can help.

Parish Office Administrator Vacancy St Mary's Church, Fairford

St Mary's Church is seeking a Parish Office Administrator to provide efficient administrative support and help ensure the smooth day-to-day running of the church office, based at the Parish Office on the High Street.

Hours: 10 hours per week (flexible)

Hourly Rate: £12.71-£13.45

We are looking for someone organised, reliable and approachable, with good administrative and IT skills.

For more information and a copy of the job description, please email:

Carly Hicks

treasurer.fairfordpcc@gmail.com



Eco Church update

Some dates for your diary - if you are interested in getting involved in any of the below, please contact Beth Bruce-Gardner 07791 841201.

- **Saturday 16 May** - Annual Town Meeting, 11.30 to 1.30 pm, Palmer Hall - Eco Church will be part of the St Mary's Church stall at the Palmer Hall at this event to showcase all the different activities going on in Fairford.
- **Saturday 6 June** - Fairford Festival 12.30 to 4 pm - Discover the Churchyard event on the Saturday of Fairford Festival (6 June), between 12.30 and 4 pm at St Mary's churchyard. Come and join us for an interactive discovery session about history, nature and wildlife in our church yard - with quizzes, activities for all ages, tea and cake, plant and seed swap stall in the beautiful setting of St Mary's churchyard. Picnics welcome.
- **Sunday 17 May at 10 am** - a communion service as normal but, as one of two services each year organised by the Eco Church, is has rogation and creation theme with a talk *by Rev Geoff Price*.
- **Tuesday 28 July 10 am to 12** – Bug Hunt in the churchyard. Free family fun morning for all ages discovering the micro-wildlife in St Mary's churchyard. Range of children's activities, information stalls and refreshments. No pre-booking required. Watch out for posters in the usual places!
- **Late July/early August** - we are planning the managed cutting of the wildflower area followed by the Big Rake (which may or may not be followed by the Big Cake....). Watch this space.
- **3rd Tuesdays, September 2026 to February 2027**. We are planning five Jane Kidd Eco Talks over the Autumn/Winter in September to Feb (not December), on the third Tuesday of each month in the community centre. Topics and speakers TBC.

Discover the Churchyard event on Saturday 6 June

The Eco Church Group would welcome help with any of the following:

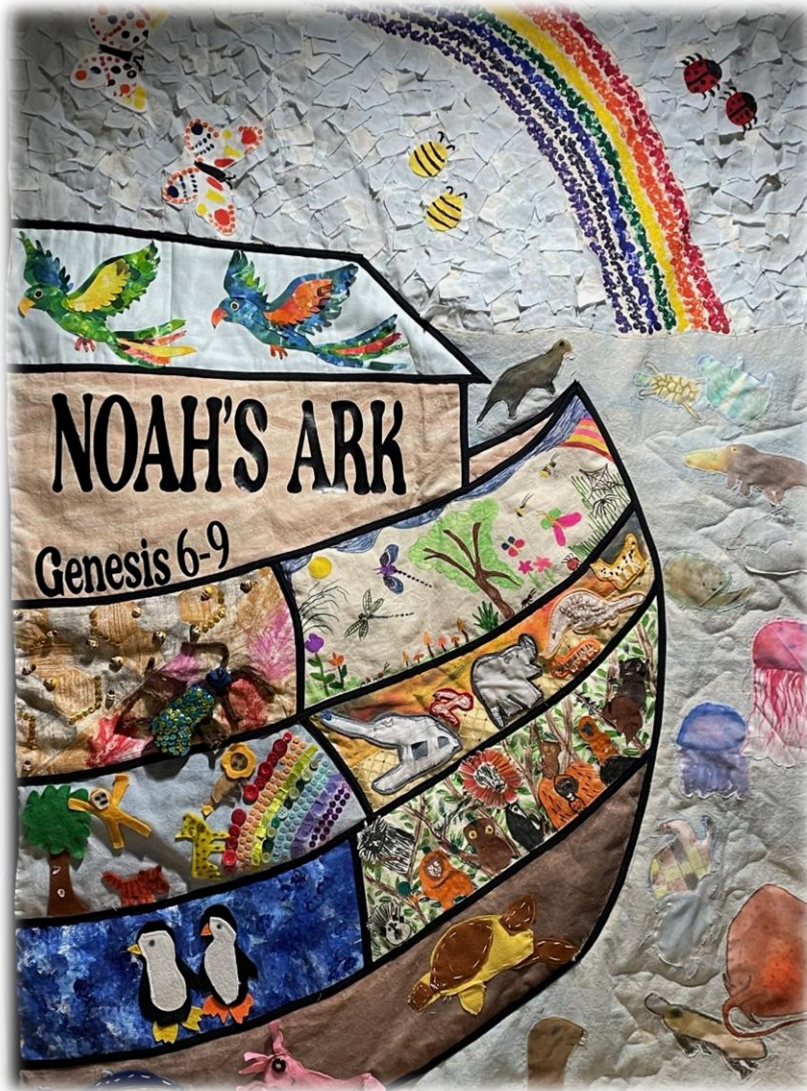
- Offers of cakes for the refreshments table
- Potted up plants for the plant stall
- Empty tin cans, labels removed for a tin-can-posy stall
- Packets of seeds or saved seed that is surplus to requirements
- Help on the day with setting up from 11am
- Help with manning stalls or activities
- Help with clearing up from 4pm
- Talking to people so that everyone feels welcome

Please bring cakes, plants, and seeds on the day from 11am.

I will put a box in one of the back pews in the church for empty tin cans.

If you can help, please contact Beth B-G, 07791 841201, smileitsbethbg@gmail.com

Fairford Church of England Primary School: Report of Impact for Noah's Ark
Term 1 – Whole School Project



Context

During Term 1, pupils across the school took part in the *God's Great Earth: Noah's Ark Project*, led by Holly Miles and Vicki Coxhead, with support from Ellen Ewens in her role as Eco Lead. The project combined Religious Education, art, spirituality and environmental stewardship to explore humanity's responsibility to care for God's creation.

Using the story of Noah's Ark as a theological foundation, pupils reflected on how Noah was instructed by God to protect and preserve living creatures. This enabled children to make meaningful links between biblical teaching and modern-day conservation issues, particularly endangered animals and the importance of protecting the natural world.

Pupils researched endangered species and designed artwork panels to contribute towards a collaborative fabric art installation based around Noah's Ark. The project intentionally promoted sustainability through the use of recycled and reused materials, including fabric scraps, ribbons, buttons and sequins donated from existing resources and the wider community.

The project strongly reflected the school's Christian vision:

"I have written your name on the palms of my hands."

Isaiah 49:16

Through the project, pupils explored the understanding that all creation is known, valued and loved by God. The learning encouraged children to recognise their responsibility to care for others and for the world God has entrusted to us.

The project also embodied the school's Christian values:

- **Respect** – valuing God's creatures and the environment
- **Thankfulness** – appreciating the beauty of creation
- **Friendship** – working collaboratively on shared artwork
- **Perseverance** – developing designs and completing detailed creative work
- **Trust** – understanding God's promises through the story of Noah
- **Forgiveness** – reflecting on humanity's mistakes and the opportunity to care for creation more responsibly

Impact

The Noah's Ark Project had a significant impact on pupils' spiritual development, environmental awareness and understanding of the school's Christian vision.

Pupils developed a deeper understanding that caring for the world is an expression of faith and stewardship. Through research into endangered animals, children began to recognise the fragility of God's creation and reflected thoughtfully on the role humans play in protecting it. The project enabled pupils to connect biblical teaching with real-world issues in a meaningful and age-appropriate way.

The collaborative nature of the artwork fostered a strong sense of belonging and shared responsibility. Pupils understood that each individual contribution mattered, mirroring the school vision that every person is known, valued and loved by God. The process of creating a collective piece of artwork helped pupils to flourish creatively whilst also strengthening teamwork and communication skills.

The emphasis on reusing and recycling materials further reinforced the importance of conservation and sustainable living. Pupils demonstrated pride in creating something beautiful from existing resources, showing growing awareness of environmental responsibility.

Reflection activities recorded within RE books provided evidence of deep thinking and personal response. Pupils were able to articulate how the final artwork linked to Christian values and explained why specific animals or themes were personally meaningful to them. This encouraged both spiritual reflection and pupil voice.

The project also strengthened links between RE, art and wider curriculum learning, allowing pupils to experience faith as something lived out through action, creativity and care for the world around them.

Pupil Voice

“Noah saved the animals because God loved them and we should look after animals too.”

“I chose a sea turtle because plastic in the ocean hurts them and I want to help protect them.”

“Using old fabric showed that we can reuse things instead of wasting them.”

“Our panel shows friendship because everybody worked together.”

“The ark reminds us that God cares for every living thing.”

“I liked making something together because every piece mattered.”

Community Voice

Parents and members of the school community responded positively to the project and valued the strong connection between faith, creativity and environmental responsibility. Donations of materials from families supported the sustainability focus of the project and strengthened community involvement within school life.

Staff noted high levels of engagement across all year groups, particularly amongst pupils who flourished through practical and creative learning opportunities. The collaborative artwork became a visible celebration of the school's Christian vision in action and demonstrated how collective work can reflect shared values and responsibility.

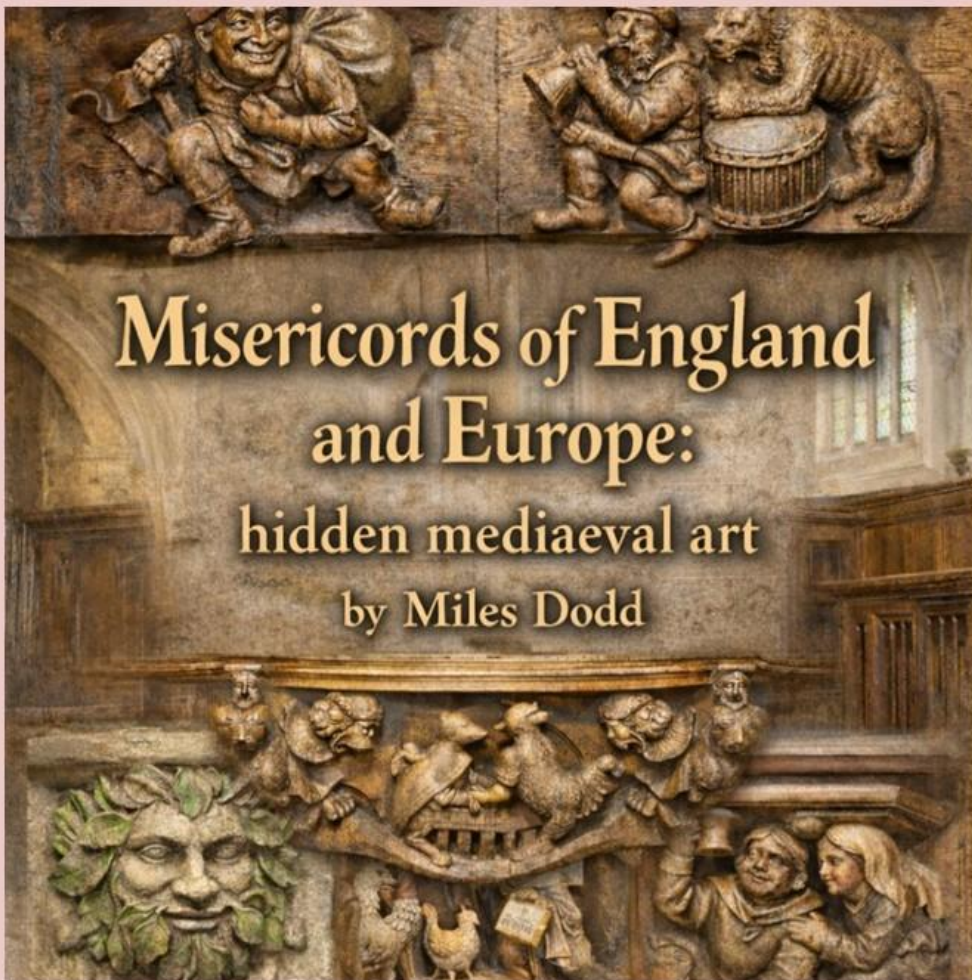
The project also provided opportunities for wider discussion around conservation, stewardship and protecting God's world, helping to strengthen the school's role within the community as a place where children are encouraged to care for others and the environment.

At
FAIRFORD HISTORY



SOCIETY

**Thursday May 21st at
7.30pm at
Fairford Community
Centre**



www.fairfordhistory.org.uk

SUPPORT FAIRTRADE AND OUR LOCAL FOOD BANKS



 x 

Hope
is everywhere

One simple act of hope:
Donate 1 Fairtrade item to a local
food bank



13-20 May

Join hope-makers across the UK

Ms Hassina, Tea plucker at Stanes Tea Farm in South India

MUSIC
• AT ST MARY'S •

CONCERT

THE NORTH SWINDON BIG BAND



Church of St Mary the Virgin Fairford
7:30pm Saturday 11th July 2026

Join us for an evening feast of jazz and swing classics
Tickets £15. Available via [eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk) (fees apply)
or cash at Fairford opticians from 1st June (01285 713313)



COMMUNITY GARDEN

PLANT & SEED

DONATION EVENT

Sat 16th May

11:30am-1:30pm

W4W Needs You!

Help us bring our community garden to life by donating seeds and plant cuttings 🌱🌸

Please support us by dropping off your donations at:

📍 Fairford Town Council Annual Meeting at the Palmer Hall

or

📍 Fairford Community Centre

🕒 Wednesdays, 10:00am – 12:00pm

Every donation helps our garden grow and flourish for the whole community 🌱





COMMUNITY GARDEN EVENT

30th
May

10am-
11am

Community
Garden

🌿 W4W Needs You! 🌿

We need manpower, green fingers, and community spirit! 🙌🌱

We are looking for families, volunteers, and anyone who enjoys being outdoors—bring your children along to learn new skills and get involved in something positive for the community.

Let's come together on a Saturday morning and transform our community garden through weeding, planting, and growing together.

🌸 Kids can also "sponsor a flower" and watch it grow as part of the garden!

Come along, get stuck in, and help us make something beautiful for everyone to enjoy ❤️



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

RIDE + STRIDES for Churches

**12TH
SEPT
2026**

**Discover & Support
Gloucestershire's &
North Bristol's
Historic Churches**

**Travel your way through
the stunning churches and
chapels of Gloucestershire
and North Bristol.**



**Your sponsorship
supports the
Gloucestershire Historic
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