



50 years since 'The Summer of 76' – 15 consecutive days on which the peak temperature was above 32C!
Now it's becoming the norm' - Keep cool!



South Cotswold Team Ministry Sunday 28th June 2026

Clergy

Vicar: Rev'd Caroline Symcox – 01285 712467

Curate: Rev'd Vicky Falvey – 07356 234248

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

carolinesymcox@googlemail.com

revvickyfalvey@gmail.com

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SERVICES

Sunday 28th June – 4th Sunday after Trinity

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.00 am All-Age Holy Communion Service and Blessing of the Bug Church

Foundations – Rev'd Vicky's first Communion

Coffee: Janet Edwards and Beth Bruce-Gardner

Thursday 2nd July

10.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 5th July – 5th Sunday after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Holy Communion Service

Sidespeople: Eleanor and Michelle

Offertory: David and Sally Salter

Prayer Rota: Ann Nicholls and Val Trafford

Readings: Mike Godsall Intercessions: Val Trafford

Coffee: Mary Mawle and Margaret Frazer

From Rev'd Caroline – 01285 712467 – carolinesymcox@googlemail.com

Readings for Sunday: Genesis 1.28 – 2.3; Matthew 10:40-42

Our 10am service this weekend sees us celebrating two wonderful things. Firstly, the ordination of Rev'd Vicky to the priesthood, and her first celebration of Holy Communion – an incredibly special event and a true joy. And secondly, laying the foundations of our Bug Church – a scale model of the church to be filled with all the good things to make it a good home for any number of the 'creeping things that creep upon the earth', as Genesis puts it. In this we will be joined by representatives from Fairford Primary School, our partners in the creation of our Bug Church, and its sister church that will be built on the school grounds.

Tying these two special moments together is our awareness of how God builds his Church and his Creation, calling people into service. To follow Jesus is to be ready to have open eyes to look at the world, and to recognise the ways in which we can help, care, and play our part in building God's Kingdom.

The call to a person to ordained ministry is one very particular way in which God might call us to serve him. It is one way among many though – vocation might be a voice calling us to all kinds of different roles and tasks. And we believe that God calls each and every one of us. Our task then, is to recognise what God purposes for us, and to respond to it. Where is God calling you to be? Who is he calling you to become?

What he is always asking from us though, is a willingness to love. To look for ways to love – whether that be offered to the smallest millipede or to the most important person in the world. Jesus says, "...whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple – truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."

Which little ones might we reach out to, this week? What encouragement and care can we offer? May we find opportunities to build God's Kingdom as he builds us, his adopted children, into the Body of Christ, his hands and feet here on Earth.

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 29th June. Join us using the information below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81612382676?pwd=nJxe40fVrHIKOR2zbaO95KwhaZXEgA.1>

Meeting ID: 816 1238 2676, Passcode: 604770

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

From Ann Nicholls

Be a vessel of love!

God is looking for people he can use as a vessel to reach out to love other people.

Will you be one?

Lord, I often jump straight in with my 'shopping list' of prayers expecting instant solutions to my problems.

I know that your timing is perfect, and I ask you to help me to wait for your help and to trust in the current situation that I find myself in that blessings will come, help me to learn what it is that you are teaching me at this time. I praise and magnify your holy name.

You have modelled what great love looks like, help me to live and love like you. Thank you for sending your Holy Spirit to help me live this out. My desire is to serve the people around me and to share the love of Jesus with those who need it most. I pray in his most holy name. AMEN

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Please remember the following in your prayers:

Those who are ill: Sheila Hughes, Grace Slack, Hannah, Tabi Berry, Meg Ralph

Those who have died:
Christine Stevens, Graham Morgan

All-Age Communion – 28th June

Our 10am service on the 28th June will be an All-Age Communion service, at which we will bless the foundations of our new churchyard Bug Church, with the help of pupils from Fairford Primary School, and of course our own Rev'd Vicky will preside at Holy Communion for the first time. Hope to see you there!

NOTICES

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. It's not too late to decide you'd like to come along, and there are still places in cars travelling to Gloucester. 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. The live-stream can be accessed either through the Diocese of Gloucester website (all information is here, including order of service, and a list of those being ordained: <https://gloucester.anglican.org/2026/ordinations-2026/>) or through the Diocesan YouTube channel here: <https://www.youtube.com/@DioceseofGloucester>

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

Safeguarding update from Val Trafford (Parish Safeguarding Officer)

Bishop Robert is the new Safeguarding Lead for the Church of England and in his latest communication is alerting us to the new campaign, "It's not Just Policy, It's Personal" which was released last week. Please see his comments.

"The campaign stresses that safeguarding is not merely a matter of compliance or procedure, important though those things are. At its heart is a person: someone who may be frightened, hurt or taking a costly step in speaking up. For those who seek to follow Jesus, safeguarding is therefore not just about getting processes right, but again about how we live our faith. How we listen, how we respond, how carefully we handle what is shared, and how seriously we take the dignity of each person all matter deeply. The campaign's emphasis is timely and important: policy matters, but people matter most."

Stewards, Choir members and Bellringers, you will have recently received an email from your Team leader requesting that you complete the Basic Safeguarding training either on line or at a group workshop. I have had a few replies but I am still waiting for the majority of you to get back to me with your preferred option. Please email me at val.trafford@me.com

Once numbers requesting group training have been confirmed Caroline and I will meet to arrange training days.

Thank you all for your support in this matter.

Healing Service at St Mary's – last Sunday of the month - something for everyone!

At our last meeting of the Prayer Ministry team, we thought it might be a good idea just to write a short piece in the newsletter about the Healing Prayer Service that happens at 6 pm on the last Sunday of the month (the same Sunday as the All-Age worship service). Including this coming Sunday 28 June.

It's open to everyone to attend, it's quiet and informal and those of us who attend regularly find it an oasis of calm and uplifting prayer at end of the weekend/beginning of next week.

Although it includes Holy Communion, we use a modern and accessible order of service, introduced by Bishop Maddocks' statement that Christian healing is "Christ meeting you at your point of need".

We sit in circle round the nave altar - and there can be anything between about 6 and 20 people in attendance. The service usually lasts about an hour.

The service is led by one of the groups, with others contributing a reading (can be from the Bible but often is from other books which people have found inspiring) and intercessory prayers. A priest is present, usually Denise, to lead the Eucharistic parts of the service and give the blessing.

In the middle of the service, there is a quiet time when we light candles to remember things or people we want to pray for, accompanied by meditative music. After that, there is a period where you can go and receive prayer ministry from members of the prayer team about something or someone on your mind; and/or receive an anointing with oil (sign of the cross on your forehead or hands) from the priest. You don't have to do or say anything to receive an anointing - even though the priest might not know why you are there, God does – and it's a powerful sign of God's love for each one of us, his forgiveness, affirmation and purpose for us.

But you don't need to go up for prayer or anointing – many people just stay in their seats during this time, appreciating the prayerful atmosphere.

After the time of prayer and anointing, we move into a simple Eucharist, receiving the bread and wine as we stand and sit round the nave altar.

The service is an important connection with Christ's healing ministry – trusting in God to be with us whatever our need – physical, mental or spiritual. Its quiet simplicity calls to that famous verse from St Matthew: "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

Invitation from the Ukrainian Church – Gloucester

The invitation below is from the Ukrainian Church where we take all the items we collect to send out to Ukraine.

On the 11th and 12th of July between 1pm and 4pm, The Ukrainian Church in Gloucester will be holding an art exhibition "Icons on Ammo boxes".

The exhibition has been displayed across the world in twenty different countries including the EU Parliament, Wallace Hall - New York, the 2023 NATO summit and the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral in London where an Icon 'Our Lady of Tenderness' was presented to His Majesty King Charles.

In May of last year, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy presented Pope Leo XIV with an Icon 'The Mother of God and Child' which symbolises Ukrainian children and the need to protect them.

Ten of the Icons recently arrived from Kyiv. We are honoured that this is only the second exhibition in which they feature.

We would like to invite you to this exhibition - please feel free to attend on either day. The address of the Ukrainian Church is Derby Road, Gloucester, GL1 4AE. It is just after Gloucester Hospital, over the level crossing, under the bridge, then on the left.

High Five Project Event - Fundraising for Children's Charities and St Mary's Church



Summer Garden Barbecue Event – 20th June

A lovely day was had by all on Saturday 20th June, when the High Five Team event of a Summer Barbecue took place at The Bull Pens, by kind permission of Andy, organised by Jos and Ian.

We were extremely lucky to get the help of Linda and Richard, with Richard running the barbecue and Linda helping in the kitchen.

Amanda and Helen were also invaluable and ensured everything ran smoothly, and of course, Andy was busiest of all, making sure our helpers had everything they wanted, and the gardens looked stunning.

Jay Matthews and her Uke Band came along to keep everyone entertained with music, and after lunch, even ran a singalong. Thanks to Amanda and Mervyn helping with their marquee and gazebo, there was appropriate cover for any brief moments of light rain.

The event made a profit of £467 (over target). We are so grateful for all the help we had to reach this figure from such a fantastic team of helpers and musicians, and to everyone who bought a ticket and came along to support the afternoon.

We set out at the beginning of the year to put on a range of events for High Five and could not do any of this without all the valuable support we are receiving.

Thank you so very much.
Jos, Linda, Meg, and Hope.

Our Next Events – see Newsletter posters for details:

Saturday 4th July 7pm: Cotswold Music Mix Concert in the church, 7pm. Free admission. Retiring donations to High Five and St Mary's. The Jaybirds, Kencot Ukulele Band, VoKaL community choir, and Special Guest. Conductor: **Jay Matthews.** Accompanist: **Geoff Holmes.**

Saturday 25th July 3pm: Strawberries and Prosecco Afternoon in the lovely gardens of Finches Field, The Croft, Fairford GL7 4BB. Tickets £15: Church Office, 1st July on.

Proceeds in aid of High Five Project 2026 Fundraising for Children's Charities

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

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)

It's Back!



In St Mary's Churchyard

*Tuesday 28th
July
10am-12pm*

*All ages welcome!
Children please bring an
accompanying adult*



Bug facts



Crafts



Bug Olympics



Stories and yoga



Refreshments (Yes

that means biscuits!)




There is no charge, but donations would be gratefully received
Advanced booking is not required

COTSWOLDS MUSIC MIX CONCERT


With music groups from Fairford, Lechlade, and surrounds

The Jaybirds – a group of close harmony singers

Kencot Ukulele Band 

VøKaL (Voices of Kencot and Lechlade) 

Conductor: Jay Mathews
Accompanist: Geoff Holmes


Cotswolds
Music Mix

SATURDAY 4TH JULY 2026
ST MARY'S CHURCH FAIRFORD
7PM (DOORS OPEN 6.30PM)

Refreshments available before the concert and in the interval.

No ticket required. Join us for an evening of fun and music

and there will be a retiring donations collection for:

High Five Project 2026 Fundraising for Children's Charities

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



A Growing Community Vision



Sometimes you apply for something hoping for the best but not expecting to win . That was certainly the case when W4W applied for a Dobbies Community Grant. To our surprise and delight, we were successful, beating 22 other charities to secure funding for our Community Garden project.

I have to admit, perhaps some of Margaret Bishop's grant-writing skills have finally rubbed off on me!

On a more serious note, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Dobbies Garden Centre for believing in our vision and supporting this small but important community space that we are transforming together.

The project has already captured the imagination of local people. The Door Youth Club and the Scouts have embraced the challenge and have already helped with planting. Former Mayor Vicky Lipscombe has a personal connection to the garden and is lovingly caring for her grandfather's memorial bench and surrounding area. A special thank you must also go to ex councillor Derek, who saw the potential of this space from the very beginning and helped turn an idea into reality and still helps maintain the garden despite no longer being on the council. More recently, Fairford's Deputy Mayor Sandra has stepped in to support the project. As anyone who knows me will tell you, I am far from green-fingered, so her guidance and enthusiasm are very much appreciated! Men shed for the planters that have seen their first blossom already. To Bob the care taker that keeps an eye on it for us- stepping in on hot days to water and did a lot of the digging and the initial hard work at the start. Thanks for the Town Council for seeing the vision and setting wheels in motion.

So, what have we achieved so far?

On 30th May, 13 volunteers came together for a community gardening session. Thanks to the Dobbies grant, we planted new flowers and shrubs and added decorative metal windmills and flowers to make the garden more noticeable. We discovered that many residents didn't even realise the Community Garden existed or knew where to find it. Putting these things in place give it a pop of colour and now it stands out!

While the garden doesn't have an official address, you'll find it on Milton Street. Walk up the two steps and you'll see the benches. It brings me enormous happiness whenever I pass by and see people sitting there, watching the world go by and enjoying a moment of peace.





Now we need your help!

For this garden to continue thriving, we need more people to get involved with its maintenance. We are hoping Men Shed will create a plaque that reads:



"All Welcome - Plant, Water, Weed, or Simply Sit, Rest and Enjoy the Beauty. Please Help Keep the Garden Thriving."

That really sums up what this space is all about. There is no commitment and no pressure. Come when you can, do what you can, and enjoy what has been created for the community.

Looking ahead, we are exploring ways to transform the lower section of the garden into a sensory area for children, complete with a fairy garden and painted rocks. We will soon be hosting a rock-painting session, with creations being placed throughout the garden for everyone to enjoy.



We would also love to hear from local groups with ideas for activities, features or projects they would like to bring to the garden. We still have some of the Dobbies funding available to help turn good ideas into reality.

Our next community gardening session will take place on 11th July from 10:00am to 11:00am. We are only asking for one hour of your time. As the saying goes, many hands make light work.

Together, we can create a beautiful, welcoming space that belongs to everyone.

BEFORE

AFTER





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

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

THE

BARN theatre

BUS



THURSDAY 23RD JULY 2.30PM MATINEE

1PM - LECHLADE - BUTCHERS

1:10PM - FAIRFORD FIRE STATION

1:15PM - FAIRFORD COMMUNITY CENTRE

1:35PM - THE GEORGE, KEMPSFORD.

BOOK CONTACT MARY ANN 07555738138

The logo for 'RIDE + STRIDES for Churches' features the word 'RIDE' in red with a gear-like texture on the 'D' and a blue chain link above it. A red plus sign follows. 'STRIDES' is in red with blue bunting above it. Below this, 'for Churches' is written in white on a green rectangular background.

RIDE + STRIDES **for Churches**

Saturday 12th September 2026

Can you Help Please? – Volunteers needed!

Ride and Stride are organising an event travelling through Churches and Chapels around Gloucestershire and North Bristol.

We would very much like to offer a comfort break for the tired Riders and Striders here at St. Mary's!

If you feel that you would be able to help with opening / closing the Community Centre and or, serving refreshments, please let the Parish office know – your help would be greatly appreciated!

Thank you!

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:

Please Contact: