



Blooming good year for the roses, so far!



South Cotswold Team Ministry Sunday 14th June

Clergy

Vicar: Rev'd Caroline Symcox – 01285 712467
Curate: Rev'd Vicky Falvey – 07356 234248
Priest – Pastoral Care: Rev'd Canon Denise Hyde
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SERVICES

Sunday 14th June – 2nd Sunday after Trinity

8.00 am Holy Communion
10.00 am Holy Communion Service
Sidespeople: Andy Wilkinson and Heather Gorton
Offertory: David Salter / Sally Salter
Prayer Rota: Denise Hyde and Ruth Blackwell
Readings: Stewart Benzie Intercessions: Meg Ralph
Coffee: Mary Mawle and Janet Edwards

Thursday 18th June

10.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 21st June – 3rd Sunday after Trinity

8.00 am Holy Communion
10.00 am Holy Communion Service
Sidespeople: Jill Connell and Kim Sutton
Offertory: Fiona Gilroy
Prayer Rota: Michelle Harris and Valerie Trafford
Readings: Sally Salter Intercessions: Ruth Blackwell
Coffee: Amanda and Mervyn Cully
12.00 noon Baptism of Amayah Bobbi Hadgkiss

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

Readings for Sunday: Exodus 19.2-8a; Romans 5.1-8; Matthew 9.35-10.8

There are many deep and complex things about human beings, but there are at least two facts about the nature of being human that are simple, straightforward and desperately important.

Firstly, human beings are fundamentally social. We are meant to be in communities, not alone. All our sources of knowledge agree on this. Science tells us about the social needs that are ingrained into the fact of being human. We suffer and fail when we are isolated. Solitary confinement of prisoners is literally torture. We know that isolation and loneliness can be as devastating for our health as smoking. Scripture tells us the same! Adam wasn't complete until he had Eve alongside him. We are told that God, who is Trinity, the ultimate relation, created humans in God's own image – made to be in loving relation with others.

Secondly, our social nature is our greatest strength. Other creatures on this earth may be stronger or faster. You may think you could fight a bear, or a lion or a leopard solo, but you would be wrong in 99.9% of cases. But when we work together, nothing is impossible. We survived so well across the millennia because we form communities and can speak with, understand and work together.

Communities can and should be fantastic and life-giving. But there is a down-side. A good and well-led community can do enormous good in the world. One that is led towards violence and hate can do untold damage. Jesus, in our readings this Sunday, sends his disciples out to the 'lost sheep of the house of Israel' – those who have been led astray, and are no longer living as God intended. If a community goes wrong it can easily move from being a 'priestly kingdom and a holy nation' as God names his people in Exodus, and instead become a source of pain and suffering.

I think we are seeing something of that today. So many people in the world, and in our nation in particular, feeling lost and rudderless, grabbing hold of someone who tells them they have all the answers, and being led into darkness and violence. We saw it in Southampton a few days ago. We are seeing it in Belfast over the last few nights, and in so many other places. Have ever communities been so lost and wickedly transformed?

The task of the disciples back in Judea, and the task of Jesus' disciples today is the same. People need to be called back, back to the leadership of The Good Shepherd, whose teachings are life and health. And there is much work to be done! Indeed, the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. May God give us strength and grace to live out his Word and build those good communities today.

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 15th June. Join us using the information below:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81612382676?pwd=nJxe40fVrHIKOR2zbaO95KwhaZXEgA.1>
Meeting ID: 816 1238 2676, Passcode: 604770

Parish Office

The Parish office is now open Monday - Friday between 10.00 am – 12.00 noon and I have taken over from Heather and Michelle as Parish office Administrator - some big shoes to fill I feel!

This is my first newsletter, and I look forward to meeting and working with you and, thank you to everyone who has made me feel so welcome!

Jan.

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Please remember the following in your prayers:

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

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

From Ann Nicholls

GRACE: God's riches at Christ's expense.

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you for the Trinity, Father God, the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Thank you Father for the gift of your son, and for leaving the Holy Spirit to enable us to be your witnesses in this world.

Thank you for the people who encourage us in our faith, help us to sow seeds of encouragement for others with our words and actions.

May you enable us in our faith to follow you so that we are prepared to follow you no matter where you take us.

We pray in Jesus' name. AMEN

NOTICES

Parish Administrator

As you will have seen over the page, we are delighted to welcome our new Parish Administrator, Jan Joslyn, to the team! She started this past Monday, and is already settling in well. Welcome Jan!

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 minibus 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.

Bible Study – Fridays

Rev'd Vicky is leading a new Bible study group on Friday morning, 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.

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)

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



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



**High Five Project Events This Summer
Fundraising for Children's Charities and
St Mary's Church**



Summer Barbecue by invitation of Jos and Ian, to be held at The Bull Pens, East End, GL7 4AP, with kind permission of Mrs Andy Wilkinson. Music from Kencot Ukes. Saturday 20th June 12.30pm. Tickets £15 from the Church Office.



Cotswold Music Mix Concert Saturday 4th July with songs, music, and instrumentals, under the direction of Jay Matthews. 7pm in the church. Refreshments. Retiring donations.



Strawberries and Prosecco Afternoon in the gardens of Finches Field, The Croft, GL7 4BB, by kind permission of Amanda and Mervyn Cully. Music from The Jay Birds. Saturday 25th July at 3pm. Tickets £15 from the Church Office.



Blackbirds and Pimms Afternoon Tea by kind invitation from Katie and Jeremy Blake in the gardens of The White House, London Street, GL7 4AQ. Sandwiches, cakes, Pimms, tea, and music from The Blackbirds. Saturday 22nd August at 3pm. Tickets £15 from The Church Office.



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



Jos and Ian invite you to a



Summer Barbecue



in the splendid gardens of

*The Bull Pens, East End, Fairford, GL7 4AP,
by kind permission of Mrs Andy Wilkinson.*

Saturday 20th June 12.30pm

with music from The Kencot Ukulele Group

**Tickets £15 on sale from the Church Office,
Fairford Community Centre.**

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
and supporting St Mary's church.*