



A417 Missing Link – missing no more! Work continues on the project but the last section of road connecting the M4, M5 and Gloucester is complete and if you have driven on it, you cannot fail to be amazed by this incredible feat of engineering!



South Cotswold Team Ministry Sunday 27th September 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
denisehyde15@gmail.com

SERVICES

Sunday 27th September – 17th after Trinity

8.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.00am All-Age Worship Service

Coffee: Sarah Bottomley

6.00pm Healing Prayer Service with Holy Communion

Sunday 4th October – 18th after Trinity

8.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.00am Sung Eucharist

Sidespeople: Eleanor and Michelle

Offertory: David and Sally Salter

Prayer: Denise Hyde and Ann Nicholls

Readings: Linda Howlett Intercession: Alison Godsall

Coffee: Amanda and Mervyn Cully

6.00pm Healing Prayer Service with Holy Communion

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

Readings for Sunday: Ezekiel 18.1-4, 25-end; Philippians 2.1-13; Matthew 21.23-32

What is Creationtide?

We are part of a single, wondrously complex web of life that is woven by God. Each year from September 1 to October 4, the worldwide Christian family celebrates the good gift of creation. This global celebration began in 1989 with the Ecumenical Patriarchate's recognition of the day of prayer for creation and is now embraced by the wide ecumenical community. During the Season of Creation, we unite as one family in Christ, celebrating the bonds we share with each other and with "every living creature on Earth" (Genesis 9:10).

The Christian family celebrates the Season by spending time in prayer, considering ways to inhabit our common home more sustainably, and lifting our voices in the public sphere. This is a time we seek to mark at St Mary's as well, in common worship and private prayer. Indeed, our All-Age Service this Sunday will be led by our Eco-Church Group, members of our community committed to helping us play our part in the safeguarding of Creation.

Sometimes I think we can be deterred from thinking about our role as stewards of Creation by the size of the challenges that lie ahead of us. Even just looking back at the summer that has just past can lead us to despairing thoughts. Is this just the beginning of unliveable heat and drought in this nation? Young people especially might feel this – the unfairness of inheriting a world broken by the choices of their ancestors in chasing short-term gain at the cost of long-term destruction. We might well echo the words of those despairing, exiled people of God in the book of Ezekiel – "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge". Why is it that we should suffer for the sins of others?

But as the Lord says through Ezekiel, and as Jesus shows in his parable to his hostile audience of priests and elders of the people, it does not do to look back. The important choices are the ones we make now – how we respond to the situation in which we find ourselves. For the exiled Jewish people, it is in their power to choose whether to return to God and find life once more. For the vineyard-owner's sons in Jesus' parable, it is in their power to choose to work now, or not, regardless of the words or mistakes that came first.

The worst thing we can do is succumb to the force of learned helplessness, where we don't do anything because we're afraid it won't make a difference. Whatever came before, it is never too late. Never too late to turn to the Lord. Never too late to begin the work that you originally said you wouldn't do. Never too late to make changes in the way we live and think to take better care of our world and each other.

We followers of Christ, members of his family, are not creatures of despair. We are people of hope – looking forward to his reign, living out his call. Whatever came before, now is the time to start again. Now is the time to choose to live, and walk the path of our Lord.

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 28th September.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87416436680?pwd=byYRJ1syRXxd5ak2WVMJ6YbHpQ6gO5.1>

Meeting ID: 874 1643 6680

Passcode: 551

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

Please remember the following in your prayers:

Those who are ill: Sheila Hughes, Grace Slack, Hannah, Tabi Berry, Elles de Grau

Those who have died: William Edward Whale

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. 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 the notice above for clarification).*

For further details please contact Rev'd Denise on 01285 713285 or denisehyde15@gmail.com.

Prayer Requests

Would you like us to pray for you? If you have a particular need or concern, please complete a prayer request slip and place it in our prayer request box it will then be included in our Community Prayers every Monday for a month.

Both the prayer request box and prayer request slips can be found on our new prayer table by the pulpit in the Nave or contact Rev'd Denise.

From Ann Nicholls

'And we know that in all things God works for good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.' - *Romans 8:28*

Creator God, thank you for our purpose and calling.

In times of doubt and fear remind us that we are never alone and strengthen our trust in your presence.

Help us to be faithful followers of Christ, may we walk in his steps and help others to do the same.

Guide us to align our skills, desires and talents with your will for our lives, and help us to remember that our strength is in our relationship with you.

Thank you for making our burdens light.

In Jesus' name and for his glory. AMEN

Friday Bible study group

The Friday Bible study group meets fortnightly, 10:30-11:30am at Janet Edward's house.

The group will be taking a break from meeting in September but would be delighted to welcome any new members when it restarts in October.

For more information, please speak to Revd Caroline.

Safeguarding

Parish Safeguarding Officer - Val Trafford - val.trafford@me.com

For those members of the community who need to complete their Basic Safeguarding training, or for those who are just interested and would like to learn more, we would like to invite you to a training session led by Val on Monday 26th October. It starts at 10:00 in the Barker Room at the Community Centre, and will finish with a light lunch of homemade soup, bread and cakes at about 12:00.

Do let Val know if you're planning to attend!

NOTICES

Music at St Mary's: Looking Ahead

We are already planning next year's concert programme and would love to hear your ideas. We are considering more outstanding classical performances, something non-classical and maybe the return of one or two favourite acts. If there is something you would particularly like to hear at St Mary's, please let us know.

Thank you for your continued support.

Jane-Emma Peerless (on behalf of the PCC)

Music at St Mary's Teatime Concert - Adrian Partington and Leora Cohen - Saturday 19 September 2026

Those who had been concerned about whether a teatime concert was a good idea need not have worried. People came from far and wide (well – Hatherop, Cirencester and even Filkins!), resulting in a well-filled church for our visiting performers.

Leora Cohen is a young violinist specialising in chamber and solo work; Adrian Partington many of us were aware of as not only the Director of Music at Gloucester Cathedral but (more importantly!) quite a frequent visitor to Fairford as President of the Fairford and District Choral Society.

They gave us a memorable and varied programme of music: from baroque to classical to twentieth century.

The Bach sonata in A Major demonstrated expert interaction between violinist and accompanist as they shared the intertwining fugue-like themes, with Bach as usual surprising us with the modern-ness of his tunes and rhythms. Beethoven's well-loved Spring Sonata gave us the full range of the violin's beautiful tones, again with soloist and pianist exchanging its lovely singable melodies.

The *Adagio* showed how the violin could be almost silent while the piano held the tune but then could burst into life with the theme played with full expression.

The *Scherzo* contained some very skilful passing of the tune between both players, with a hairsbreadth of a beat in between them; while the *Rondo* provided mounting excitement.

The Elgar Violin Sonata in E Minor was a complex work which is more dramatic than either of the earlier pieces, eliciting bravura performances from both players. It showcased melodic beauty as in the *Allegro, non troppo* and then punchy chords in the violin in the last movement.

The concert was rounded off by Heifetz's arrangement of tunes from Gershwin's opera **Porgy and Bess**, including the famous *Summertime* and *It Ain't Necessarily So*. Although the tunes were well-known, the virtuoso arrangement sprang a lot of extra surprises - challenges to which Leora rose admirably.

The concert was very well organised - from the complexity of hiring and tuning a Yamaha grand piano, to the clear, attractive programmes, to the aptness of a closing prayer from Caroline.

Many thanks to the organising committee - Jackie Cullum, Jane-Emma Peerless, Alison Godsal and Rev'd Caroline.

Thanks, and appreciation also to Helen Evans, Ros Wightman and Val Trafford who delivered a very efficient tea and cake operation, of which concertgoers availed themselves enthusiastically.

Save the Date!

Sunday 11th October – Harvest Thanksgiving Service here at St Mary's.

Saturday 31st October at Fairford Community Centre – 12.00noon – 2pm soup lunch and crafts, in aid of Help Madina charity – more details to follow.

Please contact Helen, 01285 713431

Coffee Rota: Volunteers Needed

We are currently a bit short of volunteers to serve coffee and biscuits after the 10 am service every week and would welcome a few new people on the list.

Currently our turn comes around about every two months. It's a good way to meet new people and is much appreciated. The coffee and tea are provided, so only milk and biscuits need to be brought on the day.

If you are interested in knowing more, please talk to Sarah Bottomley.

Church Cleaning – Help Needed

Since several of our hard-working church cleaning team have had to step back recently, we have a pressing need for two roles in particular:

- a) A volunteer to organise the church cleaning rota. The Holy Dusters do a fantastic job, but the teams really need someone to co-ordinate which team is working where and when. Could you help organise?
- b) A volunteer to take on the cleaning of the church brass. Our candlesticks and High Altar crucifix are all made of beautiful brass, which looks great, but needs regular love and attention. Might you be able to take on the task of keeping it shining?

Fairtrade Fortnight – Fair Pay Matters

From 21 September to 4 October, we celebrate Fairtrade Fortnight.

St Mary's Church is proud to be a Fairtrade Place of Worship, and this year we are invited to pause and think about the people behind the products we buy and enjoy every day.

The focus this year is fair pay, reminding us of the simple truth that fair pay matters because everyone deserves the chance to live well. Farmers and workers around the world work hard to grow and produce the tea, coffee, chocolate, fruit and other goods that we often take for granted. Fair pay can help provide dignity, security and a better future for individuals, families and communities.

As a church, this is an opportunity to reflect on how our everyday choices can support justice and fairness for others.

To mark Fairtrade Fortnight, we will be holding a Fairtrade Coffee Morning on Saturday 26 September, from 10am–12 noon. Come along, enjoy some Fairtrade refreshments, find out more about Fairtrade and take some time to reflect on how our everyday choices can help make a difference.

Lechlade with Fairford Mothers' Union Project for HMP Eastwood Park

The prison in Gloucestershire at Wotton-under-Edge is for women aged 18 and over. When the ladies are coming out of prison they have nothing. Giving them new bits and pieces can help them rehabilitate and give them dignity.

Apparently, the ladies really value the thought that someone cares enough to donate new things to help their re-entry back into society.

As a branch we are collecting for the next few months **sanitary products, face moisturiser, cleanser, cotton wool pads, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, conditioner, shower gel, small hairbrushes, combs, scrunchies, pants, bras, socks and coffee vouchers along with small holdalls or rucksacks.**

We would also appreciate your support as a congregation with this worthy cause.

If you are able to donate any of the mentioned items above, please leave them in the box provided at the back of the church, in the south aisle.

Thank you for your support.

St Mary's Eco Church



Showing the People's National Emergency Briefing on Climate and Nature 15 September 2026

St Mary's Eco Church group were delighted to welcome 65 attendees to the showing of the film, the People's National Emergency Briefing (PNEB) on climate change and nature.

This was the first in their series of Jane Kidd Eco Talks for this 2026 27 season.

Thanks are due to Nicky Turner and Barbara Brockway for hosting the evening and facilitating the discussion and to the members of Eco Church Group in attendance checking people in and providing refreshments and working the technology.

Attendees were encouraged to complete a survey before and then after the film to see what impact the film had had. From the comments after the showing, most people were indeed affected by the production's key messages.

Dr Roz Savage MP had been invited but was unable to come – but had sent a specially recorded message which was shown before the film.

Fronted by Chris Packham, the film covered a range of themes including weather, health, nature, food, economy, housing. Each section was an extract from a briefing from an expert - followed by "Gogglebox" type reactions from a mixture of ordinary people and a sprinkling of well-known faces. This made each theme more relatable and easy to digest.

The messages highlighted the very serious nature of the problem and that while it's important that we take actions in our own lives - the time has come for Government to take urgent action not only to reduce carbon emissions to slow down further global warming and climate breakdown, but to build resilience for the changes that are already here and still to come.

That was the key message of the film – write to your MP to ask them to back a national TV showing of the PNEB, and/or sign a petition. The film should be shown with the same Government endorsement and party unity that we experienced during Covid. If you would like to add your name to this petition, the link is here: <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/767687>. And please write to your MP with the same message - for Fairford residents, this is via roz.savage.mp@parliament.uk

There was a wide-ranging discussion after the meeting covering solar power, planning laws, biodiversity, the power of television versus social media and whether it's worth writing to an MP who is already supporting the environmental agenda. We decided it's a numbers game – Westminster needs to see the level of genuine concern in the country.

New Housing in Fairford: The Local Plan

You are probably aware that Cotswold District Council has published a local plan which is now at the stage of a Regulation 19 Consultation. This means that there is still an opportunity to comment on the plan before it is submitted for independent examination. There are plans for very considerable expansion of Fairford, with up to 1,400 homes mostly on the Eastern side. The deadline for submitting comments is 11:59 pm, 3rd November 2026.

As Christians, we must recognise that many people need homes and that we should be willing to share our good fortune in living in such a lovely place. At the same time we may wish to contribute to sensible planning which takes current and future needs into account, which is not just a knee-jerk reaction to the requirement from Government that all Districts deliver on national housing requirements. Perhaps we might each individually have something to say about the proposals.

This is obviously something that should be on our list of own prayers, alongside those of the Community Prayer Group as we each seek guidance on what our reaction to the plan should be.

Even if we see the human need, there will be considerable impacts on nature and wildlife - St Mary's Eco Church members will individually be responding to the consultation about its impact on biodiversity in Fairford, already under great strain.

If you feel that it is right for you to respond, all the details are at this link <https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/local-plan-2026-2043/> - this shows you the plan and the way to submit your response.

There is also a local group called Fairford Community Alliance, which has set up a Facebook page with a simple way to top and tail your personal submission. <https://fairfordcommunityalliance.uk/get-involved/#respond>. You don't have to use their messages, but it is a helpful way to understand how to respond to a public consultation.



Come and join us for a **FairTrade** coffee morning.



**Saturday 26th
September**



10.00am - 12 noon



**Barker Room
Fairford Community
Centre.**



**St Mary's Church
FAIRFORD**



St Mary's Eco Church

It's time for a Macmillan Coffee Morning and you're invited

**Let's do whatever it takes to make cancer
care better for everyone, whoever and
wherever they are**

Fairford Bowling Club, East End, Fairford

Friday 25th September 9.15am till 12noon

Contact:

Ingrid Morris

07516 632122

COFFEE AND HOME-MADE CAKES

RAFFLE

PUZZLES AND BOOKS

BRIC A BRA



Macmillan Cancer Support, registered charity in England and Wales (261017), Scotland (SC039907) and the Isle of Man (604). Also operating in Northern Ireland. MAC20383



**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

Harvest Supper

Thursday October 22nd

**At 7.00pm in the Farmor Room,
Fairford Community Centre**

**Cottage Pie (vegetarian option) and Apple Crumble
with music from Ray Shaw**

Tickets £5

**Proceeds to Open Doors
& Mission Aviation Fellowship**

**Available from Jan in St Mary's Church office
Monday and Tuesday 10.00 – 12.00
Wednesday and Thursday 10.00 – 1.00pm**

**If you can help with catering by providing a cottage pie or apple
crumble, please speak to Jan in the office – 01285 712611**



Looking Back on August & Ahead to Winter

Don't forget our regular events:

Monday: Senior Yoga

Tuesday: Digital Drop in sessions

10am-11am Fairford Community Centre

Wednesday: Talking Cafe & Family Hub

Fairford Community Centre

10:30am-12pm

Friday: First Steps Toddler Group £1

United Church Milton Street 9:30am-11am

Term time only

September 2026



As the summer holidays come to a close, we are looking back on a busy and rewarding August at Working 4 Wellbeing. Our focus has been on supporting local families and children with a range of free activities for different ages and interests.



A Busy August

At our weekly Family Hub, we hosted a variety of creative sessions including potion making, slime making, tie-dye, puffy painting, and we finished the summer with a fantastic free-flow crafts session.

We are especially proud that we were able to offer our first Summer Camp Morning. Despite the challenges of a heatwave, we adapted our plans and still delivered an enjoyable and memorable morning for all the children who attended. Thank you to The Door for your support at this event.

We also took our activities out into the community, hosting a craft session in Kempsford and a Fairford Breakfast & Craft morning for primary school children. It was wonderful to welcome lots of new faces and thank you to Family Action for supporting us with the crafts.

Our Free Fruit for Teenagers initiative was another success, with approximately 30 local teenagers collecting free fruit from the Marketplace. While feedback showed that parents were a little more involved in the process than we had originally intended, it was still great to see young people benefiting from the scheme. W4W would like to bring something like this back again for teenagers in the future.



Monthly Events



Barn Theatre Trip: We have had 4 successful trips to the barn and can't wait to see some winter shows.



Get in contact if you would like to come. Tickets and transport provided.



Fairford Craft & Chat: The last Thursday of every month. Come along to Craft & Chat to make new friends, have a good natter, and learn a new creative skill in a relaxed, welcoming workshop



Shopping Trip - W4W provide monthly shopping trips. Thank you to Lechlade Lions for allowing us to use their minibus. Next trip Friday 25th September Swindon Orbital £3 2 hours of shopping time.



Exciting News! We're delighted to be working alongside the local library to bring a Book Club to our community. Whether you're an avid reader or simply looking to meet new people, this will be a wonderful opportunity to connect, chat, and share a love of books. Watch this space for more details coming soon! 📖👉



Thank You!

None of these activities would have been possible without the incredible support of our volunteers. Their time, energy and dedication make such a difference to our community, and we are extremely grateful for everything they do. Want to join the team, get in touch!

We would also like to say a huge thank you to our sponsors. Our family activities were supported through funding from the Childrens and Family Commissioning Hub Fund, Summerfield's, and the Cotswold Food Network Grant. Your support enabled us to provide free opportunities for local families throughout the summer.



Our Talking Cafe

Alongside our holiday activities, our most popular regular event continues to be the Talking Cafe, held every Wednesday from 10:30am to 12:00pm. We are delighted that Fairford Town Council is now sponsoring the room hire for this valuable community space. We would also like to thank Budgens for their continued support in providing refreshments for both of our cafes



Budgens

More Family Fun Coming Up

EXCITING NEWS!

Working 4 Wellbeing are excited to be bringing back our Community Meals from October! We'll meet once a month to enjoy a delicious, home-cooked 2 course meal prepared by Kitchen Club. Spaces are always limited and go quickly, so keep an eye out for our upcoming events and be sure to book early!



CONTACT US

maryann.dibbs@w4w.uk or call 07555738138 or friend Wellbeing Coordinator on Facebook for regular updates

Dancercise For Mature Movers



'60s, '70s, '80s, + modern music

***Fun group – Nothing too tiring – Go at
your own pace – singles and pairs welcome***

Tuesdays 10.30-11.30am

Poultton Village Hall

22nd September – 8th December 2026

Just turn up – any week - 01285 672512

£3 cash per session – in support of:

 **High Five Project 2026 Fundraising for Children's Charities**

The Magic Breakfast - Glos Young Carers – The Rainbow Trust – Smile Train

Home Start Cotswolds – The James Hopkins Trust – Transforming Lives For Good

‘An artist’s studio’

Jake Sutton

*A survey of traditional materials of the painter from early Renaissance
to the Great War*



Thursday 24th September at 7.30 pm

Fairford Community Centre

Light refreshments served

High Five-Star Talks

The third in a series of five talks from Fairfordians.

Retiring Donations to High Five Children's Charities Project 2026

The Magic Breakfast, Glos Young Carers, The Rainbow Trust, Smile train, Home Start Cotswolds,
and St Mary's Church Fund

You are invited to hear

Hope Price

speaks about

Angels

True stories of how
they touch our lives

Thursday 22nd October
7pm

Barnsley Village Hall,
Barnsley, GL7 5EF

Extra parking over the road at 'Layston'

ART Exhibition by **Zehra Ipek Williamson**



Fairford Community Centre
17th and 18th October 2026
open 10 am to 5 pm
Free admission Refreshments



Move It with Mel ♥

Friendly exercise classes to help you
stay strong, balanced & independent

MOVE YOUR WAY



Seated
option



Standing
option



FEEL STRONGER & MORE CONFIDENT

Helping you stay active
and independent



And of course...
we always finish
with a friendly cuppa! ♥



FRIDAY MORNINGS
10:30 – 12:00



FAIRFORD
COMMUNITY CENTRE

FREE TASTER SESSION

Friday 18th September



THEN

£8

PER SESSION



Qualified by
FABS /
Move It
or Lose It



GET IN TOUCH



melzamofairy@hotmail.co.uk



07970 780355



FUNDED COUNSELLING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



Free, confidential, sessions for 11-18 year olds in Fairford, Lechlade and the surrounding villages.

- **6 to 8 sessions in the same room each week**
- **Short waiting times**
- **50-minute sessions with an experienced counsellor**



To find out more, and to download an application form, please see our website
www.friendsoffairford.org.uk/grant-funding



**Friends of Fairford and Lechlade
Communities**

Registered Charity Number: 1180059

Provided by Cotswold Counselling
at Fairford Therapy Centre.
Funded by Friends of Fairford
and Lechlade Communities.

POP UP £1 SALE

SATURDAY 3RD OCTOBER

10AM - 1PM

LECHLADE PAVILION



FREE ENTRY

NO DONATIONS

Citizens Advice Column:

Q: I finished school this summer but can't find a job – what can I do to be more successful?

Many young people are struggling to find a job, but there are practical ways to improve your chances.

First, **tailor every application**. Research the role and employer, then adapt your application to show you're a good fit.

Be **cautious about using AI** and don't rely on it to write your application – always use your own words.

To get more work experience, consider volunteering, for example, with Citizens Advice. This can **build skills and help your CV** stand out. [Find opportunities on our website.](#)

If money is tight, check if you are eligible for Universal Credit or the 'new style' Jobseeker's Allowance. [Check what benefits you can get on the Citizens Advice website.](#)

Finally, look after your wellbeing. Keep a routine, take breaks and talk to someone you trust. If you need extra support, contact [Student Minds](#), [YoungMinds](#) or [Mind](#).



**Stroud
& Cotswold
Districts**

Citizens Advice helps with a range of issues. For information and self-help guidance, visit **citizensadvice.org.uk**.

To speak to a local adviser in the Stroud and Cotswold Districts, visit **citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk** to complete our **webform** or call us on **0808 800 0510**.