



Asters; from the Greek word for star; daisy looking in appearance and birth flowers for the month of September, and, said to represent, love, wisdom, faith and peace



South Cotswold Team Ministry **Sunday 6th 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 6th September – 14th after Trinity

8.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.00am Sung Eucharist

Sidespeople: Andy Wilkinson and Jill Connell

Offertory: Jane Easton

Prayer: Michelle Harris and Lucy Hodson

Readings: Stewart Benzie Intercessions: Val Trafford

Coffee: Sarah Bottomley and Carol Thompson

12.00noon Baptism of Billy Paul Cutler

6.00pm Prayer & Praise Service

Thursday 10th September

10.30am BCP Holy Communion

Sunday 13th September – 15th after Trinity

8.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.00am Sung Eucharist

Sidespeople: Michelle Harris and Heather Gorton

Offertory: Heather Gorton

Prayer: Denise Hyde and Val Trafford

Readings: Sally Salter and Ruth Blackwell

Coffee: Amanda and Mervyn Cully

6.00pm Prayer & Praise Service

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

Readings for Sunday: Ezekiel 33.7-11; Romans 13.8-end; Matthew 18.15-20

I've always been a great enjoyer of the cinema and the medium of film. Of course, as a parent and someone with a role that keeps her occupied and out of mischief for the most part, finding time to go to the cinema and watch movies can be a tall order, but I still get out there a few times a year at least. The subject matter of said movies can vary wildly. I have eclectic tastes, and usually there's something to enjoy about a wide variety of film offerings, from the highbrow to the incredibly not-highbrow.

I make no apologies for the fact that I unironically love the Austin Powers movies. The sense of humour there is direct, slapstick and incredibly fun, while often hinting at deeper themes and concepts. There's a particular scene in the first movie that immediately sprang to mind when I looked over our reading from Ezekiel for this Sunday, which is slapstick on the surface, but signposts a deeper message underneath.

Austin is making his escape from the henchmen in the evil base in the most unlikely of escape vehicles – a steamroller. One of the henchmen stands in front of him, a huge distance away, holding his gun up and screaming 'NOOO!' as the steamroller inches towards him. He continues to yell for a good thirty seconds of film time, never moving out of the way once, until the steamroller finally runs him over incredibly slowly. Silly humour on the surface. Why did the henchman never get out of the way? It took the steamroller forever to reach him – he could have moved at any time! But of course, there is a deeper theme. How often do we remain frozen or stuck in our habits even when we know there are dire consequences down the road?

The people of God in our reading from Ezekiel are doing just this – wailing and bemoaning their sinful ways, and the wrath of God that they know is coming as a result of them – and never once thinking to just... change. There is a note of pure frustration in the word of the Lord that comes to Ezekiel: "As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?"

They are just like that henchman – rooted to the spot, never thinking to move. They need to realise that they hold power in their hands – power to choose, and to change. There is always a choice to be made!

This week, let's be ready to listen for the word of the Lord as it comes to us in prayer, in scripture and in teaching, and in listening, be ready to take action. God calls us into newness of life, and that means we simply cannot let ourselves be rooted to the spot but be ready to turn to Him in every way we can.

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 7th September.

Join Zoom Meeting:

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

Meeting ID: 874 1643 6680

Passcode: 551660

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

Please remember the following in your prayers:

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

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.

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

NOTICES

Music at St Mary's: An Update on Fundraising for St Mary's, Fairford

As many of you will know, one of the PCC's most important responsibilities, and one that occasionally keeps us awake at night, is raising the funds needed to maintain St Mary's and support its ongoing mission and presence within our wider Fairford community.

This is no small task. As a large church, we contribute a significant proportion of our income to support the wider needs of the Diocese. These funds help smaller churches to thrive and provide admin, housing, training and support for our clergy.

You may have noticed a new sign above the donations box and a new viewing window in the Good Box on the desk. These simple changes have already made a difference, with visitors giving more generously than before. Many are genuinely touched by the welcome they receive from our stewards and are often surprised to learn that it costs almost £450 every day to keep St Mary's open, maintained and serving the community.

A major part of our fundraising activity centres on music. When we organised the Carducci Quartet concert a few years ago, we realised that St Mary's had something very special to offer: outstanding acoustics, excellent facilities and the ability to bring world-class music to Fairford. Music has always been an important part of worship and a powerful way of connecting with God, so it felt entirely appropriate to create a dedicated concert programme. From that vision, ***Music at St Mary's*** was born.

Our aim is to host no more than three concerts each year, with every event offering something unique. We want these concerts to bring joy, inspiration and exceptional music to St Mary's and to all who attend. This year we have already welcomed *The King's Men* in April and the *North Swindon Big Band* in July. Both concerts were wonderfully well attended and received enthusiastic praise from audiences.

We are fortunate that many outstanding musicians are keen to perform at St Mary's, often bringing ambitious projects with them. Sadly, we have had to turn down some of the more ambitious proposals, including opera performances and a large orchestra, simply because of the practical challenges involved.

Our final concert of the year takes place on 19th September and promises to be a very special occasion. We will be hiring a grand piano for the event as *Adrian Partington*, Director of Music at Gloucester Cathedral, joins forces with the gifted young violinist *Leora Cohen* for an afternoon of truly exceptional music.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who supports these events, and especially to the army of volunteers who generously give their time, talents and energy to make them happen. Every penny of profit from our concerts goes directly towards supporting the ongoing work and future of St Mary's. Quite simply, initiatives such as these play a vital role in ensuring the church can continue to serve our community for generations to come.

Please support our final 2026 *Music at St Mary's* Concert. Tickets for September's concert can be purchased online at Eventbrite (link on the website and the St. Marys Fairford page at A Church near You or in cash from the Opticians).

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)

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.

From Lechlade with Fairford Mothers' Union – via Denise Hyde

Steve Hutchinson from Scripture Union has produced a booklet to encourage parents to share with their children before they start their school life. It is called GET READY TO GO.

We have brought some copies for our branch to give to the September reception classes at Fairford, Lechlade and Southrop Church of England primary schools, a card will be put inside to say that the books were bought by Lechlade with Fairford Mothers' Union.

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.

Successful Small Creature Magic Talk by Sarah Lovatt – Thanks to All!

I would very much like to thank everyone who came along to my talk on the flies of Fairford.

It was lovely to be able to show you photos of some of the insects to be found locally, and to share the bizarre but interesting story of 'The Battle of Frogs and Fairford's Flies' of 1660!

Thank you for all your donations towards the **Fairford Church Roof Fund - the total amount raised was £222.46** - your support was very much appreciated.

With best wishes,
Sarah

5th September from 10am



**The
BIG RAKE
and the
BIG CAKE**



Help!

The longer grass in the churchyard has given us more insects, birds and bats, now for its annual haircut.

We need to rake up the hay

All ages welcome

Refreshments

Please bring a rake and gloves

Thank you!

St Mary's Eco Church Group





St Mary's Eco Church



invites you to

Chris Packham's film
PEOPLE'S EMERGENCY

BRIEFING



Tickets available from
www.tickettailor.com

Limited number available from Fairford opticians



**TUESDAY
15TH
SEPTEMBER**



**7.30pm
DOORS OPEN 7PM**



**FAIRFORD
COMMUNITY CENTRE**

People's National Emergency Briefing on Climate and Nature

A screening of this important national film is taking place in Fairford, hosted by St Mary's Eco Church, on Tuesday, 15 September 2026, 7 pm for 7.30 start. Our local MP, Roz Savage, has (so far) accepted our invitation to attend.

Attendance is free (donation for cost of venue and/or refreshments), but booking your place is strongly advised via this link

<https://buytickets.at/stmaryschurcheogroup/2286367>.

There is a national website which lists all the screenings taking place - you can see our showing clearly on the map at <https://www.nebriefing.org/>

We will have a few tickets available on the door but expect places to get booked up quite quickly - a similar showing planned in Cricklade the same week is already fully booked! There are also a limited number of tickets available at the opticians.

What is the NEB?

The National Emergency Briefing on Climate and Nature was first delivered to politicians and decisions makers in Westminster in November 2025. The Briefing pulled together key facts about the impact of climate change and nature depletion in the UK and a call to action, urging a wartime scale response to the climate and nature emergency.

A 50-minute film encompassing the contents of the NEB, fronted by Chris Packham, was compiled and launched in Summer 2026. A highly organised operation was launched to ensure that the film was screened as community events across the country to promote engagement and discussion (rather than just making it available online). St Mary's Eco Church responded to the call. The showing of the film is the first of our monthly autumn/winter eco-events of the season.

The film is hard-hitting in its presentation of the facts of climate change and implications for nature, food supply, economy, housing etc. However, people who have seen the film have called it alarming but encouraging at the same time; it shows that by working together we can deliver solutions.

Each screening of the film is followed by a chance to discuss the issues and next steps, with a range of materials and information provided by the national organisers. With huge thanks to Andy Miles for having arranged the screening, we are really proud that Fairford is now on the map as hosting a screening of what is already an historically important film.

Scientist and environmentalist Barbara Brockway – a Fairford resident - will help facilitate the discussion after the film.

There will be soft drinks and wine served from 7 pm.

We have invited not only the MP but representatives of a range of public service groups in the locality; and have had bookings already from others outside our normal eco-talk attendees. So do please book to secure your place.

The QR code should also take you to the booking site.

Chris Packham's words on the importance of protecting this beautiful Earth are moving and inspiring: "This is our home.... It's where we breathe, it's where we eat, we laugh, we cry, we love, we hate and as far as I know, together with all the other wonderful life on Earth, we are the only known life forms in the universe and we've got nowhere else to go".

MUSIC
• AT ST MARY'S •

CONCERT

ADRIAN PARTINGTON - PIANO
LEORA COHEN - VIOLIN



Church of St Mary the Virgin Fairford
3pm Saturday 19th September 2026

Timeless masterpieces for violin and piano from Bach,
Beethoven, Elgar and Gershwin
tickets £25/£20 (includes tea and cake)
via [eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk) (fees apply)
or cash at Fairford opticians from 1st August (01285 713313)



Craft & Chat

COME ALONG AND GET CREATIVE!



LECHLADE
BAPTIST CHURCH



3rd September
7PM – 9PM



FAIRFORD
COMMUNITY CENTRE



Thursday 24th
7PM – 9PM

£10-

NO SKILLS NEEDED

*Come along and
get creative!*

MUST BOOK

Contact Mary Ann

 **07555738138**

MAKE
RESIN
PENDANTS
AND KEYRINGS



Join us for a Race Night



To celebrate our



90th Birthday!

AT

THE
PALMER HALL
1936



Saturday 19th September

7pm - 11pm

Tables of 4 £8 or Tables of 6 £10

Contact:

palmerhallsecretary@outlook.com /

07825211830 to book



Bar Available * BYO Snacks * Raffle



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 BRAC



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**



A Notification to our kind High Five Project donators

A big Thank You to everyone who has so kindly supported the events of our High Five Project so far in 2026; we hope you've enjoyed them all and found the variety a little different.

Fundraising is going better than expected and we are so grateful for all your generosity and support. We have extended our original ambition to include St Mary's Church as well as the five charities named in January and are now ready to support two more children's charities this year, as we have several events already planned between September and December. One additional charity is Gloucestershire based, and the other is UK based:



The James Hopkins Trust

The James Hopkins Trust provides nursing respite care for Gloucestershire's life limited, and life threatened young children from babies up to the age of 6, whilst also supporting their families. Their free care can be received in the family home or at their purpose built multi-sensory centre at Kites Corner in Gloucester.

Read all about The James Hopkins Trust at: jameshopkinstrust.org.uk

Kites Corner, North Upton Lane, Gloucester, GL4 3TR. 01452 612216.



Transforming Lives for Good

Introduced by Hope Price, Transforming Lives for Good is a Christian children's emotional and mental wellbeing charity equipping local churches to provide trauma-informed counselling, coaching and safe community spaces. It supports children with their emotional and mental wellbeing.

Learn more about TLG at: TLG.org.uk

Transforming Lives for Good, National Support Centre, Hope Park, Bradford, BD5 8HH 01274 900373

We are now fundraising for: **The Magic Breakfast – Glos Young Carers – The Rainbow Trust – Smile Train – Home Start Cotswolds – The James Hopkins Trust – Transforming Lives for Good – and St Mary's Church Fund.**

We're looking forward to seeing you at our autumn events running from September to December. Thank you for enjoying our fundraising adventure with us and being part of the St Mary's supporting community. Linda, Jos, Hope and Meg.

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

Poulton 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

Citizens Advice Column:

Q: I hired a company to install concrete fencing and a gate in my back garden. The quality of the work is poor, and the gate doesn't shut properly. What can I do?



When you put your trust in a trader and the work doesn't meet your expectations it can be frustrating. If a trader hasn't done a good job with 'reasonable care and skill', the **Consumer Rights Act 2015** entitles you to ask for the problem to be fixed or receive a refund.

Evidence is important. Take photos and make notes about what happened and when, including times and dates, and keep receipts or other proof of payment.

People can experience **different types of problems with traders**, and there is [specific advice available on the Citizens Advice website depending on the issue](#).

When you contact the trader, **explain the problem clearly and provide your evidence**. They should fix it within a reasonable amount of time and without causing you too much inconvenience. The law doesn't define exactly what is reasonable, so **you'll need to agree this with them**.

If they can't or won't fix the problem, you can ask for a **partial or full refund**, depending on how bad the issue is. It's a good idea to suggest an amount and explain why you think it's reasonable. Once a refund has been agreed, it should be paid within 14 days.

If you **can't reach an agreement**, there are other **options**. If you paid by card, you may be able to complain to your card provider. If the trader is a member of a trade association or quality scheme, this might help to take your complaint further, or you may be able to use an [alternative dispute resolution \(ADR\) scheme](#). If you've tried various things and the complaint remains unresolved, you may be able to complain to the [Financial Ombudsman Service](#).

Anyone experiencing problems with building work, decorating or home improvements can contact the national [Citizens Advice Consumer Service](#) on **0808 223 1133** for advice and support from a trained adviser.



**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**

Harvest appeal



Ending hunger **together**
across the South
Cotswolds

Donate food



Please donate an item from our list, or scan this QR code to download the BankTheFood app and follow us to check what items we urgently need.

Donate money



Scan the QR code to make a one-off or monthly donation. Every gift helps us provide food and vital support to local people.

Shopping list

Tinned green beans &
mixed veg, tins of rice
pudding, tinned fruit,
tinned soup, 'cuppa
soup', instant coffee,
tinned corned beef, hot
dogs & chicken/beef
curry, long-life juice,
chocolate biscuit bars,
cereal bars.



0300 102 7970

southcotswolds.foodbank.org.uk

Registered Charity in England & Wales (1159810).

