



A rare and highly valuable marble sculpture mistaken for a garden ornament has been found after spending over 70 years in a garden! - the work of pioneering 19th-Century artist and feminist figure, Harriet Goodhue Hosmer.



South Cotswold Team Ministry Sunday 20th 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

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SERVICES

Sunday 20th September – 16th after Trinity

8.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.00am Sung Eucharist

Sidespeople: Jill Connell and Kim Sutton

Offertory: Wendy Close / Alison Cohoon

Prayer: Mary Mawle and Ruth Blackwell

Readings: Mike Godsall Intercessions: Val Trafford

Coffee: David and Sally Salter

Baptisms: Indie Bird and Cynthia-Ann McGoven

Thursday 24th September

10.30am BCP Holy Communion

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

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

Readings for Sunday: Jonah 3.10-end of 4; Philippians 1.21-end; Matthew 20.1-16

If you are a parent, or have ever had to spend time with small children (or even big children), one phrase you are almost certain to have heard is the echoing refrain of, "IT'S NOT FAAAAIIRRR!"

Fairness is something ingrained in our human brains, and in children it feels like that is notched up to an extraordinary degree. I'm one of three sisters, and the arguments about fairness happened on a daily basis. No one sister should ever be allowed more than another. Dividing up cake was a great example of this. How could it be ensured that the sister cutting the cake didn't give herself the biggest slice? Mathematical workings were employed. Protractors were produced. In the end, we took the age-old path of controlling any sneaky selfishness – the one who cut the cake would be the last to choose a slice.

Now this behaviour might be mitigated a little as we get older and realise that shouting 'it's not faaaiirrr' doesn't necessarily get us what we want, but the desire for it is still there, and often can form the basis for much of our moral thinking. The thing is, the urge for fairness can go wrong. Because fairness is very different from generosity. It doesn't really account for love. At it's worst it can become something of extraordinary negativity, where we fight against people getting more or better treatment because we never had it. The 'I had a difficult time, so you should too' mentality.

And it is profoundly against the love of God that we see in Scripture. I love the book of Jonah, because we see the dynamic of judgemental human desire for fairness going up against God's overwhelming mercy and love. Jonah doesn't want to warn the people of Ninevah to repent of their wicked ways and return to the Lord, because he knows that if they do, God is going to forgive them. He doesn't want that! They don't deserve it! It isn't fair! And of course, when he finally gets to Ninevah (after the fish incident) and does as God commands and warns the people – what happens? God forgives them, and Jonah's bitterness explodes.

God talks him around, after a pointed object lesson, but it takes time. God's mercy and love is just too much for Jonah's human fairness.

For us today, our challenge is to notice and hold on to the difference between 'fairness' and love, and to know that our human knee-jerk understanding of what is fair may very well get in the way of what true mercy and generosity look like. This week, are we truly able to seek to live out God's call to love?

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 21st 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

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

A chorus to use as a prayer - *Brian Doerksen 1989.*

Remember, God is not bound by our circumstances, neither is he overcome by our turmoil. In every situation he has power to provide a way out for you. Put your hope in him.

Faithful one, so unchanging,
Ageless one you're my rock of peace.
Lord of all, I depend on you,
I call out to you, again and again,
I call out to you again and again.

You are my rock in times of trouble,
You lift me up when I fall down,
All through the storm your love is the anchor,
My hope is in you alone.

I pray in Jesus' name. 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: 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.

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.

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

Thursday 22nd October at Fairford Community Centre - this year's Harvest Supper.
Details to follow soon.

Thank you. Katie

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)

St. Marys next concert: Saturday 19th September 2026 – 3pm



Adrian Partington (piano) and Leora Cohen (violin)

Adrian Partington (piano) and Leora Cohen (violin) unleash an afternoon programme that sweeps from Baroque brilliance to Gershwin's intoxicating heat.

Bach's A major Sonata shimmers with poised intricacy before *Beethoven's "Spring" Sonata* bursts forth in lyrical radiance and athletic vigour.

After the interval, the stormier emotional world of *Elgar's E minor Sonata* takes centre stage. Brooding, restless, and richly expressive.

The evening ignites in a final blaze with Heifetz's dazzling transcriptions from Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*: bold, sultry, and virtuosic. Four iconic works brought to life with commanding artistry.

Adrian Partington is one of the UK's leading choral and orchestral musicians. He has been Director of Music at Gloucester Cathedral since 2007, introducing girl choristers and leading international tours to the USA, Canada, Sweden and Germany. He is also Artistic Director of the BBC National Chorus of Wales, preparing the chorus for hundreds of concerts and BBC Proms since 1999. Trained at the Royal College of Music and King's College, Cambridge, he maintains an active career as pianist, organist and conductor with major UK orchestras.

Leora Cohen is a British-American violinist celebrated for her vibrant solo and recital career. She holds a double first-class degree from Cambridge University and two Diplomas with Distinction from the Royal College of Music. She made her solo debut at 16 at St John's Smith Square and has appeared internationally with ensembles including the LGT Young Soloists, performing for Liechtenstein Royalty and opening the 2022 Heidelberg Festival. She is a regular soloist with London ensembles such as the Piccadilly Sinfonietta and the Albion Chamber Orchestra.

Tickets are available from the Opticians on Eventbrite

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/tea-time-piano-and-violin-concert-tickets-1988236306314?aff=oddttdcreator>



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

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 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**

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

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**.