



Curious penguins investigating the scales at London Zoo's annual weigh-in!



South Cotswold Team Ministry Sunday 11th October 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

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SERVICES

Sunday 11th October – Harvest Thanksgiving / 19th Sunday after Trinity

8.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.00am Harvest Thanksgiving Service

Sidespeople: Andy and Jilli

Offertory: Wendy Close

Prayer: Lucy Hodson and Michelle Harris

Readings: Fiona Gilroy Intercessions: Janet Edwards

Coffee: Janet Edwards and Beth Bruce-Gardner

Sunday 18th October - Luke the Evangelist

8.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.00am Sung Eucharist

Sidespeople: Michelle Harris and Heather Gorton

Offertory: Michelle Harris

Prayer: Val Trafford and Ruth Blackwell

Readings: Val Trafford Intercessions: Meg Ralph

Coffee: Mary Mawle and Margaret Frazer

From Rev'd Caroline – 01285 712467 – carolinesymcox@googlemail.com
Readings for Sunday: Deuteronomy 8.7-18; 1 Corinthians 9.6-end; Luke 17.11-19

This Sunday we will be celebrating Harvest: giving thanks for food and supplies safely gathered away, and offering thanks as well for those who work so hard to grow and gather all that we need. It's an ancient celebration, going back to the ancient Hebrews and beyond. We know how fragile we are, how vulnerable to a lack of any of the things we need to survive: food, water, warmth, shelter; and Harvest is an expression of our great relief to know that for a while at least, we don't need to worry. Our needs are provided for.

Harvest is also the time when we offer and reflect on the value of gratitude – or 'thankfulness' as it is expressed in one of the six core Christian Values taught by our super Primary School here in Fairford. It would be possible for gratitude to be nothing more than a warm satisfaction. 'We have what we need – now we can relax' might be all the thought that such a gratitude might hold. 'Counting our blessings' could indeed look like that – enumerating all the good things we have without ever digging deeper – why do we have them? Where did they come from? Or from whom?

True gratitude is much more than that. At Harvest-time, we reflect on the source of the goodness we recognise around us. We remember that if we have good things to notice, we cannot imagine that we have them purely out of our own effort. God speaks to his people through Moses in our reading from Deuteronomy to remind them of this vital truth: "Do not say to yourself, 'My power and the might of my own hand have gained me this wealth.' But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today."

Our blessings have a source – God himself, who loves and provides for his creatures. Our thankfulness is not a generalised feeling of satisfaction, but a directed message and recognition. We give thanks *to God*. The temptation to think of the human race as great and untouchable, the ones who bend the world around us to our will... That is something shattered by our Harvest thanks. We are not so great.

But perhaps recognising and expressing our thankfulness gives us something much better than a misplaced sense of our own importance. As we give voice to our thanks, just like the healed leper returning to Jesus' side, we recognise that we are loved, that we are seen, that our needs are known and met. We are reminded that we stand not by ourselves, but in relationship with our Creator God. And honestly, what could be better than that?

This week, let's take time both to count our blessings, and to remember from whom they come. And then let's offer our thanks, to God, and to all who have blessed us.

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 12th October.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81784817015?pwd=AlVT9gCQl1ssm6un35SSkDYh5nipDb.1>

Meeting ID: 817 8481 7015

Passcode: 309455

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

Contrary to popular belief, we never 'fall' in love, but 'grow' in a greater understanding and appreciation of what it really is.

Heavenly Father, thank you for showing every generation throughout history unconditional love.

You are constantly inviting us to experience intimacy with you. What a beautiful gift that is!

Today, no matter what I face, help me to love others as you have loved me.

Let my life be evidence of your love at work in the world.

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 would be delighted to welcome new members as it restarts this 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!

Harvest Thanksgiving

Our Harvest Thanksgiving service will be at 10am on Sunday 11th October. Do come along to take the opportunity to give thanks to God for all his gifts, and the harvest gathered in this year. We'll take a special collection of food for the South Cotswold Foodbank as part of the service. Their current most-needed items are below:

Angel delight	Biscuits	Cat food
Chocolate	Cold tinned meat	Cup-a-soup
Deodorant	Hot tinned meat	Household cleaner
Instant coffee	Long-life juice	Rice
Rich sachets (microwaveable)	Shower gel	Snacks (crisps etc.)
Sponge puddings	Squash	Tinned fruit
Tinned rice pudding	Tinned soup	Tinned spaghetti
Tinned tomatoes	Tinned vegetables	Toilet cleaner
Washing powder		

Next PCC Meeting

The next PCC meeting will be held at 9.30am on Tuesday 13th October. Please do hold our members in prayer as we meet to discuss the work and life of St Mary's.

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)

News from Cirencester Deanery Creation Care Working Group

Cirencester Deanery Creation Care Working Group staged an engaging pop-up exhibition, entitled **OUR MARK** at The Old Department Store, Cirencester from 2 – 8 October. Creation Care is one of the three main focuses as a Deanery, forming part of the Strategic Pathway.

OUR MARK brought together the hundreds of voices, many of them children's, gathered through Letters from the Global South exhibition in June at St John Baptist Parish Church, Cirencester, drawing them into a single fingerprint. It's a reminder that every person, and every generation, leaves a mark on creation, and speaks directly to the Fifth Mark of Mission.

The organisers were delighted to welcome MP, Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown, to the exhibition to speak with some local children and working group members. He was incredibly supportive of the initiative and has invited the group to present the installation and its message to the House of Commons.

The voices of today, for tomorrow.

What mark will we leave?

The exhibition was made possible by much planning and creativity from Emma Anderson, Cirencester Deanery Operations Lead and Rosemary Bailey, Cirencester Deanery Eco Lead.



Save the Date!

Saturday 31st October at Fairford Community Centre – 12.00noon – 2pm soup lunch and crafts in aid of Help for Madina charity - **volunteers wanted** to make soup and fruit crumble for the event:

Carrot and coriander
Leek and Potato
Broccoli and Stilton
Fruit Crumble

A bottle for the raffle would be gratefully received instead of soup or crumble.

Thank you.

Please contact Helen, 01285 713431

Remembering Service, Sunday 1st November, 3pm

This is a simple quiet and reflective service, remembering our loved ones who have died.

During the service the names of those who have died during the past year from this parish will be read out before God.

If you would like to add other names of your loved ones who have died, please contact Rev'd Denise, denisehyde15@gmail.com or 01285 713285.

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.

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.

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?

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.

BEETLE **DRIVE**

≡ *Come along and join us for a fun afternoon!* ≡



Fairford United Church
Milton Street



Saturday 10th October



2:30pm

≡ **EVERYONE IS WELCOME!** ≡



♥ ≡ *Donations in aid of:* ≡ ♥

Fairford United Church

&

**Medical and Scientific Aid for
Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia**



≡ ♥ *We'd love to see you there!* ♥ ≡

CONCERT



St Mary's Church, Fairford.

**To be performed by
Lechlade Occasional Choir.**

*Music old and new with something
for everyone and songs to join in.*

Monday 19th October 7.30pm

(doors and bar open from 7.15pm)

Free Admission

Retiring Collection in aid of



***High Five Project 2026 Raising Funds
for Children's Charities***

**The Magic Breakfast – Glos Young Carers – The Rainbow Trust – Smile Train –
Home Start Cotswolds – James Hopkins Trust – Transforming Lives for Good**



**LECHLADE
OCCASIONAL
CHOIR**

LIFE'S FIVE BIG QUESTIONS

Origin? Purpose? Suffering? Afterlife? God?

These form the basis of the internationally acclaimed Alpha Course initiated by Rev Nicky Gumbel currently being translated into Chinese and Arabic.

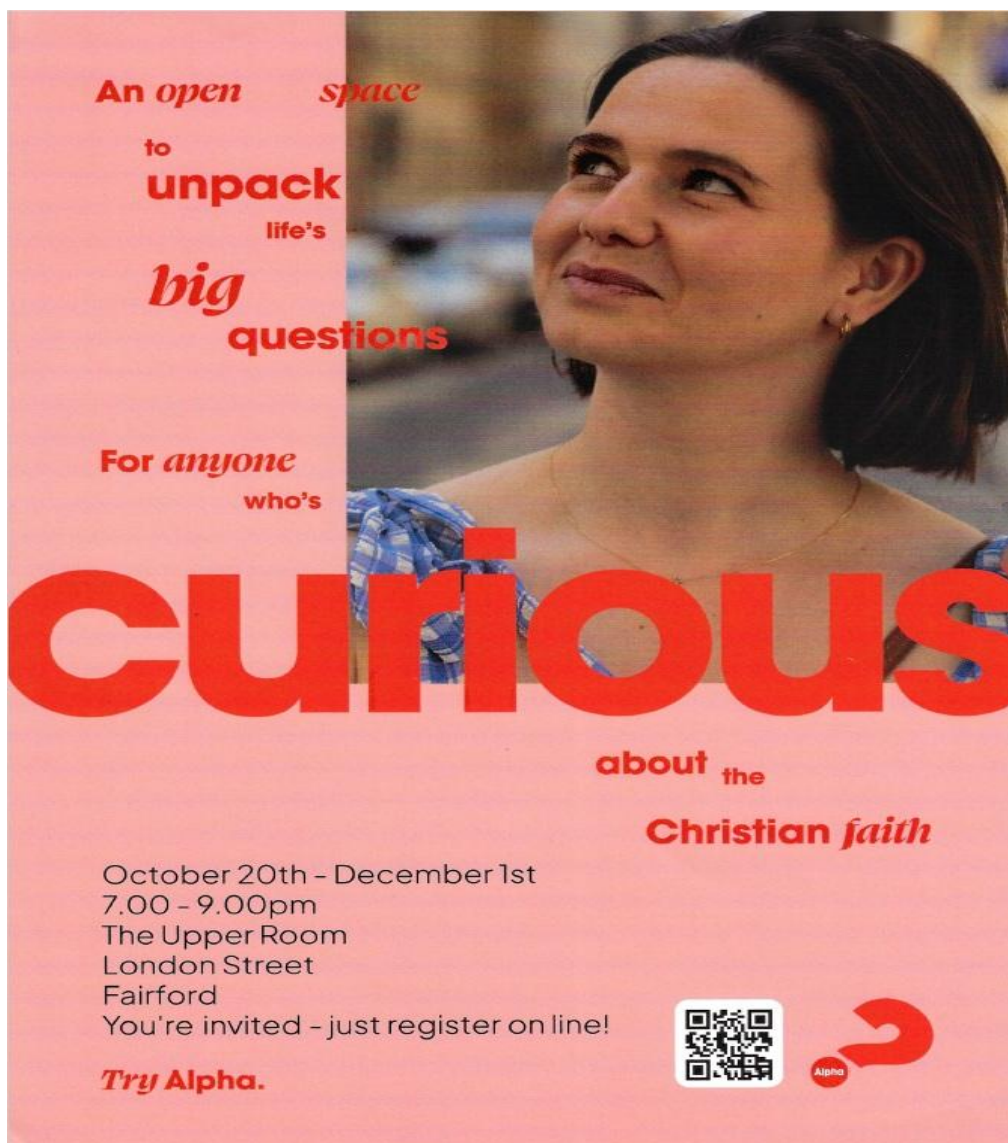
Here in Fairford, we are running an Alpha Course on Tuesday evenings for 7 weeks from October 20th-December 1st.

Please invite and bring family, friends or work colleagues for whom these five big questions of life remain unanswered.

If you have any questions or want to find out more, please let us know.
Jeremy & Katie Blake

FACT (Fairford Area Churches Together)

Email: jrmblk7@gmail.com or ekatie.blake@gmail.com



An open space
to
unpack
life's
big
questions

For anyone
who's

curious

about the
Christian faith

October 20th - December 1st
7.00 - 9.00pm
The Upper Room
London Street
Fairford
You're invited - just register on line!

Try Alpha.



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**



Join us on a trip to...



Westonbirt

The National Arboretum



Tuesday
13th October



10am
Robin Bus
departure



1.30pm
Robin Bus
back



Free
if you have
a bus pass



£6
if you don't
have a bus pass



Free
entrance



Book via Mary Ann
07555738138

Enjoy the
beautiful
colours and
nature!



Art Exhibition by Zehra Ipek Williamson

A member of our congregation, Zehra Ipek is having an exhibition of her artwork at the Community Centre on Saturday and Sunday the 17th and 18th of October. There will be refreshments. She is looking forward to seeing you all.

ART Exhibition by Zehra Ipek Williamson



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





COMMUNITY MEALS

ARE BACK!

WE HAVE DATES!!!! Yayyyyyy!

Sunday
25/10
@ 12pm

Thursday
26/11
@ 5pm

Thursday
10/12
@ 6pm

Menu to be confirmed but these book up fast

£7.50 home cooked dinner
and dessert

 **Fairford Community Centre**

HOSTED by Mel at Kitchen Club
and W4W volunteers.

Come share a meal and laughter
with us in the community.




Contact
Mary Ann
07555738138
to book your
space

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'