



'Another Step Forward' taken at our 10.00 service on 5<sup>th</sup> September  
*Photograph by Ingrid Morris*

## **South Cotswold Team Ministry**

### **St. Mary's Church Fairford – Newsletter**

#### **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September – *Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity***

10.00 am Common Worship Holy Communion

Readings: Phil Trickett

Intercessions: Lucy Hodson

#### **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September – *Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity***

10.00 am Common Worship Holy Communion

Readings: Fiona Gilroy

Intercessions: Ruth Beckett

**If you would like to come to the service please let Heather know**

**It is still strongly encouraged to wear a mask in church**

*Online worship: Rev Caroline broadcasts 9am Morning Prayer Monday-Thursday and Saturday) on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/stmarysfairford>*

**From Caroline**

01285 712467 / [carolinesymcox@googlemail.com](mailto:carolinesymcox@googlemail.com)

Sunday's readings: Isaiah 50.4-9a; James 3.1-12; Mark 8.27-38

Our readings this week point us in two directions, both of which are vital and indeed connected. These are the power of words and our use of them, and Jesus' own teaching about his mission, and the suffering and death towards which he was walking. I can't talk about both in this small space and do justice to them, so I'd like us to focus on the first theme in this newsletter, knowing that we'll be able to address that second theme on a deeper level on Sunday.

The power of words is profound. A word has the ability to lift us up, or throw us down into the depths. And even when we might think we aren't important enough to affect others much, that would be a huge underestimation of our power. The words we wield can affect other people to a massive degree. James knew that well – look at the way he describes the power of the tongue in our reading. The tongue is like a bridle to control a horse, a rudder to control a ship, a flame that can set whole forests on fire. And every one of us has that power.

James' writing here isn't directed towards a single particular community or church. Unlike Paul's letters to specific groups, James is writing for the Christian world at large. This being the case, he isn't naming a specific situation where one person or group has hurt another with their words, but clearly he has experienced such situations first hand. His writing is forceful enough that it makes me think he has been personally affected, and has that experience driving him. This isn't a theoretical possibility. People can be and have been hurt, discouraged, driven away by the words of another, and he wants to do everything he can to make sure that doesn't happen anymore.

We might like to think that church communities are above harming each other in such a way, but it was true in James' time, and just as true today. We shouldn't try to fool ourselves into thinking otherwise. James' powerful words should resonate with us. We all have this power, and we will wield it. The challenge is to make sure that when we speak we do so consciously, knowing the power we have, and seek to use that power to bless – to lift up, to encourage, to help.

This week, let's work on making sure our words are doing God's work here in our communities.

*Rev Caroline*

## From Heather:

Telephone: 01285 712428

Email address: fairfordpcc@btconnect.com or [heathergorton31@gmail.com](mailto:heathergorton31@gmail.com).

I am now back in the office so do please call in if you have any queries.  
My office hours at present are 10.00 to 1.00 Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday  
I am also continuing to work from home so you can contact me at either the office or home (712428). The office is closed on Mondays and Michelle will be in on Fridays at 10.00 to 12.00.

Do please keep sending in your articles, photos and amusing stories! **I do need your input!**

## Contacts

Rev'd Caroline 01285 712467

Rev'd Canon Denise Hyde 01285 713285

Mike Godsal 01285 713101

Christine Benzie 01285 713395

Wendy Graham 01285 711765

## Please remember the following in your prayers:

**Those that are ill:** Rev'd David Gray, Grace Slack, Mike Godsal, Ann Nicholls

**Those that have died:** Julian McDermott, Peter Joyce, Eileen Ferguson

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September: 1.00 pm Thanksgiving Service for Julian McDermott

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> September: 2.00 pm Thanksgiving Service for Faith Caroe

## NOTICES

### Church Opening Hours:

The church is now open from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm.

### Coffee after the Church Service



New Beginnings! – *taken by Ingrid Morris after the service on the 5<sup>th</sup> September.*

## *Coffee on 12<sup>th</sup> September: Janet Edwards and Beth Bruce Gardner*

Coffee was served last week after the 10am service for the first time since March 2020 and was very popular. It was gratifying to see how many people supported our attempt to reintroduce this but the popularity does bring its own problems in the present climate.

Please can we all try not to wander around and to only chat to people while sitting down. Gathering around the hatch needs to be avoided (please!) and also gathering around the supplies of milk, sugar, biscuits etc within the Heritage room. Please can we all try to find a seat as soon as possible and remain seated whilst taking to our friends. Then we can maintain social distancing as encouraged by the Community Centre.

I have had a lot of volunteers to make coffee but still have a few gaps in the rota. I would like the volunteers to make coffee about every 3 months, at the moment we need a few more to make that possible. If you think you could help on an occasional basis then please contact Sarah Bottomley on 01285712074 or [stmaryslmt@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryslmt@gmail.com). It doesn't matter if you can only come for certain months or on particular Sundays - I can work with that.

Thanks for all your support

Sarah Bottomley

### **Stewards**

With much help from various people it is good that we are almost covered for visitor stewards now the church is back to being fully opened, however we have a gap of 12 noon to 2pm on a Saturday that badly needs a volunteer or maybe two volunteers who could cover an hour each and would be pleased to hear from anyone who can help. It really is good being there and helping visitors and no knowledge is needed and Saturdays are becoming very busy once again.

If you are a steward and haven't already replied to the invitation to the party on 18<sup>th</sup> September – please do so as soon as possible, as we do need to know numbers. Thank you.

### **September Services and Changes**

As we move into September, we are continuing to gently extend our worship here at St Mary's, as we navigate what life looks like now most of our folk are fully vaccinated. From the first Sunday in September, we will see the following changes:

## **More services**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month:
  - 10am BCP Holy Communion
  - 6pm BCP Evening Prayer
- 2<sup>nd</sup> / 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month:
  - 10am Common Worship Holy Communion
- Last Sunday of the month:
  - 8am BCP Holy Communion
  - 10am Family Service
  - 6pm Healing Service with Holy Communion

## **Sidespeople and Welcomers needed!**

We need people to hand out hymn books and service sheets at the 10.00 service on Sundays - at the moment we only need one person. We also need people to stand outside the church to welcome the congregation – this can be one or two people. It will probably be just once a month. If you would like to get involved do please contact Caroline or myself. Thank you. Heather

## **Reduction in COVID restrictions**

- Although we will continue to have socially distanced seating in the side aisles, the central two nave aisles of pews will no longer be socially distanced, allowing those who are comfortable to do so, to sit closer together.
- Both hymns on a Sunday will be sung inside the church.
- Masks will still be encouraged, but not mandated.
- Coffee will be served after the service in the Community Centre.

It is important to us that we continue to listen to peoples' needs and concerns, so please do let us know how you're feeling about these changes, and we will do our best to meet the needs of as many people as possible.

## **Messy Church**

Messy Church are having a picnic this Sunday 12 September, starting at 4pm in the churchyard. Please bring your own food and seating to the picnic. There will be activities and games and a Celebration, finishing at about 5:45pm. Everyone is very welcome to join us. For further information or to join our mailing list please contact Sarah Bottomley on 01285712074 or [stmaryslmt@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryslmt@gmail.com)

## **Prayer Requests**

Our Prayer Team is still fully active, praying for the needs of individuals and our wider community. If you have a prayer request for the team, please email Rev Denise on [denisehyde15@gmail.com](mailto:denisehyde15@gmail.com).

**Sunday Blue Reading Sheet** - The September sheets are attached

## **Food bank**

The box is in the Church porch for all donations to the Food Bank. Open 10.00 am to 4.00 pm. Please note that the containers in the church porch are for food only. No clothes, shoes etc. PLEASE

## **Working for wellbeing has arrived!**



We are delighted to say we've had a huge success with our Talking Café held at Fairford community centre every Wednesday 1030am to 12pm. The Community Wellbeing coordinator is here to signpost and support you with any issues you may be experiencing within the community. We have a dedicated helpline Monday to Friday with limited hours but you will always receive a call back if you leave a message. Please contact Mary Ann on 07555738138 or email on [coordinator@working4wellbeing.org.uk](mailto:coordinator@working4wellbeing.org.uk)

We are excited to announce that we have some upcoming projects including Walking for Wellbeing with our next walk being on the Sunday 12th of September at 3pm meeting at Fairford community centre. This will be a gentle walk with refreshments by one of our volunteers. We will also be having craft evenings 'I felt fantastic' and Lynn Batemans 'What's your story?' You do not have to be an expert in either as it is for beginners. There is also get back to Active - a new partnership with local fitness teams and groups willing to put on Free confidence building workouts.

Please contact the Wellbeing Coordinator to book a space on any of our FREE Working for Wellbeing projects.

## **PCC Meeting**

A reminder to all PCC members there is a meeting on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September at 4.00 in the church.

## **ONLINE PRAYER AND WORSHIP**

### **Suggestion from Rev'd Denise to help you in your prayer life.**

Over the past weeks I have found the 'Lectio 365' App (which is available to be downloaded for free on both Android and Apple platforms) helpful in my prayer times. It was devised by Pete Grieg (of 24/7 prayer) and focuses on the pattern of P.R.A.Y. (Pause, Reflect/Rejoice, Ask, Yield) as a way of entering into God's presence. Each day's devotion is about 10 minutes long and can be either read or listened to and is a great way to start or end the day.

### **Prayers from St Mary's**

Caroline's Morning Prayer every day except Friday and Sunday from 9.00 am, and Evening Prayer at 6pm on Sunday:

[www.facebook.com/stmarysfairford](http://www.facebook.com/stmarysfairford)

### **Services from Gloucester Cathedral**

Gloucester Cathedral has been offering high quality online services across this period of lockdown, and continues to do so. You can find their services on their YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/DioceseofGloucester/videos>

### **Daily Hope from the Church of England**

A good option for worship if you can't access the internet. It is a free phone number where you have the option of the prayer for today, hymn for today and reflections. Telephone 0800 804 8044 Sent by Andrena Miles.

### **From Ann Nicholls**

Well what a summer it has been! But through it all our dear Lord remains faithful, these words come to mind as the season begins to change.

Jesus, you are changing me, by your Spirit you're making me like you.

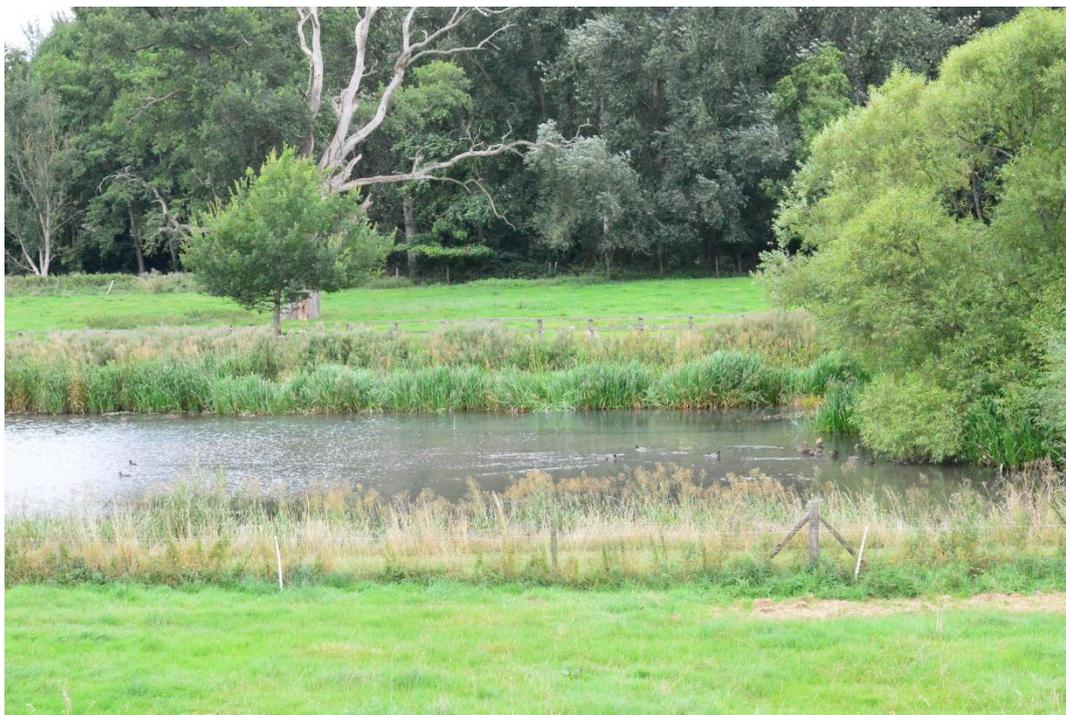
Jesus you're transforming me, that your loveliness may be seen in all I do.

You are the potter and I am the clay, help me to be willing to let you have your way.

Jesus you are changing me, as I let you reign supreme within my heart.

Marilyn Baker

*Thank you all for your prayer support and good wishes over the last few difficult weeks, I'm sure I will be back with you all very soon.*



*Taken by Ingrid Morris – how green everywhere looks.*

**From Alison Hobson**

### **Fairford History Society**

Fairford History Society meetings resume on September 16 at 7.30pm in the Farmor Room. The first talk is by Syd Flatman on 'The remaining Treasures of Fairford Park'. This will be preceded by an ultra-short AGM. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month (except for February when a daytime meeting is held and in 2022 will be on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday due to half term dates). FHS membership remains at £5 a year and September is membership renewal time. Visitors to meetings are charged at £3. New members and visitors will be very welcome. For further information contact Alison on 01285 711768 or email:

[enquiry@fairfordhistory.org.uk](mailto:enquiry@fairfordhistory.org.uk) or visit [www.fairfordhistory.org.uk](http://www.fairfordhistory.org.uk)

**From Wendy Graham**

It's 7.30pm on a Wednesday evening, and the autumn dusk is edging in on us as I went into the garden to put down some supper for the hedgehogs. I heard the bells of St.Marys ebbing and flowing on the breeze, and in an instant I was back to my childhood when, on hearing the Sunday evening bells I felt strangely drawn to their melancholy call. It must be nearly seventy years since those warm, summer Sunday evenings etched themselves into my memory.

Thank you bell-ringers.....it's so lovely hearing them again.

Piglet noticed that even though he had a Very Small Heart, it could hold a rather large amount of Gratitude.



A.A. Milne,  
Winnie the Pooh  
E.H. Shepard, Illustrator

Another unpublished letter from the Daily Telegraph

### **Fat Family Cats**

Sir – I cannot describe the relief I felt when my human showed me the photograph in your newspaper of Orazi, the Italian cat who weighs 35lb. I am nagged interminably about my weight – and me a mere 15lb! I have to be coaxed into the garden and there I deign to run around a bit just to keep her happy. I am even on a special diet, but I put my feet down firmly over the question of a weight clinic once a month. What my owner doesn't seem to realise is that it's my genes – I mean, what's a girl to do? Anyway, I am far too old now. If I lost weight my skin would just hang in folds, and that would be so unsightly.

Yours, ever demanding food,  
Hanzi

## Memories!

Concorde's maiden flight above Fairford,  
Gloucestershire on 10 April, 1969

