



*Aerial View taken in 1928*

### **South Cotswold Team Ministry**

#### **St. Mary's Church Fairford – Newsletter Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May**

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May** – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

8.00 am BCP Holy Communion

10.00 am Common Worship Holy Communion

Readings: Fiona Gilroy

Intercessions: Jane Kidd

*Coffee: Kathleen Hall and Sheila Hughes*

Following the service Annual Parochial Church Meeting (*see below*)

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May**

2.30 pm Holy Communion in Hyperion House

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May**

10.30 am Holy Communion

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May** – 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

8.00 am BCP Holy Communion

10.00 am Common Worship Holy Communion

Readings: Stewart Benzie

Intercessions: Alison Godsal

*Coffee: Christine and Stewart Benzie*

12.00 Baptism – Lucas David Roberts

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May** – Ascension Day

10.30 am Holy Communion

Online worship: Rev Caroline broadcasts 9am Morning Prayer (Monday-Thursday and Saturday) on Facebook

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

Readings for Sunday: Acts 11.1-18; Revelation 21.1-6; John 13.31-35

If I've learned anything on this journey of faith, it's that Jesus doesn't call us to be comfortable. He continually challenges us – making us look closer at our unexamined habits and assumptions and throwing bright light on things that can make us feel profoundly uneasy. A common feature in all human societies is that we like to categorise each other. We are at our most comfortable when we are able to designate some people as 'us' and some as 'them', and draw a clear boundary between the two. It's a deep instinct, born of a need for trust and protection.

But this instinct isn't what God wants from us. It's not what Jesus asks of us. Those first disciples ran up against this conflict between what felt 'natural' and where the Holy Spirit was leading them in the earliest days of their ministry. We see in our reading from Acts one such encounter. In this story of Peter and his ministering to these Gentiles in Joppa we see the instincts of those Jewish Christian apostles. Jesus had come to them, a Jew coming to Jews. Surely Gentiles couldn't be accepted as followers of Jesus as they were? But God had spoken to Peter, and he knew better. He saw the Holy Spirit come down on this non-Jews, and realised the extent of God's salvation. It wasn't limited to one group or tribe anymore. It was for everyone.

That was a challenging realisation. It remained challenging throughout the Early Church, and honestly remains a challenge to us today. We still feel the temptation to draw boundaries around one group or another, and the message that Jesus has come for the benefit of everyone, that everyone should be welcome in his Church, regardless of any of the usual markers of human societies, can be hard to hear. It can be even harder to live.

Yet Jesus' commandment leaves us no room to hedge, or to try to wriggle out of it. "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

We are to love – to love without boundaries, without borders. Everyone is welcome in God's Kingdom, and that means *everyone*. As we hear in Revelation, in Christ 'all things are made new'. Old habits, old divisions have no place in God's new Creation.

Are you, are we, able to hear this truth? Are we able to live and obey Jesus' commandment? Are there people in our community who might feel unwelcome in our church? How can we show them that they are indeed welcome? How can we live that welcome?

*Rev'd Caroline*

## **From Heather**

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

My office hours 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 (712611) or home (712428). The office is closed on Mondays and Michelle will be in on Fridays from 10.00 to 12.00.

**The Jubilee edition of the Newsletter** will be sent out on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June. If there is anything you would like me to include please let me have it by 12 noon on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> May. Thank you.

## **Gazebos**

If you have a gazebo that you could lend us for the Jubilee Picnic on the 5<sup>th</sup> June it would be very much appreciated. We need to be prepared for bad weather (or a heat wave for shelter!) It would need to go up on the Saturday evening or early Sunday morning. Do phone or email me. Thanks H

Please see below for all Jubilee weekend activities

Do please keep sending in your articles, photos and amusing stories! **Favourite recipes or garden tips welcome - do need your input!**

## **Contacts**

Rev'd Caroline 01285 712467

Rev'd Canon Denise Hyde 01285 713285

Mike Godsall 01285 713101

Christine Benzie 01285 713395

Wendy Graham 01285 711765

**Please remember the following in your prayers:**

**Those who are ill:** Rev'd David Gray, Grace Slack,

**Those who have died:**

Sheila Simpson. Howard Mills – Cremation at Kingsdown on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May at 10.30 am.

## **NOTICES**

**A list of all the services in St. Marys are on the notice board and in the porch.**

**Dates for the Diary:**

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May following the 10.00 service in St. Marys (c. 11.30am)

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Another date for your diary is Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June. We are planning a service in the morning followed by a Picnic in the Churchyard. *Details below*

### Friends of Fairford Church Annual Outing

A date for your diary – A visit to Wells Cathedral and The Bishop's Palace Gardens on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July. *Details below*

**The Annual Parochial Church Meeting** is being held in the church on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May following the 10.00 am service. Everyone is welcome to attend and learn how the PCC keep the church running so smoothly! The Accounts and Reports are in the church for you to take a copy. Also, if you would like to nominate a member for the PCC or a Church Warden there will also be forms in the Church.

### **Churchwatch Stewards**

We are still in need of a few more stewards to greet visitors when they come to look around the church and at the moment the gaps that need filling are Mondays 2pm to 3pm, Saturdays 2pm to 3pm, and third and fourth Saturdays noon to 2pm.

It really is a most interesting way to spend a few hours and if you would like just to have a try out before finally deciding then that can be arranged without problem.

You do not need to be a fount of knowledge about the history of the church but simply make visitors feel comfortable and tell them about the audio guide if they would like to use it. Please contact me if you are able to help or have any queries.

Thank you

Roy Phillips

[royston.c.phillips@btinternet.com](mailto:royston.c.phillips@btinternet.com)

01793 751585.

### **Messy Church**

Messy Church receives small donations each month from the families attending towards the expenses of the session. We are looking for someone to manage the 'kitty' for us, to record the value of donations each month and to refund expenses from it. No large sums of money are involved! For more information please contact Sarah Bottomley on 01285712074 or [stmaryslmt@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryslmt@gmail.com)

### **Coffee after Church**

Would you like to serve coffee after the 10am service on an occasional basis?

A new rota is being prepared and we can easily accommodate new faces on the team! If interested please contact Sarah Bottomley in church, or on 01285712074.

**Moses Preece-Smith** has worked for 3 months in The Churchyard as his D.O.E Service. He has cleared The Rainwater Gutters and the path leading from The South Door to The Centre. Thank you Moses - we need you every year!

Carol Thompson

**Ukrainian Refugees in Fairford** – a number of Ukrainian families are due to arrive in Fairford over the coming weeks. We are committed to offering as much help as we can. One way to help is to lend a hand in contributing furnishings to a house where it is hoped that a number of families will be taking up residence. Currently the house is empty, and furnishings of all kinds (beds, furniture, white goods, small appliances, cooker etc.) are needed before the families arrive. Could you help out? If you've got an item to offer, please take a picture of it and email it to [fairfordrefugees@gmail.com](mailto:fairfordrefugees@gmail.com). Obviously it may be that multiple people may offer an item of a particular type, so this allows the team to select the most suitable offerings.

Thank you!

## **PRAYER AND WORSHIP**

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

Caroline's Morning Prayer every day except Friday and Sunday from 9.00 am - [www.facebook.com/stmarysfairford](http://www.facebook.com/stmarysfairford)

### **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.

### **Christian healing is God meeting us at our point of need. (Bishop Maddocks)**

Mary Mawle 01285 712174

Ann Nicholls 01285 713063

Rev'd Denise 01285 713285. [denisehyde15@gmail.com](mailto:denisehyde15@gmail.com)

**Christian Aid Week 15-21 May** As in the last couple of years, there will be no street collections for Christian Aid. You are invited to make donations directly to Christian Aid via their website [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk), or by cheque to Christian Aid, 35-41 Lower Marsh, London SE1 7RL. There will also be collecting tins in all of the churches.

### **Christian Aid Fundraising**

Now that I have a new hip, I have decided to do a sponsored walk from my house to Quenington to raise money for Christian Aid on the afternoon of Saturday May 21<sup>st</sup>. That's a distance of nearly two and a half miles and it will be just seven weeks after I came out of hospital. Although I have made good progress so far, I have been told to expect it to plateau at some point, so it will be a significant challenge for me. If you would like to sponsor me, you can either pass the money to me or make a donation directly to Christian Aid. I am hoping to raise £100 but more would be great

as the need is vast. And if anyone would like to keep me company, they will be very welcome. Maureen Partington

### **The League of Friends of Fairford and Lechlade**

(formerly League of Friends of Fairford Hospital) are collecting from the 9<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> May for this local charity. Do please support them. If you wish to donate – please send a cheque to Friends of Fairford to 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, High Street, Fairford, GL7 4AD Or visit our website for details of how to pay by bank transfer

[www.friendsoffairford.org.uk](http://www.friendsoffairford.org.uk)

### We support the local community through:

Our Home Nursing Team supplements the care given by the local GPs and District Nurses providing palliative care to patients who wish to remain at home. Our team of registered nurses and care assistants are able to provide support to the family as well as the patient and work as a team with the District Nurses and other medical services. There is no charge to the patients or their families and referral is made through the local District Nurses.

Our contract with Prospect Hospice at Wroughton enables the Fairford and Lechlade GP Practices to refer their patients to the Hospice. This means the patients and their families can benefit from the Hospice's full range of services.

### Patients Transport Service

We have a team of volunteer drivers who provide over 700 journeys a year for people in the community who have difficulty getting to their GP and hospital appointments. A charge is made for the round trip to cover vehicle running costs. No charge is made for the driver. A schedule of fixed rate charges can be seen on our website. The patient arranges the transport through their GP Surgery. The Surgery will contact our driver coordinator who will make the transport arrangements and the patient pays the driver direct.

### **Friends of Fairford Church Outing**

The outing this year is to Wells Cathedral and the Bishops Palace Gardens on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July. The cost of the outing will be £28 per head which includes the coach, entrance to both the Cathedral and the Gardens and a guided tour of the Cathedral. Coffee will be available at the Cathedral on arrival but is not included in the cost.

### Schedule is as follows:

8.30 am Depart for Wells from Fairford Church

10.45 am Arrive at Wells Cathedral

11.00 am Coffee in the Cathedral

11.45 Guided Tour of the Cathedral

After tour free for lunch or picnic

2.30 pm Visit to Bishop's Palace Gardens (adjoining the Cathedral) You are welcome to arrive at any time from 2.30 onwards.

4.30 pm Coach will depart from the Gardens

18.40 pm Arrival at Fairford Church

If you would like to go on this tour please complete the form (in the church or ask Heather (Home 712428, Office 712611 or email [fairfordpcc@gmail.com](mailto:fairfordpcc@gmail.com)) Cheques payable to Friends of Fairford Church. Details for paying on line are on the form.

### **Tomb Trail**

Have you ever wondered about the people buried in St Mary's old churchyard? There are some fascinating and strange stories behind some of these people. Find out about Ebenezer's inflatable globes and wind-driven carriage, the tragic story of Doctor Cornwall's children, and the man behind the Navy List. In conjunction with Fairford History Society St Mary's are offering guided '**Tomb Trails**' throughout this Spring and Summer. The £3 contribution will go in part towards St Mary's and the FHS. Groups from 5 to about 12 please. Contact the Parish Office 01285 712611 or [fairfordpcc@gmail.com](mailto:fairfordpcc@gmail.com)

### **From Ann Nicholls**

Dear Lord, thank you for the good plans you have for us, give us the strength and help us to trust you. Thank you for the people of faith who mentor children and provide opportunities for them to know you more.

Heavenly Father we pray that you will surround the oppressed, the downtrodden and the sick with your comfort and love, help us to be your hands and feet to the world around us, you have created us for each other, help us to rejoice with those who are happy just as we weep with those who are sad, we ask our prayers in Jesus name and for his glory, AMEN.

### **From Alison Hobson**

From the Parish New April 1992

Jottings from 100 years ago

It seems 'industrial actions' and 'market forces' were not unknown matters a century ago. In the 'Musical Times' of 1890 two stories were told:-

- 1) The strike epidemic has got hold of choirs to some purpose. At East Barnet, the other day, the singers 'came out' because the task of washing their surplices had been taken from Widow Wiltshire (who charged 15 pence each) and given to someone else content with sixpence. The Churchwarden submitted; the choir went in again, and Widow Wiltshire is rejoicing.
- 2) At St Lawrence, Ramsgate, the choir walked out because the church cleaners had removed their books and not put them back again. In this case, the vicar

wrote a written apology dictated by himself, but 'the choristers allege that it is too abjectly worded, and they have refused to take any notice of it'.

The 1880's and 90's were also a time when women were appearing in the chancel. Some had appeared at Queen Victoria's coronation in 1838 albeit in disguise! In 1889 the 'Miscal Times' reports:-

An old gentleman, speaking to a young lady and commenting on her freshness and good looks remarked: "Ah, my dear, may you long retain them. You know nothing of the jealousies, the heartburnings, the contentions and the rivalries that best the pathway of existence". "Don't I, though," she interrupted: "I want you to understand and that I belong to a church choir" JCH

## Greening St. Mary's

You may wonder what the lion in Trafalgar Square & a Scarecrow in St Mary's churchyard have in common!



The answer of course is encouraging biodiversity & providing more areas for wildlife. In recent months at St Mary's, Eco-church and eco-churchyard teams have been formed. The spring bulbs in the churchyard were a result of this, and now a sectioned off area is being managed to support more insects, plants and wildlife. (Please feel free to wander on the paths through this area).

Within the Eco church remit we are looking at many aspects of church life, and how they could be made more sustainable and help to reducing the carbon footprint of St Mary's and its congregation.

If you wish to know more, do come to the 10am service on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May, when you will have the opportunity to hear from members of the Eco Church team. We also hope to give regular updates through this Newsletter.

PS. Mabel the elegant ScareMow is there to remind us of 'No Mow May', when we are encouraged not to mow our lawns and see what grows. The Trafalgar lion photo was taken recently by one of our team. The plaque says: 'A Wild Roar. We want our cities to be less like concrete jungles & more like real ones. Imagine a London rewilded, with everything from bushy bus stops to leafy landmarks'.



You will find W4W at Fairford Community Centre every Wednesday at the Talking Café for all your signposting and supporting needs. 1030am-12noon.  
Lechlade Talking Café coming soon!!!!

We have been busy working on our Digital Program and hope to roll this out soon, with set drop-in sessions in both Fairford and Lechlade areas. For the mean time please pop into the Talking Café and I can support you on the basics of internet and devices.

Walking For Wellbeing is back Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May, 26<sup>th</sup> June and 3<sup>rd</sup> of July. Meeting at Fairford Community Centre at 3pm for a Walk and Talk, followed by refreshments. The Fairford Crafters meet on the first Wednesday of the month at Fairford Community Centre 2pm-4pm. Free but donations welcome. Thank you to Ann Nicholls for running this group and sharing her skills.

We are excited to announce Fairford Crafters evening sessions on the last Thursday of the month. The first session will be Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May, 30<sup>th</sup> June, 28<sup>th</sup> July. Further dates to be confirmed. This is a social event no skills needed with the hope we will learn and grow as the months go on.

Mens Shed is coming soon- We have been delighted to have been invited to go look around the new shed next week and will confirm a grand opening date in the next few weeks. Well done to Malcolm Cutler and his team for making this become a reality.

Mary Ann

## **UKRAINE CRISIS**

There will be a further collection for those refugees fleeing the war in Ukraine, which will be delivered to the Ukrainian Church in Gloucester on Saturday at 9am.

### **WE ARE ONLY ABLE TO ACCEPT THE FOLLOWING:**

Tinned foods incl baked beans, rice pudding, soups etc preferably with ring pulls  
Oxo cubes (no glass jars)  
Lemsip or similar  
Nappies  
Baby wipes  
Sanitary products  
Medical supplies – unopened  
Antiseptic wipes  
Antiseptic  
First Aid kit  
Emergency Blanket  
Waterproof Sterile Plasters  
Dressing  
Bandages  
Liquid Plaster  
Gauze pads  
Disposable gloves  
Scissors 5 inch (blunt)  
Fabric plaster stripes  
Paracetamol/Ibuprofen (any pain killers)  
Sleeping bags  
Thick socks for men

### **NO CLOTHES**

### **Welcoming Refugees**

We are sure many people will be asking how they can further support refugees from Ukraine who might start arriving in the UK. The Government has just issued some guidance about signing up to express interest in hosting a family for a six-month period, which may be something you may want to explore. Please do so prayerfully and conscientiously, with full knowledge of the commitment you will be taking on – the Church of England has put out a very helpful guidance document on responding to this crisis, including links to the appropriate Government sites. Do take a look.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/community-action/war-ukraine-responding>

**Platinum Jubilee Weekend**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> June**

**The Queen' s Platinum Jubilee 2022**  
**St. Mary's Church Fairford**  
**Sunday 5th June**



- **10.00 am Jubilee Service**  
Coffee in the Community Centre  
after the service

Followed by

- **A Picnic in the Churchyard**  
(Please bring you own picnic  
and a rug or chairs)

There will be gazebos in case of rain but please  
come prepared if the forecast is not good.

# Platinum Jubilee Celebrations



## THURSDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> JUNE 2022

### 12.00 NOON **Street Party in the Park** Fairford Cricket Club, Park Street

Bring your own food or a sharing plate and take a seat at the long tables set up for you.

Children's party boxes will be available, thanks to Friends of Fairford & Lechlade Communities.

The Cricket Club bar will be open. (Please don't bring your own alcohol into the venue.)

Music from across the decades will be playing for your enjoyment.

Face painting and balloon modelling in the marquee sponsored by Fairford Town Council.

3.00pm Highworth Silver Band will be playing.

3.00pm Vintage afternoon tea party (over 70s) hosted by Friends of Fairford & Lechlade Communities (pre booking required, contact Kerry Simms - 01285 707300).

Hog roast 5.00pm - 8.00pm sponsored by The RAF Fairford British American Committee.



### 7.00 PM **'The Queen' film** on the big screen

### 9.45 PM **Venue: Upper Green, Mill Lane**

Churches Together sing, 'A Song for the Commonwealth'

Bonfire beacon is lit

**Rudyard Kipling's (1865-1936) inspirational poem 'If'** first appeared in his collection 'Rewards and Fairies' in 1909. The poem 'If' is inspirational, motivational, and a set of rules for 'grown-up' living. Kipling's 'If' contains mottos and maxims for life, and the poem is also a blueprint for personal integrity, behaviour and self-development. 'If' is perhaps even more relevant today than when Kipling wrote it, as an ethos and a personal philosophy. Lines from Kipling's 'If' appear over the player's entrance to Wimbledon's Centre Court - a poignant reflection of the poem's timeless and inspiring quality.

IF—

**I**f you can keep your head when all about you  
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,  
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,  
But make allowance for their doubting too;  
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,  
Or being lied about, don't deal in lies,  
Or being hated don't give way to hating,  
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise:

**I**f you can dream—and not make dreams your master;  
If you can think—and not make thoughts your aim,  
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster  
And treat those two impostors just the same;  
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken  
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,  
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,  
And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools:

**I**f you can make one heap of all your winnings  
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,  
And lose, and start again at your beginnings  
And never breathe a word about your loss;  
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew  
To serve your turn long after they are gone,  
And so hold on when there is nothing in you  
Except the Will which says to them: 'Hold on!'

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,  
Or walk with Kings—nor lose the common touch,  
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,  
If all men count with you, but none too much;  
If you can fill the unforgiving minute  
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,  
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,  
And—which is more—you'll be a Man, my son!



This is the beginning of a new day. You have been given this day to use as you will. You can waste it or use it for good. What you do today is important because you are exchanging a day of your life for it. When tomorrow comes, this day will be gone forever.

In its place is something that you have left behind. Let it be something good.

