



*A stylish Prince Philip*

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

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> April**

**Third Sunday of Easter**

**10.00 am Common Worship Holy Communion**

**Readings: Phil Trickett**

**Intercessions: Ann Nicholls**

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

**Online worship: Rev Caroline broadcasts 9am Morning Prayer Monday-Thursday and Saturday) and BCP Evening Prayer at 6pm on a Sunday on**

**Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/stmarysfairford>**

**From Caroline**

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

Readings: Acts 3.12-19; 1 John 3.1-7; Luke 24.36b-48

Thank you everyone for your good wishes for my time off over the past week. It was a very good rest, and much appreciated. Lots of reading, sleeping and writing was accomplished! Huge thanks too to Mike and Christine, and especially to Rev'd Denise, who held the fort while I was off, including the important task of opening the church and making arrangements for the community to pay our respects to Prince Philip, and to pray for the Queen and all the Royal Family as they mourn his death.

It is light of this that I have been reflecting this week on our Christian practice of celebrating not just single days, but whole seasons. For secular folk, both Christmas and Easter are one day each. There is great anticipation for both, often that goes far beyond our own Christian preparations of Advent and Lent, but once the day has come and gone, the celebration is over. One and done.

This is a tremendous loss. As Christians, we celebrate these great festivals for weeks, and for good reason. They are too big to be consigned to a single day. The joy and hope they bring isn't something that can or should be considered just once. We take time in our prayer and worship to remind ourselves, again and again and again, that whatever present struggles or sufferings may try to persuade us, Christ has conquered. Light will prevail over the darkness.

It is a conscious remembering, as all our remembering in worship must be. We walk ourselves through those events, we seek to evoke in ourselves a sense of presence alongside those first disciples, alongside Jesus himself. We call to mind the emotions, the passion, the fierce ups and downs of that first Easter. And as we step out of the darkness of the tomb into the bright light of a new dawn, we are lifted.

Lifted not just for an hour, or a day, but day after day. Be reminded, brothers and sisters, that here and now we are beloved children of God, called into his loving arms, and light of Jesus' victory is our light too. Do not be crushed by our present difficulties. Do not be held down. Do not despair. Suffering is not victorious. Death is not the final winner.

That victory belongs to your Lord, and mine. Our risen Lord, Jesus Christ.

Let's remember, all through this season of Easter. Together.

With all my love and prayers,  
*Rev'd Caroline*

**From Heather:**

Telephone: 01285 712428

Email address: fairfordpcc@btconnect.com or heathergorton31@gmail.com.

Please do phone or email me if you have any queries about anything and I will do my best to answer them.

This newsletter is dedicated to Prince Philip – a man of many talents. There has been so much written about him – he was such a great presence in the Royal Family and he will be missed by not only the Queen and her family but everyone who's lives he crossed or just knew that he was there supporting the Queen.

Do please keep sending in your articles, photos and amusing stories!

Would you like to write something for the Newsletter?

'A day in my life under lockdown'? - 100 words of how you are spending your time at home, and what you actually like about it?

or

100 words on 'The three things I most want to do when coronavirus is over.'

(If you do decide to write to me could I please have it by Wednesday evening)

Does anyone have a small easy to assemble gazebo I could borrow for one day in early May. If so please phone or email me as above. Many thanks.

**Contacts**

Rev'd Caroline 01285 712467

Rev'd Canon Denise Hyde 01285 713285

Mike Godsal 01285 713101

Christine Benzie 01285 713395

Jonathan Stebbing 01285 712131

Wendy Graham 01285 711765

Parish News: [stmaryspn@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryspn@gmail.com)

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

**Those that are ill:** Rev'd David Gray, Helen Foxall, Grace Slack, Niall McDiarmid

**Update on Grace Slack**

Grace is known to us by her grandparents Carol and Alan Slack. Grace was also baptized in St Mary's by Rev'd Denise. She is a very sick child with a rare condition called Takayasu Arteritis. When she was diagnosed at a few months old the prognosis was not good, and she was not expected to live beyond the age of 5

years old. Grace is a fighter and has just had her 12th birthday, however she is in the Great Ormond Street Hospital and three weeks ago had open heart surgery. Sadly this has not been straightforward and this child has had her chest opened three times in as many weeks. Both lungs have collapsed and she has had blood clots forming around her heart. She is in severe constant pain, but Grace fights on.

Please pray for her, her parents and siblings and the wider family, they are all very grateful for our prayers.

## **Notices**

### **Food boxes for needy families**

You may have noticed the cardboard boxes in the church over the Easter weekend. We were very glad to partner with CDC by offering the church as a distribution point for Cooking Kits for families in need over the Easter holidays. Thanks to all who helped with the distribution.

### **North churchyard – community garden area**

Through the month of May we'll be hosting young families from Fairford as they plant flowers in a community garden area in St Mary's north churchyard, near the north gate. The plan is for the children and their families to do the planting, giving a flower garden that will be a place for the community to come and enjoy throughout the summer. The first sessions will begin in mid-May.

### **Church Opening Hours:**

Monday to Friday the church will be open for private prayer 11am – 1pm.

Weekends the church will be open for private prayer 12noon – 1pm.

If you feel you'd like to help out to help us open longer through this lockdown period, please do contact Rev Caroline.

### **Online Prayer and Worship**

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.

## 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 April 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**

**Messy Church** is still meeting at home and each week we write to our families with ideas and suggestions for having their own Messy Church. This week we shall be thinking about how Jesus walked with the travellers on the Emmaus Road. For further information or to join our mailing list please contact Sarah Bottomley on [01285712074](tel:01285712074) or [stmaryslmt@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryslmt@gmail.com).

## A thank you from Heather Kent

A massive thank you to everyone who supported me in my Lent Litter Pick 2021. I have raised over £2000 for Great Western Hospital- thank you to all who donated. I also collected 115 bags in 46 days. If you feel like you can pick up any litter- anything from 1 piece of litter to 10 bags- do what you can. We need to take action now! Together we CAN make a difference! And for me, litter is not just for Lent, it's for life. I will still litter pick for as long as the world needs me too!



Heather with her 100th bag of litter!

## **Gloucester Cathedral to live-stream County Memorial Evensong Service in Thanksgiving for the life of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh**

Gloucester Cathedral in partnership with the Diocese of Gloucester and the Gloucestershire Lieutenancy will live-stream a Memorial Evensong Service to celebrate and give thanks for the life of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh.

On Tuesday 20 April at 5.30pm you are warmly invited to join us online only for this special commemorative Evensong Service coming live from the Quire of Gloucester Cathedral. Representatives of the County will take part and the Blessing will be given by Bishop Rachel. An order of service will be available to download so that you can follow the service in your own home.

The service will be live-streamed on Gloucester Cathedral's website and social media channels. Please visit the address below for more information and to join the service which will appear on the screen a few minutes before the service is due to begin:

<https://www.gloucestercathedral.org.uk/worship/services/special-services/memorial-evensong-for-hrh-the-duke-of-edinburgh.php>

### **From Ann Nicholls**

Bless to us O God this day fresh made.

In the chorus of birds ...bless us,

In the scent of blossom...bless us,

In the wet grass and the spring flowers...bless us, Bless us and heal us for we come to you in trust, We come to you in expectant hope.

We ask in Jesus name. AMEN

For the beauty of the earth

For the beauty of the skies,

For the love which from our birth over and around us lies, Lord of all, to thee we raise,

This our grateful hymn of praise.

A prayer for Prince Philip (as available in the Church)

## A prayer on the death of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh

God of our lives,  
we give thanks for the life of Prince Philip,  
for his love of our country,  
and for his devotion to duty.  
We entrust him now to your love and mercy,  
through our Redeemer Jesus Christ.  
Amen.



## Prince Philip at RAF Fairford 1972

On January 12th 1972 Prince Philip the Duke of Edinburgh is invited to fly in G-BSST (002) and is invited to take control of the British built prototype Concorde from RAF Fairford in Gloucestershire. The flight lasted just 2:00hrs.



*At the controls of Concorde with Brian Trubshaw*



*Inspecting the controls at RAF Fairford*

**From Alison Hobson**

Wilts and Gloucestershire Standard  
Friday June 4 1971

**PRINCE PHILIP 'DROPS IN' AND MEETS  
YOUNG PEOPLE:** Three-and-a half hour  
visit to Cowley Manor

His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, visited Cowley Manor, near Cheltenham, on Tuesday and met young people taking part in his award scheme. The visit to Cowley was part of the Duke's south-west tour of centres and schools where youngsters are working for their golf, silver and bronze awards.



*Prince Philip meets Jacqueline Robbins, a pupil from Farmor's School, Fairford and Miss June Lewis, a teacher from the school.*

*Prince Philip regularly played polo at Cirencester Park*



He took up Carriage Driving when he retired from polo



*His former barber at Gordonstoun told Philip*  
“One day you’ll marry Princess Elizabeth”. He roared with laughter and said: “You’re talking nonsense!”

