



Susannah Veale, daughter of Mike and Alison Godsall, painted this lovely view of the church. She is married to Richard, Michael Veale's son

South Cotswold Team Ministry

St. Mary's Church Fairford - Newsletter

Sunday 18th July

Seventh Sunday after Trinity

10.00 am Common Worship Holy Communion

Readings: Phil Trickett

Intercessions: Ruth Beckett

12.00 Baptism – Beatrice Morris

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

Coffee after Sunday Service - Do bring a thermos or whatever you fancy and join us outside the church after the service.

As from Monday – It is still strongly encouraged to wear a mask in church

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

The past week has been a tough one. The aftermath of the football final has left us in no doubt. If we weren't already aware of the divisions and bigotry that still exist in this country, we can hardly be blind to them now, as clear and unabashed racism has raised its ugly head in our communities. It isn't a new problem, of course. Human beings have loved to divide and categorise our societies since the very beginning. Separating ourselves into 'us' and 'them', on a variety of different lines, has served to bind the 'in' group together, and focus negativity outwards. It also does immeasurable harm, to the way we see the world and each other, and how we relate to the people around us.

Jesus speaks against such division, and as Paul reminds us in our reading from Ephesians from this Sunday, actually came to live among us to abolish these dividing walls that we set up between one another. In Jesus, the scattered are gathered together. Jeremiah and Mark both point to Jesus as the Good Shepherd, the one who has compassion on the wandering and the lost.

Where once we might be divided, turning against each other, finding one reason or another to look down on others, to blame them, to make ourselves feel better, Jesus works to bring us back together. He shows us the uncountable value with which God holds each one of his people, and in turn shows us how we should see each other – with the eyes of Christ. New eyes to see beyond superficial differences, and recognise that value, that worth, that mutual respect into which we are called as Christians.

More, our shepherd doesn't just bring us into one place. He gathers us, but then he leads us out. He not only affirms our value, but gives us new purpose. We are to be his people in the world, working for God's will – seeking to establish justice, peace, and righteousness between all peoples.

This week, as we call to mind the peace into which Christ calls all people together, regardless of previous differences, let us seek to answer Jesus' call – to do our part in breaking down boundaries, in recognising and naming the mutual value in which we are all held by God, and being unafraid to recognise and name those moments when we fall short of Christ's call. We pray for courage and strength to call out racism and bigotry when we see it, when we hear it.

We stand together, called into one flock by our Good Shepherd, united in his name, his holy temple in this broken world.

Rev'd Caroline

From Heather:

Telephone: 01285 712428

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

I am having problems transferring my home emails to the office ones.

Could you please from now on send emails re the newsletter to fairfordpcc@btconnect.com. Thanks.

Mike Godsal our Churchwarden is still in Gloucester Hospital. He is slowly recovering but it will be sometime before we see Mike back in church. It is hoped that he will be moved to Cirencester Hospital fairly soon. He thanks everyone for the cards and best wishes he has received and is very grateful. Please remember him in your prayers and also Alison and the family.

Ann Nicholls has had major heart surgery this week. She is now back in the ward after a spell in intensive care. We wish her the very best for a speedy recovery and hope to see her very soon back in church with Yoda. Remember Ann in your prayers.

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

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

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

Please remember the following in your prayers:

Those that are ill: Rev'd David Gray, Grace Slack,
Eileen Ferguson, Stuart Robinson, Mike Godsal, Ann Nicholls

Those that have died: Ivy Bennett, Helen Foxall, Nina Theed

Notices

Church Opening Hours:

From Monday 19th July the church will be back to its original opening hours. 10.00 am to 5.00 pm. All the stewards have been notified and everyone is welcome back into the church during these hours. The whole church will now be accessible. Stewards – It is strongly encouraged to wear a mask on duty.

Summer watering: over the summer, the community garden area in the north churchyard will need lots of extra watering. The whole community will be pitching in with this, but the church community is included in that! If you can help with some watering, or if you notice the garden could do with some extra love, please do pitch in! If you'd like to help on a regular basis, do let Rev'd Caroline know, and we'll add you to the rota.

SAVE THE DATE - Sunday 8th August, 4pm in Churchyard

We are planning a **Great God-family Picnic** (Parish Picnic). Open to all, we will also be inviting the families from Messy Church along with those families who have had children baptised since 2017. We are planning lots of fun and activities! More information to follow later.

Can you help?

We are making plans for the Great God-family picnic on 8 August. We would like some fish-shaped biscuits and some cupcakes as a treat for those that come to the picnic. Hazel Selby has a cutter and biscuit recipe so if anyone likes making biscuits, we would love you to make some for us (She even has some icing eyes). Similarly, anyone who would like to offer to make us some cupcakes, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Sarah Bottomley on 01285712074 or 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.

Sunday Blue Reading Sheet - The July sheets are attached

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 will be thinking about God's promise to David and exploring what houses mean to us. There will be ideas for activities for young and old. For further information or to join our mailing list please contact Sarah Bottomley on 01285712074 or stmaryslmt@gmail.com

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***

ONLINE PRAYER AND WORSHIP

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

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.

Frank Richmond



This photo of Frank Richmond was taken on his 100th Birthday

The residents of The Orchard gave Frank a Garden Party in his honour last Sunday to celebrate his birthday on 2nd July. He moved to Fairford from Gerrards Cross in 1997 and was one of the first occupiers of The Orchard. He has been a regular attender and supporter of St. Mary's since coming to Fairford.

From Alison Hobson

From the Wilts and Glos Standard. July 20 1935

FAIRFORD CARNIVAL 1935

Procession of Surpassing Beauty

Large crowd and a warm day

Fairford surpassed itself last Saturday. It went not one, but two or three, better than it had ever gone before. Small wonder that its fame has reached the London stage. Last month after a pleasant – if not altogether profitable – day at Ascot, a party from Cirencester went on to London to do 'the theatres'. Some patronised the revue at The Windmill. Judge on their surprise on hearing those lines:-

"Can we borrow your fire engine this week? – No. We've lent it to Fairford for their Carnival."

Obviously Fairford Carnival now takes place in the calendar with the big events of the year.

By the way we didn't notice this fire engine at Fairford last Saturday; not to be frank did we miss it. Such commonplace an object could hope to receive such scant attention in the riot of phantasy and romance which then presented. The weather was perfect, of course – the unbroken tradition of forty years suggests it could not be otherwise – and Fairford, remembering it was Jubilee year [Silver Jubilee of George V], set out to show would she could really do,

The Market Place was gayer than we remember it before; with streamers of pendants radiating from the central lamp and at dusk the new face of the Bull Hotel sparkled with coloured electric lights.

There was a Jubilee welcome at the Park gates, where the familiar garb of green and yellow had given place to a loyal dressing of red, white and blue, with portraits of their Majesties flanking the entrance. And the Jubilee had evidently captured the imagination of many competitors in the procession, which it found very varied expression.

But it was not the Jubilee motif that raised this procession so high above its predecessors; it was the sheer beauty and magnificence of the vehicular entries.

There follows a descriptive and detailed account of each of the entries in the different classes in the procession with the names of the entrants. The classes were:- Juvenile Characters, Prams and Hand Trucks, Cycles and Motor Cycles, Walking Adults, Vehicles. The vehicular entries were divided into at least eight different categories e.g. made by Fairford resident, non Fairford residents, humorous, type of vehicle.

The Judges were Earl St Aldwyn, the Lady Gifford, the Hon Mrs Heyworth, Dr Howard Carter (yes, the archaeologist) and Mr G C Gordon Lennox. This was the notable year that David Niven was staying at Fairford Park and presented the prizes.

There was also the Band Contest with bands from far afield. Other varied entertainment included the Dagenham Girl Pipers and the Wight Rodeo Riders who appeared in a Cossack display, the performance concluded with a mid-air performance of the Great Risko that finished with an upside down act 70 feet from the ground. Sporting events including a Tug o' War and so much more...

Below is the championship float – the wedding cake by Mrs H Powell and Mr Leslie Mould



From The Bull Hotel



Not sure who said 'every day's a school day' but that's certainly true of The Bull. It has been providing sustenance for hundreds of years and parts of the building are believed to date back to the Fifteenth Century.

Where there's merriment, there's bound to be a monk, and, sure enough, it was once a monk's chanting house, there's also a 'secret' tunnel running from the pub to St Mary's church.

History does not relate what the monks chanted, toss-up between the Nunc Dimittis or 'two pints and a packet of crisps please.'

We can only speculate that the secret passage would have allowed the odd monk a 'quickie' before returning to the church for confession.

By 1792 it was in use as a posting house, complete with stables and imposing double coach doors. Until 1910 the right-hand side of the building was the local bank.

What tales such a place could tell.

If any of you have any snippets from the past, nefarious goings on or any spooky stories please share them with us.

I'm sure we could find a suitable reward for the best!

Another view of the Swan family taken by Ingrid Morris

