



South Cotswold Team Ministry

St. Mary's Church Fairford – Newsletter Sunday 19th June

Sunday 19th June – 1st Sunday after Trinity

8.00 BCP Holy Communion

10.00 am Common Worship Holy Communion

Sidespeople: Jill Connell and Alison Godsall

Readings: Sally Salter Intercessions: Janet Edwards

Offertory: Mary Mawle plus one

Coffee: David and Sally Salter

Monday 20th June

2.30 Holy Communion in Hyperion House

Thursday 23rd June

10.30 am Holy Communion

Sunday 26th June – 2nd Sunday after Trinity

8.00 BCP Holy Communion

10.00 am Family Service

Coffee: Sarah Bottomley and Laura Franklin

6.00 pm Healing Service with Holy Communion

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

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

From Caroline: 01285 712467 / carolinesymcox@googlemail.com

Sunday's readings: Isaiah 65.1-9; Galatians 3.23-end; Luke 8.26-39

There is a lot going on in our readings from Sunday, but for this newsletter I'd like us to focus on our reading from Galatians, Paul's letter to the church communities in Galatia, what is modern day Turkey.

One of the things the early Christian communities were really wrestling with was what it looked like to be distinctively Christian. Most of these people who had come together to follow Jesus were not from a single background. Slaves were rubbing shoulders with wealthy merchants, Jews were sitting down with Gentiles, women and men were worshipping side by side. There were debates about whether people needed to become Jews before they could call themselves 'Followers of The Way', what those early Christians called themselves. Did the men need to be circumcised? Did everyone need to keep the food laws and all the other laws in the Old Testament? What did 'living as a Christian' really look like and mean?

It's something that we still struggle with these days to some extent. Do the laws of the Old Testament having a bearing on our faith or worship?

Paul is giving those early followers of the Way, and us later followers, a clear answer, and that is 'no'. God gave his people the Law, Paul says, as a starting point, a place holder until the real deal was to arrive. The Law was like the strict rules that you might use to keep a child in line until they are mature enough to make their own decisions. The gift of Jesus, and our faith in him means that we no longer being asked to follow a list of strict laws. Instead we are regarded as maturing children of God. We are asked to take his values and his teaching into our hearts. We act in one way or another not because a rule tells us to do so, but because the faith in our hearts tells us this is the right way to behave.

Jesus gave us one commandment - that we should 'love as he loved us', and that is what our adult selves are being held to. With this commandment at the centre of our lives we no longer need to worry about superficial differences or divisions that might have previously separated one group from another – men from women, Jew from Greek, slave from free person. Our identity isn't in those things, it is in our decision to follow 'The Way', Jesus Christ, the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Does how we behave matter? Of course! Hugely! Loving as Jesus loves us demands the highest standard of behaviour! Loving isn't necessarily easy. Sometimes it is unimaginably hard. But this is what binds us together.

This week, my prayer is that our identity and faith as Christians may be obvious to everyone, as we walk Jesus' path of love.

Rev'd Caroline

From Heather

Email address: fairfordpcc@gmail.com or 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.

Thank you to every one who has offered to help out on various rotas. I now have enough to set up **Sidespeople and Offertory** to the end of October. Very many thanks.

Some of our church tours ask for refreshments before or after their tour. It doesn't happen very often but when it does I do need two people in the Community Centre kitchen to make coffee, tea and serve biscuits. It is usually in the Barker Room but could be in any downstairs room. It will only be for about an hour. If you could help do please contact me. Thanks

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 Godsal 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: Rev'd Curwen Rawlinson (see funeral details etc. below), Margaret Richmond, Nora Karasz

NOTICES

Geoff and Hope Price are celebrating their Golden Wedding next Friday June 17th at Lee Abbey. We all wish them many more years of happiness.

Sidespeople for the 10am Sunday Service - From Pentecost we will be re-introducing a number of different elements of our 10am Eucharist service that had to be temporarily suspended due to COVID. Accordingly we will now be passing around the collection plate, and bringing up the bread and wine during the third hymn as we did before virus hit. Obviously quite some time has passed, and several

of our previous sidespeople are no longer available to contribute to the church's worship in these ways. We're looking for new volunteers to lend a hand as a sidesperson. If you could help in this way please speak to Heather in the Parish Office, as she'll be putting a new rota together.

Rev'd Curwen Rawlinson

As you may now know, our old friend Rev'd Curwen Rawlinson died at Elm Grove Care Home, Cirencester, on 1 June, a year and a few months after the death of his beloved wife Denny. They were both much loved in the Fairford community, and Curwen's family know there may be many who would like to attend a thanksgiving service or offer a word.

There will be an intimate family funeral on Tuesday, 28 June.

However, there will be a more public event, namely a thanksgiving service for both Denny and Curwen at 2pm on Thursday, 7 July at St Giles's Church, Uley, GL11 5SJ, Curwen's parish before he retired to Fairford, and now the parish of the Revd. Michael Cozens.

The thanksgiving service will be followed by the interment of Curwen's ashes in the churchyard, alongside those of Denny. There will then be refreshments served at the church.

It would be great if anyone planning to attend could give advance warning so the family can order the right amount of sandwiches and cakes! They can contact Richard Rawlinson, Curwen's son, on 07879631526 or richard.stj.rawlinson@gmail.com. If they prefer to post a note, Curwen's son Al's address is: 2 Albert Warehouse, The Docks, Gloucester, GL1 2EE.

Treasurer's Thoughts

Having now been in the post of PCC treasurer for 7 months, 1/65 th as long as my illustrious predecessor, I feel I am just about getting to grips with the job.

My biggest surprise was that St Mary's PCC runs at a loss; at first I assumed it was because of Covid, with many less visitors and less Weddings etc; but no, when I looked at the Fund Raising section of the Parish website, there was Caroline's predecessor Brian Atkinson explaining in 2012 a similar state of affairs regarding the 2011 accounts!

"Everyone knows" that the Church of England is "very wealthy but always asking for money". St. Mary's is fortunate to have received a large legacy some years ago and so has a strategic reserve in case of the roof falling in; some of this reserve is now being used for day to day spending. My wife Gill maintains that the legacy has made us lazy, not making provision for every day funding.

Of 2016 households in the Parish, just 52 are signed up to regular Parish Giving; and very generous they are too. If anyone else feels they would like to support this historic medieval building and/or the worship within it, go to "My Parish Giving" then to "find my Church"; St Mary's Parish code is 160616317 and the post code is GL7 4AF. (Anyone not having internet connection can ring me 01285 711647 or 07796 572364)

Chris Peachey

Home-Start Cotswolds are running a 'Baby and Me' postnatal group at Fairford Library on Fridays, 11am to 12.30pm. Each week we cover a different topic, eg. sleep, feeding, play and communication. If you have a baby aged 0-6 months, please call 01285 885391 or email Groups@home-start-cotswolds.org.uk to book your place.

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 5 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. 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!

Embrace, the local support group for infertility and baby loss, is delighted to have recently celebrated its fifth birthday and, in celebration, has launched something new - "Embrace in a Box". These boxes, full of comforting goodies, are for anyone in our local area experiencing miscarriage. We have five boxes ready to give away and will create more as needed. As well as new things, the Baby Memorial Book, which Embrace and St Mary's Church introduced to the Corpus Christi chapel of the church in 2019, continues to be available, giving the opportunity for those who have been affected by the loss of a baby to make an entry in their memory. If you would like information about Embrace, Embrace in a Box or the Memorial Book, please do get in touch on: embracefairford@gmail.com or 01285 712565

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

Prayers from St Mary's – Rev'd Caroline's Morning Prayer every day except Friday and Sunday from 9.00 am - 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

Messy Church

Messy Church meets once a month, normally on the second Sunday at 4pm in the church. Our next Messy Church will be on 10 July from 4pm to 6pm. For more information please contact Sarah Bottomley on 01285712074 or stmaryslmt@gmail.com.

Open Garden with Tea and Cakes

Friday 24th June 2 – 5 pm at The Bull Pens, East End Fairford. Admission £5.00 in aid of Maggie's Centre, Cheltenham. For more information please contact Andrea Wilkinson 01285 712763.

Tomb Trail

ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD GUIDED TOUR (otherwise known as the 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. Contact the Parish Office 01285 712611 or fairfordpcc@gmail.com or enquiry@fairfordhistory.org.uk

NEXT TOMB TRAIL SATURDAY 25TH JUNE AT 2.00 PM

Friends of Fairford and the Flower Team Church Outing The outing this year is to Wells Cathedral and the Bishops Palace Gardens on Wednesday 13th 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. Further details on form available in the church, from the Parish Office or I can email you a copy.

Working for Wellbeing – from Mary Ann



- 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 15th May 26th June and 3rd 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 26th May, 30th June, 28th 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.
- **Men's 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.

From Ann Nicholls

The night has passed and the day lies open before us, as we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence O Lord set our hearts on fire with love for you. Grant to us this day and every day such readiness and delight in following Christ that whether our lives are short or long we shall have lived abundantly. We pray in Jesus name, AMEN

From Alison Hobson

From the Parish News May 1889 and June 1890

Cricket Club

The Club will open the new season with a Scratch Match on Thursday, May 2nd at 3.30pm. Those wish to join the Club are requested to attend and *p(l)ay*. The Treasurer finds it very difficult to meet the heavy expenses of starting the Club. The great want at the present moment is a mowing machine; if anybody who reads this should happen to have an old one that he does not want, he will not fail to see that this is a grand opportunity for getting rid of it – If it won't cut please don't send it.

A year later in the Parish News of July 1890 Rev Carbonell is complaining that they have not enough players for a match which had to be cancelled. "The young men of Fairford do not take much interest in our national game..." he goes on to say how difficult it is to arrange matches. A home match was played against Highworth which the Visitors won by a few runs. Rev Carbonell was the highest scorer of the whole match with 13 runs!

From Margaret Bishop

An interesting visitor to church recently was a professor of English Literature, specialist in English poets of the early 17th. century. Two of these, William Strode and Richard Corbet, wrote poems about the 'Fayrford Windows', so he came to see what they were writing about. Both studied at Christ Church College in Oxford, before being ordained priests, and Corbet became Bishop of Oxford in 1628. England was in religious and economic turmoil at the time, with Royalist and Puritan factions vying with each other in violent disputes, leading to the Civil War in 1642. Even then, it was remarkable that Fairford retained its complete set of stained-glass windows. Corbet, after noticing that the brass memorial of Edmund Tame in the Lady Chapel was damaged, wrote:-

Tell me, you anti-saints, why brass
With you is shorter-lived than glass
And why the saints have 'scaped their falls
Better from windows than from walls

..... Fairford, boast

Thy church hath kept what all hath lost,
And is preserved from the bane
Of either warr, or Puritane.

From Rev'd Denise Hyde

Peter my son when he started work early on a couple of mornings when he was working on the clock caught the sun shining through the east window and reflecting down to the west window. He said it was a matter of minutes before it was gone, he found the experience very moving!



The Three Magpies 1910 (now a dilapidated house on the road towards Cirencester)



Fairford Market Place (judging by the cars would say early 60's)



This poem was found in a book that was given to Ann Edwards by Eileen Ferguson before her passing. They thought it'd be nice to share in the church newsletter

I may never see tomorrow
There's no written guarantee
And things that happened yesterday
Belong to history
I can't predict the future
I cannot change the past
I have just this present moment
I must treat it as my last

I must use this moment wisely
For it will soon pass away
And be lost forever
As part of yesterday
I must exercise compassion
Help the fallen to their feet
Be a friend unto the friendless
Make a empty life complete

The unkindest thing I do today
May never be undone
And friendships that I fail to win
May never more be won
I may not have another chance
On bended knees to pray
And thank God with a humble heart for giving me this day



"I'll only give you the paper if you promise not to let the news upset you."