



South Cotswold Team Ministry

St. Mary's Church Fairford – Newsletter

Sunday 19th September – *Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity*

10.00 am Common Worship Holy Communion

Readings: Fiona Gilroy

Intercessions: Ruth Beckett

Coffee Duty: Doug and Jean Crowley

Sunday 26th September – *Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity*

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00 am Family Service

6.00 Healing Service with Holy Communion

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

Readings for Sunday: Wisdom 1.16-2.1, 12-22; James 3.13-4.3, 7-8a; Mark 9.30-37

The pandemic has impacted us hugely in so many areas of our lives. One of the ways in which I've seen it hit us hard here in Fairford is our psychological well-being. Isolation and a steady stream of bad news about so much going on in the world: sickness, disaster, war, climate change, growing authoritarianism... These affect how we think about the world, about our lives, and about ourselves, and can very well drag us down into despair. The thought process is simple – I'm so small, and can do so little. The world is huge and broken. There's nothing I can do. There's no hope. Perhaps alongside that despair we can slide into cynicism and nihilism – 'everything is twisted in the end. Why bother?'

You can hear that mind-set repeated, or perhaps prefigured is a better word, loud and clear from the 2nd century BC, and the book of Wisdom. Listen to what these people had to say, and tell me you can't hear it echoed today: "Short and sorrowful is our life, and there is no remedy when a life comes to its end, and no one has been known to return from Hades." Their response was cynical aggression – 'How dare someone try to tell us that there might be hope or purpose in the world. We'll teach them how stupid and wrong they are.'

We look to Jesus, the righteous one who attracted just this anger and aggression, and suffered the pain and death that was the culmination of human despair and cynicism. And when we look to him we see something greater and more powerful than all that darkness and bleak hopelessness. Jesus offers us another way. Against that darkness we are called to be something surprising and strange. We are asked to be gentle, welcoming. We are asked to no longer be caught up in our own importance and standing, but concerned only to embrace and build up others.

We don't need to hide from the truth. Yes, there is a lot wrong in the world right now. There are many big problems that will need a great deal of work to correct. But our lives are important. And our relationships, our encounters, how we use our time and resources, will make a tremendous difference to the people around us – to our community and our town. We are not powerless.

My prayer is that, holding on to Jesus example and his promise of 'strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow', we can begin to make that difference.

Rev'd Caroline

From Heather:

Telephone: 01285 712428

Email address: fairfordpcc@btconnect.com or 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.

I do apologise for the Newsletter last week. I am having real problems with my new email. I hope you only receive one newsletter this week but if the problem is still existing – bear with me!!

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

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

Monday 20th September: 4.00 pm Eileen Ferguson North Wiltshire Crematorium

Saturday 25th September: 1.00 pm Thanksgiving Service for Julian McDermott

Wednesday 29th 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.

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.

Looking forward to seeing the stewards at the drinks party on Saturday.

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

- 1st Sunday of the month:
 - 10am BCP Holy Communion
 - 6pm BCP Evening Prayer
- 2nd / 3rd 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

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.

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

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

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 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

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.

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

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.



Sydney Flatman put this photo on Facebook of Fairford Station turntable taken in 1960.

From Alison Hobson

A less than complimentary view of Fairford and its Church – you can't please everyone!

We are so used to hearing much praise heaped on Fairford while the church visitors' book attests to a world-wide admiration for the beauty of St Mary's such that we assume everyone feels the same. No so! In 1932, Edward Hutton published his 'Highways and Byways in Gloucestershire'. He travelled widely in the county and formed decided opinions. He arrived in Fairford having been impressed by Kempford.

"Now whether it was that I had fallen in love with Kempford and was jealous of all other places, or whether I was prejudiced by its fame, I know not, but it was as I feared, and Fairford seemed a poor exchange for Kempford, the Coln and the Thames".

Having begun on despoiling the town's reputation Mr Hutton set about the church with relish.

"I confess I found the church uninteresting... and I thought the glass ugly enough to be what it is not, a local product... It is an irony that when the vandalism began at the Reformation and was renewed by the Puritans so much old glass of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries was lost – and the ugly stuff here was saved. It goes to show how poor we must be in really fine glass when we can rave about the pallid, ugly washed out stuff here. If you could see what glass can be, go to Chartres, Sens, Troyes, Auxerre and a hundred others, and have whole cathedrals full of the most glorious and beautiful work of a better time than the end of the fifteenth century,'

With a final shrug he leaves the town, dismissing it with a contemptuous, "I went on to Lechlade, and forgot Fairford." Edward Hutton's dyspeptic view is fortunately not very widely shared.

From Fairford Flyer No 13 July 2011

Report from a Foundation Governor- St Mary's C of E Primary School, Fairford

I was appointed a Foundation Governor in October 2020 and after Gloucestershire County Council's due diligence (on me) had been completed I attended my first Governor's meeting on 17th November 2020. That meeting and subsequent meetings were held remotely by Zoom and very properly no visits to the school were permitted.

On Tuesday 15th September I went into the school to attend my first face to face meeting with staff and fellow governors. I felt my post as governor had gone "live" and it was good to be in the same room as others attending the meeting.

The care taken by the school during the pandemic to protect children and staff has really paid off. All schools have been affected by the pandemic but the steps taken by the school and compliance by children and parents have meant that Fairford's primary school has been much less affected than many other schools.

The high quality of the school's teaching and support staff is a real source of pride for a Foundation Governor.

Michael Vann

From Ann Nicholls

Start children off in the way they should go and even when they are old they will not turn from it. Proverbs 22:6 Thank you Lord for children, guide those who teach them with your love and Grace. Help us to encourage and support who lead children in learning about Jesus.

We pray for our schools, Teachers and Governors that they may lift the name of Jesus and his teaching high in both junior and senior schools in our town. We ask this in the name and for the glory of Jesus. AMEN



***I have been lent a delightful little book on 'Epitaphs'
Under Miscellany is this one:***

Underneath Lieth the Body of Robert Comonly Called
Bone Phillip who died July 27th 1793 Aged 63 Years
At whose request the following lines are here inserted

Here lie I at the Chancel door
Here lie I because I'm poor
The farther in the more you'll pay
Here lie I as warm as they.



If ever there is tomorrow when we're not together...there is something you must always remember.

You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think.

But the most important thing is, even if we're apart...I'll always be with you.

Winnie
the
Pooh

