



The roses are fantastic this year.

South Cotswold Team Ministry

St. Mary's Church Fairford - Newsletter

Sunday 20th June: 10.00 am Common Worship Holy Communion
Third Sunday after Trinity

Readings: Sally Salter

Intercessions: Lucy Hodson

Sunday 27th June: 10.00 am Common Worship Holy Communion
Fourth Sunday after Trinity 12 noon Baptism - Freddie James Cashin

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

Readings for Sunday: Job 38.1-11; 2 Corinthians 6.1-13; Mark 4.35-41

One of the simplest, yet most powerful, pieces of advice that I've ever heard from anyone, Christian or secular, is this: "Be kind to other people, because you don't know what hidden burdens they're carrying."

Over the years of my ministry so far, this is something I've found to be profoundly true. Everyone is carrying something. Some hidden pain, some hidden burden, some deep scar. We can do a fantastic job in putting on a front. Some of us manage it so well that nobody would ever guess what pain is hidden under the surface. Yet that pain is still felt and carried. We have all gone through storms, and those storms can stay with us.

In this life everyone, great and small, at some point will feel pain, turmoil and confusion. Storms will come to us all. Some storms can be anticipated. Some hit us out of nowhere. But everyone will feel that terrifying sense of smallness, of powerlessness. And that feeling is so scary because above all, powerlessness is what we fear the most. Struggling to gain and retain power is what drives almost all the conflict we see in the world. And we do it because the opposite – having no power – is so terrifying. To be at the mercy of other people or other forces, with nothing we can do? What could be worse? Yet it will happen to us all.

Our readings today are a reminder: yes, in the scale of the cosmos, human beings are small, and there are undeniably times when we have no power at all. We cannot, or at least should not, try to tell ourselves the comforting lie that we are always in command of something. But that reminder comes with a great reassurance: while human beings are small, our creator God is great. The God who made us loves us, and it is he who has power over all things. No storm can overwhelm him – all things are in his hand.

It is this powerful God who loves us and holds us. Knowing that we are in his keeping, we are offered the peace that Jesus has in the midst of that storm, tossed on those swirling waves of the Sea of Galilee. We know that whatever changes around us, whatever threatens us, Jesus is with us. That relationship cannot be touched by even the worst things that the world might throw at us. In our storms too, we can have that internal peace. What makes us who we are can never be harmed by the world, if we rest in Jesus' keeping.

My prayer for all of us this week is that we may know Jesus' deep peace, and that we may share that peace and kindness with the world around us. That that peace may give us the grace to be kind to those whose storms may be hidden.

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.

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

Parish News: stmaryspn@gmail.com

Please remember the following in your prayers:

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

Those that have died: Faith Caroe, Harriet Bennett, Helen Foxall

Notices**North churchyard – community garden area**

Through the month of May we hosted young families from Fairford as they planted 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. Weather permitting, sessions are on Saturdays starting at 10am.

Summer watering: over the summer, the garden 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.

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.

PCC and the APCM

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) will be held in the church after the main service on Sunday 11th July this year. This is where we elect our churchwardens, church officers and representatives at the Deanery level.

At this meeting we are saying farewell to a number of long-serving members of the PCC, to whom we offer our sincere thanks. With their departure, we would like to encourage some new folk to consider serving on the PCC. We meet around 6 times a year, with meetings not lasting over 90 minutes. The PCC is where decisions are made around worship, the church buildings, the churchyard, and perhaps most importantly – how we use the church's resources, financial and physical. We would love your voice to be included in the making of these decisions and shaping St. Mary's mission and ministry over the next few years. If you'd like to learn more, please do speak to Rev'd Caroline.

Stewards

With the relaxation of COVID rules continuing we are working on the Stewards' Rota for the fully opening of the church. This is an interesting and relaxing way to spend an hour or possibly two, once a week. If you could consider joining the team please contact either Rev'd Caroline, Roy Phillips or Alison Godsal.

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

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.

Job Opportunity - Head of Foodbank

Cirencester Foodbank (which also covers Fairford and Tetbury) is recruiting for a Head of Foodbank to lead its work in the South Cotswolds. If you are passionate about its work then go to www.cirencester.foodbank.org.uk for further details.

The full advertisement is available on request.

Gloucester Diocesan Synodical Election: 2021

A new triennium of the Gloucester Diocesan Synod will commence from 1 August 2021. Within the Cirencester Deanery, there will be an eligibility for a maximum number of ten candidates for election to the House of Laity excluding those holding entitlement as ex-officio appointees. Prospective candidates, namely communicant members of the Church of England, aged 16 years or over, and resident in any parish in the Deanery would require nominations from a proposer and seconder both being members of the Deanery Synod. Notification of intention to stand would be welcome at an early date although nomination forms will be available between 24 and 31 May 2018. The formal closing date and submission of a specified nomination form is set at 6.00 a.m. on 21 June 2021. Further detail may be obtained from Michael Spittle, Secretary to Cirencester Deanery Synod, telephone 01285 650614 or m.spittle46@btinternet.com

Sunday Blue Reading Sheet - The June 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 are looking at Jesus' parable of the talents and we will consider our own talents and how we use them. There will be ideas for young and old. For further information or to join our mailing list please contact Sarah Bottomley on 01285712074 or stmaryslmt@gmail.com.

Coffee after Sunday Service

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

Earl Spencer will be speaking at Bibury Church on Thursday 24th June at 7:00pm.



Admission Free

Doors open at 6:00pm for drinks and celebrity book signing to include (Subject to filming schedules)

**Jilly Cooper, Sandra Howard, Prue Leith, Julian Fellowes, Nicholas Coleridge, Clement Knox,
Caroline Montague, Pam Ayres, Anne de Courcy**



Friends of Fairford Church

There is a meeting of the Friends in the church on Thursday 8th July at 5.00 pm. If you are a member please come along and support the Friends. If you would like to become a member do come along and introduce yourself to one of the committee.

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.

Church Wheelchair

The wheelchair in the church has been replaced. Our very grateful thanks to Sharon Callcott for donating her late mother's chair for use in the church. It was just about to be replaced so we cannot thank Sharon enough for coming forward with her chair. Thank you.

From Ann Nicholls

Update on Grace Slack

Grace is doing really well, she has returned to school on a part time basis and although gets very tired just loves being back with hr friends. Once again thank you for continued prayers for Grace and her family...it's good news.

Heavenly Father, help us to remember that no matter how troubling life gets, you are always with us. Help us to take refuge in you and to remember that our lives have purpose when we live them following you.

Father, Jesus, Holy Spirit, help us to give ourselves wholly to serving you.

AMEN

Go tell everyone the news that the kingdom of God has come, go tell everyone the news that God's kingdom has come.

From Alison Hobson

Those were the days! (for the men !). It is the reporting style which is entertaining.

The marriage of John Raymond Barker Esq to Lady Catherine Moreton, 14 December 1841

On Tuesday last, the marriage of John Raymond Barker Esq to Lady Catherine Moreton was celebrated by the inhabitants of Fairford and tenantry of Mr Barker in the most joyous style. In the morning the sports commenced with pigeon shooting match at Fairford Park, at the conclusion of which the excellent pack of harriers of John Cousins Esq of Broughton Hall met and afforded as excellent day's sport; and at last fell in, by chance, with Earl Ducie's pack of fox hounds at Ready Token. The guests then assembled at the Bull Inn, where about 50 gentlemen consisting of tenants and others sat down to an excellent dinner, Mr Parker in the chair, and George White officiating as Vice. Amongst the company were John Cousins, Esq, Messrs Tovey, Hitchman, Iles, Crouch, D Miller, Vines etc.etc. The table was sumptuously supplied with excellent venison and game from Fairford Park, and the board groaned beneath a most copious supply of fish, soups and the delicacies of the season, which the good taste of the landlord had selected to gratify the palates of respectable guests. The wines were good and gave great satisfaction. After the removal of the cloth the usual toasts were drunk and the toast of 'May long life and happiness attend the newly married couple' was received with that heartfelt enthusiasm which might have been expected to evince by a party of gentlemen who had met to celebrate this auspicious event. The conviviality of the meeting was kept up till near seven in the morning, when the company separated in peace with all the world - and some of them in a state of bliss generally expressed by the emphatic word 'jolly'.

From the Wilts and Glos Standard 18 December 1841

And from the Oxford Journal of the same day
John Raymond Barker Esq of Fairford Park, passed through this town from Sarsden House, in a splendid carriage and four, today (15 December) after being united to Lady Moreton, the amiable sister of Lady Julia Langston and Earl Ducie.

Fairford Carnival 1913



From John and Jane Read (With apologies to A.A.Milne)

What is the matter with John and Jane?
They're perfectly well and they haven't a pain.
They're both double-jabbed and shouldn't complain –
So what is the matter with John and Jane?

What is the matter with John and Jane?
Banning their singing just drives them insane
They want to get back to their choirs again -
That's what's the matter with John and Jane.

What is the matter with John and Jane?
The government's rules are giving them pain.
The Rules just appear to be followed in vain -
That's what's the matter with John and Jane.

What is the matter with John and Jane?
They're thinking its time to start a campaign:
Get rid of restrictions and give us free rein –
That's what we all want, not just John and Jane.

What is the matter with John and Jane?
They've spent eighteen months in a noisy refrain:
Give us live music back, don't be insane –
For goodness' sake let us get singing again.

Another unpublished letter to the Daily Telegraph

Sir - I have finally come to the conclusion that my 73 year old mother has become a born-again teenager.

She sleeps to all hours in the morning, never does any work and plays the television and radio far too loudly.

Her driving is atrocious (as is that of most of her friends), although she will never admit to it or that she is ever in the wrong)

Her dress sense has stayed the same for so long it's actually come back into fashion.

Whenever I suggest something she ignores it until one of her friends says exactly the same thing. Then it becomes a great idea.

Many of her friends drink far too much and they are all nearly all on drugs (they would claim medical, not narcotic – but I reserve judgement on that.

All in all, I think she is just at that 'difficult age'

Anon