



Taken by Kathleen Price with the trees planted for her Mother's 100th birthday

South Cotswold Team Ministry

St. Mary's Church Fairford - Newsletter

Sunday 25th July

James the Apostle

10.00 am Common Worship Holy Communion

Readings: Stewart Benzie

Intercessions: Janet Edwards

Sunday 4th August

Ninth Sunday after Trinity

10.00 BCP Holy Communion

Readings: Fiona Gilroy

Intercessions: Jane Kidd

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.

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

So we've moved past the end of official government-mandated restrictions, but I'm sure I don't need to remind you that COVID is still very much a threat, not least locally, where there have been clusters of cases recently, in both of our schools and beyond. With this in mind, we are having to make some tough decisions around how we plan to gather in worship and use the church building.

For now, the congregation as a whole is not fully vaccinated – not least in my own case, since I have only just received my second vaccine shot, and it will be three weeks before I am fully covered. With vulnerable people in my family, I am very aware that we need to make sure we're doing all we can to keep one another safe.

This being the case, we are taking +Rachel's advice in her recent pastoral letter, and will move slowly to begin to reinstitute elements of worship. Here are the immediate changes:

- Masks are strongly encouraged, but not mandated.
- We'll sing our first hymn together as a congregation, within the church. We'll also sing a final hymn together outside.
- The choir will be up to full strength, and will process into their places at the beginning of the service.
- The church will be fully open – all areas accessible to visitors, and open from 10am – 5pm.

We'll review how things are going in a couple of weeks' time, with a view to relaxing our special measures further if things are going well.

I realise there are a variety of different feelings among our community – some of you I'm sure will have been fully expecting everything to return to pre-COVID patterns, while others will be more cautious and want us to move even more slowly than we are currently planning. There are members of our community who are still not comfortable returning to any kind of physical gathering for worship. I urge you all to tolerance and patience as we negotiate these complicated decisions and seek to study God's word and join in worship in ways and places that nourish us.

Please do speak with me to share your thoughts – it's important that we hear everyone's hopes, dreams and fears, even if we know it will be impossible to please everyone.

With all love and blessings,
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. The hospital are making sure his medication is correct before he comes home. 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.

Nina Theed

Nina was a Mothers' Union member in Fairford for many years. Sometime committee member and always a loyal and supportive member. Her contributions to the group at various times included helping organise posies for Mothering Sunday, liaising with Church Bazaar Committee and being involved with the displays of wedding dresses and flowers at the Celebration of Marriage festival in 2002. Nina was also one of the members who welcomed and hosted speakers at M.U. meetings. Her ready smile and sociable manner contributed to this. We missed her when deafness and infirmity stopped her attending meetings. God bless you Nina.
Katheen Hall

The Other Nina

It wasn't long after we moved to Fairford 3 years ago that my granddaughter, (also called Nina), formed a bond with Nina, who lived nearby. My granddaughter's ginger hair reminded Nina what hers used to be like, and it wasn't long before we were invited to afternoon tea & the friendships developed. Each Nina referred to the other as 'the other Nina'. Many gifts and birthday cards followed, as well as chats on the doorstep. My 7 year old Nina enjoyed making cards for her and I'm sure this exchange between young and old has been an important lesson in her young life. I am reminded of Nina's kindness every time I walk down Courtbrook and see the lovely pink bush rose in the front garden at No. 27. It was a present from Nina to the late Jean Watkins. And when my granddaughter & I walk past the other Nina's house we'll fondly remember that very special friendship & too.

Janet Edwards

I first got to know Nina when she asked me if I would take over the running of the Flower Team. I found her considerable knowledge of running the team really helpful. She had been involved with the flowers for very many years. *Heather*

Curwen Rawlinson

I hear that Curwen has left Fairford and moved to a retired clergy home in Prestbury, Cheltenham. We wish him all the best. Denny died in February and his move will give him company again.

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

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: Helen Foxall, Nina Theed

Nina's funeral will take place in St. Mary's on Wednesday 4th August at 2.15 pm.
No flowers but donations in aid of Action for Kids and Guide Dogs for the Blind.
Please wear bright clothing to celebrate a long and completed life. Thank you.

Rosemary (daughter)

NOTICES

Church Opening Hours:

The church is now open from 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? From Messy Church

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 looking at how the Early Christian Church struggled to treat everyone fairly, and we will think about how this applies 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.

Photo taken by Janet Edwards

A lovely surprise to come across this swathe of Pyramidal Orchids on a local walk.



From Alison Hobson

A 17th century visit to Fairford Church

“July 20 1660 at Fairford neare Meysey-Hampton, where Mr Oldsworth, the impropiator, did with greatest curtesie shew him the beautiful church there, and the most curious paynted windows, set up in the raigne of K Hen, 7. The said church Sir Edmund Thame Kt (who died 1534) did finish, having been begun by his father John Thame esq, who died anno 1500. It may compare with any country church in England for its admirable structure. It is built cathedral wise, and hath a stately tower standing in the midst of it, adorn'd with pinacles, and sculptures of men's faces and armes. The church is also adorn'd with pinacles, and hath a fair roof: and in it an organ loft, where hath been a tunable set of organs. The windows consist of several scripture stories, verie well painted considering the time when done: and the excellency of them is describ'd in a copie of versies in a book, called 'University Poems'.”

From The life and times of Anthony Wood, antiquary of Oxford, 1632-1695 described by Himself collected from diaries and other papers by Andrew Clark M A Vol 1 1632-1668. Oxford Historical Society, 1891

This is from the poem mentioned which appeared in 'Parnassus biceps. Or Severall poetry, composed by the best wits that were in both the universities before their dissolution.' Wright, Abraham, 1611-1690.

“On Faireford windows

I Know no paint of Poetry
Can mend such colours Imagery
In sullen inke; Yet Faireford I
May relish thy faire memory.
Such is the ecchoes fainter found;
Such is the light when Sun is drownd.
So did the fancy look upon
The work before it was begun’

Sir Anthony Wood also visited Fairford in May, 1878 repeating what he had said before and describing John Tame’s tomb quoting the inscriptions. An additional paragraph as follows

‘Some think that the Georg Inn in Fairford was a chauntry house for priests to celebrate for the soules of the Tames in the parish church. There is the same effigies of a man cut in stone over the dore, as there is on the tower of the church, perhaps the effigies of the one of the Tames’.



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Hot Weather Quotes

1. *"I'm glad it's finally hot enough to complain about how hot it is."* — Anonymous
2. *"The most obnoxious thing in the world is to listen to others drone on about how much they love the heat."* — Anonymous
3. *"The weather is like the government — always in the wrong."* — Jerome K. Jerome
4. *"What dreadful hot weather we have! It keeps one in a continual state of inelegance."* — Jane Austen