



## **St. Mary's Church Fairford**

### **Newsletter**

**Sunday 28th February  
Second Sunday of Lent**

**Services will recommence on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> March with Holy Communion at 10.00 am (BCP). I will be starting a list of those who would like to attend from next Friday.**

**Online worship: Rev Caroline broadcasts 9am Morning Prayer Monday-Thursday and Saturday) and BCP Evening Prayer at 5pm on a Sunday on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/stmarysfairford>**

Please do also make use of weekly Sunday worship produced by the South Cotswold Team, with Fairford folk regularly contributing. These will be continuing for the foreseeable future. Weekly videos can be found here: <https://worship-at-home.weebly.com/>

**From Caroline**

01285 712467 / [carolinesymcox@googlemail.com](mailto:carolinesymcox@googlemail.com)

Sunday readings: Genesis 17.1-7, 15-16; Roman 4.13-end; Mark 8.31-end

As we move into the season of Lent we're encouraged to think about those pillars of our relationship with God – to spend time truly reflecting on how and why we think and act as we do, and to get a firmer grasp on our journey forwards with Jesus.

This Sunday we are asked to think about the concept of 'faith'. What does that mean for us, and how does it look in our own lives? We often hear the exhortation to 'have faith' in Jesus, but sometimes that can feel like a very fuzzy concept. What does that actually *mean*?

In our Scriptures we are given two connected examples – what faith looked like for Abraham when God first formed a covenant with him, and then how that faith of Abraham can be understood as applying to those who are not the blood descendants that God promised to him as part of that covenant. In our Genesis reading, God binds himself and Abraham together, in acceptance and recognition of Abraham's own faith. Abraham was willing to let go all the things he knew in his life, to travel to a far unknown country, even to believe the outlandish promise from God that Abraham, a 99 year old man, could have a son with his barren wife. Abraham believed nothing was impossible for God, and committed to follow and trust in him.

This faith, Paul tells us in our Romans reading, was what was 'reckoned to him as righteousness'. And this faith is what we who follow Jesus have. This faith has nothing to do with the Law (since that didn't even exist in Abraham's time), and it has nothing to do with our ethnicity (Abraham was the first) – but has everything to do with how we choose to shape and live our lives. Faith is a lived commitment to what we assent to with our minds and our lips.

And it is this faith that Jesus points us, and his disciples, towards in our reading from Mark's gospel. Peter found the truth Jesus was revealing to be too hard to deal with, and pushed back, and Jesus came down on him hard. Faith isn't easy. It isn't supposed to be. You will see and be asked to cope with things that are very hard indeed. But it is in your response to those challenges that your faith will shine through. 'Take up your cross,' Jesus says. Not just once, but at the start of every day. How will you live today, knowing what Jesus showed and taught. How will you choose to live out your faith? How will you love and serve your neighbour? How will you love God with everything that is in you?

Faith is lived. What will your faith look like this week?

*Rev Caroline*

**From Heather:**

Telephone: 01285 712428

Email address: [fairfordpcc@btconnect.com](mailto:fairfordpcc@btconnect.com) or [heathergorton31@gmail.com](mailto: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!

**Would you like to write something for the Newsletter?**

'A day in my life under lockdown'? - 100 words of how you are spending your time at home, and what you actually like about it?

or

100 words on 'The three things I most want to do when coronavirus is over.'

*(If you do decide to write to me could I please have it by Wednesday evening)*

**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](mailto:stmaryspn@gmail.com)

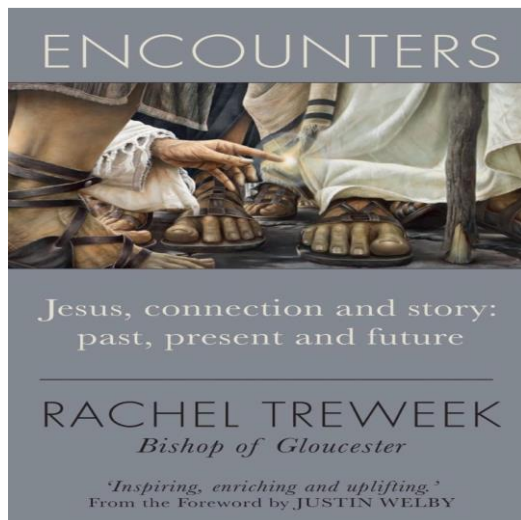
**Please remember the following in your prayers:**

**Those that are ill:** Rev'd David Gray, Helen Foxall, Grace Slack, Niall McDiarmid,

**Those that have died:** Betty Shaw, Denny Rawlinson, Andrew Paton

*(From Carol Thompson - Andrew and Dorothy Paton were always most hospitable -- the first event we went to when we arrived in Fairford in 1976 was a W.I Barn Dance at Milton Farm. A lovely start to our life in Fairford)*

## NOTICES



### **South Cotswolds Lent book 2021:**

*Encounters: Jesus, connection and story: past, present and future*, by  
Bishop Rachel Treweek

Our first session will be led by Bishop Rachel  
on **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February at 6:30pm**

Subsequent discussions will be led by different members of  
the South Cotswolds Team each Wednesday at 6:30pm  
**3<sup>rd</sup> : 10<sup>th</sup> : 17<sup>th</sup> : 24<sup>th</sup> : 31<sup>st</sup> March at 6.30pm**

ZOOM link available from John Swanton on [john@swanton.plus.com](mailto:john@swanton.plus.com)  
Books available from Amazon, Blackwells or all good Christian Bookshops

For those who can't make Wednesday evenings, we are conducting a parallel group  
in Fairford on **Thursdays at 3pm, beginning Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February** led by Rev'd  
Caroline, following the same reading pattern as the Wednesday group. Please  
contact Rev'd Caroline if you would like to attend this group and to receive the Zoom  
invitation.

### **Live Lent Booklets**

We've received our delivery of *#Live Lent: God's Story Our Story* booklets, a  
collection of readings and reflections for each day of Lent. They are £2 each –  
please do let Rev'd Caroline know if you would like a copy, or there will be copies  
you can pick up in the church.

## **Lenten Litter Pick**

Heather Kent, one of the younger members of our church community (13) and a dedicated worker for the environment, is this year doing a sponsored litter pick rather than giving up anything for Lent. She plans to go out every day and pick up at least a bag of litter – with the goal of collecting 100 bags in memory of Sir Captain Tom Moore. This year she is looking for donations for the Great Western Hospital (brighter futures). If you would like to sponsor Heather, the best way is to follow this link:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/abagadaykeepsthelitteraway2021>

Or for the less technologically inclined, you can call Heather's mum Julie on 01285 713310

## **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.

## **Online Prayer and Worship**

Caroline's Morning Prayer every day except Friday and Sunday from 9.00 am, and Evening Prayer at 5pm on Sunday:

[www.facebook.com/stmarysfairford](http://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>

## **Pause and Reflect**

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York are issuing a call to the nation to pause and reflect to remember the more than 100,000 people across the UK who have died after contracting Covid-19 and all those who know and love them.

They invite everyone across England – whether they have faith or not – to pause, reflect on the “enormity of this pandemic” and to pray at 6pm each day.

## **The Real Easter Eggs**

The Real Easter Egg is the chocolate egg that shares The Easter Story will not be available in supermarkets this year and we as a church will not be doing a bulk order. If you would like to order your own you can do so through their website

[www.realeasteregg.co.uk](http://www.realeasteregg.co.uk)

## 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](mailto:denisehyde15@gmail.com).

**Sunday Blue Reading Sheet** - The February 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 Sunday we are thinking about what things we find unhelpfully tempting. For further information or to join our mailing list please contact Sarah Bottomley on 01285712074 or [stmaryslmt@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryslmt@gmail.com).

### All-time Favourites Singalong

Another heart-warming half-hour to keep us all cheerful. Fairford churches are hosting the next in our series of Singalongs.

Songs we all remember from

Jean and Barry Kilgariff

and Rachel Emmerson

on Thursday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.

To receive the Zoom joining details and the song lyrics please contact Maureen Partington on [mandgpartington@gmail.com](mailto:mandgpartington@gmail.com). For security and privacy reasons no one who is not registered will be permitted to enter the room.

## From Ann Nicholls



*A touch of Spring*

Loving Father, thank you for the blessings that come from setting aside time to read your word and pray every day. Teach us Lord to trust in your unfailing love. Help us to see those around us who need lifting up and give us the ability we need to do that, for the glory of the name of Jesus, AMEN

## From Jane Pugh

Hello everyone,

No chance of the usual coffee morning bring & buy this month - No further comment on that 😊 If you would still be willing to donate to CHYP this year, many thanks and the details are as follows:-

<http://www.chypthecharity.org.uk/donate>

Cirencester Housing for Young People registered charity, number 299821

You can donate direct through the Virgin Money Giving page shown on that website.....click on the logo further down the page and it will take you straight through.

Alternatively, you can make out a cheque or CAF voucher payable to 'Cirencester Housing for Young People' and post your donation to the address below:  
CHYP, 29/31 Querns Lane, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 1RL

If you are a UK taxpayer, you can use Gift Aid to make your donation go further by telling HM Revenue and Customs to add the tax which you have already paid to your donation. If you would like a form please contact Jane - [pughtajm@gmail.com](mailto:pughtajm@gmail.com)

## Thank you - St Mary's Fairford

From: Roseann Thompson <[Roseann.Boyce@childrenssociety.org.uk](mailto:Roseann.Boyce@childrenssociety.org.uk)>

I'm Roseann and I am your local Relationship Manager at The Children's Society. I just wanted to say a huge thank you for the £280 you donated to The Children's Society in January. This year has been incredibly tough for all charities, and knowing the children and young people we support need us more than ever, makes it even harder, so donations like yours are vital. Thank you so much.

I've attached some of our latest news by way of a thank you, please do feel free to share this information.

And if there's anything I can support you with, please get in touch.

### This is interesting....

#### HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO DECOMPOSE?

PAPER TOWEL - 2-4 WEEKS  
BANANA PEEL - 3-4 WEEKS  
PAPER BAG - 1 MONTH  
NEWSPAPER - 1.5 MONTHS  
APPLE CORE - 2 MONTHS  
CARDBOARD - 2 MONTHS  
COTTON GLOVE - 3 MONTHS  
ORANGE PEELS - 6 MONTHS  
PLYWOOD - 1-3 YEARS  
WOOL SOCK - 1-5 YEARS  
MILK CARTONS - 5 YEARS  
CIGARETTE BUTTS - 10-12 YEARS  
LEATHER SHOES - 25-40 YEARS  
TINNED STEEL CAN - 50 YEARS  
FOAMED PLASTIC CUPS - 50 YEARS  
RUBBER-BOOT SOLE - 50-80 YEARS  
PLASTIC CONTAINERS - 50-80 YEARS  
ALUMINUM CAN - 200-500 YEARS  
PLASTIC BOTTLES - 450 YEARS  
DISPOSABLE DIAPERS - 550 YEARS  
MONOFILAMENT FISHING LINE - 600 YEARS  
PLASTIC BAGS - 200-1000 YEARS.

WE REQUEST YOU, PLEASE SHARE THIS PIECE OF INFORMATION IN YOUR NETWORK AS MUCH AS YOU CAN.

THIS WILL CREATE AWARENESS AMONGST PEOPLE THAT PLASTIC IS ONE OF THE MAJOR REASONS RELATED TO THE GLOBAL GREEN HOUSE EFFECT.

\*PLEASE SUPPORT A GREEN ENVIRONMENT\*.

From Ingrid Morris





The pretzel was originally a Lenten snack, the dough made from plain flour and water and shaped like two arms crossed in prayer (the name ultimately derives from the Latin `bracellae` - little arms)

### **From Alison Hobson**

*From the Parish News January 1889*

My dear Parishioners

You have indeed given a hearty welcome to the Parish Magazines. More than 190 copies have been ordered; 59 at 2/6 a year and the rest at 1d a month. This would mean a loss of about 1/- every month; but if our local tradesmen will continue to advertise in the Magazine, there will be no difficulty in meeting the cost of the publication. It is not a very common thing for a Parish Magazine to pay its way, except in large towns, where 500-1000 copies are sold. In most parishes you find in the December number's wail from the editor explaining that the Magazine account shows a balance on the wrong side of £4 or £5 and he will be glad if his benevolent readers will send in subscriptions to help him meet the deficit. Thanks to our half-crown subscribers and our enterprising tradespeople we shall avoid that here. Next January, if all is well, I hope you will see a state of accounts showing a good balance on the right side.

The type of this first number will be kept up till January 14<sup>th</sup> so that we can issue a Second Edition if necessary. Up to that date, any parishioners who apply to me will be able to secure a copy of the January number; but after January 14<sup>th</sup>, the type will be distributed and no more copies will be obtainable.

Those who are taking in the Magazine at 1d a month may either pay for the whole year in advance, or pay for each number as they receive it, whichever they prefer. If

the monthly numbers are kept clean, they will for a nice volume when bound up at the end of the year. The cost of binding will be 1/6.

Again thanking you for the liberal support you have given to the Magazine, with all good wishes for the New Year

I remain, yours very sincerely

Francis R Carbonell

Fairford History Society has bound copies of the Parish Magazine from 1889-1902 and a full set from 1977 -2020. In between Parish News was issued in the East Cotswolds Church Monthly of which we only have random issues so if you have any in your collections we should be pleased to see and copy. Alison at [enquiry@fairfordhistory.org.uk](mailto:enquiry@fairfordhistory.org.uk)

### **From Hope Price**

When I say 'I am a Christian' I'm not shouting that I'm clean living. I'm whispering 'I was lost, but now I'm found and forgiven'

'When I say I am a Christian' I don't speak of this with pride. I'm confessing that I stumble and need Christ to be my guide.

'When I say I am a Christian' I'm not trying to be strong. I'm showing that I'm weak and need his strength to carry on.

'When I say I am a Christian' I'm not boasting of success. I'm admitting I have failed and need God to clean my mess.

'When I say I am a Christian' I'm not claiming to be perfect. My mistakes are far too easy to see, but God believes I am worth it.

'When I say I am a Christian' I still feel the sting of pain. I have my share of heartaches, so I call upon His name.

'When I say I am a Christian' I'm not holier than you, I'm just a simple dinner who received God's good grace, somehow

### **From a Reader**

We heard a rumour.....hope it's true!

A well known Fairford hostelry was being allowed to open its doors only to folk 'of a certain age' and who had had the second jab. The pub would change its name to

.....THE TWO JAB ARMS. 

(Courtesy of R.4 Today programme)

**and finally..**

In surgery for a heart attack, a middle-aged woman has a vision of God by her bedside. "Will I die?" she asks. God says, "No. You have 30 more years to live." With 30 years to look forward to, she decides to make the best of it. So since she's in the hospital, she gets breast implants, liposuction, a tummy tuck, hair transplants, and collagen injections in her lips. She looks great! The day she's discharged, she exits the hospital with a swagger, crosses the street, and is immediately hit by an ambulance and killed. Up in heaven, she sees God. "You said I had 30 more years to live," she complains. "That's true," says God. "So what happened?" she asks. God shrugs, "I didn't recognize you."



*Ryan was delighted with the cloak, but not so sure about the face mask*

