



Tulips brighten up a dull day

South Cotswold Team Ministry

Mary's Church Fairford - Newsletter

Sunday 2nd May
Fifth Sunday of Easter

10.00 am BCP Holy Communion

Readings: Fiona Gilroy
Intercessions: Jane Kidd

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

Sunday's readings: Acts 8.26-40; 1 John 4.7-21; John 15.1-8

In these Sundays after Easter our readings are pointing us towards the impact of Jesus resurrection. They remind us of his appearances to his disciples, of the new power and direction given to the apostles in the form of the gift of the Spirit, of the new frame of life offered to those who make the decision to follow him. The message for us is that Easter is not an isolated occasion: a single day to celebrate and then move on. Easter – Jesus suffering, death and resurrection all included – is transformative. It changes everything, for everyone, and we are asked to pay attention, to look with new eyes at the things that changed for people not just two thousand years ago, but here and now as well.

This Sunday we are especially thinking about how Christ 'abides' in us, and we in him, through faith. This is about alignment and identity – how we see ourselves in the world. Jesus' powerful 'I am' statement in our gospel reading: that he is the vine, and we are the branches, is a vital illustration of this new truth. We are asked to regard ourselves as part of him, as taking our strength and vitality from him, and moving through the world with that truth at the very core of who we are.

For me though, the word that stands out to me most for this Sunday is from 1 John 4. This has echoed through me for four days now, and I hope it resonates for you too:

“There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love.” 1 John 4.18

Of all the evil in the world, fear is a common factor – both in huge, world-shaking cases, and in small, everyday ones. From fear rises hate, and aggression. When we are afraid, we are lost and unstable, and the world is a worse place. These words to us remind us that fear is not of God. Our faith has nothing to do with fear, but only to do with love. When we are afraid, this is our reminder that whatever our frightened hearts might tell us, we are loved and held by God. It is our reminder that when we interact with the world, we are called to do so in love: respecting and valuing everyone and everything we come into contact with. Let love drive out fear.

May we abide in the love of Christ this week.

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!

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)

Saw swallows last Saturday evening. Spring has definitely arrived!

Cherry Mallet has emailed me "I have seen a swallow! Each year 1 arrives and always sits on the same telegraph wire in White Hart Court. This time arrival was on 31st March and the next one (mate?) arrived on 21st April. And there they are for a time each day, are they the same ones as previous years?"

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, Helen Foxall, Grace Slack, Niall McDiarmid
Eileen Ferguson

Notices

Thy Kingdom Come

From Ascension Day on the 13th May, through to Pentecost on the 23rd, we enter into the Novena, the nine holy days when we pray for the gift of the Holy Spirit, and that God's Kingdom may come in this world. We are marking this holy season in a number of different ways:

- Daily services of prayer across the churches of the South Cotswolds. Our turn is on the 17th May, and the schedule of services will be available in the porch if you would like to join any of these times of prayer.
- A 24/7 prayer rota
- Novena booklets to enable your own prayers at home – please collect your copy from the church.

North churchyard – community garden area

Through the month of May we'll be hosting young families from Fairford as they plant 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. The first sessions will begin on Saturday mornings in mid-May.

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 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.

Sunday Blue Reading Sheet - The May 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***

Christian Aid Week – May 10-16 2021

The ongoing COVID restrictions mean that it will not be possible to make collections in the street again this year, yet the funds are now needed more than ever. If you can arrange a small fund-raising activity – tea in the garden with a few friends, sponsor a haircut, do a virtual cycle ride, organise a knitathon – it will all help. If all this is beyond you, please visit the Christian Aid website (www.christianaid.org.uk) and press the big red DONATE button. Thank you.

Churches Together Around Fairford

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 shall be looking at the dramatic story of Paul/Saul's conversion on the road to Damascus. For further information or to join our mailing list please contact Sarah Bottomley on 01285712074 or stmaryslmt@gmail.com. We are hoping to restart Messy Church in the church in the autumn and would welcome anyone who would like to join the team. We will need help with setting up, with running activities, with clearing up and general support. Please contact Sarah Bottomley if you think you could help or want to know more.

From Ann Nicholls

How many of you noticed the lovely new tune to an old hymn we sang on Sunday? Loving Shepherd of thy sheep.

It was written by Barry K and inspired by the song of a blackbird who lives in Barry and Jeans garden, want to know more? I'm sure either Barry or Jean would be pleased to tell you.

We thank you Lord that we can freely worship you, help us we pray to continue our worship through the coming week by living lives which are filled with love for you and for our fellow man.

For these and all your gifts Lord we thank you.

For health and strength and life itself, for our families and friends and our homes, for our church and our worship in its many and diverse forms, and for our Lord Jesus Christ, who died and rose again for our salvation, thank you Lord We pray in the name of Jesus and for his glory AMEN

From Alison Hobson

Following on from the poem Market Day in the last issue of the Newsletter, another contributor to the Wilts and Glos Standard was 'Johnny the Bard' real name Frederick Lockwood. Here is an extract from his 'poetic muse' about:-

FAIRFORD CARNIVAL 1902.

Come out, 'tis now September-
Fairford Carnival has begun,
And oh little boys and girls
There will be heaps of fun.
Come then all in gay attire
And give everyone cause to admire,
Then 'twill be no great surprise
If perchance you win a prize.
Come as Kings and Queens in crimson and gold,
Come as Dukes and Earls and Barons bold,
Come as Court Ladies in gorgeous dresses,
Come as Fairies with golden tresses,
Come as Indian Princes with mantles of gold,
Come as Robin Hood with merry men bold.
Let everything be bright and gay,
On this great Coronation Cycle Day....

A extract form his Article about the Market Bus (the horse-drawn bus to Cirencester)

"...This journey from Fairford is by no means unpleasant, and in some parts is most picturesque. After leaving the town and ascending the Waiten-hill, away to the left we get a view of the dark thickly wooded Berkshire and Wiltshire hills, the tower of Highworth church on a clear day standing out in bold relief against the sky. To the right at some points the distant ranges of the Cotswolds burst in to view. We pass the old Three Magpies; a favourite meet of the VWH was within our remembrance kept by one 'Sparrow.' We pass the secluded villages of Maisey Hampton, Poulton, Easington and Ampney, past the Old Red Lion and Ampney Park and at a trot across the Midland and South Western Railway, and soon in the distance the massive square tower of Cirencester parish church comes in view...."

He also wrote many articles in the WGS on hunting and fishing under his various pen names.

And extract from his obituary from the Wilts and Glos Standard" 21 February 1903

Among his friends and in congenial company he was of a genial and social disposition, and he will be very much missed at the gatherings of many of the riverside hostels

where fisherman love to congregate. Amongst the pen names which he adopted the best known perhaps are Johnny Morgan, Johnny the Bard, Lock o' the Woods, Rambler, Pan and F.L.

The interesting fact about Frederick Lockwood is that in the 1881, 1891 and 1901 censuses he is recorded as being a patient at Fairford Lunatic Asylum. - The Retreat. He seemed to have taken a full part in the Society of the town. He died in early 1903, age 59 and was buried in St Mary's Church, Fairford by Rev Carbonell. There is no marked grave.

Paws for Thought

by Wendy Graham

I am Remy



and I am Yoda



"I'm not the only one who wears a dog collar Yoda, my Mum wears one too!"

" My Mum sings all the time! Music isn't my thing Remy, as I'm more into running and swimming and treats.....stuff like that"

" You're still a youngster Yoda, but in time you will get used to all the standing up and sitting down that humans do on Sundays".

"Gromet told me once that he used to get a biscuit after church in the olden days.....wow!"

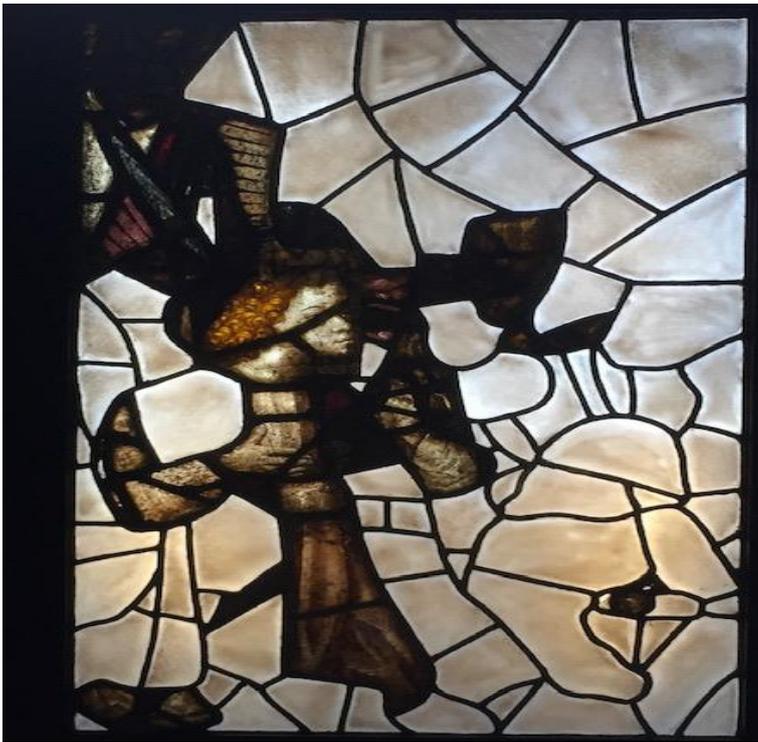
" Oh yes indeed...the odd custard cream or chocolate hobnob morsel might slip off a saucer and be gobbled in an instant on many a Sunday.....in the olden days! "

"Will the olden days ever come back Remy?"

" Course they will young fella....and they will be even better! Now...harness on and best paw forward! "

Thank you Wendy that was very enlightening!

From Mervyn Cully



Angel of the Last Judgement

Fairford Church contains some of the most spectacular stained glass to survive in Britain. This angel comes from the Last Judgement in the great west window. It was badly damaged by a storm in 1703 but soon restored. In the 1860s, however, the angel was taken out when the upper part of the window was replaced.

London, England, about 1500–15; by an Anglo-Netherlandish workshop at Westminster or Southwark

Clear and coloured glass, with paint and silver stain

From Fairford Church, Gloucestershire

Museum no. C.13-2004

One of the Galleries in The Victoria & Albert Museum has a collection of medieval ecclesiastical glass including two panels from St Mary's. One is of St Matthias (window 12). The other - pictured here - is one of only two known remnants of glass - from the upper section of the "Great West Window" - the other is thought to be in the Getty Museum.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

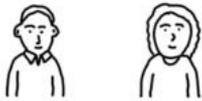
THE VICAR IS ON
'THOUGHT FOR THE DAY'



PEOPLE SHE HOPES ARE LISTENING



THE BISHOP



ALL HER SOCIAL
MEDIA FOLLOWERS



A TV TALENT SCOUT

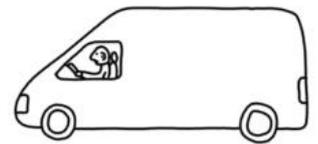


HER MUM

PEOPLE WHO ARE ACTUALLY LISTENING



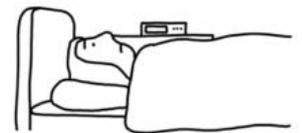
SOMEONE DOING
THE WASHING UP



A DELIVERY DRIVER



A TENNIS FAN WITH
TUNING DIFFICULTIES



AN INSOMNIAC USING THE
RADIO TO GET TO SLEEP