South Cotswold Team Ministry

St. Mary’s Church Fairford - Newsletter

Sunday 30th May
Trinity Sunday
10.00 am Morning Worship

Readings: Stewart Benzie
Intercessions: Janet Edwards

Sunday 6th June
First Sunday after Trinity
10.00 am BCP Holy Communion

If you would like to come to a 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

The Wisteria is looking exceptionally good this year
This Sunday is Trinity Sunday, when traditionally the poor vicar tries to explain the concept of the Trinity to the gathered church community. Among clergy there are running jokes about how each and every person trying to do so will inevitably stray into heresy, and/or hit a variety of well-worn tropes that don’t quite do the job. All of this feels like we’re rather missing the point.

This is not to say that spending time thinking about the nature of God is a bad thing. Taking time to work through how we understand God as Trinity is time well-spent. But it’s a very particular way to exercise our desire to love God with our ‘whole mind’. When we think about the nature of the Trinity in terms of logic and doctrine we must be aware that we’re not going to be able to come to any firm conclusions. We’re talking about the nature of God. God who created the heavens and the earth, God who is absolutely beyond our comprehension. Why would we ever think we would be able to describe God’s nature with our little human words and conceptions? Why would we reach for that kind of arrogance? The only reason we can make the attempt is in knowing even as we begin that there can be no end to our thinking.

More helpful is to focus on what God shows us of God’s own self in God’s actions in the world, and in the ways in which God reveals Godself to us. We can see and understand those actions, and we can use those actions to help us understand some facet of who God is, and how God relates to us. We can see the created world, and understand that God is one who creates. We can see the person of Jesus Christ, and learn from his words and example. He spoke about God’s nature. He showed us that nature in the signs he performed, and the parables and teachings he offered. We learn about the nature of God in Jesus death, and his resurrection. We see the ongoing power of God in the world. We see prophets and people gifted with many different talents and power with which to serve God and his Church in the world. We see in every one of these examples the love that lies behind and within them. In that enacted and revealed love we understand something more about how God just is, in God’s own essence, love.

We experience the Triune God in our own lives, in our interactions with scripture, with worship, with prayer, in the ways God speaks to us here and now. And recognising that, reflecting on it, is valuable on its own. This Trinity Sunday, let’s worry less about semantics, and more about how God reveals himself to us and acts in the world we know.

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!

Coffee after Sunday Services
It was a dull day last Sunday but a few brave souls brought along their coffee and were rewarded with sunshine. The forecast is better for this Sunday so hope to see more of you joining us.

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,
Eileen Ferguson, Stuart Robinson

Those that have died: Niall McDiarmid

Notices

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. Weather permitting, sessions are on Saturdays starting at 10am.
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.

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

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<th>The Non-Pub Pub Quiz</th>
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<td>Come and test your knowledge of trivia without leaving your sofa.</td>
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<td>Strictly no Sport or Pop music questions!</td>
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Thursday 10th June at 7:30. Quizmaster: Barbara Bridges
To receive the Zoom joining details please contact Maureen Partington on mandgpartington@gmail.com. For security and privacy reasons no one who is not registered will be permitted to enter the room.
Organised by the churches in Fairford.

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 shall be trying to increase our understanding of the Trinity. 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.
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

From Ann Nicholls

Lord, your word tells us, “I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper and not to harm you, plans for your future, to give you hope”. Lord when we are weak, make us strong, when we are fearful, grant us peace, May we be willing to follow where you send and lead us, give us your strength, your words and your heart in our witness to those around us and May the glory be yours dear Lord.
We pray in Jesus name. AMEN

In the words of a modern chorus,
We sing, glory to God forever, take my life and let it be all for you and for your glory, take my life and let it be yours.

The Swan family at the Mill photo by Ingrid Morris
From Alison Hobson

On Neighbourhood Watch there was a post recently asking people to keep to footpaths when walking because of the danger of spoiling crops and disturbing livestock. In the Wilts & Glos Standard of 1855 there was a similar more vehement warning!

NOTICE
Whereas, Several Fields on Leafield Farm have lately been Trespassed on by Horsemen, and Foot passengers, of the neighbourhood; Notice is hereby given, that all who are found Trespassing on the said Fields, where there is NO RIGHT OF ROAD, will be prosecuted for so doing; and a reward of Ten Shillings for such information, and Five Shillings for that of a Foot Passenger, will be given by Thomas Illes, occupier of Leafield Farm;

NB Preachers, Minors, Lunatics, Idiots and all other who are ignorant of common law and justice, will be admonished for the first offence, but afterwards prosecuted according to law
Leafield April 23rd 1855 05.05 WGS

This marriage announcement in St Mary’s Church Fairford of 1779 also caught my attention

On 8th August 1779 was married at Fairford, Joseph Spillman, Shepherd of Stroud in that county to Miss Molly Fawkes of Fairford; a very agreeable young Lady of ample Fortune and genteel Accomplishments

Oxford Journal 8 August 1779

Lucky Shepherd!
and did you know……

The Origins of Bank Holidays
In the UK we owe our statutory bank holidays to John Lubbock, first Baron of Avebury, scientific writer (who studied ants and tried to teach his poodle to read), banker and politician and who, in 1871, drafted the Bank Holiday Bill which, when it became law, created the first bank holidays.

Holy-days and holidays
The first meaning of holiday in the Oxford English Dictionary is: A consecrated day, a religious festival, (now usually written holy-day). The definition takes its origin from the observance of religious festivals and saint’s days. The second meaning is: A day on which ordinary occupations (of an individual or a community) are suspended; a day of exemption or cessation from work; a day of festivity, recreation, or amusement

Local holidays
The tradition of local holidays became even stronger after the industrial revolution when factories in a town would close down, and the whole workforce was then able to go on holiday. For the owners this made economic sense as they saved on the running costs for the time of the closure, and there was no loss of productivity during the rest of the year as the whole workforce was absent at the same time. In northern England and Scotland, and particularly in the mill towns and villages of Lancashire, these holidays were called Wakes weeks and were originally religious celebrations or feasts, held on the saint’s day of the local church, when the rushes that acted as a carpet in the church were renewed. This evolved into a local holiday and celebration when families were reunited, and travelling fairs came to visit. In Scotland each city had its trades fortnight when the tradespeople took their holidays. In Glasgow this coincided with the Glasgow Fair, an annual event, held since the late C12th when the Bishop of Glasgow was granted the right to hold an annual fair by King William I. This long established event became Fair Fortnight after the Second World War and is still going strong in the C21st.

An article from the Glasgow Herald of 12 July 1844 says the following: ‘The annual period “when toil remitting lends its turn to play” has again come around, and Glasgow Fair, according to the want of bygone centuries, has been officially proclaimed by the Magistrates, and is now in full course.’

With the decline in manufacturing, the standardisation of school holidays and the increase in paid holidays for employees these local holidays have died out. However, some organisations such as universities, close down between Christmas and New Year, and magazine publishers often publish double or triple issues so that staff can have a break over the festive period.

and finally…..
Which Way to Heaven?

Reverend Billy Graham tells of a time early in his ministry when he arrived in a small town to preach a sermon. Wanting to mail a letter, he asked a young boy where the post office was. When the boy had told him, Dr. Graham thanked him and said, "If you'll come to the Baptist Church this evening, you can hear me telling everyone how to get to heaven."

The boy replied, "I don't think I'll be there... You don't even know your way to the post office."