



The Advent Wreath beautifully arranged by Beth

Cotswold Team Ministry

St. Mary's Church Fairford – Newsletter

Sunday 5th December – 2nd Sunday of Advent

10.00 am BCP Holy Communion

Readings: Sally Salter Intercessions: Janet Edwards

Coffee: Janet Edwards and Beth Bruce-Gardner

6.00 pm BCP Evening Prayer

Thursday 9th December – 10.30 am BCP Holy Communion

Sunday 12th December – 3rd Sunday of Advent

10.00 am Common Worship Holy Communion

Readings: Stewart Benzie Intercessions: Jane Kidd

Coffee: David and Sally Salter

4.00 pm Christingle Service

Thursday 16th December – 10.30 am BCP Holy Communion

Online worship: Rev Caroline broadcasts 9am Morning Prayer Monday-Thursday and Saturday) on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/stmarysfairford>

From Caroline

01285 712467 / carolinesymcox@googlemail.com

Readings for Sunday: Malachi 3.1-4; Philippians 1.3-11; Luke 3.1-6

On the second Sunday of Advent our thoughts turn to the Prophets, to all those who anticipated and spoke of the coming of God's Messiah, and the Kingdom of God that he would build on earth. We hear from Malachi in our Old Testament reading, and John the Baptist – a prophet in his own right – points us to the words of Isaiah in our Gospel reading. Both speak of the arrival of God's chosen one, and the difference he will make to humanity.

Sometimes we can be tripped up when we think about 'prophets' in the Bible. The shift in language over the centuries means that often in our minds a 'prophet' is someone who predicts the future. 'Prophecy' as an abstract concept involves a vision of what the future will bring. There is some element of truth to this, but in reality, the concept is much deeper and broader than a mere art of prediction.

Rather, prophets are those who speak God's word into the present time. Prophets in both the Old Testament and the New call people to recognise the brokenness in their own lives and societies, and to address it. Amos, Hosea, Isaiah, Micah, are all speaking to their contemporaries, although since people have been people for tens of thousands of years, those words resonate in our own modern ears too. They speak of the injustice of the societies in which they live. They speak of people's disregard of God's call to righteousness and beckon their people to turn back to their God and his ways.

We need prophets in these days too. And we have them. Christ calls us be prophets as well as followers. We are asked to be willing to stand on the edge of our societies, and be ready to criticise, to speak truth to power, and to seek to call people to Christ's path of love.

In Advent we spend time reflecting on what we need to do to be ready to welcome Jesus back when he returns. We reflect on what 'ready' means and looks like. This is one part of it. To be the ones actively working to make sure that the mountains and hills shall be made low, and the rough ways made smooth. Where is there oppression? Where is there suffering? Where is there discrimination? Where is there hatred? These are what need our attention and our voice.

Where are you being asked to be a prophet in these days?

Rev'd Caroline

From Heather:

Telephone: 01285 712428

Email address: fairfordpcc@gmail.com or heathergorton31@gmail.com.

My office hours are 10.00 to 1.00 Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

I am also continuing to work from home so you can contact me at either the office (712611) or home (712428). The office is closed on Mondays and Michelle will be in on Fridays at 10.00 to 12.00.

Jean Carpenter who stewards in the Church has lost her hearing aid. She only found it missing when she got home from stewarding on Friday afternoon. If anyone finds a hearing aid either in the church or around the footpath do please contact me and I will let Jean know.

Do please keep sending in your articles, photos and amusing stories! **Favourite recipes or garden tips welcome - do need your input!**

Contacts

Rev'd Caroline 01285 712467

Rev'd Canon Denise Hyde 01285 713285

Mike Godsall 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,

Those that have died: Jean Wheeler

Geoffrey 'Arthur' Ockwell - Funeral at Cheltenham Crematorium on 8th December 2021 at 12.30pm.

NOTICES

We continue to extend our activities as we gauge what is safely possible to include within our worship at the present time.

From December we're glad to say that we will be returning to a pre-Covid level of singing within the church: 4 hymns and responses now to be sung at 10am Eucharist services.

Church Opening Hours:

The church is open from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm.

Dates for the Diary

Saturday 4 th December:	7.30pm Fairford and District Choral Society Concert
Saturday 11 th December:	12 noon Christmas Gathering in the Community Centre
Sunday 12 th December:	4.00pm Christingle Service
Sunday 19 th December:	6.00pm Nine Lessons and Carols
Christmas Eve:	2.00pm Crib Service (1) 5.00pm Crib Service (2) 11.30pm Midnight Mass
Christmas Day:	10.00 am Christmas Communion

Working for wellbeing.



We are delighted to say we've had a huge success with our Talking Café held at Fairford community centre every Wednesday 1030am to 12pm. The Community Wellbeing coordinator is here to signpost and support you with any issues you may be experiencing within the community. We have a dedicated helpline Monday to Friday with limited hours but you will always receive a call back if you leave a message. Please contact Mary Ann on 07555738138 or email on coordinator@working4wellbeing.org.uk

Thank you to everyone for their support. As the days get colder and wetter we are moving the café inside and we are aware not everyone will be comfortable with this. If you are anxious and worried please contact Mary Ann and she can inform you of alternative ways of keeping in contact with the community.

Looking forward to the future we have talkers from charities and organisations attending the talking café to give out information. We have been fortunate to have AGE UK, Bromford Housing and People for you attend already.

We are also looking at digital inclusion and if this is something that would be of interest to you please get in touch.

'Men's Sheds' is starting to take shape and Fairford Crafters are looking for sponsorship to get this off the ground. Please get in touch if you need signposting and support or if you would like to join our team of Volunteers.

Please contact the Wellbeing Coordinator (see contact info above) to book a space on any of our FREE Working for Wellbeing projects.

Fairford Christmas Day Lunch

The posters are up and we are now looking forward to hearing from all those who would like to join us for lunch on Christmas Day and others who would be willing to help. All being well it is our intention to go ahead and everyone present will be fully vaccinated and wearing masks if necessary! As a reminder, we start at about 12.30 and finish after the Queen's Speech around 3.30.

Your help and funds are always welcome. Any surplus money will be used to provide Christmas Lunch hampers mainly for families with children at the Primary School who receive free school meals.

Please contact Amanda or Mervyn Cully for further information - 01285 712700.

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 either fill in a prayer request slip and put it in the prayer box or email Rev Denise on denisehyde15@gmail.com.

ONLINE PRAYER AND WORSHIP

Suggestion from Rev'd Denise to help you in your prayer life.

Over the past weeks I have found the 'Lectio 365' App (which is available to be downloaded for free on both Android and Apple platforms) helpful in my prayer times. It was devised by Pete Grieg (of 24/7 prayer) and focuses on the pattern of P.R.A.Y. (Pause, Reflect/Rejoice, Ask, Yield) as a way of entering into God's presence. Each day's devotion is about 10 minutes long and can be either read or listened to and is a great way to start or end the day.

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.

Prayer Ministry Team

We have sadly for some time been unable to offer prayer ministry during our Sunday, 10am service due to Covid. Because this is such an important part of the ministry at St Mary's we as a team have decided to make ourselves available at an alternative time for anyone who would like someone to pray with them. Please do contact one of us to make arrangements, and anything shared is totally confidential. God loves us to share our concerns and burdens, wanting to carry them for us. He also loves to hear our thanks.

Christian healing is God meeting us at our point of need. (Bishop Morris Maddocks)

Mary Mawle 01285 712174

Ann Nicholls 01285 713063

Rev'd Denise 01285 713285. denisehyde15@gmail.com

The Chapel has been trying out the idea of a regular prayer walk around Fairford. Now that we have found what works best the walks are being opened up to anyone who would like to take part.

Many thanks,
Maureen Partington

Messy Church

For information about Messy Church in December please contact Sarah Bottomley on 01285712074 or stmaryslmt@gmail.com

From Ann Nicholls

Is Jesus speaking to you?

Rest in the deep assurance of my unfailing love. Let your body, mind and spirit relax in my presence. Release into my care anything that is troubling you, so that you can focus your full attention on me. Be awed by the vast dimensions of my love for you, rejoice that this marvellous love is yours forever.

Sarah young, Jesus Calling.

Lord Jesus, give us faith to release our worries and pray more. Help us always to be thankful for what you have done and what you will do. AMEN



**Christmas Gathering, Saturday 11th December 12 noon
in the Community Centre
(Please see poster attached to email)**

Tickets are available from either Helen Evans 01285 713431 or Beth Bruce-Gardner 01285 239169 or smileitsbethbg@gmail.com and also the Parish Office. Do come along and support this social gathering meeting people you probably haven't seen for sometime.
Thank you
Helen and Beth

From Alison Hobson

From the Parish News November 1891

Waifs and Strays

It is probably not generally known that the Church of England Society for providing homes for Waifs and Strays is trying to make its work partly self-supporting. The girls in the various homes are taught to knit socks and stockings (with machines) and very excellent and cheap are the goods the turn out. Several qualities of socks and stockings are made, in all sizes. Specimens may be seen at the Vicarage during the month of November. We must buy socks and stockings somewhere, and many of us may be glad to know we can supply our own wants and help a most excellent Society at one and the same time. The Manager, St Chad's House, Far Headingley, Leeds will be glad to send parcels of Hosiery on approval.

For more information about St Chad's there is an interesting website

<http://www.childrenshomes.org.uk/LeedsStChadWS/>

The Church of England Children's Society has dedicated more than 100 years to protecting the hopes of children threatened by abuse, exploitation and neglect. In 1881 Edward Rudolf, a young Sunday school teacher and civil servant in South London, saw the effects of poverty on children and decided to do something about it. He wanted to make sure that those growing up in poverty had a loving and secure family environment.

He gained support from within the Church of England, backed by the Archbishop of Canterbury. This enabled him to set up small Church of England children's homes, each with around 10 children aged five to 14, with a master and matron to act as parents.

For more information about the work of Children's Society see

<https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk>



Start of Advent on this cold November day.

Some more interesting facts:

Ants can count – in fact, they find their way home by counting their steps to a food source and back again. Scientists attached tiny stilts (made out of pig hair bristles) to a group of ants' legs after they'd set off in search of food. They found the ants with extended legs overshot their nests on the return journey, revealing they have an internal pedometer to help them around.

When in London, Queen Louise of Sweden (who was also the Duke of Edinburgh's aunt) always carried a card saying 'I am the Queen of Sweden' in case she was hit by a bus.

You have to use an artificial Christmas Tree for 20 years before it becomes more environmentally friendly than a locally sourced one. The oldest-known artificial tree still in use was bought in 1886.

Cockerels crow so loudly that they have special ear canals which close off when they crow, so that they don't deafen themselves.

A variation on Mince Pies

Mince Pies with Hazelnut Streusel topping



Ingredients

500g mincemeat
Icing sugar for dusting

For the pastry

350g plain flour, plus extra to dust
1 tbsp icing sugar
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp salt
90g chilled butter, cut into pieces
90g chilled lard or white vegetable shortening, cut into pieces
Butter for greasing

For the streusel topping

50g plain flour

30g butter, at room temperature

25g demerara sugar

¼ tsp ground cinnamon

25g lightly toasted hazelnuts, chopped

For the pastry, sift the flour, icing sugar and salt into a food processor or mixing bowl, add the butter and lard/vegetable shortening, then work it together until the mixture looks like fine breadcrumbs. Put in a bowl, then stir in 3-4 tbsp cold water with a round-bladed knife until the mixture comes together. Turn out onto a lightly floured surface and knead briefly until smooth. Divide into 2 equal pieces.

Roll each piece of pastry out on a lightly floured surface and cut out 24 x 7cm rounds using a fluted cutter, re-kneading and rolling the trimmings. Lightly grease 2 x 12-hole patty tins with butter and line with the pastry discs. Spoon 1 tbsp mincemeat into each case. Chill for 20 minutes.

For the streusel topping, sift the flour into a bowl and rub in the butter until the mixture looks like fine breadcrumbs. Stir in the sugar and the cinnamon and work it a little more between your fingers until the mixture forms little nuggets. Stir in the hazelnuts.

Preheat the oven to 190°C/fan170°C/gas 5. Spoon 1 heaped tsp streusel mix over each pie, then bake for 25 minutes until golden. Carefully remove to a rack. Leave for 3-4 minutes, dust with icing sugar and serve warm or cold. ›

Icing sugar for dusting