



Thursday 13th May

South Cotswold Team Ministry

Mary's Church Fairford - Newsletter

**Sunday 9th May
Fifth Sunday of Easter**

10.00 am Common Worship Holy Communion

**Readings: Mike Godsal
Intercessions: Denise Hyde**

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 10.44-48; 1 John 5.1-6; John 15.9-17

Across this Easter season we've been thinking about the impact of Jesus' example, his sacrifice and his resurrection on us as 'normal' everyday people. Our readings at our Sunday worship have encouraged us to look at the change in those very first apostles – their courage and witness, and the simple fact of the power and the presence of the Holy Spirit with them. John in his letter reminds us that the gift of the Holy Spirit is the sign and seal of God's grace and blessing, and we see that spelled out in the events of Acts. Peter, John, Paul, Philip and the others are all given this amazing gift that allows them to speak boldly, to share the story of Jesus, and to how that his power is real and alive in the world.

Once we've noticed the impact on those first apostles, the question we must ask is: what has the impact been on us? What is different in our lives as Christians that was not the case before we started following Jesus? Or if we have regarded ourselves as Christians from as early as we can remember, how different do you imagine the world would look and feel to you if you did not have your faith? This is an absolutely crucial part of understanding what Jesus did for us. It's not enough just to ask, 'How does Jesus save us?' or 'What does he save us from?'. We must also ask, 'What does he save us for?'. What are we being saved to be or to do?

We see several foundational answers to that question in our readings today. We are saved to 'go and bear fruit, fruit that will last'. We are saved to 'love one another as I have loved you'. But the one that is resonating with me this week is this:

'I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.'

We are saved so that we may have joy. So that we may have joy here and now. Joy is such an underappreciated and misunderstood term. Sometimes we might equate it with simple 'happiness', or a kind of childish glee. But in reality, joy is so much more. It is to 'happiness' as 'love' is to 'attraction'. Joy is a deep, abiding positivity in the very soul. Not a passing reaction to something, but a state of contentment and a source of motivation and strength. Joy holds ideas of gratitude and awareness – the ability to see the world truly, with open eyes, but finding goodness and beauty in it. It is the wellspring of a truly Christian attitude that there is goodness to be found and celebrated in this world, and that we will look for and work for that good.

As we move to the end of this season of celebration, I pray that you may indeed be filled with Christ's joy, and that your joy may be complete.

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)



Thank you so much for the beautiful bouquet of flowers I was presented with by Caroline in church last Sunday. I cannot thank you all enough. Also, for all the lovely cards you have sent me I have been quite overcome! I had a wonderful birthday – it seems to be going on and on!!

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, Stuart Robinson

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 at 10.00am with an hour's prayer service, and the schedule of other services will be available both in the porch and below.
- A 24/7 prayer rota – if you'd like to join, please sign up at: <https://bit.ly/SCTMtkc>
- Novena booklets to enable your own prayers at home – please collect your copy from the church.

Thy Kingdom Come Prayers across the South Cotswold Team

	10am - 11am	4pm – 5pm
Ascension Day Thursday 13 th May	Ampney St Mary <i>John Swanton</i>	Down Ampney <i>John Swanton</i>
Matthias the Apostle Friday 14 th May	Whelford	Castle Eaton
Saturday 16 th May	Hatherop	Southrop
Sunday after Ascension Sunday 16 th May		Barnsley
Monday 17 th May	Fairford	Ampney St Peter <i>Roger Scoones?</i>
Tuesday 18 th May	Poulton <i>Helen Caine</i>	Meysey Hampton
St Dunstan Wednesday 19 th May	Harnhill <i>Harnhill Team</i>	Quenington
Alcuin of York Thursday 20 th May	Eastleach	Kempsford
Helena, Protector of Holy Places Friday 21 st May	Lechlade	Ampney Crucis <i>Helen Caine</i>
Saturday 22 nd May	Coln St Aldwyns	Marsden Meysey
PENTECOST Sunday 23 rd May		Bibury

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 how the Christians in Damascus received Saul after his dramatic conversion. 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.

Our thanks to **Helen Holroyd** – who is leaving Fairford to live in Devon later this month – for stewarding during the pandemic. She has been a consistent and reliable steward who was always willing to help out when others were not available. We wish her all the best in her new home.

A reminder to all **PCC Committee Members** that there is a Zoom meeting at 4.00 pm on Monday 10th May.

Call my Bluff

How good are you at guessing? Can you tell the true meaning of a word from a set of plausible fakes?

Tuesday 18th May at 7:30. Chair of Bluffers' panel: Carol Doherty

Through this event the churches of Fairford are raising funds for Christian Aid. Donations can sent direct to Christian Aid or through your church's treasurer.

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 Churches Together in Fairford.

From Ann Nicholls

Blessed are you the God of our ancestors, worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.

Blessed is your holy and glorious name, worthy to be praised and exalted for ever. Blessed are you in your holy and glorious temple, worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.

Blessed are you who look into the depths, worthy to be praised and exalted for ever ever.

Blessed are you enthroned on the cherubim, worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.

Blessed are you on the throne of your kingdom, worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.

Blessed are you in the heights of Heaven, worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.

A song of praise by John Kenneth 1981

Praise him on the trumpet, the psaltery, and harp; Praise him on the timbrel and the dance, Praise him with stringed instruments too.

Praise him on the loud cymbals,

Praise him on the loud cymbals,

Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord.

Hallelujah praise the Lord

Hallelujah praise the lord,

Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord!

Repeat.

Laughter is good for the soul

#12

- Serenity Raven-Wolf



When I was in my younger days,
I weighed a few pounds less,
I needn't hold my tummy in
to wear a belted dress.
But now that I am older,
I've set my body free:
There's the comfort of elastic
where once my waist would be.
Inventor of those high-heeled shoes
my feet have not forgiven:
I have to wear a nine now,
but used to wear a seven.
And how about those pantyhose -
They're sized by weight, you see,
so how come when I put them on
the crotch is at my knee?
I need to wear these glasses
as the print's been getting smaller:
And it wasn't very long ago
I know that I was taller.
Though my hair has turned to gray
And my skin no longer fits;
On the inside, I'm the same old me,
It's the outside's changed a bit.

From Alison Hobson

Much older poetry this week (not from the WGS!) - an extract 'On Fayrford Windowes' by from William Strode 1601-45. I think he must have visited the Church on a glorious sunny day when the sun was reflecting the colours on to the walls and they were showing to best advantage.

I know no paynt of poetry
Can mend such colourd Imag'ry
In sullen inke: yet Fayrford, I
May relish thy fayre memory.
Such is the Ecchoes faynter sound,
Such is the light when sunne is drownd;
So did the fancy looke upon
The worke before it was begunne:
Yet when those shewes are out of sight
My weaker colours may delight.
Those Images so faythfully
Report true feature to the eye
As you may thinke each picture was
Some visage in a looking-glasse;
Not a glasse-window face, unlesse
Such as Cheapside hath: where a presse
Of paynted gallants looking out
Bedecke the Casement round about.....
But these have holy physnomy:.....

Fairford Amateur Dramatic Society

Were you in FADS from the 1970s - 2000? Recently a box of FADS items has been donated to FHS from a former member who has now left the area. It includes a file of the FADS Committee meetings, the Son et Lumiere script, press cuttings, many programmes and some photographs, a few with cast names. If you are interested in any of the productions, (photos or programmes) there are too many to list please contact Alison at enquiry@fairfordhistory.org.uk and I can email copies.

Alison found this photograph of a FADS performance in 1982 which might interest you

COTSWOLD POST: FEBRUARY 26th 1982

MUSIC AND DRAMA

FAIRFORD FAMILY FEUD



The Tomb family in murder action in a scene from *A Tomb With A View*, the latest production from the Fairford Amateur Dramatic Society, who will be performing this comedy-thriller in the Palmer Hall on 4, 5, and 6 March.

Left to right are, Maureen Partington as Dora Tomb, Don Cobbett as Lucien Tomb, Chris Harrison as Hamilton Penworthy and Gretchen Langford as Emily Tomb.

Production of this Norman Robbins play, written in 1978, is by David Gayler.

The cast includes two former Fairford Amateur Dramatic Society producers, one of whom is Don Cobbett (above) and the other Di Farley.

Other actors in the cast well known to Fairford playgoers are Mary Gayler, Peter Lidgard, Jeanne Watkins and Lin Ritchie.

Something more to laugh at...

For our 10 yr anniversary I bought my wife a map of the world. I wrapped it up in a box and attached a card. In the box was a dart and on the card it said:

"Throw this dart at the map and anywhere it lands is where I am taking you."

I'd been saving up money for close to two years now because we never had a honeymoon. I then put the dart in my wife's hand. She was so excited and nervous. She said:

"I hope it lands on Ireland!"

She finally threw the dart and I'm happy to announce that this October my wife and I will be spending two wonderful weeks in the cupboard by the sink in the kitchen.

A police officer called the station on his radio.

"I have an interesting case here. An elderly lady just shot her husband for stepping on the floor she just mopped."

"Well...have you arrested the woman?"

"Not yet. The floor's still wet."

A Senior's Version of FACEBOOK

For those of my generation who do not, and cannot, comprehend why Facebook exists: I am trying to make friends outside of Facebook while applying the same principles. Therefore, every day I walk down the street and tell passers-by what I have eaten, how I feel at the moment, what I have done the night before, what I will do later and with whom. I give them pictures of my family, my dog and of me gardening, taking things apart in the garage, watering the lawn, standing in front of landmarks, driving around town, having lunch, and doing what anybody and everybody does every day. I also listen to their conversations, give them "thumbs up" and tell them I "like" them. And it works just like Facebook. I already have 4 people following me: 2 police officers, a private investigator and a psychiatrist.