



Taken by David Nash a few years ago – Spring is not far away!

South Cotswold Team Ministry

St. Mary's Church Fairford

PEW SHEET

Sunday 10th January

First Sunday of Epiphany

Baptism of Christ

10.00am Holy Communion

Readings: Sally Salter

Intercessions: Lucy Hodson

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

This first week of January has been a stern lesson for those of us who were hoping the change in year would mean a change in everything else. If anything, the world seems to have taken an even greater turn to the 'interesting' (as the ancient curse would have it), as we've seen astonishing scenes in America, and heard the news that the current lockdown has no set end date. The world seems foggy and confused, more so now perhaps than at any point throughout this whole pandemic.

Knowing this, it is more important than ever that we hold onto hope, and look for the bright spots in the world. Our faith tells us that there is something in humanity worth fighting for, and indeed that in all our weakness and sinfulness, God held us in such regard and love that he sent his own Son to us. The message of Christmas, and now of Epiphany, is a reminder of that amazing truth. God is with us, in the midst of all this, and he shows us the goodness in humanity and the goodness in the world that we are to work towards.

In the heart of this pandemic we have seen kindness, we have seen generosity, we have seen self-sacrifice and perseverance all around us. With the vaccine now being distributed we know that there is an end in sight. Now we have to get there.

Here on this last stretch, lean on the God who is with us, who promised to be with us to the end of the age. When we stumble, when the world seems too much, too cold – look to him. Ask him for strength and endurance, and he will raise you up.

Keep safe, take all the measures you have to to ensure your own safety. Please take a break from physical worship if you are vulnerable, and do make use of the online options you can find here in this pew sheet. Look after yourselves, and be assured of our love and prayers.

We can make it!

With all my love,
Rev 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!

If you are going to be in church on Sunday and are not a regular please let me know. Thank you

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

Those that have died: Ruth Archard, Maggie Mills, Alan Rogers,
Janice Bevans

NOTICES

Opening the 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

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 January 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

From Ann Nicholls

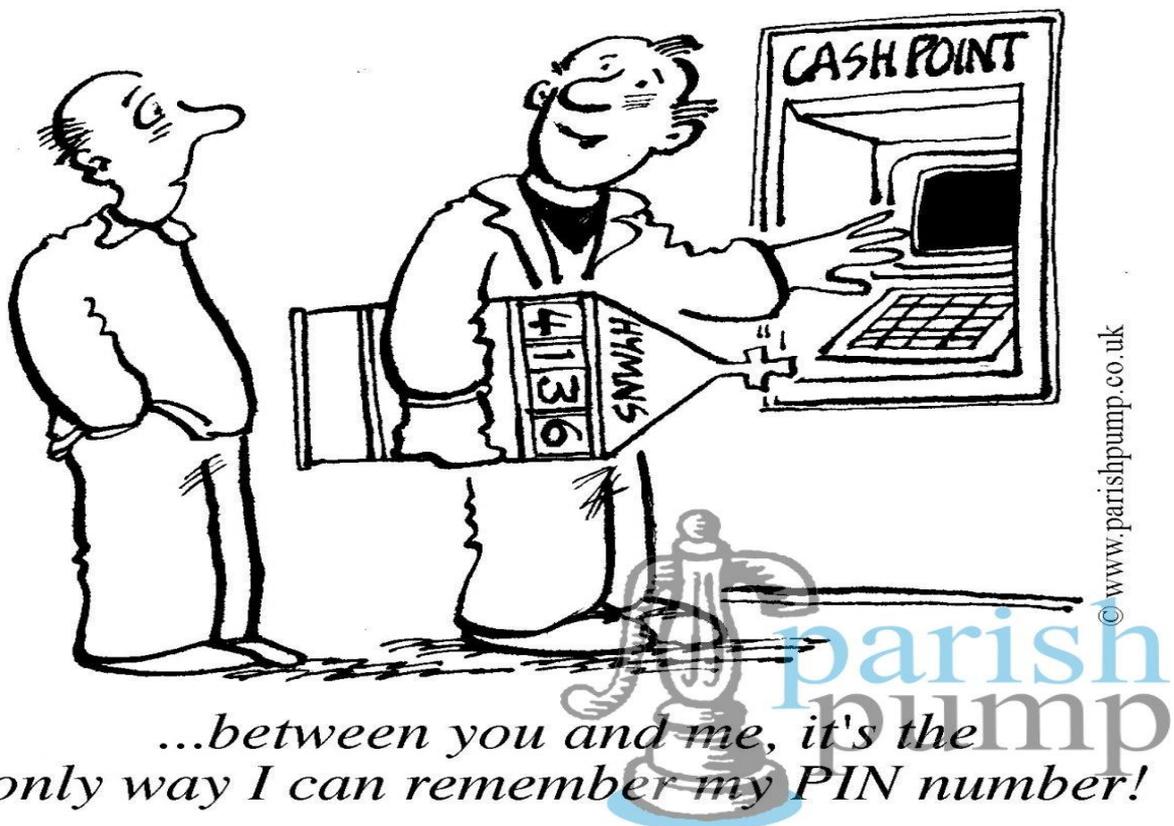
Lord, is there still a real world out there? The dawn is breaking, the sky brightening the clouds are constantly blown into new shapes. People awake in houses with lights on...the start of a normal day.

By the next bed a nebulizer hums, two buzzers are demanding attention, an exhausted nurse at the end of her / his shift approaches, only four staff for the whole ward.

I need time and space to think.

Lord this is all your world, these are your people, bless them and let them know your care today.

God grant you his light, which is faith, his warmth which is love, his radiance which is purity, his righteousness which is justice and the belief in Christ Jesus which is truth. AMEN



Sent in by Margaret Dibble

2020

Unwanted Item

Excuse me, is this the returns counter?
I'd like a refund for this year
or to exchange it for another one,
with less boredom, death and fear.

Sorry, I haven't a receipt for it.
You see, I got it as a gift.
Not the kind of year I'd have picked myself.
Not my colour. Doesn't fit.

Just look at it. Such a waste of time.
Hard to see what the appeal is.
I mean, who would want a year like this?
It's an annus horribilis.

Yes, I know that it's all frayed and worn,
and splitting at the seams.
But I'd barely slipped the darned thing on,
when it came apart on me.

I'd gladly swap it for a scarf or hat,
but if I can't, I do not mind.
My main wish is that you take it back:
I'd like to leave this year behind.

Brian Bilston

As the bells have been silent since last March this is an interesting article sent in by Alison Hobson

From the Parish News, January 1981

The Bells of St Mary's

You may wonder why the bells are silent. The facts are these, the bells were recast and rehung by Taylors of Loughborough in 1927, and since then they have nothing done to them, so we felt they should be looked at as 53 years is quite a long time.

On November 25th Mr Flatters from Taylors of Loughborough came to inspect the bells, and what he told us was, that the headstock on Nos. 4, 5 and 6 needed to be removed and go back to the foundry as the gudgeon pins were badly worn, all the clappers need rebushing, and the wooden pulley wheels which take the ropes down from the wheels through the belfry floor and on through the vaulting into the church are badly worn. His advice to us was that the bells should not be rung until the work has been done, therefore the bells are silent.

The estimate for the work is £1000 which we shall have in writing this month (December); a bell fund had been opened, and if you would like to make a donation, the Vicar would be happy to accept it. In the meantime St Mary's ringers are able to practice at Meysey Hampton by kind permission to the Rev McKemey, and we shall ring here in Fairford just as soon as possible.

D Pitts Tower Captain
Muriel Perry Tower Secretary

National Days you might have missed!

11 th January	National Hot Toddy Day
12 th January	National Marzipan Day
13 th January	National Peach Melba Day
14 th January	Organise your Home Day!

Sent in by Jane Kidd - this is so appropriate (written two centuries ago) for this new year

From In Memorium by Alfred Tennyson

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light:
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring out the grief that saps the mind
For those that here we see no more;
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,
Ring in redress to all mankind.

Ring out a slowly dying cause,
And ancient forms of party strife;
Ring in the nobler modes of life,
With sweeter manners, purer laws.

Ring out the want, the care, the sin,
The faithless coldness of the times;
Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes
But ring the fuller minstrel in.

Ring out false pride in place and blood,
The civic slander and the spite;
Ring in the love of truth and right,
Ring in the common love of good.

Ring out old shapes of foul disease;
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
Ring out the thousand wars of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace.

Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;
Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be.

The Afterlife

I float on the open ocean. Sunlight bores down, fracturing me into pieces. Toxins seep into my translucent skin. Sea animals nibble me, eager to begin feasting.

This agony has only just begun. I'll live for centuries.

Nostalgia hits me. A happier time, when all I did was carry groceries.

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A little boy opened the big old family Bible with fascination, and looked at the old pages as he turned them. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible, and he picked it up and looked at it. It was an old leaf from tree that had been pressed between the pages.

'Mummy, look what I have found,' the boy called out.

'What have you got there, dear?' his mother asked.

With astonishment in young boy's voice, he answered 'I think it's Adam's suit!'



“Do you mind Mrs Trimble! I’m about to conduct a Christening!”

Some Interesting Facts:

Rubber bands last longer when refrigerated.

Peanuts are one of the ingredients of dynamite.

The national anthem of Greece has 158 verses.

No one in Greece has memorized all 158 verses.

There are 293 ways to make change for a dollar.

The average secretary’s left hand does 56% of the typing.

A shark is the only fish that can blink with both eyes.

There are more chickens than people in the world.

Two-thirds of the world’s eggplant is grown in New Jersey.

The longest one-syllable word in the English language is “screeched.”

On a Canadian two dollar bill, the flag flying over the Parliament Building is an American flag.

All of the clocks in the movie Pulp Fiction are stuck on 4:20.

No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver or purple.

“Dreamt” is the only English word that ends in the letters “mt”.