

*The Bellringers have been missed*

## **South Cotswold Team Ministry**

### **St. Mary's Church Fairford**

#### **PEW SHEET**

**Sunday 17th January**

**Second Sunday of Epiphany**

**It is with regret that the Sunday services have been suspended for the time being.**

**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](mailto:carolinesymcox@googlemail.com)

It's with great sadness that we have to announce the suspension of Sunday services once again, as the COVID virus reaches new peaks. The PCC has decided to suspend services for at least 4 weeks, when we'll review the situation and decide whether it's safe to reopen or whether we need to continue the suspension.

In the meantime the church will continue to be open for private prayer, 11am-1pm on weekdays and 12pm-1pm at the weekend. We also encourage you to make use of our online worship options – Morning Prayer on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday on Facebook Live, and BCP Evening Prayer on Sunday on YouTube and Facebook. Remember the Fairford team also contributes on a regular basis to the South Cotswold Team worship put out on YouTube every Sunday – see the first page of this pew sheet for links.

It was a tough decision. We know how much it means to so many of us to gather in person and share in worship, and we did our best to provide that worship for as long as possible. However, the severity of the current situation meant we felt we just couldn't keep everyone safe if we were to gather in church. This close to the full roll out of the vaccine we didn't want to fall at the final hurdle, and at the same time we wanted to provide a good example for the Fairford community.

In the midst of this it's so important to hold onto the encouragement that Jesus and those first apostles offered to the Christian community as it went through hardship. He promised that we would not be tested beyond our ability to bear, and that he would give us the strength and the perseverance we would need to hold fast. Hold on, and keep your eyes on that hope Jesus offers – that though the world can seem harsh and dark, a better future waits for us, and that through Jesus' power we can work for goodness and transformation here and now. This week, I point us to Paul's words to the Romans:

“We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who whopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.”

*Romans 8.22-24*

With all my love and blessings,  
Rev'd Caroline

**From Heather:**

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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!

**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](mailto: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

**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](https://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](mailto: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

## **Messy Church at Home**

At Messy Church at home this week we will be thinking about the story of the Good Samaritan. I also have some suggestions for using the old Christmas Cards. For more details or to join our mailing list, please contact Sarah Bottomley on 01285712074 or [stmaryslmt@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryslmt@gmail.com)

### **Recycle Christmas cards**

**New cards from old:** Cut out pictures and stick on card to make new cards.

**Origami boxes:** Fold cards up to make little boxes.

**Multi- sided decorations:** Cut out circles from Christmas cards and stick back to back, add some thread and hang them on the Christmas tree.

**Patchwork:** Cut out card hexagons and stick them together on card or paper to make a patchwork picture.

**Gift tags:** Cut out shapes with wiggly edged scissors or ordinary scissors to make gift tags.

**Sewing cards:** Make children's sewing cards by using a small hole punch to outline a shape.

**Wreath:** Cut out characters from the Christmas story or pictures of holly and robins and glue them onto a heavy card or foam circle to make a wreath add ribbon and hang it up.

**Bunting:** Cut cards into triangles and attach them to colourful ribbon to make bunting decorations.

**Paper chains:** Cut cards into strips and make paper chains.

**Menus:** Cover the inside of the card with green or red paper. Glue a Christmas dinner menu inside and place on the Christmas meal table, or reuse as a Christmas day invitation.

**Napkin Rings:** Bend strips of card into circles and tape together to make napkin rings.

**Decoupage:** Cut out interesting figures, people, patterns and animals from cards to use as decorative shapes to fit on cards, crackers or notebooks.

**Titles:** Cut cards into letter shapes and use them to make a name plate for your or someone else's door.

### **From Ann Nicholls**

Speak Lord in the stillness while I wait on thee,  
Hushed my heart to listen in expectancy.  
Speak oh blessed Master in this quiet hour,  
Let me see thy face Lord feel thy touch of power.  
Speak, thy servant heareth be not silent Lord,  
Waits my soul upon thee for the quickening word.  
Fill me with the knowledge of thy glorious will,  
All thine own good pleasures in thy child fulfill.

Emily Mary Crawford 1864 -1927

Father God, help us rid our lives of harboured hurts and needless fears that keep us from the joy of your abundant life. Your son has set us free, help us to walk in that freedom, in Jesus name. AMEN

**From Pat Russell (our Resident Poet!!)**

The following can be sung (loosely!) to  
"It's a Long Way to Tipperary."

"We're all waiting for the vaccine,  
to save us from harm,  
we're all waiting for the vaccine,  
But meanwhile must stay calm,  
Then we can stop worrying,  
and get our lives on track,  
We're all waiting for the vaccine,  
Then good times will come back.  
Three cheers for AstraZeneca "

From the Parish News April 1981 – sequel to last week's article  
**The Bells of St Mary's**

On Monday February 16<sup>th</sup>, Taylor of Loughborough came to take the headstocks, clappers and pulley wheels back to Loughborough for the essential repairs, and by the time you read this we hope the bells will be ringing again, as we expect John Hughes, Taylor's bell hanger, back on Monday March 16<sup>th</sup> to put it all back together. The ringers provided the labour for John Hughes and grateful thanks go to Maurice Jones, Sydney Flatman, David Nash, David Pitts and Bill Godwin for a lot of hard work.

Our coffee morning in the Centre on February 28<sup>th</sup> was a great success, and thank you to all the people who came out on such a horrid morning. The bell fund benefitted by £137.35 and on Saturday evening Maurice Jones and Sydney Flatman ran a disco at the football club that gave us £120.

The ringers ended their 'sponsored slim' on March 2<sup>nd</sup> and the total weight lost by 9 people was 110lbs! The ringers would like to thank the PCC and everyone who has helped in raising the money for the repairs to be done.

David Pitts  
Muriel Perry

## Sent in by Frank Middleton

Taken from: For a Nurse, from A Book of Blessings by John O'Donohue.

Your mind knows the world of illness,  
The fright that invades a person  
Arriving in out of the world,  
Distraught and grieved by illness.  
How it can strip a life of its joy,  
Dim the light of the heart  
Put shock in the eyes.

Families at bedsides distraught  
That their mother's name has come up  
In the secret lottery of misfortune  
That had always chosen someone else.  
You watch their helpless love  
That would exchange places with her.

In this fragile frontier-place, your kindness  
Becomes a light that consoles the  
broken-hearted.

The spirit to rise from beneath the weight of pain,  
To create a new space in the  
person's mind.

May you embrace the beauty in what you do  
And how you stand like a secret angel.

May you never doubt the gifts you bring;  
May you come to inherit  
The blessings of  
your kindness.

***A group of professional people posed this question to a group of 4 to 8 year-olds, 'What does love mean?' The answers they got were broader, deeper, and more profound than anyone could have ever imagined!***

'When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore... So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love.' Rebecca - age 8

'Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on shaving cologne and they go out and smell each other.' Karl - age 5

'Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your French fries without making them give you any of theirs.' Chrissy - age 6

'Love is what makes you smile when you're tired.' Terri - age 4

'Love is when my mommy makes coffee for my daddy and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is OK.' Danny - age 8

'Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and just listen.' Bobby - age 7 (Wow!)

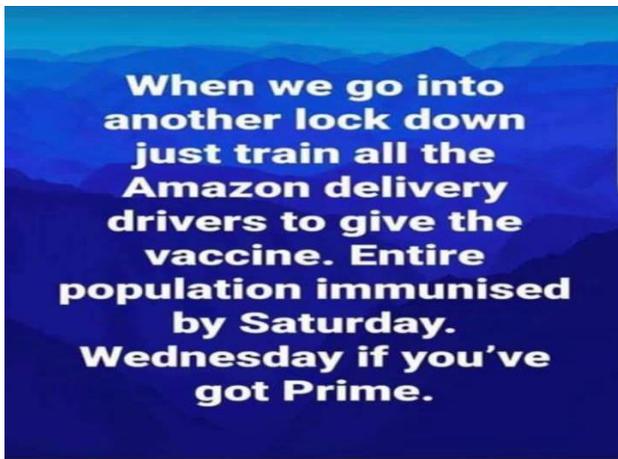
'If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who you hate.'

Nikka - age 6

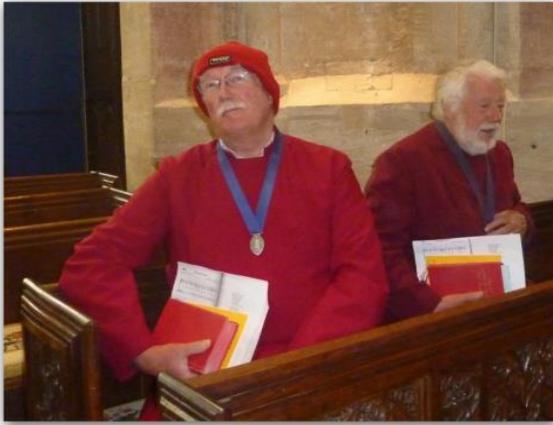
(we need a few million more Nikka's on this planet)

'Love is when you tell a guy you like his shirt, then he wears it every day.' Noelle - age 7

'Love is like a little old woman and a little old man who are still friends even after they know each other so well.' Tommy - age 6



Came across these old photos of Pentecost 2013.



and finally...

Do look at *Do Re Mi – the Covid version* on youtube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MMBh-eo3tvE&t=70s>