



Westonbirt Arboretum

South Cotswold Team Ministry

St, Mary's Church Fairford

PEW SHEET

Face masks are now mandatory – please come prepared

Please let Heather know if you will be in church on Sunday

Sunday 18th October 2020

Luke the Evangelist

Service in church: 10am Holy Communion

Readings – Mike Godsal

Intercessions: Alison Godsal

The South Cotswolds Team Ministry are now offering a 15 minute 'mini-service' of Sunday Devotionals every Sunday: 2 sets of prayers, 3 pieces of music/hymns, a Bible reading and a short 'Thought for the Week'. Find it here:

<https://worship-at-home.weebly.com/south-cotswolds-sunday-devotionals.html>

This is the link to daily 9am Morning Prayer and Sunday's 5pm BCP Evening Prayer on Facebook. Please note these videos remain up on the page and able to be watched even after the live broadcast is complete. <http://www.facebook.com/stmarysfairford>

From Caroline:

01285 712467 / carolinesymcox@googlemail.com

This Sunday the Church commemorates a particular person: Luke – evangelist, doctor, traveller and companion of Paul. Luke did so much in his ministry in those early days of the Church, but it is his role as healer that strikes me today.

Healing is really what the Church is all about. Jesus came to us first and foremost as a healer – to bind up the wounds of the broken relationships between humanity, creation and God. 'Those who are not sick do not need a doctor,' he told the gathering at a Pharisee's dinner party, and there could be no doubting that Jesus himself was the doctor. Jesus came to bring peace – shalom – a word that includes and involves healing. Shalom is about wholeness, balance and right relationships that all contribute to a feeling of contentment, belonging and peace. Healing is required for all of that.

Nor is healing a matter of healing a single part of what it is to be human. As we are learning, to be human is to be body, mind, spirit all rolled up so closely as to be inseparable. Damage done to one part is damage done to all. And the healing the Church can offer: with prayer, with concern, with a listening ear, of course alongside the work of doctors, nurses and other healthcare workers is vital.

In these confused and divisive days there is much healing needed, in all parts of our human existence. We follow Jesus' example, and Luke's, in working and praying for healing to all, and the shalom that only Jesus can bring. May you know the peace of Christ, and his healing touch, this week.

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.

If you have anything of interest for me to use in the pew sheet do let me have it. Amusing quotes, poems etc.

If you are coming to church this Sunday could you please let me know.

Don't forget if you wish to bring the blue reading sheets to the service you can run them off from my attachment with the pew sheet.

Thank you to all of you who have offered articles for the pew sheet. Keep them coming in.

I am now "back" from my holiday at home. My planned visit to North Wales was cancelled due to Covid 19!

I will continue to work from home until further notice.

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, Jo Williams, Helen Foxall,
Grace Slack Niall McDiarmid

Those that have died: Jan Bradley, Rob Winney, John Dodds
The Rev Canon Hugh Mumford (Simon Mumford's father)

NOTICES

Opening the Church

Opening Hours: NOTE THE CHANGE!

Monday to Friday the church will be open for private prayer 11pm – 1pm.
Weekends the church will be open for private prayer 12pm – 1pm.

If you feel you'd like to help out to help us open longer at the weekend, and perhaps through the week, please do contact Rev Caroline.

As always, please do be aware that there are risks involved with being in proximity with visitors, and the advice is that if you are currently shielding due to age or health conditions, you should not volunteer for this kind of duty. If you would like to discuss this, please either call or email Rev'd Caroline.

The new NHS COVID-19 app, is available to download for free in England and Wales from 24 September, it is the fastest way to see if you're at risk from coronavirus. The faster you know, the quicker you can alert and protect your loved ones and community. The app has a number of tools to protect you, including contact tracing, local area alerts and venue check-in. It uses proven technology from Apple and Google, designed to protect every user's privacy.

There is now a poster at the entrance to the church. If you have the app on your mobile please scan before you enter.

PCC Secretary

After many years of faithful service, our wonderful PCC Secretary, Anne Smith, is stepping down from that role. On behalf of the whole church community, thank you Anne for all your amazing work as a vital part of the PCC.

With Anne's departure, we are now seeking a new Secretary. This is a crucial role, and we would love to hear from you if you feel this is a way in which you might be able to serve the St Mary's community. Please speak to Rev'd Caroline for more information.

Good Bank

It was indeed a wonderful, bumper crop of harvest gifts that poured forth from Sunday's Harvest Festival service!

Many thanks Caroline for helping to carry everything across to the F.C.C. and poor Carly is almost hidden behind mountains of food that will find its way to those in most need.

It's so heart-warming to see the love and kindness being so freely shared. *Wendy Graham*

Annual Parochial Church Meeting which was postponed in April will now be held after the service on Sunday 25th October at approximately 11.30 am. Do please come along and support your PCC.

Remembering Service

This year St Mary's will hold two Remembering Services on **Sunday 1st November, at 2pm and 3.30pm** to include as many people as possible who wish to gather to remember loved ones. Everyone who lost a loved one in the past year will be directly invited, but everyone who wishes to remember someone is very welcome to attend. If you wish to attend, or to add a name to the list of those being remembered, please contact Rev Caroline ahead of our cut-off date of the 28th October, so that we can make sure the church is safely set up to seat the numbers coming along.

Scripture Union Romania Support

We have had a strong relationship with Scripture Union in Romania over the last several years, sending a group out each summer to help run holiday clubs for young people and offer help to the poorest members of communities. This year of course, the journey was impossible, but the work of SU continues.

Chris Saunders, our Youth Worker, is liaising with Christi and Lidia as they seek to deliver winter boots and offer aid to one of the poorest parts of Romania. They are in need of financial support, so if you are in a position to help this Christian outreach, that would be gratefully received. For details on how to help, please contact Rev Caroline

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 October sheets are attached

Online Prayer and Worship

Caroline's Morning Prayer every day except Friday from 9.00 am, and Evening Prayer at 4pm on Sunday: www.facebook.com/stmarysfairford

Daily Hope from the Church of England

It is a free phone number where you have the option of the prayer for today, hymn for today and reflections. It was created for people that can't access the internet for services. But also a nice thing to listen to for anyone. Telephone 0800 804 8044

Sent by Andrena Miles.

Zoom Study Group – Fruitfulness on the Frontline

Following the very positive experience of the group working on the study course "Fruitfulness on the Frontline" over the summer, we're keen to run the course again over Zoom for a new group. We're very happy to provide technical support if you're not confident with Zoom yet, and can talk you through the whole process. Scheduling will be determined around what the participants are able to manage. If you're interested, please contact Rev'd Caroline.

Food bank

The box is in the Church porch for all donations to the Food Bank. Open 10.00 am to 4.00 pm.

The Diocese of Gloucester together with the **Long Table of Stroud**

have created the 5000 project in response to the coronavirus crisis. Partnering with kitchens across the county including the Royal Agricultural College in Cirencester, they have delivered over 10,000 meals in five weeks. This includes NHS staff in our hospitals, homeless young people in the county and food bank referrals. If you would like to donate go to the Diocesan website

<https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/12553#!/DonationDetails>

Messy Church at Home

From now on – there will only be Messy Church articles on the second Sunday of the month. For further details please contact Sarah Bottomley on 01285712074 or stmaryslmt@gmail.com

Christmas Day Lunch!

People are starting to ask us what we will be doing about the Lunch this year. Unfortunately, it doesn't look as though we will be able to meet together as we would wish, but we will be in touch with all our regulars from previous years and are happy to hear about other individuals and couples who will be on their own.

We are currently looking at home visits and providing hampers. Any other ideas of how we can help around Christmas will be gratefully received!

Mervyn and Amanda Cully

Jean Hunt a regular member of our choir celebrated her 97th Birthday on Saturday 10th October. We wish her a belated very Happy Birthday.

From Ann Nicholls:

St Mary's Prayer Group

We are a small group of people committed to praying for our world, Nation and community, we used to meet on Monday evenings but owing to the current situation that we find ourselves in we can no longer meet together, but we haven't stopped praying, we now pray at home in our own time and space.

I send out a prayer focus each month giving the groups of people and areas of our town to be prayed for during the month, we would love you to join us. If you would like to receive the Prayer Focus and give it a try...no commitment please email me Ann Nicholls on nichollsander@btinternet.com or phone me on 01285713063 and I will happily send or deliver a copy to you.

We believe in the power of prayer, no fancy words just a conversation with our Heavenly Father. Please give it a try, I would love to hear from you.

A Message from Christ Saunders -Youth Worker

Like everyone else the shape of everyday activities has greatly changed for me as SCT Youth Worker in recent times. There has been a need to be creative in looking for the best ways to support so here's a brief summary of my new roles with schools, students and clubs.

With schools understandably reluctant to invite in any extra supporters, I have been taking Collective Worship sessions via online Zoom meetings

or prerecording a message in advance for a school. I have just been given permission to recommence the important role of mentoring at the secondary school and already demand is exceeding the available space allocation!

In addition, it has been a key time to support students going away from us to a confusing and uncertain start to life in new surroundings. Clearly there have been limitations in running evening youth clubs but our Tuesday evening Quench discussion group has been able to thrive despite the new restrictions.

In this age of increased technology, it seems that young people still crave close face-to-face relations and social activities are greatly missed. Through all this uncertainty we continue to encourage young people to consider our unchanging God and ask for your prayers as our youth navigate their way through uncertainty that has torn many established foundations away.

Thank you

Chris

From Jill Connell

I asked the Lord, why is it that at the worst times in my life I see only one set of footprints?

And he replied, it was then I was social distancing.



THE BLACKBIRD, THE BUTTERFLY, AND THE MAN ON THE TREE
(dedicated to the memory of Mike Henley)

Don't get bogged down in material things
But listen when the blackbird sings,
His is a truly wonderful voice
And he'll repeat himself, he has no choice,
Capture the happiness he brings
Before the moment when he takes to his wings,

If you are stuck and don't know what to do
There is a message here for you
If you heed it it will see you through
Whether you're happy, thoughtful or blue,
Remember the Man upon the Tree?
He was murdered for his "blasphemy",
But he did it just for you and me
And His was the final Victory.

How much we strive, how much we try
And yet one day we're going to die,
Yet there's no need to sit and cry,
Just look at the harmless butterfly
And marvel as he flutters by!
Nobody taught him how to fly,
There are no rules to guide him by,
Blown on the wind beneath the sky
He does not ask the reason why,
Forever just a butterfly!

If you forget Philosophy
And just relax and let things be
You'll open your eyes and you will see
The Secret of Eternity.
There's no more tears for you and me.
The Man who hangs upon the Tree
Has put an end to our misery,
The door is locked but He has the key
And if you enter you will be free!

Jon Torkeil

From Alison Hobson:
Parish News September 1978

ST MARY'S BEES -1978

In St Mary's Church there lived a colony of bees. They were called 'wild bees', but, of course, as no bees can properly be called 'tame', the distinction has no meaning. One might say that all bees are wild but some live in man-made homes and others find and make their own dwelling.

This particular colony had found themselves an extremely snug habitation in the rood above north western corner of the North Aisle – just in between the Judgement of Solomon and Saint John the Evangelist. There was space of about a foot in depth over the ceiling of the aisle, above which was lead roofing, carried on timber bearers, making as secure and sheltered a nook as any bee could wish for. To make it perfect three ventilation holes in the masonry of the parapet provided ideal access.

They are thought to have inhabited this demi-Paradise for some forty years, co-existing happily with generations of churchgoers. Until one day it was noticed that there was an alarming accumulation of dead and dying bees among the pews in that corner of the church. The opinion of a local beekeeper was sought and, a match box full of corpses was sent away to the People Who Know About Things, for analysis.

The reply came that St Mary's long-established colony was heavily infected with a disease called Nosema – Nosema Apis is the name of a micro-organism which invades the digestive system of the bees. Now Nosema can be treated quite successfully in bees which are living in man-made hives, for the treatment consists of fumigating the combs and ministering drugs through the feed which is given to the colony in their non-foraging seasons. However, when the bees are protected by a couple of feet of masonry, a lead roof, various timber bearers and the ceiling of the aisle, the problem is not so easily solved. Moreover, all the time these diseased creatures are flying, they are a potential sources of infection to all other colonies within a three mile radius.

It was decided to pass the buck to a public servant and benefactor whose official title is the Bee Disease Officer. It would have been comparatively easy (and certainly a convenient let-out) to destroy the colony altogether, but the BDO in common with all apiarists, is a bee lover, to whom the thought of eliminating a whole colony is thoroughly distasteful. With the assistance of one of the Churchwardens (who donned the veil for the first time and afterwards declared it to be quite an experience) he lifted a portion of the lead roof, partially exposing the comb, which were removed, together with as many bees as possible.

Unfortunately some of the colony, including the queen, proved to be quite inaccessible on the sad decision had to be taken to destroy this residue, which was done needless to say, with the greatest of care) by administering petrol vapour.

All however is not lost. The BDO had high hopes that the combs which he has removed contain some brood which is young, restore them to the church in an ordinary artificial hive. By the Spring of 1979 we should know for certain whether or not St Mary's will continue to be a Bee Church.

As a postscript it should be added that the Nosema Api seems to have taken its toll. Every sign show that this was a failing colony which would have in any almost certainly case died out in the near future if nature had taken her normal course.

Richard Hatton

In 2020 the bees are still in evidence the east of the porch I wonder if they are descendants of those 1978 bees

Squirrels ...

The Presbyterian church called a meeting to decide what to do about their squirrel infestation. After much prayer and consideration, they concluded that the squirrels were predestined to be there, and they shouldn't interfere with God's divine will.

At the Baptist church, the squirrels had taken an interest in the baptistery. The deacons met and decided to put a water-slide on the baptistery and let the squirrels draw themselves. The squirrels liked the slide and unfortunately knew instinctively how to swim, so twice as many squirrels showed up the following week.

The Lutheran church decided that they were not in a position to harm any of God's creatures. So, they humanely trapped their squirrels and set them free near the Baptist church. Two weeks later the squirrels were back when the Baptists took down the water-slide.

The Episcopalians tried an equally creative path by setting out pans of whiskey around their church in an effort to kill the squirrels with alcohol poisoning. They sadly learned how much damage a band of drunk squirrels can do.

But the Catholic church came up with a unique strategy! They baptised all the squirrels and made them members of the church. Now they only see them at Christmas and Easter.

Not much was heard from the Jewish synagogue. They took the first squirrel and circumcised him. They haven't seen a squirrel since.

Thanks to Triangle for this