

This lovely photograph was taken in Fairford on Wednesday eveing

South Cotswold Team Ministry

St. Mary's Church Fairford

PEW SHEET

Sunday 22nd November – Christ the King

Sunday next before Advent

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>

Please do also make use of weekly Sunday worship produced by the South Cotswold Team, with Fairford folk regularly contributing. Weekly videos can be found here: <https://worship-at-home.weebly.com/>

From Caroline:

01285 712467 / carolinesymcox@googlemail.com

This Sunday the Church marks the feast of Christ the King – a triumphant reminder of Jesus' victory and reign at the end of the Church Year as we venture into another year with the solemn preparation of Advent. It's a relatively new festival, and was created in direct response to what was going on in the world at the time. The year was 1925, at the start of which Mussolini had brought his steady work to install a fascist regime in Italy to its conclusion and named himself *// Duce*, the dictator of an Italy where the State and the Fascist Party were fully merged.

It was in this atmosphere that Pope Pius XI decreed a festival to celebrate the Kingship of Christ. Just as the Church in the earliest days of Christianity had stood up against Roman Emperors referring to themselves as gods and 'Lord', recognising only Christ's worthiness for that name, so the modern Church was doing the same. This was a stand against secularism and nationalism and a powerful reminder of the true Lordship of Christ and his call on our lives.

It's a timely reminder for us too, living in a time where fascism is once again a growing reality. For worthiness and leadership we look to one true King, who offers us a kingship quite different from the flawed arrogance that can be the province of human rulers. We worship the Servant King, the King who was mocked on the cross as he gave his life for our sakes, the King who embraced and defeated death.

In our times of Morning Prayer over these last few weeks we have been reading through the book of Revelation, thinking deeply about its message both to the Christians for whom it was originally written, and its message to us, by the grace of God. It offers a similar reassurance. Throughout the ages evil in all its forms threatens us, tempts us, offers us power, like the devil in the wilderness.

We stand against it. We are able to hold fast to Jesus' message of justice and righteousness, despite the derision or suffering that might bring, because we know we have already won. Jesus our King reigns.

May we stand with our risen King today.

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.

With Christmas on the horizon I would be grateful if anyone who has photos of the church at Christmas (I do have some with the church decorated for Christmas but not many) to let me have them via email. Thanks.

I have heard that Jean Hunt had a nasty fall recently and has been in hospital. Do hope she is on the mend now and best wishes from us all.

Very sad to hear of the death of Jo Williams. She was so involved with the church before her illness. More about Jo next week.

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: Yvonne Cole Doris Ridding Joan D'Elia Jo Williams

NOTICES

PCC Secretary

We are very much in need of someone to take on the role of PCC Secretary following Anne's departure. The commitment is primarily to take minutes at a 90 minute meeting 5 times a year. This is an essential role and is a mandated part of the PCC. Please consider if you might offer your time and skills to serve the church in this vital capacity, and speak to Rev Caroline for more information.

Opening the Church

Opening Hours:

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 through this lockdown period, please do contact Rev Caroline.

Online Prayer and Worship

Caroline's Morning Prayer every day except Friday from 9.00 am, and Evening Prayer at 5pm on Sunday: www.facebook.com/stmarysfairford

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.

PCC Meeting – our next PCC meeting will be held via Zoom at 5pm on Wednesday 25th November. Please hold us in your prayers!

Messy Church at Home

After Remembrance Sunday we start to look towards Advent in Messy Church. We will have suggestions for decorations to make yourself and ideas for counting down the days until Christmas. For more information contact Sarah Bottomley on 01285712074 or stmaryslmt@gmail.com

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

Sunday Blue Reading Sheet - The November 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.

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

Prayers from Denise

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your disciples,
'I am with you always'.

Be with me today, as I offer myself to you.
Hear my prayers for others and for myself,
and keep me in your care.

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me.
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

From St Patrick's Breastplate

The Lord bless us and watch over us;
The Lord make his face to shin upon us
and be gracious to us;
The Lord look kindly upon us and give us peace.

Amen

Janet Edwards has sent this in - Perhaps even smiles behind a mask can be infectious too.

SMILE
by Spike Milligan

Smiling is infectious
You catch it like the flu.

When someone smiled at me today
I started smiling too.

I passed around the corner
and someone saw my grin.

When he smiled I realised
I'd passed it on to him.

I thought about that smile
then realised its worth.

A single smile just like mine
could travel round the Earth.

So if you feel a smile begin
don't leave it undetected.

Let's start an epidemic quick
and get the world infected.



A seagull meeting alongside the river taken by Ingrid

From Alison Hobson

Another anniversary!

This month marks the 190th Anniversary of the Swing Riots in Fairford in 1830. The background to this event was the decline of agricultural wages, several bad harvests and the introduction of threshing machines which meant that less farm labourers were needed. The workers also lost their gleaning rights which meant that they had not enough corn to make bread throughout the winter. It was not just in Fairford but all over the country, which was the reason it was stamped down so quickly.

On 26 November a group of men attacked the premises of Richard Rose and John Savory, machine makers of Milton End and machines were destroyed. They then caused damage at other premises in the town. The Lord of the Manor, John Raymond Barker tried to quell the violence but he was threatened and withdrew, the townspeople would not help him. Action was taken quickly and by December 1st 18 men were arrested and the men were committed to trial at Gloucester Quarter Sessions in January 1831. Of the 18 men 11 were discharged, 4 were given short gaol sentences and three were transported to Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania). John Raymond Barker spoke up for several of the men, notably Isaac Boulton who had been seen to be leader, several pleas for clemency for him were sent to the Court. Of the three transported, Robert Cowley, John Mitchell and Christopher Ponting, only Ponting returned to Fairford, where he died aged 88. He is buried in St Mary's Churchyard (the grave site not known). The other two remained in Australia, and we know that Robert Cowley married bigamously there.

See Gloucester Machine Breaker by Jill Chambers for more detailed information.

**Hello God... we need your
help down here. The world
has gone mad. Please hear
and answer our prayers.
Thank you, God.
Amen**



Frank Gardner



I was talking to Jenny Ockendon on the phone and saying that I was rather short of articles this week and she started telling me about the moving programme she had watched on Frank Gardner. I had also watched it and couldn't believe how a man who had been shot six times reporting from Saudi Arabia in 2004 survived and is now living a life that only he can describe. I am telling you all because if you missed it do watch it on iPlayer. It shows what courage really is - *Being Frank: The Frank Gardner Story*

(If anyone has stories of courage please let me know)

Things you probably didn't know!

1. **19th November was World Toilet Day.** The purpose of having this day is to have people in all countries to take action, increase awareness of toilet user's right to a better toilet environment!
2. **21st November World Hello Day.** Anyone can participate by simply greeting ten people!

More amusing tales:

TOO MUCH PRAISE

A Christian guy named Bill saw an ad online for a Christian horse, so he went to check it out. The horse's owner said, "It's easy to ride him. Just say 'Praise the Lord!' to make him go and 'Amen!' to make him stop." Bill got on the horse and said, "Praise the Lord!"

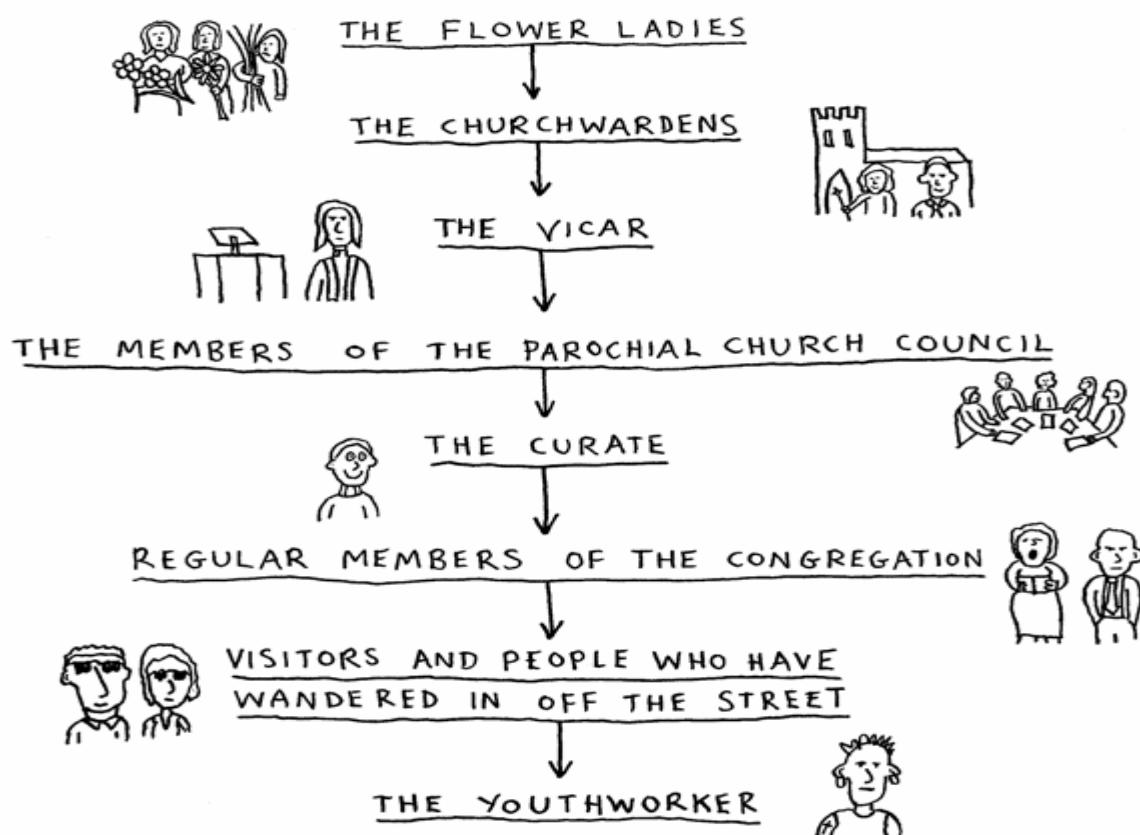
Sure enough, the horse started to walk. "Praise the Lord!" he said again, and the horse began to trot. "Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!" he yelled, and the horse broke into a gallop. Bill was enjoying his ride so much that he almost didn't notice the cliff he and the horse were about to go over. Bill shouted "AMEN!" at the top of his lungs, and the horse stopped right at the edge of the cliff. Relieved, Bill said, "Phew! Praise the Lord!"

WATER TO WINE

A trooper pulls over a priest and immediately smells alcohol on his breath. The next thing he notices is an empty wine bottle lying on the passenger seat. "Have you been drinking?" the officer asks. "Just water," says the priest. "Then why do I smell wine?" The priest looks at the bottle and shouts, "Good Lord! He's done it again!"

THE CHAIN OF COMMAND

WITHIN A CHURCH



I had to put this in!!

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