



The colours are glorious this year

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 25th October 2020
Bible Sunday

Service in church: 10am Holy Communion

Readings – Sally Salter

Intercessions: Rev'd Canon Denise Hyde

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will follow the service at 11.30 am. Please come and support your PCC

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

We will be holding our APCM, our Annual Parochial Church Meeting this Sunday. I remember when I was a 'regular' member of a church congregation, and the idea of church meetings, leadership and councils all felt very far off and deeply mysterious. Maybe it feels that way to you! If so, I'd like to draw back the curtain for you, and perhaps show you some new ways in which you might serve God in our community.

Our PCC, our Parochial Church Council, meets six times a year, and is where we make decisions about the work of the church. We decide service content and structure. We discuss ways to serve the wider community. We take care of the physical structures of our church building. And crucially, we decide how to spend the money we receive through parish giving, in the collection plate, from fees for weddings and funerals, and as donations through the year. Archbishop Justin Welby in his book *Dethroning Mammon* spoke about the finances of an organisation or a person reflecting their true values, which is why this is an area of such importance. PCC members represent the congregation and community in deciding where our priorities are as servants of Christ in this place – a vital process!

At the APCM we elect PCC members, Churchwardens, other PCC officers (secretary, treasurer etc.) and also nominate and elect representatives for the parish to 'higher' church organisation councils, to represent us as a parish in a larger geographical context. This is how we make sure our voice is heard as we share what it's like for us to be Christians in this time and in this place.

Could this be a ministry to which God is calling you? To speak boldly about our priorities as a body of people serving Christ? To speak for our congregation and wider community and contribute ideas and energy for how we can serve them better? If so, please prayerfully consider standing for election to the PCC at this year's APCM. We need to hear your voice!

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.

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.

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.

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

From Ann Nicholls:

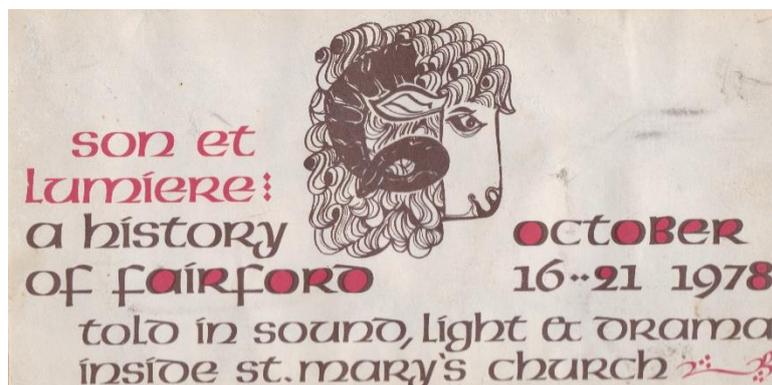
St Mary’s Prayer Group

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.

From Alison Hobson:



Do you remember 'Son et Lumière, October 1978? – Some of you may This was a performance of the History of Fairford told in sound, light and drama performed in St Mary's Church in October 1978 written by June Lewis in aid of Fairford Cottage Hospital. June's aim was for it to be 'of Fairford, by Fairford and for Fairford' and it would be remembered for a long time. In the Parish News of December 1978, Jan Peters one of the main participants, wrote a postscript to the event of which the following is an edited extract.

It's over now, and done with – gone, but certainly not forgotten. For the majority of those concerned, Son et Lumière had become a 'way of life'. That the production was a success is beyond any shadow of doubt. A cheque for £1,250 was handed over to Fairford Cottage Hospital.

We are not claiming that the production was perfect – we know it wasn't. We are not claiming that we enjoyed it all the time - we didn't. At time we were in despair and thought we must be crazy to attempt it. We were by turns overworked, exhausted, furious, fed up, full of coughs and colds, and panic stricken. But no one gave up, and deep down inside, we all thought – and some of us said, "Won't it be fantastic if we can pull it off?" Well, we did - and if the sound and lighting team had had more than a bare 24 hours to try out the equipment, and if the actors had been able to

have more than one rehearsal with the complete sound and lighting then the first two nights might have been as good as the rest of the week! Everyone did whatever they had to do to the very best of their ability.

But why did we make this gigantic united effort? I've been asking myself this for weeks, and still I'm not sure of the answer. Perhaps it was because we all work better when more is demanded of us than we feel able to give; perhaps it was because we were very united, and if one of us had failed we would have been letting the others down. Or, perhaps it was because it was because the story was all fact and not fiction – because the Honour of Gloucester really did belong to Queen Matilda; because the Tames really did build the church; Elizabeth of York did touch the font; Canon Carbonell did harangue the congregation; and all the Fairfordians in the play really lived, with the Church as the Centre of their being. It was thought part of Fairford's soul had come alive again through us.

The sad fact that dear Edward Keble [Vicar 1946-76] had died during that week made it all the more poignant – another part of Fairford's history had been made and was being lived again each successive night. For me, and I'm sure for many, each performance culminated in the living, lighted Cross in the darkened Church with its super illuminated East and West window, the stillness broken only by the bird calls and Peter France's beautiful voice reading the Epilogue. Ending with a young unaccompanied voice in 'Morning is broken'. It was intensely moving and a memory to be treasured.

Jan Peters

The new 'help' column

I have a very lovely lady cleaner, Jane, who currently has some vacancies to do ironing work. If you are interested please contact Jane, her number is 07866 195069. She will collect from your home and deliver back to you. *Jilli Connell*

Could someone please advise me as to where I can buy wool and patterns online. Since knitting for Wendy's project I am having withdrawal systems. Also I have a perfectly good pair of trousers but the zip has broken. Even if I knew where to get a new zip, I would not be able to do a professional job. Does anyone know of somebody who does these jobs? *Pat Russell 713125*

This is why Jesus hasn't returned...he can't move til the cat wakes up.



Appropriate for the times we are living through:

Everything is Going to be All Right

How should I not be glad to contemplate
the clouds clearing beyond the dormer window
and a high tide reflected on the ceiling?
There will be dying, there will be dying,
but there is no need to go into that.
The poems flow from the hand unbidden
and the hidden source is the watchful heart.
The sun rises in spite of everything
and the far cities are beautiful and bright.
I lie here in a riot of sunlight
watching the day break and the clouds flying.
Everything is going to be all right.

Derek Mahon, from *Selected Poems*

Funny Extracts from Insurance Claim Forms

- "I pulled into a lay-by with smoke coming from under the bonnet. I realized the car was on fire so took my dog and smothered it with a blanket."
- "On approach to the traffic lights the car in front suddenly broke."
- "I had been driving for 40 years when I fell asleep at the wheel and had an accident."
- "I pulled away from the side of the road, glanced at my mother-in-law and headed over the embankment."
- "The other car collided with mine without giving warning of its intention."
- "I collided with a stationary truck coming the other way."
- "In an attempt to kill a fly, I drove into a telephone pole."
- "I had been shopping for plants all day and was on my way home. As I reached an intersection a hedge sprang up obscuring my vision and I did not see the other car."
- "An invisible car came out of nowhere, struck my car and vanished."
- "I was thrown from the car as it left the road. I was later found in a ditch by some stray cows."