



Fairford Station 1964



South Cotswold Team Ministry Sunday 28th September 2025

Clergy

Vicar: Rev'd Caroline Symcox - 01285 712467

carolinesymcox@googlemail.com

Curate: Rev'd Vicky Falvey – 07356 234248

revvickyfalvey@gmail.com

SERVICES

Sunday 28th September – 15th Sunday after Trinity

8.00 am BCP Holy Communion

10.00 am Family Service

6.00 pm Healing Service with Holy Communion

Coffee :Mary Mawle and Carol Thompson

Monday 29th September

5.00 pm Community Prayers

Thursday 2nd October

10.30 am Holy Communion

Sunday 5th October – 16th Sunday after Trinity

8.00 am BCP Holy Communion

10.00 am Common Worship and Holy Communion

Sidespeople: Andy Wilkinson and Jenny Hewes

Readings: Stewart Benzie

Intercessions: Val Trafford

Offertory: Wendy Close/Alison Cohoon Prayer Rota: Sheila Hughes & Val Trafford

Coffee: Doug and Jean Crowley

6.00 pm Prayer and Praise

Rev'd Caroline is at a conference this week

From Heather Email address: fairfordpcc@gmail.com or heathergorton31@gmail.com. Telephone: Office: 01285 712611 or home 01285 712428

My office hours are 10.00 to 1.00 on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. I am also continuing to work from home so you can contact me at either the office (712611) or home (712428). The office is closed on Mondays and Michelle will be in on Fridays from 10.00 to 12.00.

If you are sending in your articles, photos etc. for the bumper copy at the end of the month I will need them by 12 noon on the last Wednesday of the month. For the weekly newsletter I would still like articles in by Wednesday midday.

Harvest Festival is on Sunday 12th October. The church will be decorated by the Flower Team on Friday 10th October. If anyone has any fruit or vegetables to display they would be most welcome. Please contact me 712428. Thank you.

o0o

Please remember the following in your prayers:

Those who are ill: Grace Slack, Hannah, Laurence Burgess, David and Glynnis Langley

Those who have died:
Norman Sandell Jane Kidd

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

Community Prayers

All are welcome to come and pray together for the world, the nation and our community along with any prayer requests that are placed in our prayer box in the Lady Chapel. We meet every Monday at 5pm for 30 minutes in the Chancel. Please use the north door.

(Please also note we do not always meet on Bank Holidays, please check notices above for clarification)

For further details contact Rev'd Canon Denise Hyde

denisehyde15@gmail.com

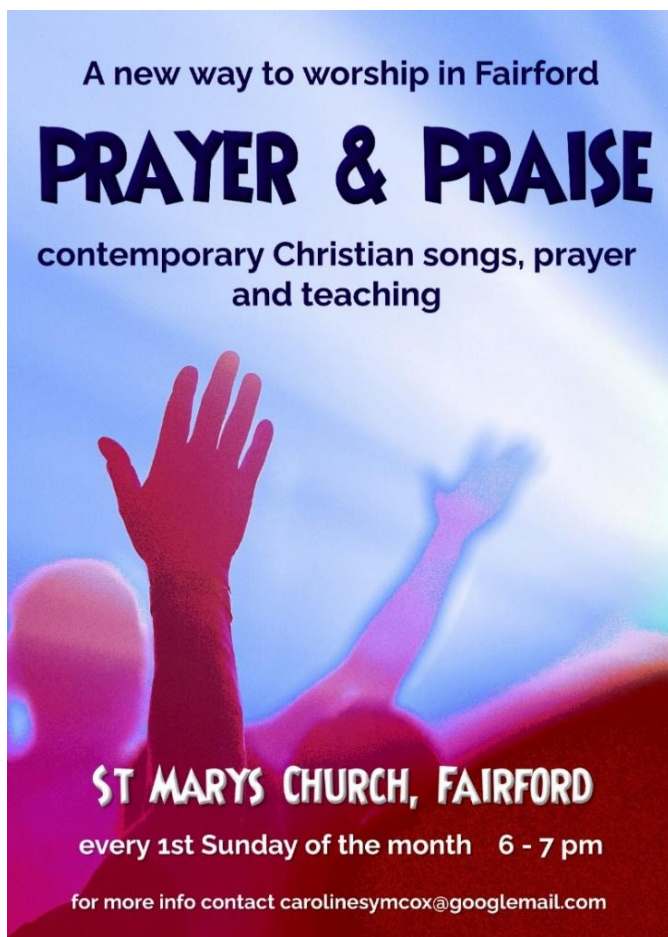
From Ann Nicholls

PRAYER is the answer to every problem in life, it puts us in tune with divine wisdom, which knows how to adjust everything perfectly.

Dear Lord and Father of mankind forgive our foolish ways. We praise and thank you for giving us the guidance and wisdom to execute our plans, thank you for opportunities to bear witness to your love and care, Bless all who organize outreach ministries. Thank you for all who work together to share the good news of your love with others.

We pray in Jesus name, AMEN

Next Prayer and Praise – Sunday 5th October



A new way to worship in Fairford

PRAYER & PRAISE

contemporary Christian songs, prayer
and teaching

ST MARYS CHURCH, FAIRFORD

every 1st Sunday of the month 6 - 7 pm

for more info contact carolinesymcox@googlemail.com

Prayer and Praise – first Sunday of the month 6 – 7 pm

We are delighted to invite you to our contemporary-style service at St Mary's. Everyone is welcome.

This is a wonderful opportunity to invite family, friends and neighbours to church, especially those who have never been to church, those who haven't been for years or those who have never found a church that feels 'just right' for them. We very much look forward to seeing you at our next service.

For more information please contact:

carolinesymcox@googlemail.com or
pa.wilkins@hotmail.co.uk

NOTICES

The Glass Doors

It occurs to me that not everyone may understand the controls of the glass doors. Please understand that they are extremely simple and controlled **only** by a single metal key with three positions. No mains power supply should be touched.

- 1) to function properly the heavy oak door **must** be open. (Opening the little wicket door is **not** sufficient and only confuses the glass doors mechanism.
- 2) the **door control is by a single metal key, located in one of the grey boxes attached to the wall, low down to the left of the stewards' desk.**
- 3) the **key has three positions**, which are shown on the laminated form sitting on top of the box **Left - Hold Open** - to open and hold open on pressing the push pad. **Upright - to close and leave closed** (ie neutral; push pad has no effect) **Right - Auto (ie to open and close automatically)** on pressing the push pad

To those who are the last to leave the church on closing at the end of the day: After shutting the heavy oak door, please ensure that the key is left in the neutral (vertical) position to avoid any accidental activation. To those opening up in the morning: The key (which should be vertical) can be switched to Auto, after opening the heavy oak door.

Opening and closing church

Please, please are there any able bodies who could help with Opening and Closing the church. We particularly need help on a Monday morning at 10.00 a.m., and occasional help at weekends.

Please get in touch with me if you could help.

Thank you.

Alison Godsal. 01285 713101 or alison@godsall.co.uk

Coffee Rota

Every Sunday refreshments are available after the 10am service, served by a trusty group of volunteers. We now have a few vacancies in the rota (for one or more helpers) so this would be a good time to join it! We have about 20 people on the rota so it's not too onerous - your turn would only come up every 2 or 3 months. It's an enjoyable way to meet people and is much appreciated. If you are interested in getting involved please talk to Sarah Bottomley on 01285712074 or stmaryslmt@gmail.com

Items for Ukraine

The people taking a van to Ukraine no longer have room for bedding, clothing or shoes. They are VERY grateful for all the items on the blue poster here. We will continue to take them to the Ukrainian Church in Gloucester who are transporting them to Ukraine. If you have a question about any other items, please phone us on 0779 555 4102

Thank you.

Geoff & Hope



Used Cards

Thank you for all those who have donated their used Cards to The Cobalt Unit. They continue to be very grateful for all cards. If you have any, Birthday; Thank you; New House etc – they can be recycled to raise funds for The Cobalt Unit to help diagnose Cancer and Dementia. Please put your cards (there is no need to cut off the written bit as they put a cover over this) in The Paper Recycling box in The Corpus Christi Chapel in St Mary's Church Fairford.

Thank you in anticipation. Carol Thompson



Please Save the Date!

Fairtrade Fortnight is coming up (22nd September until 5th October) with the theme 'Brew it Fair' and we will be holding a Fairtrade Tea Party on **Saturday 27th September** in the Barker Room. Although a tea party, fitting in with this year's theme, it will be in the morning from 10.30 – 12, and yes, coffee will also be available! Please pop the date in your diary now and come and join us on the day. (see poster)

Dates for your diaries

- Remembering Service, Sunday 2nd November, 3pm. We remember those who have died, especially in the preceding year, but anyone we have lost and wish to remember and name.
- Remembrance Sunday, Sunday 9th November, starting 10.50am in church, or 10.30am outside the Hyperion House Nursing Home.

From Fairford History Society



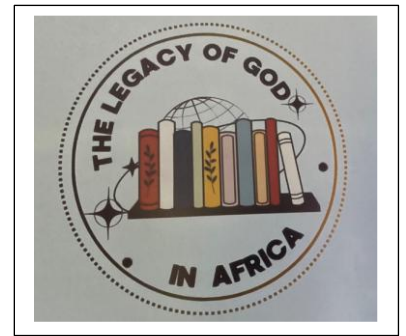
This is a postcard of Robert Kimber sexton/parish clerk for 26 Years (1884-1910) taken from the west side of the front of Fairford Church porch. The background to this picture is interesting as it shows an old wooden door instead of the iron porch gates and a notice board on the wall by the inner church door. There was a faculty granted for new iron gates; font cover and wire window guards in church, 1911-1914 (Glos Archives D2593/2/729).

We're back from Rwanda!

From Geoff and Hope Price

Together with our son, Luke, and grandsons, Jude and Noah, we flew overnight from Heathrow and were met by Confiance, our 'adopted Rwandan son' and a friend Eugenie, who helped us get to the first hotel, where we stayed for 3 nights. That evening we were invited to Confiance's home for a wonderful dinner meeting Conso, his wife and their toddler son, Ameer. They gave us a meal to remember! It was so good to see their home, which we had helped them to extend over the past year, so they can sell Christian books, coffee & tea, and have a Christian Lending Library and run Alpha courses, all under the banner of 'The Legacy of God in Africa'. The books that we took in our luggage amounted to 5 suitcasefuls, which delighted them! During the evening lightning

flashes got nearer with a dramatic downpour! Rain in Rwanda is intense and a real blessing!



The next day we explored Kigali and visited the Genocide Memorial. This records the sequence of events when 800,000 Rwandans were killed in 100 days from April 1994. This sobering visit reminded us of the trauma that the whole country went through. That evening, we went for dinner with friends whose mother, Marion Kajuga, was our daughter Naomi's lovely God-mother. One of them, Wilberforce, was filmed for the Genocide Memorial, as his wife and 3 children were killed, as well as his father. Marion lost 23 members of her close family in one week, and helped other widows and their children for the rest of her life.

We drove towards the volcanoes to visit the Women of Kinigi – 200 vulnerable women, mostly with HIV and serious illnesses. We saw them processing Merino wool and making felted animals to sell and we bought 7 Nativity Sets! We had a great walk uphill to their 100 Merino sheep, cared for and sheared by 4 shepherds. We enjoyed visiting a gorilla centre nearby. Then we drove to Gahini for 5 days, visiting 3 groups of friends on the way. We stayed at "Seeds of Peace" near the lakeside. The first evening Bishop Manasseh and his wife Rose invited us for dinner in their home. Luke was very keen to take us to Akagera National Park, so we left at 5am for a full safari day. We saw many animals including elephant, rhino, hippo, buffalo and lion. The noble giraffe was Luke's favourite and we saw 6! We had great boat rides there and also another day on Lake Muhazi near Gahini.

We were able to visit several friends in their homes, most of whom had worked with us when we were missionaries. Jobs are hard to come by, but most families have some land to cultivate. It was good to see how their projects are progressing and to ask how we can support their families in the future. One was

Speciose, who was our housegirl and has become like a sister to us. It was so good to eat at the vibrant café her daughter is running, which we helped to equip through our charity Rwanda Direct. Another friend we visited at home, who is now quite old, as we were leaving said “See you in heaven!” We saw the house where we lived, which was the first to be built in 1926 and is now the Church Guest House.



Luke was really moved by meeting people he had known as a young boy. Some of them hugged him saying “Luka, my son!” He feels his heart is now in Rwanda! Jude, as a linguist, was keen to tackle Kinyarwanda and within 10 days, he was using some sentences! Noah was engaging with the young people we met in some homes, the children or grandchildren of our friends

A 3 day event celebrated the start of the Anglican Church 100 years ago, beginning at Gahini. Geoff was invited to give a testimony, which was translated into Kinyarwanda. When the next song began, there was spontaneous dancing by dozens of Rwandans, which Geoff joined in! Six thousand people gathered in time for the Centenary Service on the Sunday!

Our last 3 days were in another hotel in Kigali called ‘Heaven’! Constance took us to a coffee processing factory, a Rwandan street market and the Nyamirambo Women’s Project, supporting them by buying cloth gifts they had made. He also showed us the flat by the Cathedral where we had lived for the first seven months, while learning Kinyarwanda.

We have returned home very grateful for your prayers for our health, safety, protection and communication. We now have a fresh vision in Rwanda for the future,

With our love
Geoff & Hope

Book Review from Lucy Hodson

The Freedom Artist by Ben Okri

A review of a book which available in Fairford Library. This is not an easy read (note to self - next month's book will be much more generally entertaining!) but it is beautifully written, sad and compelling read. It's a strange, Orwellian book about a society run by a body called the hierarchy, about a pair of lovers searching for each other when one disappears, where books have disappeared (because people simply stopped reading), where money is the new art, where there are outbreaks of uncontrolled wailing in the street; or conversely, people going round half asleep, even when doing difficult jobs. A few enlightened souls urge people to "UPWAKE" - while the hierarchy seeks ever more horrific ways of controlling ideas and society. The ending is both depressing (oppression is within us), and uplifting - it is possible to overcome our inner prison. Reading it as a Christian, some of the myths and imagery resonate strongly – I wonder what you will think?



CRAFT & CHAT

Hosted by I Felt Fantastic

£7



THURSDAY
25TH
SEPTEMBER

We will be joined by I Felt Fantastic to make felted sunflower. This is a wet felt something we haven't done before!

- Just bring your chat and laughter
- Fairford Community Centre 7pm-9pm

Contact Mary Ann for more details
07555738138

It's time for a Macmillan Coffee Morning and you're invited



**Let's do whatever it takes
to support people living with cancer.**



**Fairford Bowling Club
East End, Fairford GL7 4AP**

**Friday 26th September 2025
9.30am – 12.30pm**

**Not just coffee and cake –
books/puzzles, plants, raffle,
bric-a-brac, Tombola.**

**Contact: Ingrid Morris
E: Ingridsusanka@hotmail.co.uk
M: 07516 632122**



Macmillan Cancer Support, registered charity in England and Wales (261017)

**St Mary's Church invites
you to**

**FAIRTRADE
TEA
MORNING**



**FAIRFORD COMMUNITY CENTRE
BARKER ROOM
SATURDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER
10.30 AM - 12NOON.**

- **Join us for a friendly morning of freshly brewed Fairtrade tea, coffee, homemade cakes and community spirit!**
- **Learn more about Fairtrade**
- **At the same time browse the plant and seed bring and buy sale.**



In aid of



“HARVEST HARMONIES”

with Blue Notes & The Coln Choir

**SATURDAY 11TH OCTOBER
AT 7.30 P.M.**

**St. Mary's Church, High Street,
Fairford, Gloucestershire, GL7 4AF**

**Suggested Donation £10 each
(Cash & Card on the night)**

Refreshments & Raffle

**MOORE ALLEN
& INNOCENT**

**blue
notes**



Autumn Concert

St Mary's Church Choir
& Friends



Musical afternoon

A popular programme of sacred and secular songs, traditional and modern - with some to sing along to!

**Sunday 19th
October
2025**

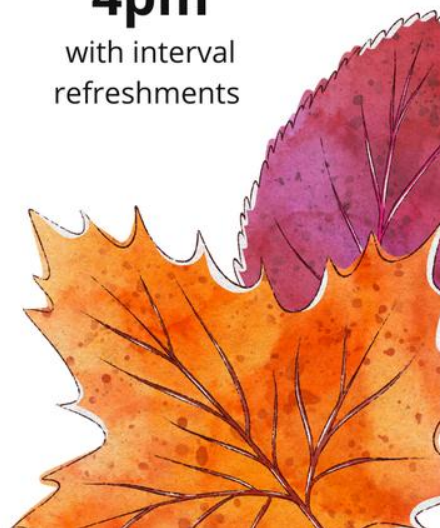
**St Mary's Church,
Fairford**

**2:30pm-
4pm**

with interval
refreshments

Entry FREE

Donations to St Mary's
Church welcome



Churches Together around Fairford

Harvest Supper



Thursday, October 23rd

at 7:00 pm in the Farmor Room,

Fairford Community Centre

Cottage pie (vegetarian option) and apple crumble

Entertainment by Barry and Jean Kilgariff

Tickets £5

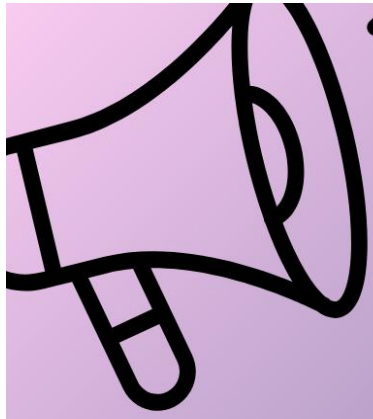
Proceeds to : Christians Against Poverty

and : Help Madina

Tickets are available now!

Please contact Jeremy and Katie Blake by email - ekatie.blake@gmail.com - or message on 07480 235066.

We also need 2 people to provide a cottage pie for 8 people. If you can help with this, please contact us using the above details. Many thanks!



BIG NEWS



The Warm Welcome Room & Warm Working Space is back from 1st of October but also a Quiet Corner café every Wednesday from 3rd October!




WARM WELCOME ROOM IS BACK

When: Every Monday, Tuesday and pop ups on certain Fridays!
10am-2pm.
Help yourself to refreshments-FREE!
From 1st October until 1st March.

Where: Fairford Community Centre, High Street, Heritage Room.

Also available a Warm Working Space - this is designed for people working from home to come and be in a community space. Please book for desk space!


FREE EVENTS AND SPACE!
Contact Mary Ann for more information 07555738138





LISTENING SUPPORTING CONNECTING


QUIET CORNER CAFÉ

A calmer space inspired by the success of our Talking Café




Fairford Community Centre
Barker Room
Every Wednesday
10.30am - 12 noon





 What is it?

A welcoming café designed for those who enjoy company in a quieter, gentler setting.
No loud crowds, just friendly faces and peaceful conversation.



www.w4w.uk 07555738138 Sponsored by Budgens

Charity number 1197291





We plan to play host to a series of musical concerts this year to raise money and the profile of our beautiful church.

11th October – The Blue Notes and Coln Choir sing 'Harvest Harmonies'

29th November – Fairford & District Choral Society Winter Concert

13th December - Coln Choir Concert

This is an exciting programme, and it needs good organisation. Thank you to everyone who has offered to help make these events a success. If you would like to help with making these concerts a success in raising money for the church. Please speak to a member of the PCC to find out more or to express an interest. Your PCC members are (in order alphabetical): Doug Crowley, Jackie Cullum, Fiona Gilroy, Alison Godsal, Sheila Hughes, Jane Emma Peerless, Meg Ralph, David Salter, Michael Vann

Contacts for St. Mary's Church

Rev'd Caroline Symcox

01285 712467

carolinesymcox@googlemail.com

Rev'd Vicky Falvey

07356 234248

revvickyfalvey@gmail.com

Church Wardens

David Salter

01285 713062

Meg Ralph

07709671845

Stewards: Alison Godsal

01285 713101

& Sally Salter

01285 713062

Organist: Jean Kilgariff/Choir

01285 712347

Bell Ringers: Tower Captain - Peter Harris

07973686455

Secretary – Michelle Harris

07977472761

St. Mary's Parish Office - Administrator

Heather Gorton

01285 712611/712428

Electoral Roll Officer: Heather Gorton

01285 712611

PCC Treasurer: Jos Price

01285 239985

Mobile 07549 627687

Church Flowers: Heather Gorton

01285 712428

Youth Leader: Chris Saunders

01452 301042

Healing Prayer Team Contacts

Mary Mawle

01285 712174

Ann Nicholls

01285 713063

Rev'd Denise

01285 713285

Useful Contacts in Fairford

Dentists:

M Milnthorpe and S. Steer,
White Cottage, London Street 01285 713993
Doctors' Surgery: Keble Lawns, 01285 712377
Fairford Community Centre: High Street, 01285 711571
Fairford & District Choral Society:
James Chute, Chair. 07870 383682
Fairford Firecrackers Womens Institute:
President- Maxine Wells 07528041333
Secretary- Angela Gardner 07846 314264
Fairford History Society: Alison Hobson 01285 711768
Lechlade and Fairford Mothers' Union:
Kathleen Hall 01285 712583
Fairford Hospital (Day Centre): The Croft, 0300 4216470
Fairford Pre-School: Leafield Road 01285 713176
Fairford Primary School: Leafield Road, 01285 712543
Fairford Sports Centre 01285 713786
Fairford United Church 01285 712586
Farmor's School: The Park 01285 712228/712302
Flying Start Nursery School 01285 711711
Friends of Fairford Church:
Simon Mumford simonmumford@outlook.com
Friends of Fairford Hospital admin@friendsoffairford.org.uk
Library: London Street 01285 712599
Palmer Hall (Bookings): London Street. 01285 712189/711657
Patients Participation Group:
Chairperson: Emma Saxby emmasaxby.coach@gmail.com
St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Church 01285712586
Theatre-goers: David & Alison Watkins-Nash 01285 713182
- bookingftg@btinternet.com
Town Council Offices, Community Centre, 01285 712344
U3A: Sue Snell membershipsec@fairfordu3a.org.uk
Wellbeing coordinator-Mary Ann Dibbs -
coordinator@working4wellbeing.org.uk Mobile 07555738138

