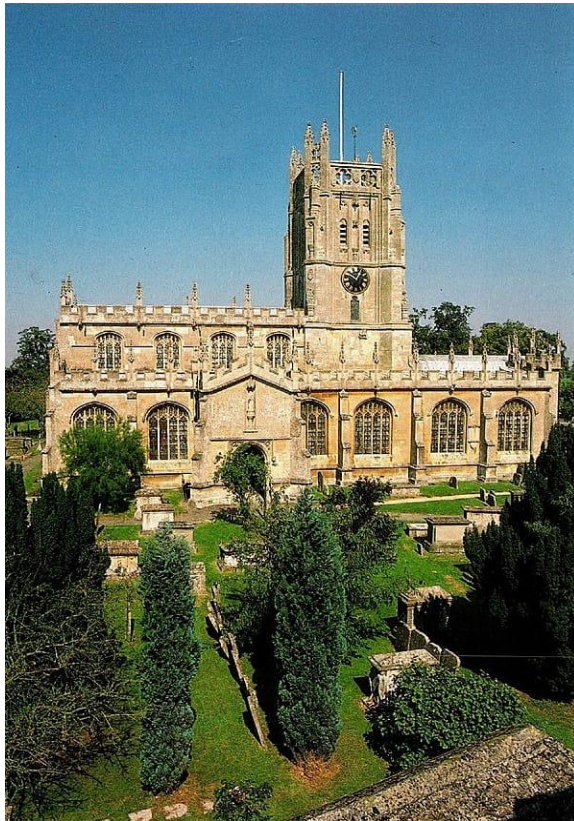




## South Cotswold Team Ministry Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2025

### Clergy

Vicar: Rev'd Caroline Symcox - 01285 712467  
Curate: Rev'd Vicky Falvey – 07356 234248

carolinesymcox@googlemail.com  
revvickyfalvey@gmail.com

### SERVICES

#### **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October** – 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity

8.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.00am Common Worship Holy Communion

Sidespeople: Jill Connell and Kim Sutton

Readings: Val Trafford      Intersessions: Alison Godsal

Offertory: Michelle Harris      Prayer Rota: Val Trafford and Mary Mawle

Coffee: *Amanda and Mervyn Cully*

#### **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October**

5.00 pm Community Prayers

#### **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October**

10.30 Holy Communion

#### **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October** – 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity

8.00 am BCP Holy Communion

10.00 am Family Service

Coffee: *Janet Edwards and Beth Bruce-Gardner*

6.00 pm Healing Service with Holy Communion

### **Persistent Prayer and Unshakeable Faith: A Reflection on Luke 18:1–8**

In Luke 18:1–8, Jesus tells the parable of the persistent widow and the unjust judge. At first glance, the story may seem unusual—a widow nagging a corrupt judge until he gives her justice, not out of righteousness, but to get her to stop bothering him. Yet within this brief parable lies a powerful lesson about prayer, perseverance, and the nature of God's justice.

The passage begins with a clear statement of purpose: *“Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.”* This sets the tone for what follows and gives us an essential principle—persistent prayer is not just encouraged, it's vital. The widow in the parable represents someone in a vulnerable position. In Jesus' day, widows had little social or legal standing. This woman had no power, no wealth, and seemingly no one to advocate for her. All she had was her voice—and she used it relentlessly.

In contrast, the judge is described as someone who “neither feared God nor cared what people thought.” He is the epitome of injustice: unmoved by divine authority and indifferent to human suffering. Yet even he is worn down by the widow's constant pleas and grants her justice to avoid being further troubled. Jesus uses this extreme contrast to make a point: if even an unjust judge can be swayed by persistence, how much more will a just and loving God respond to the cries of His people?

The key lesson here is not that God is reluctant or that He must be nagged into action. Instead, Jesus is highlighting the *effectiveness* of persistent prayer—not because of our ability to convince God, but because of God's already generous and just nature. If persistence can move someone as indifferent as the judge, how much more will it move a God who already longs to do right?

Jesus then concludes with a piercing question: *“When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?”* This shifts the focus from God's willingness to our own faithfulness. The parable is not just about God's justice, but also about our endurance. Will we continue to pray, even when the answers seem delayed? Will we trust in God's character, even when circumstances suggest otherwise?

In an age of instant gratification and short attention spans, this parable is a call to spiritual perseverance. It encourages us not to give up when prayers seem unanswered, when justice feels delayed, or when faith begins to waver. God is not like the unjust judge—He hears, He cares, and He acts in His perfect timing. But He also values the kind of faith that refuses to quit.

As we reflect on Luke 18:1–8, we are reminded to keep praying—not because we must wear God down, but because prayer connects us to the heart of a just and loving Father. And in the act of persistent prayer, our faith is strengthened, our hope is renewed, and we become participants in the unfolding of God's justice in the world.

*Rev'd Vicky*

As Rev'd Caroline is away from 22<sup>nd</sup> October, there will be no Morning Prayer for the next two weeks. Morning Prayer will return on Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday at 9am beginning in the week commencing 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

**From Heather -** [fairfordpcc@gmail.com](mailto:fairfordpcc@gmail.com) or [heathergorton31@gmail.com](mailto:heathergorton31@gmail.com)

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 or home. 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.

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:** Tony Gray, Ronald Cole

## **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](mailto:denisehyde15@gmail.com)

## **Prayer/Thought for the Week**

The happiest people don't necessarily have the best of everything, they simply make the most of everything that comes their way.

Dear Lord, open our eyes to your beautiful creation, and put thanksgiving on our lips for the display of your power.

Thank you for the beauty of your world, for the power of the seas, the bounty that the earth provides for us to eat, the warmth and light of the sun. We are grateful Lord, give us opportunities to meet new friends and neighbours and to share your amazing love with them.

We pray in the name of Jesus and for his glory. AMEN

*If you have a favourite prayer, hymn or thought that you would like included in the newsletter please send it or give it to Ann at [nichollsander@btinternet.com](mailto:nichollsander@btinternet.com)*

## **NOTICES**

We need some willing person/persons to help put up the knitted remembrance poppies for the Remembrance Services (2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> November) in the porch (involves a ladder) or by the font. If you are interested please contact the Parish Office or email me at [fairfordpcc@gmail.com](mailto:fairfordpcc@gmail.com) and I will let you know where they are stored. Many thanks Heather

### **Bible Sunday 26 October.**

On this day we will have available some resources for you to look at from the Bible Reading Fellowship. They publish 5 different books of daily Bible Reading notes and examples of these will be on display. If you'd like to learn more about regular Bible Reading do contact Sarah Bottomley on 01285712074 or [Sarah.bottomley@btinternet.com](mailto:Sarah.bottomley@btinternet.com) or online at [brfonline.org.uk/notes](http://brfonline.org.uk/notes)

### **Vicar on Holiday**

Rev'd Caroline will be taking a few days away from the parish on annual leave between 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> October. In her absence, please contact Rev'd Vicky with any clergy matters!

## 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*

## Dates for your diaries

- **Remembering Service, Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 3pm.** This is simple, quiet and reflective service, remembering our loved ones who have died. During the service the names of those who have died during the past year from this parish will be read out before God. If you would like to add other names to this list of your loved ones who have died, please contact Reverend Denise.
- **Remembrance Sunday, Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November,** starting 10.50am in church, or 10.30am outside the Hyperion House Nursing Home.

**Advance Notice - The Fairford Christmas Day Lunch** will of be taking place as usual in the Community Centre on - no surprises! - 25th December. Further information and contact details will be available towards the end of October.

***Amanda and Mervyn Cully***

**Fairford & District Choral Society Christmas Concert** will be held at 7pm on Saturday 29 November at St Mary's Church, Fairford. The choir will be performing Benjamin Britten's Ceremony of Carols accompanied by Reuben West on the harp. The choir will be joined by Fairford Primary School to perform Wassail by Alexander L'Estrange. The Musical Director will be Nia Llewelyn Jones. Tickets are £15 and available from Fairford Opticians.

**Unfortunately, the Musical Afternoon with St Mary's Church Choir and Friends, planned for 19<sup>th</sup> October, has been postponed. Watch this space for future news.**

Handed into the office recently is a **Huawei Mobile Phone** which was found in the church on 26<sup>th</sup> September. No one has come forward having lost a phone. If anyone knows of someone who may have mislaid their phone in St. Mary's please ask them to contact me in the Parish Office  
Many thanks Heather



## *Prayer Space 2025*

### *Multi-faith Prayer Space*

Our Prayer Space annual event at Fairford C of E Primary School has been running for over 11 years and took place this year in October. We made our indoor spaces dark, calm and added many thought provoking stations. Prayer Space always aims to inspire our pupils with an immersive space which instils a deep reflection of not only God's glorious world but also to give our children a shared spiritual experience where they can begin to gain a true sense of their own place within it – helping them feel 'their truest selves' (Year 6 pupil quote).

This year, we focused on our 'multi-faith' theme. We looked at not just Christian prayer, but also how our religions use prayer or gain a sense of wellbeing from prayer from across the other major world religions we have studied in KS1 and KS2. We thought about the peacefulness of Shabbat and Kiddush (a special prayer or blessing) and how we are renewed by prayers to God. We considered how both the Bible and the Guru Nanak teach about love and why is important to all of us. In thinking about Islam and a Muslim mosque, we considered which places are 'a thin veil between heaven and Earth' and who we visit these places with. Our Henna hand activity was very popular and demonstrated how the trinity appears in different religions and how team work brings solidarity and unity and how we want to live this out as a community.

Our Year 6 Deputy Head Boy, Deputy Head Girl and Prefects ran our prayer stations, where they were also able to capture pupil voice of our younger learners in the moment. The Year 6 pupils diligently adapted written tasks to suit younger children which highlighted to our RE Leader the innate inclusivity and creativity which is instilled in our children at Fairford Primary School.

If you would visit our next Multi-faith Prayer Space in June event please email our RE Leader:  
[hmiles@fairford.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:hmiles@fairford.gloucs.sch.uk).





Year 1 Pupil: 'I like to write down what I think about the most. My big questions'.



Year 3 Pupil: 'Prayer Space makes me think about love. Who I love and why I love. When we have this space place it is like a church and it makes me think more deeply'.

Staff: Prayer Space is always calm, reflective and welcoming. It excites and inspires our children in a very different and diverse way. It makes me feel grateful for all the things we have and who we have – what we have been blessed with and how lucky we are to belong to our wonderful school and to belong together in God's care'.



Year 6 Pupil: I really miss my Granny. I write a letter to heaven for her every year and its one of the first stations I visit because it makes me feel connected.





**Free admission**



**Refreshments**

# **Art exhibition and Autobiography launch of Zehra Ipek Williamson**

**Fairford Community Centre**

**18th and 19th October 2025**

**Open 10 am to 5 pm**



Ipek is kindly donating 15% of any paintings sold on Sunday to St Mary's.

**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](mailto:ekatie.blake@gmail.com) - or message on 07480 235066.

We also need 2 people to provide a cottage pie for 8 people or 4 people to provide a cottage pie for 4. If you can help with this, please contact us using the above details. Many thanks!



# The Jane Kidd Eco Talks

Presented by  
St Mary's Eco Church Group Fairford

Thursday  
**30th**  
October

**'Building with Cannabis-  
Industrial Hemp'**  
A talk by architect Jeremy Blake



Farmor Room  
Community Centre  
Fairford  
7pm refreshments  
7.30pm start



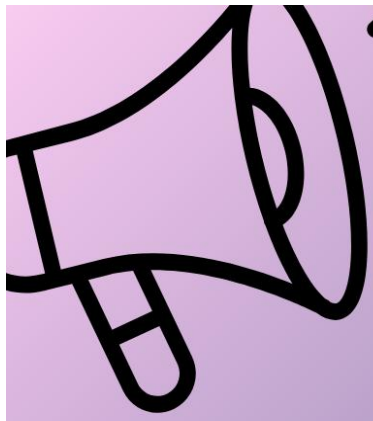
Future Talks

- Thu 27th Nov
- Thu 29th Jan
- Thu 26th Feb



Advanced booking is not required

There is no charge, but donations to help cover costs would be gratefully received



# BIG NEWS



The Warm Welcome Room & Warm Working Space is back from 1<sup>st</sup> of October but also a Quiet Corner café every Wednesday from 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://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.

**29th November** – Fairford & District Choral Society Winter Concert  
**13<sup>th</sup> 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