



Stir-Up Sunday!

 St Mary's Church • FAIRFORD •	South Cotswold Team Ministry Sunday 23rd November 2025
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Clergy

Vicar: Rev'd Caroline Symcox – 01285 712467

carolinesymcox@googlemail.com

Curate: Rev'd Vicky Falvey – 07356 234248

revvickyfalvey@gmail.com

SERVICES

Sunday 23rd November – Christ the King

8.00 am BCP Holy Communion

10.00 am Common Worship Holy Communion

Sidespeople: Michelle Harris and Heather Gorton

Readings: Linda Howlett Intercessions: Val Trafford

Offertory: Jane Easton Prayer Rota: Denise Hyde and Michelle Harris

Coffee: David and Sally Salter

Monday 24th November

5.00 pm Community Prayers

Thursday 27th November

10.30 am Holy Communion

Sunday 30th November – 1st Sunday of Advent

8.00 am BCP Holy Communion

10.00 am Family Service

Coffee: Linda and Peter Howlett

6.00 p, Healing Service with Holy Communion

From Rev'd Caroline - carolinesymcox@googlemail.com, 01285 712467

Readings for Sunday: Jeremiah 23.1-6; Colossians 1.11-20; Luke 23.33-43

This Sunday we celebrate the festival of 'Christ the King', when we reflect on what we mean when we say 'Christ is our King', and upon what we think leadership looks like in our broken world.

Kingship is an idea that might be becoming distant for some of the younger generations. We, along with a few other countries, do indeed have a King, but the idea of what he does and indeed what he *should* do, has changed a great deal from what it was just two hundred years ago, let alone two thousand! In fact, those very first Christians didn't call Jesus their 'King' or their 'Emperor', which would have been the correct term for the supreme ruler in their day, of course. They didn't call him 'Caesar', they called him 'Lord' or 'Master'. His first disciples called him 'Teacher' or 'Rabbi', and it wasn't until he was raised up on the cross that anyone thought to attach the title of 'King' to that humiliated, pitiful, suffering figure.

But that paradox – calling a crucified man a supreme ruler – was more fitting than those mocking soldiers knew. Because in that moment, Jesus showed the world for evermore what God's own leadership looks like – solidarity, suffering and sacrifice, giving up everything for the sake of the world he loves. Giving up everything, as Paul reminds his readers in his letter to the Colossians, to reconcile all things to himself. To bring everything and everyone back together, and back to him.

Can leaders in our time show any of these qualities? It is a hard example to follow, to be sure. Our world is divided and polarised in these days perhaps more than it ever has been. It may seem strange to think that the ability to communicate with the whole world (through the wonders of the internet) should have set so many people against each other, but then on the other hand, perhaps it does not. It is a deeply human flaw to fall into tribes and parties rather than to seek unity and acceptance, and too much information can have the unfortunate side-effect of pushing people into black-and-white explanations as a quick and comforting fix.

It is Jesus' continual example which calls to us, his people, who seek to follow him on his path, that we are to be people who overcome barriers and divisions. We are to be people who reach across barricades and echo the voice of our Lord. For "He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together". No divide is too great for him. No gulf too deep.

So this week, may our faith be a unifier, and not a divider, and may Christ's Kingship, the one who is Lord of lords and King of kings, be the example of strength and leadership that all seek to follow.

Rev'd Caroline

Join us for Morning Prayer via Zoom on Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday at 9am every week. Click below for the week starting 24th November.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82168687276?pwd=bLnz9hVRNO4EPnfoDIgy0IDWz50W1C.1>

Meeting ID: 821 6868 7276

Passcode: 829504

From Heather - fairfordpcc@gmail.com or 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.

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Please remember the following in your prayers:

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

Those who have died: Mike Gray

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

Prayer/Thought for the Week

By nature we are takers. Biblical love involves making a conscious decision to be givers, asking 'What can I do to serve you?' rather than 'What's in it for me?'

Dear God, please untie the knots that are in my heart and my life.

Remove the have nots, cannot and the do nots.

Erase the will nots, may nots and might nots that may find a home in my heart.

Release me from could nots and should nots that obstruct my life.

And most of all dear God I ask that you remove from my mind, my heart and my life all of the am nots that I have allowed to hold me back. AMEN

Ann Nicholls

NOTICES

Thanksgiving Service for the Glass Doors

At the 10am Communion Service on Sunday 7th December, we will be joined by Bishop Robert of Tewkesbury as we give thanks for our wonderful new glass doors, and pray God's blessing upon them and all who make use of them. Do join us in our service of thanksgiving.

Dates for your Diary

- Sunday 23rd November – Geoff and Hope Price will be speaking to us about their recent visit to Rwanda. Geoff will preach at the 10am Communion Service, and both he and Hope will lead us through a presentation in the Community Centre during coffee after the service.
- Mike and Alison Godsall are having their Advent Drinks Party on Sunday 7th December at 12 noon in the Farmor Room. More details later
- **Christmas dates:**
 - 4.45pm Wednesday 3rd December – Christingle Service
 - 6pm Sunday 14th December – Advent Carol Service
 - 6pm Sunday 21st December – Nine Lessons and Carols ('The Carol Service')
 - 3pm Christmas Eve – Quiet Crib Service
 - 5pm Christmas Eve – Boisterous Crib Service
 - 11.30pm Christmas Eve – Midnight Mass
 - 8am Christmas Day - BCP Christmas Holy Communion
 - 10am Christmas Day – Family Christmas Holy Communion
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New PCC Treasurer

Carly Hicks who is the manager of the Community Centre is taking over from Jos Price as the new Treasurer for the Parochial Church Council. Her email address is treasurer.fairfordpcc@gmail.com. We wish her well. There is a substantial amount of work involved and we thank Jos for all she has done in the years she has been Treasurer.

Used Cards

Please no more cards In St Mary's Church.

Thank you all for your support.

Carol Thompson

Brass Cleaning – Help Needed!

For many years Wendy Graham has been cleaning the brass with other volunteers. In the last year or so she has found that she is the only cleaner left and understandably finds it too much on her own. Are there any willing 'cleaners' who would be happy to take over from Wendy. If you would like to help please contact the office (712611).

Very many thanks to Wendy who has bravely continued to clean the brass on her own as people have dropped out. It always looks beautifully clean and shiny.

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

The Fairford Christmas Day Lunch, to be held as usual in the Community Centre on 25th December, **is open for bookings now.**

The various celebrations and remembrance events at the end of October and early November are over, so you will see the posters for the Christmas Day Lunch springing up around the town and nearby.

Give us a call to book your place - whether as a guest or a helper, or if you just want to know more.

Now's the time.

We'll be delighted to hear from you (with your tel. no please so we can call you back).

Call 01285 712700

or Amanda 07960 485946

or Mervyn 07773 557846

Fairford & District Choral Society Christmas Concert will be held at 7pm on Saturday 29th 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.



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
(see poster)

13th December - Coln Choir Concert (see poster)

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



High Five Project 2026
Raising Funds for Children's Charities

Four of us ladies at St Mary's are embarking on a fundraising project to raise a minimum of £500 for each of 5 children's charities during and by the end of 2026. We thank Caroline and St Mary's for their blessing and support. The charities are:

The Magic Breakfast: Provides breakfast for children in poverty in the UK.

Glos Young Carers: Creates a wide range of essential services for young carers in Gloucestershire, to provide opportunities for rest, fun, skill, development, and support.

The Rainbow Trust: Provides emotional and practical support for families at home, in hospital, and in the community, for children facing life-threatening conditions.

Smile Train: Helps children in third world countries by providing medical care and educational opportunity for a better life, to those with a cleft palate.

Home Start Cotswolds: Supports families with children under the age of 5 throughout the Cotswolds, working alongside parents in their own homes to improve parenting, help family management, and establish social networks.

We're arranging all kinds of activities throughout the year, and hope you will come along and enjoy yourselves. We would be grateful for any help you can offer us in the arrangements to make things happen.

At the end of 2026, we will produce an account of all events and monies raised and contributed to the charities. These contributions will be handled by St Mary's accounts.

Many thanks,

Hope, Jos, Linda, and Meg.

Hope Price, Jos Price, Linda Howlett, Meg Ralph.

Contact us at: linda.danceandsing@gmail.com 01285 672512



St Mary's Church
• FAIRFORD •



The Jane Kidd Eco Talks

Presented by
St Mary's Eco Church Group Fairford

Thursday
27th
November

**'A No Sandals Look at
Organic Farming'**
by Organic Farmer, Chris Peachy



Farmor Room
Community Centre
Fairford
7pm refreshments
7.30pm start



Future Talks

- 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



Newsletter

November

Hello from the W4W team!

We usually use our Newsletter to share what's coming up, but this month we wanted to pause and reflect on all the wonderful things that happened in October! Thank you to everyone who helped make it such a special and busy month!

We relaunched our Warm Welcome Room, and it's been successful with 18 people on opening day, 9 on the second day, 22 at our October pop-up of toasties and bingo session. Groups have also been using it after activities for a social coffee, we've welcomed Walkers Welcome, a diabetes support group and crafters. A huge thank you to our lovely volunteer Janet, who has been leading pop up craft sessions, which has also included Learn to Crochet attended by home-schooled children.

Did you know you can also book it as a Warm Working space? If you're looking for a break from working at home, it's a welcoming spot with free refreshments and internet.

🧘 Senior Yoga – Fully Booked! Our Senior Yoga sessions are currently FULL! We're hoping to add a second group in the new year – this depends on more people signing up. A special thank you to RURAL ELM for supporting W4W and helping us offer discounted, inclusive events for our community like the Senior Yoga and giving us the freedom to tackle issues of loneliness and isolation within our community.

💻 Digital Confidence & Community Support. Thank you to the DAISI Project, who delivered talks on scams and online safety at both Talking Cafés. They also fund our Tuesday Drop-In, which included a 4-week workshop and one-to-one digital support sessions. If you'd like help building your digital confidence, please get in touch or visit our drop-in sessions.

W4W is excited to announce we have opened 🍰 The Quiet Corner Café – Set in the Barker room, a calm alternative to our lively Talking Café hosted every Wednesday. (Shout out to Budgens for sponsoring our Teas and Biscuits.) It's a peaceful space for people to connect, chat, or simply enjoy being in a relaxed environment. A volunteer is always there to welcome you.

Contact
Mary Ann
Wellbeing Coordinator
07555 738138
Talking Cafes:
Every Wednesday Fairford
Community Centre 10:30am-
12pm
Every Thursday Lechlade
Baptist Church 10:30am-12pm





Newsletter

November

November events

Wednesday 5th – Covid Jab drop in at Fairford Talking Café
1030am-12pm

Thursday 6th – Lechlade Craft and Chat 7pm-9pm at Lechlade Baptist Church

 Wednesday 12th – Teddy Bear Picnic (Family Hub)

Bring your favourite teddy and join us for a cosy family-friendly session.

Snacks, stories and a chance to welcome new families to the hub.

 Friday 14th – Pop-Up Afternoon Tea & Quiz (12-2pm)

Delicious cakes, tea and a light-hearted quiz in great company.

 Wednesday 19th – Community Meal dinner served at 6:30pm.
A warm, shared meal for all ages.

 Thursday 27th – Fairford Craft & Chat with Janet

Janet is not a trained tutor but a skilled Volunteer lending us her talents for the evening.

 Friday 28th – possible Orbital trip £3

 December Events- All regular activities will be on. Warm Welcome Room Open Monday, Tuesday, with special pop ups on Fridays.

 Wednesday 3rd – Christmas Breakfast (£5 donation) A joyful festive breakfast to start December right! A thank you to our Volunteers who are invited to sit back and enjoy as guests this time, with JPA Financial Planning popping in to be our guest Volunteers.

 Wednesday 10th – Mind Song at the Café The wonderful Mind Song group will be joining us to sing and spread festive cheer

 Friday 12th – Shopping Trip (Orbital) Perfect for Christmas shopping.

 Wednesday 17th – Secret Santa & Christmas Party (Talking Café) Games, festive treats and a little gift exchange! More details to follow soon.

 Thursday 18th – Christmas Community Meal (Farmor's Room) 630pm Sit down A very special Christmas dinner for around 40 people. £7.50 Two Course XMAS dinner with all the trimmings.

Christmas Shutdown W4W will be Closed from 24th December – 2nd January!

Working 4 Wellbeing
Fairford and Lechlade Areas

More details contact
maryann.dibbs@w4w.uk
07555738138

Teddy Bear Picnic

Join our Family Hub to celebrate our open play session

Wednesday 12th October
Free Play and Stay session.
1030am-12 free play as normal
12-1pm
Sandwiches and cakes will be provided, contact us with any allergies

Bring your teddy bear!



Working 4 Wellbeing
Fairford and Lechlade Areas

Afternoon Tea and Quiz

Come join us to celebrate the Warm Welcome Room.

Friday 14th Nov 12pm-2pm
Fairford Community Centre
Contact Mary Ann for more details 07555738138

£5



Working 4 Wellbeing
Fairford and Lechlade Areas

Community Meal!



Where	When	Info	Cost
Fairford Community Centre	19 th November Edgemoor at 6pm	Mary Ann 07555 738138	£5 Kids and young people can't pay, but we'll be happy to help them out.

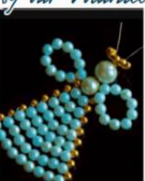
W4W believes eating together is great for our wellbeing!
The Menu by St Raphael's: Pheasant, a Garden Salad, followed by Trifle for pudding.
It's not just about the food—it's about community, conversation, to giggle, and shared stories over a hearty home-cooked meal. Let's come together and enjoy a proper Sunday meal—because good food brings better people and great company.
Must book!



Working 4 Wellbeing
Fairford and Lechlade Areas

CRAFT & CHAT

Hosted by our Volunteer Janet



THURSDAY
27TH
NOVEMBER

£5

Janet is not a professional tutor but she has skills she would love to share with us. Come along and make your own beaded angel.

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

Contact Mary Ann for more details
07555738138



Newsletter

November

🧸 Family Hub Fun at Fairford Community Centre: join us every Wednesday 1030am-12pm but with extended hours for events. Located upstairs the Family Hub offers toys, free play, and free refreshments. In October, we hosted a Teddy Bear Picnic and Halloween Bag Painting with great uptake on both. This is in Partnership with Fairford Community Centre. Funding is due to end in the new year, so please support or it may be discontinued.

👶 First Steps Toddler Group: We celebrated the end of our Term in October with a Halloween party, featuring crafts and a disco, with 18 little ones joining in! Join us every Friday term time only: 📍 United Church, Milton Street 🕒 9:30–11:00am 💷 £1 per family (includes free play, crafts, snacks, and singing)

🌱 Community Garden – Officially Growing- Thanks to all the Hard work by Fairford Town Council to transform the space! We're delighted to share that the community garden has officially begun, thanks to the amazing help of community volunteers and Quenington Bulldogs for sponsoring tools and PPE. Watch this space as it grows! If you want to join the team, please get in touch!

🚌 October brought a fantastic trip to Millets Farm, with a full bus. A big thank you to our amazing volunteer driver and to the Lechlade Lions for supporting us with transport. These outings are truly a lifeline—living in a rural area with limited public transport can make days out difficult, especially once you stop driving.

🍽️ Community Meals have returned! Thanks to generous support from the Cotswold Food Network, we've been able to bring a monthly meal back. We kicked things off at the end of October with 28 attendees sharing a hearty, home-cooked meal together. For many who live alone, having a warm meal in good company means a great deal.

Thank you to everyone who attended, volunteered, supported throughout October. We couldn't do it without you! If you want to attend an event, please contact W4W mayann.dibbs@w4w.uk or call 0755538138 for more information. Got some time- become a Volunteer and join the team!

📞 Here to Help – Signposting & Support! W4W has been busy offering support and signposting to those who may need it. If you're not sure where to turn or need a bit of guidance, please don't hesitate to give us a call. Thank you to The Mercers for all their support, which allows us to do the great work in the community.

💉 COVID Jab Drop-Ins – Our partnership with the NHS continues to grow as we host regular COVID vaccination drop-in sessions. We're proud to offer this vital service locally, helping people avoid the need to travel out of the area for their jabs.

✂️ Craft & Chat – Now in Fairford and Lechlade! 📞 Contact us for more information.



Benjamin Britten
Ceremony of Carols
Alexander L'Estrange
Wassail! Carols of Comfort & Joy

FAIRFORD & DISTRICT CHORAL SOCIETY

with the choir of Fairford Primary School
& accompanying musicians



Music Director: Nia Llewelyn Jones

**7pm, Saturday 29 November 2025
Church of St Mary the Virgin, Fairford**

Tickets: £15, under 18s £5

**Available from Fairford Opticians, High Street, Fairford,
01285 713313. Also available on the door.**

Fairford United Church invites you to a

Coffee Morning and Jigsaw Sale

Saturday November 22nd 10–12 noon
at the Hidden Church in Milton Street



Donations to MSAVLC

Medical and Scientific Aid to Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia

FAIRFORD UNITED CHURCH

Saturday 22nd November 2025
at 3pm



Peter and Mary Lidgard, John and Lynn Firth, and Jenny Gold formerly of Fairford and Susmita Ghosh – trustees.

**Medical and Scientific Aid for Vietnam,
Laos and Cambodia.**

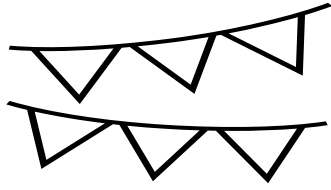
**Peter and Mary Lidgard
will speak of their work with the charity.**



The charity provides aid, supplies and equipment
health related organizations in Vietnam, Laos and
Cambodia focusing particularly on children and
affected by poverty and war.

Tea and cakes will be provided.

Please join us



CRAFT & CAKE

You're invited to come and buy handmade crafts and cake!

All sales support local charity

HELP MADINA

Saturday, 29th November



2 - 4pm



Fairford Community Centre

Free entry for everyone!

Charity Raffle

Cash sales

See you there – don't miss out!

If anyone would like to make a cake it would be much appreciated. Please contact Helen Evans for more details 01285 713431



Fairford United Church
Presents a 'Christmas Concert'
Featuring:
'The Fairford United Male Voice Choir'
Friday 6 December @ 7.30pm
Tickets £10 including Tea and
'The Fairford United Women's Choir'
Saturday 7 December @ 12.30pm
Tickets £10 including Tea and
Cake afterwards, from:

Brian Routledge 01285 712853/
07712 100386





Please join Coln Choir
and friends for

'Tis the season
a concert of songs and carols



DECEMBER **13** AT 7.00 PM

St Mary's Church,
Fairford



Tickets £10
available on door or from
mandyrambaut@gmail.com



All profits to Fairford and Lechlade
League of Friends
and Mindsong
*please bring cash
for raffle and refreshments*

