



*On 15th February 1971 we switched to decimal currency.
This change simplified financial transactions and modernized the monetary system.*



South Cotswold Team Ministry

Sunday 15th February

Clergy

Vicar: Rev'd Caroline Symcox – 01285 712467

carolinesymcox@googlemail.com

Curate: Rev'd Vicky Falvey – 07356 234248

revvickyfalvey@gmail.com

Pastoral Priest: Rev'd Canon Denise Hyde - 01285 713285

denisehyde15@gmail.com

SERVICES

Sunday 15th February – Sunday next before Lent

8.00 BCP Holy Communion

10.00 am Common Worship Holy Communion

Sidespeople: Michelle Harris and Kim Sutton

Readings: Mike Godsal Intercessions: Val Trafford

Offertory: Wendy Close/Alison Cohoon

Prayer Rota: Lucy Hodson and Sheila Hughes

Coffee: Doug and Jean Crowley

Wednesday 18th February – Ash Wednesday

12pm Holy Communion with Ashing

Sunday 22nd February – 1st Sunday of Lent

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

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

Readings for Sunday: Exodus 24.12-end; 2 Peter 1.16-end; Matthew 17.1-9

This Sunday marks the final pit-stop before we step into that solemn season of preparation and penitence that is Lent. Our jumping-off point into this time of reflection then, is a moment of clear revelation – the Transfiguration – where Jesus shows his closest disciples exactly who he is. He, Peter, James and John climb up a mountain and in a second, Jesus' appearance is transformed. He is clothed in dazzling white, his skin shining like the sun, and suddenly at his right hand and on his left appear two of the most significant figures from the long story of the Jewish people – Moses and Elijah. To say the disciples are shocked would be an understatement, and perhaps we might be similarly surprised at this sudden unveiling of Jesus' true nature.

Have you ever noticed that in our stained glass windows at St Mary's, this happening is shown not in a window by itself, but rather right in the middle of two illustrations of Jesus' resurrection appearances, at the top of the Corpus Christi chapel? We might wonder why that is. The Transfiguration happens quite some time before Jesus even gets to Jerusalem. Why should these moments be pictured together?

The answer is the same as why we reflect on this moment before we dive into our preparations for the great festival of Easter. It is a foreshadowing, a glimpse of the whole of the story, before everything can unfold. It is a moment of mystery and awe that will be a touchstone for the disciples as they go through all the suffering that comes with Jesus' arrest and execution, and then again as they face persecution as followers of the Risen Christ in the years after Jesus' Resurrection. There's a reason why Peter references this moment in his letter to the churches that we read this Sunday.

This clear unveiling that Jesus offers to his disciples, us included, is a gift of knowledge and assurance. How do we know who Jesus really is? We know because he has shown us. He has shown us in his words and actions, his teaching and healing, in his suffering and his death. And just in case that wasn't enough, for those who need the evidence of their own eyes first and foremost, he has shown us in visual glory and the welcoming voice of God echoing in the mountains, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!"

This is a moment for us to carry with us too. Here is the fullness of who Jesus is – dazzling bright, flanked by law and prophecy, full of glory and power. And we remember with thanksgiving how Jesus lays that glory aside for our sake, as we tread that hallowed path toward the darkness and pain of the Cross, and the bright victory that lies beyond it.

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 16th February.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87108333037?pwd=a7MCjLSDrBFumzCsZrDVubdOvfFI4b.1>

Meeting ID: 871 0833 3037

Passcode: 499423

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, Stewart Benzie.

Those who have died: Joan Hall, Pauline Gray, Geoff Hawkes, Bob Skinner, Mark Vaughan

Liz Hope – Funeral 1.00 pm 19th February in St Mary's

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

GET UP AGAIN

Falling down is only a temporary condition, staying down is what makes it permanent.

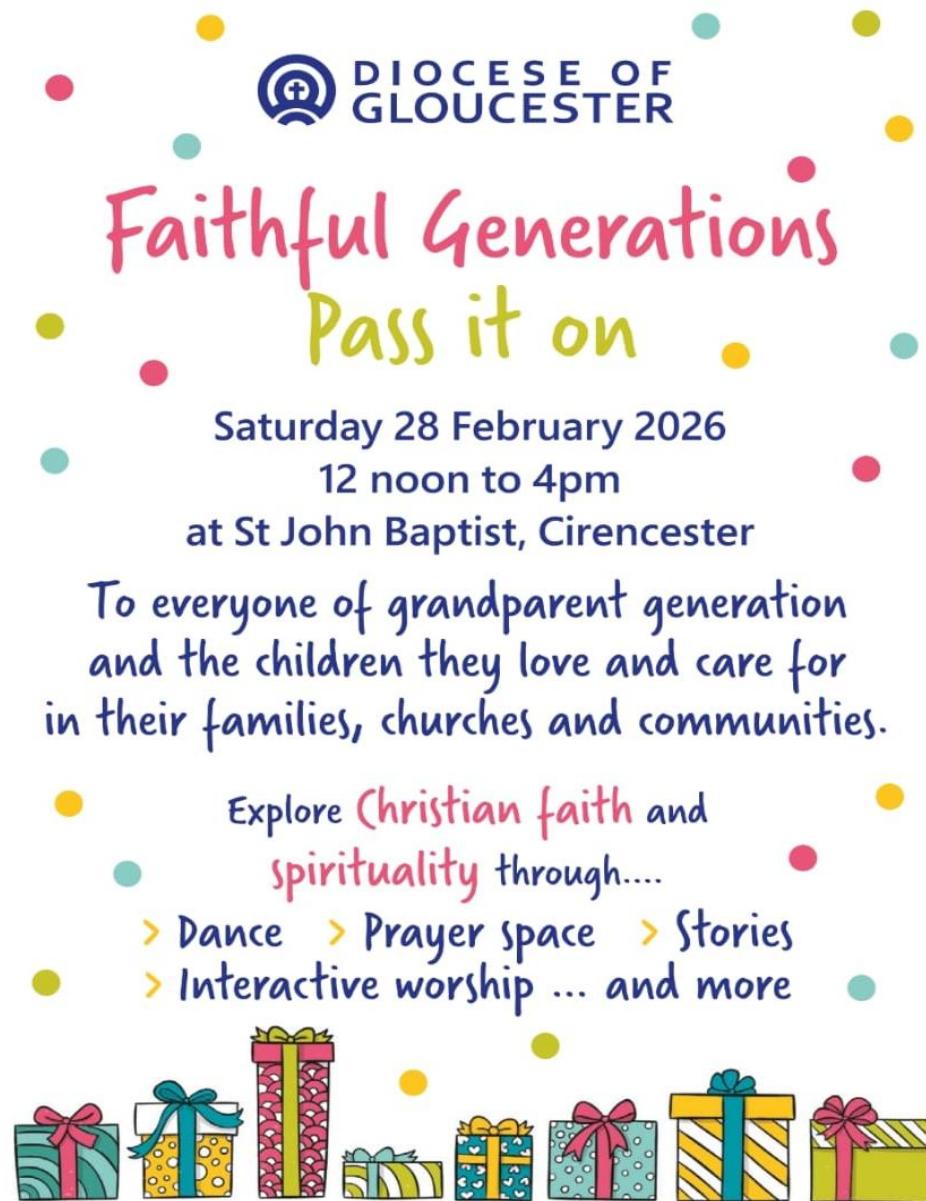
Father, as I go about my day, help me to fight my fears and worries by trusting in you. Help me to be on the lookout for people who might need a reminder of your love and kindness. Use me to be a source of encouragement to those around me. When I get worried by events that are beyond my control please remind me that you are near by filling me with your peace.

In Jesus name, AMEN

Lent Groups

Lent is on the horizon, with Ash Wednesday falling on 18th February, and as always we will be offering Lent Groups to help us study and reflect through this special season of preparation. They are:

- Wednesday afternoons – contact Rev'd Denise for more information.
- Thursdays 4pm via Zoom – reading the Archbishop's Book for Lent: "Dancing to the Heartbeat of God". The book is available via Kindle or in hard copy, and we can source copies if required. Contact Rev'd Caroline for more information.
- Fridays 10.30am starting 27th February in the Church Room, led by Rev'd Vicky, and studying Paula Gooder's 'Lentwise' course for five weeks



The graphic features a central logo for the 'DIOCESE OF GLOUCESTER' with a stylized cross icon. Below it, the text 'Faithful Generations' is written in a large, pink, handwritten-style font. Underneath that, 'Pass it on' is written in a smaller, green, handwritten-style font. The background is white with scattered colorful dots (yellow, green, blue, red) of various sizes. Below the main title, the event details are listed: 'Saturday 28 February 2026', '12 noon to 4pm', and 'at St John Baptist, Cirencester'. A large, blue, handwritten-style text follows: 'To everyone of grandparent generation and the children they love and care for in their families, churches and communities.' Below this, a list of activities is presented: 'Explore Christian faith and spirituality through....' followed by a list of items: 'Dance', 'Prayer space', 'Stories', and 'Interactive worship ... and more'. At the bottom, there is a row of colorful gift boxes with bows.

DIOCESE OF GLOUCESTER

Faithful Generations

Pass it on

Saturday 28 February 2026

12 noon to 4pm

at St John Baptist, Cirencester

To everyone of grandparent generation and the children they love and care for in their families, churches and communities.

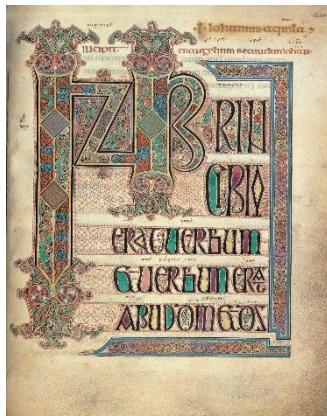
- Explore Christian faith and spirituality through....
- > Dance
- > Prayer space
- > Stories
- > Interactive worship ... and more



The Fairford Gospels

Fridays during Lent

at St Thomas's Church in Horcott



- ❖ Listen to all or part of the gospel
- ❖ Enjoy a Soup Lunch (Feb 27th refreshments only)
- ❖ Come when you can, stay as long as you are able

February 27th **2.00pm** Mark's Gospel

March 13th 12 noon Matthew's Gospel

March 20th 12 noon Luke's Gospel

March 27th 12 noon John's Gospel



Churches Together Around Fairford

NOTICES

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

Fairford & District Choral Society will perform Mozart's *Requiem* and his *Te Deum* and *Ave Verum Corpus* on Saturday 28 March at 7pm at St Mary's Church Fairford. There will be professional soloists and an organ accompanist. Tickets are £15 and are available from Fairford Opticians.

High Five Project 2026 – Raising Funds for Children's Charities



The Magic Breakfast. Glos Young Carers.

The Rainbow Trust. Smile Train. Home Start Cotswolds.

We have lots of exciting events coming up and need your help! Can you offer a RAFFLE PRIZE for our Wine Tasting Quiz Evening on 7th March? There is a box in the church office for collection. Could you be a QUICHE COOK for the event as well? We're happy to pay for ingredients.

Help us make the world a better place for the children supported by these charities. Read all about the project, the team, the individual charities, and our events in the High Five Booklet by the Stewards' Desk in the church. A summary is also on the church website.

Thank you. Linda, Meg, Jos, and Hope.



Dancercise. A Dancercise Group meets at Poulton Village Hall every Tuesday 10.30-11.30am, especially for those 'not so young', with music from the 60s, 70s, 80s. Nothing too taxing – simple exercises and fun dancing. £3 a session on the day – all subs go to High Five Project.

Wine Tasting Call My Bluff

A fun evening of tasting, guessing, and quizzing,
with cheese and savoury snacks.

Can you guess which
“connoisseur” is right about
the wine you’re sampling?



Saturday 7th March 7.00pm
Fairford Community Centre

**£10.00 Tickets (cash only): Church Office,
Community Centre, Fairford.**

Non-alcoholic drinks and other wines available

Proceeds to  **High Five Project 2026 – Fundraising for Children’s Charities**
The Magic Breakfast. Glos Young Carers. The Rainbow Trust.
Smile Train. Home Start Cotswolds.

**COME AND BAG A BARGAIN AT
THE SOUTHROP SCHOOL PTA**



SOUTHROP VILLAGE HALL

SATURDAY 7TH MARCH 2026

1 - 2.30PM

CLOTHING, BOOKS, TOYS, BRIC A BRAC



**ENTRANCE £1
CASH ONLY**



**Donation Times: Wednesday 4th March 9-11am
Friday 6th March 1-2.30pm, Saturday 7th March 10-11.30am
For more information contact PTA@Southrop.gloucs.sch.uk**