



Lenten Rose



South Cotswold Team Ministry

Sunday 8th March

Clergy

Vicar: Rev'd Caroline Symcox – 01285 712467

Curate: Rev'd Vicky Falvey – 07356 234248

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

carolinesymcox@googlemail.com

revvickyfalvey@gmail.com

denisehyde15@gmail.com

SERVICES

Sunday 8th March - 3rd Sunday of Lent

8.00 am BCP Holy Communion

10.00 am Common Worship Holy Communion

Sidespeople: Eleanor Toby and Michelle Harris

Readings: Sally Salter

Intercessions: Meg Ralph

Offertory: Fiona Gilroy

Prayer Rota: Ann Nicholls and Ruth Blackwell

Coffee: Linda and Peter Howlett

Thursday 12th March

10.30 am Holy Communion

Sunday 15th March – 4th Sunday of Lent

Mothering Sunday

8.00 am BCP Holy Communion

10.00 am Common Worship Holy Communion

Sidespeople: Kim Sutton and Jill Connell

Readings: Mike Godsall

Intercessions: Alison Godsall

Offertory: Heather Gorton

Prayer Rota: Rev'd Denise Hyde and Lucy Hodson

Coffee: Mary Mawle and Margaret Frazer

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

Readings for Sunday: Exodus 17.1-7; Romans 5.1-11; John 4.5-42

Over the last few weeks, water has been very much on our minds. It's honestly felt as if the rain was never going to stop! The fields grew more and more sodden, roads were flooded over, and I know I can't be the only one who was nervously watching the height of the River Coln rise day by day. Yet it was so short a time ago that we were in a season of drought, with hose pipe bans and warnings to save water as much as possible. In fact, was that hose pipe ban ever lifted?

Our relationship with water is complex. The ups and downs we've experienced over the last few years (floods vs shortages) is just one symptom of how complicated it is to manage access to water in this country. Easy answers are certainly not forthcoming.

Yet we cannot avoid dealing with it! Because water is life. Water, like breathable air, is one of those things we just can't do without. Without access to water, all living things would die, in some cases startlingly quickly. Even outside the boundaries of Earth, we look at signs of water as the key indicator that life would be possible on other planets. Across the universe, water is fundamental.

Which of course, is the meaning behind our readings from Scripture this Sunday. Moses and his fellow Hebrews, newly escaped from Egypt, and just entering the wilderness know how desperately they need water. Moses trusts that God will have an answer, but the people he's led away from the only lives they had ever known are a little more cynical. "Why did you bring us out of Egypt?" they cry, "To kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" Where is there water in a desert? They are given their answer immediately as God responds to Moses' plea. Where is there water? There is water where God creates it, and when Moses struck the rock at Horeb it flowed just as God willed. God provides.

Jesus too knows the importance and power of water, but in his conversation with the Samaritan woman, he encourages her to think more deeply than just about physical needs. Jesus tells her that deepest of truths, that he gives living water to those who come to him. Living water, that nourishes the spirit and the wholeness of life. "The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The body needs H₂O, but the whole self needs that and more – a spiritual refreshment and energy that comes as a gift from God himself, and made available to us through Jesus.

The especially good news about this is that unlike our relationship with physical water, our relationship with Jesus does not need to be complicated. It doesn't need to be managed. There is no danger of there being too much or too little of the water of life when we come to Jesus! We just have to come, to listen, to know ourselves known as we have never been known before, and to follow.

This week in Lent, let's consciously take ourselves to the well-side. Let's be ready to be filled, and more than filled, made into springs ourselves to nourish and enliven others. Let's ask to drink deep of the living water that Jesus himself offers.

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 9th March.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83312075380?pwd=BGcC4Cu6Ff066Js2wgLWr0VWOgYOJd.1>

Meeting ID: 833 1207 5380

Passcode: 730151

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, Tabi Berry, Jean Griffiths, Christine Stephens.

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

Lent Groups

Lent is with us, and as always we are 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.

Prayer/Thought for the Week

A Prayer from the Mothers Union. This is so relevant for the situation the world finds itself in.

Almighty God, we pray for your mercy in the midst of strife and war.

Where nations face violence and retaliation, grant wisdom to leaders, comfort to the fearful, relief to the suffering, and protection to the innocent.

Strengthen and uphold families living in fear and uncertainty.

Turn the hearts of all peoples from violence to reconciliation, that your peace may prevail in the Middle East and throughout the world.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, AMEN

One of the many titles given to God is

‘Jehovah-Shalom’ which means the God of Peace. Our first step in finding true peace is in getting to know God. Judges 6:24

NOTICES

PCC Meeting

Our next PCC meeting will be at 9am on the 10th March. Looking forward to seeing all PCC members there, and everyone else, do pray for us!

Church Cleaning.

I am giving up organising the cleaning rota at the end of March.

Is there anyone who would like to take on this much appreciated task?

Carol Thompson

Five Star Talks

In support of St Mary's Church and Children's Charities

Five fabulous Fairfordians will be Guest Speakers over the coming year, each giving a specialist talk on subjects that are interesting, entertaining, demonstrative, participative, and enlightening.

Our first one is on **Friday 10th APRIL 7.15pm in The Farmor Room - "What a Difference a DNA Makes"**. A true account of ancestry search and finding unknown relatives in 2026. The wow factor is included! Light refreshments follow - do come along. Retiring donations to our children's charity project, and to St Mary's Church Fund.

Help make the world a better place for the children supported by these charities – The Magic Breakfast, Glos Young Carers, The Rainbow Trust, Smile Train, and Home Start Cotswolds. We are grateful to St Mary's for their blessing and support. Thank you.

Meg, Linda, Jos, and Hope.

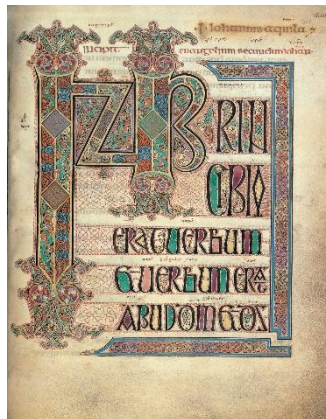
Churches Together

World Day of Prayer: This year the service is on Friday March 6th at 2.30pm at the United Church. The service has been prepared by a group of Christians from Nigeria on the theme of "I will give you rest, come" (Matthew 11.28-30). All are welcome and there will be refreshments after the service.

The Fairford Gospels: This year St Mary's will be reading Matthew on March 13th and Luke on March 20th. We will need readers for this and if you would like to be involved, please contact Katie Blake on 07480 235066 or ekatie.blake@gmail.com. On March 27th we will also need people to make soup for this event. If you can help, please contact Katie as above for more details. Many thanks!

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

March 13 th	12 noon	Matthew's Gospel
March 20 th	12 noon	Luke's Gospel
March 27 th	12 noon	John's Gospel



Churches Together Around Fairford

CANTORES

CHAMBER CHOIR

Directed by Simon Harper

Darkness, Devotion and Hope

Reflective choral works for Lent

featuring

Bach: Jesu meine Freude, MacMillan: Miserere
plus pieces by Byrd, Lassus, Schütz, Howells and Sanders

Saturday 21st March at **4.00pm**
St Mary's Church, Fairford GL7 4AF

Saturday 28th March at **4.00pm**
Holy Trinity Church, Minchinhampton GL6 9BP

Tickets £15 (Under 18 and Students £5)
from cantores.net

**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**

Fairford & District Choral Society
SPRING CONCERT

MOZART REQUIEM

AVE VERUM • TE DEUM

Saturday 28 March 7pm
St Mary's Church, Fairford

Musical Director: Nia Llewelyn Jones

Organist: Ian Crabbe

with professional soloists

TICKETS: £15 (£5 for under 18s)

From:

- Fairford Opticians
01285 713313 (cash only)
- Choir Contact
07770 638227
- Available on the night
(cash/card)





Community Meal!



Where

Lechlade
Memorial Hall
FREE Bus
available from
Fairford

When

**Sunday 8th
March 12pm
Sit down**

Info

**Must Book
contact
Mary Ann
07555 738138**

Cost

**£7.50
For a two
course meal
and drinks**

W4W believes eating together is great for our wellbeing!

The Menu

- Roast Supreme Chicken
- Ginger & honey glazed carrots
- Creamy bacon cabbage
- Honey-glazed parsnips
- Yorkshire pudding
- Dessert: Bramley apple pie

We're happy to cater for all dietary needs—just please let us know when you book.

It's not just about the food—it's about community, connection, laughter, and shared stories over a hearty home-cooked meal. Let's come together and enjoy a proper Sunday roast—because good food tastes better with good company.



COTSWOLD
District Council



Thanks to the Barn Theatre's wonderful Bus to Theatre project, W4W is delighted to be partnering with them to bring residents of Fairford and Lechlade to a special performance of Otilie.

THURSDAY 26TH MARCH

1:15PM LECHLADE LIBRARY

FAIRFORD COMMUNITY CENTRE

1:30PM

THE

BARN theatre

BUS



Tickets and transport are fully provided, making this a fantastic opportunity for anyone who might find travel and navigating tickets difficult.

Spaces are limited — booking essential. For more information or to reserve your place, please contact W4W 07555738138.