

The Holy Trinity pictured as a Celtic Knot



South Cotswold Team Ministry Sunday 24th May

Clergy

Vicar: Rev'd Caroline Symcox – 01285 712467

Curate: Rev'd Vicky Falvey – 07356 234248

Priest – Pastoral Care: Rev'd Canon Denise Hyde
01285 713285

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denisehyde15@gmail.com

SERVICES

Sunday 31st May – Trinity Sunday

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.00 am Family Service

Coffee: Doug and Jean Crowley

6.00 pm Healing Service with Holy Communion

Thursday 4th June

10.30 am Holy Communion

Sunday 7th June – 1st Sunday after Trinity

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.00 am Holy Communion Service

Sidespeople: Andy Wilkinson and Jilli Connell

Readings: Peter Howlett Intercessions: Alison Godsal

Offertory: Wendy Close / Alison Cohoon

Prayer Rota: Mary Mawle and Ann Nicholls

Coffee: Linda and Peter Howlett

Matthew 28:16-end Trinity Sunday

Trinity Sunday is one of those moments in the Church year when we can feel both inspired and slightly overwhelmed. We speak of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, yet the word 'Trinity' itself never actually appears in Scripture, and perhaps that is reassuring. The Trinity is not meant to be a mathematical formula to solve, but a mystery to enter.

In Matthew 28:16-end, the risen Jesus gathers his disciples on the mountain in Galilee and sends them out with the words: 'Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.' The language of Trinity is here, even if the word itself is not. What Scripture reveals clearly is the relationship between - Father, Son, and Spirit- distinct, yet completely united in love and purpose.

Sometimes stories and humour help us glimpse truths that theology alone struggles to explain. In the new film *Sheep Detectives*, starring Hugh Jackman, a flock of sheep try to solve the murder of their shepherd. At one point, a sheep attempts to explain church and humanity's understanding of God to the other sheep, saying: 'God lives in the church, he's a shepherd, but also a lamb, and he's invisible, and he's made of bread and they eat him on Sundays.' It is funny because it sounds so bewildering, but perhaps that is exactly the point. From the outside, Christianity can sound wonderfully strange.

And yet, hidden within the confusion is something profoundly true. God is both shepherd and lamb. Christ is present yet beyond our full understanding. Bread becomes the sign of divine presence. Faith contains mystery as well as meaning.

One of the loveliest ways I have heard the Trinity described comes from the theologian Richard Rohr, who speaks of the Trinity as a 'divine dance.' Rather than imagining God as distant and static, Rohr describes the life of God as a constant movement of love- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit pouring love into one another and outward into creation. The Trinity is relationship, joy, self-giving, and welcome.

And perhaps that is what Jesus invites us into at the end of Matthew's Gospel. Not simply belief about God, but participation in the life of God. We are drawn into the divine dance itself- into love that creates, redeems, and sustains.

The final words of Jesus remain a promise for every generation: 'And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.' The God who is beyond our understanding is also closer than we imagine: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit continue to surround us, guide us, and draw us into the life of divine love.

Rev'd Vicky

Join us for Morning Prayer via Zoom on Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday at 9am every week. Click below for the week starting 8th June. Join us using the information below:

Meeting ID: 838 393 3741, Passcode: 497138

o0o

Please remember the following in your prayers:

Those who are ill: Grace Slack, Hannah, Tabi Berry, Meg Ralph

Those who have died:

Martin Lee-Browne—Memorial Service 3.00 pm on Saturday 30th May in St. Mary's
Yvonne Cuss, Peggy Vagasky, Christine Stephens

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

From Ann Nicholls

By handing over our problem to God, we can experience the power of emotional release, a very real enhancer of the immune system.

Father God, I'm not sure what the future holds, but I know you hold the future. I'm trusting that you have a plan and purpose for my life and for the people I love. Thank you for guiding and protecting me even when I can't see the big picture. I'm choosing faith over fear, I want to trust you more over any other thing or person in this world.

Lord, hear my prayer, for I ask in Jesus' name. AMEN

Rev'd Vicky's Ordination as Priest

All are warmly welcomed to a service at Gloucester cathedral on Saturday 27th June at 3pm to join Vicky as she celebrates her ordination as priest. We would love to fully support Vicky on this special day, so would be happy to organise lifts or even a coach or mini-bus if enough people are interested. Please speak to Meg Ralph to put your name down: email meg7010@gmail.com or call 07709 671845.

The service will also be live-streamed if you would like to join in, but are unable to make it to the cathedral.

Vicky will preside at Communion for the first time on Sunday 28th June at 10am.

NOTICES

Bible Study – Fridays

Rev'd Vicky Falvey is leading a new Bible study group on Friday morning, 10:30-11:30am in the church room, all welcome. We will be meeting fortnightly. Do let Rev'd Vicky know if you'd be interested in coming along.

Mothers' Union Quiet Morning – Thursday 4th June

Mothers' Union quiet morning at St Michael's Poulton. Everyone welcome not just members. No charge. Led by Revd Canon Graham Morris, Vicar of Cirencester. 9.45am coffee. Finishes with Holy Communion at 12 and eating our packed lunch. However, you can leave when you want. Parking next to Church by cricket field please. Lifts available. Drinks provided. Do come along.

Kathy Newton 07508 563905

Eco Church update



A Jane Kidd Walk at Sunhill Quarry

Chris Peachy has kindly agreed to lead a guided walk at Sunhill Farm starting at 7.15pm on Tuesday 9th June.

The walk will start from the Barn. Directions:

Take Honeycombe Leaze road from Fairford to Sunhill five crossroads, north towards Bibury, and enter double farm gates on left after 150 yards. Bear right once inside and follow bumpy but level track to Barn. Chris will open the gates at 7pm.

If you would like to come, please let either Beth or Chris know, to give an idea of numbers and lift sharing can be arranged.

Some dates for your diary - if you are interested in getting involved in any of the below, please contact Beth Bruce-Gardner 07791 841201.

- **Saturday 6 June** - Fairford Festival 12.30 to 4 pm - Discover the Churchyard event on the Saturday of Fairford Festival (6 June), between 12.30 and 4 pm at St Mary's churchyard. Come and join us for an interactive discovery session about history, nature and wildlife in our church yard - with quizzes, activities for all ages, tea and cake, plant and seed swap stall in the beautiful setting of St Mary's churchyard. Picnics welcome.

- **Tuesday 28 July 10 am to 12** – Bug Hunt in the churchyard. Back by popular demand! Free family fun morning for all ages discovering the micro-wildlife in St Mary's churchyard. Range of children's activities, information stalls and refreshments. No pre-booking required. Watch out for posters in the usual places!
- **Late July/early August** - we are planning the managed cutting of the wildflower area followed by the Big Rake (which may or may not be followed by the Big Cake....). Watch this space.
- **3rd Tuesdays, September 2026 to February 2027**. We are planning five Jane Kidd Eco Talks over the Autumn/Winter in September to Feb (not December), on the third Tuesday of each month in the community centre. Topics and speakers TBC.

Invitation from our Deanery Synod

This year our Deanery is helping people consider a particular aspect of the work of Eco-church quoted below.

‘Our churches work in partnership with other organisations on environmental and/or climate justice issues, locally, nationally or globally;’

So in response to this, we have arranged for an exhibition called 'Letters from the Global South' to run for a few days (4th - 7th July) in the St John Parish Church in the centre of Cirencester. We will be inviting local people, visitors and hopefully schools to visit the exhibition and encourage them to give their comments about the global environmental crisis to share with the Church and our politicians.

The exhibition displays the words of children from areas badly affected by climate change, and visitors record their ideas in the form of postcards in response to these children's words.

It would be lovely to see you!



LETTERS FROM
THE GLOBAL SOUTH 

A project by
ZERO HOUR 

4-7 JULY | 10AM – 4PM DAILY
ST JOHN BAPTIST, CIRENCESTER

PRESENTS AN EXHIBITION

LETTERS

from the

GLOBAL SOUTH

FREE ENTRY

ALL WELCOME

Letters and artwork from **children on the frontline** of the climate and nature crisis — their stories, their world and **what we can do to help**.



4-7 JULY | 10AM – 4PM DAILY | ST JOHN BAPTIST, CIRENCESTER

MUSIC
• AT ST MARY'S •

CONCERT

THE NORTH SWINDON BIG BAND



Church of St Mary the Virgin Fairford
7:30pm Saturday 11th July 2026







Join us for an evening feast of jazz and swing classics
Tickets £15. Available via [eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk) (fees apply)
or cash at Fairford opticians from 1st June (01285 713313)



Discover

*St Mary's Churchyard
Fairford*

*Saturday 6th
June
12.30-4pm*

-  *Plant stall and seed swap*
-  *Nature and history quiz*
-  *Tin can flower posies*
-  *Games and puzzles*
-  *Count on nature survey*
-  *Refreshments*

Free event

Part of Fairford Festival



Fairford Weather for April 2026

Rainfall (Local Recording)	Monthly Total 17.5mm (0.69")
4 days with some rain	26 dry days.
Sunshine (Met Office)	244.3hrs 138%
Temperature (Met Office)	Mean temperature 10.9°C
Warmest Days 23°C	26th, 27th, 29th. 6 days >20°C 9 days
<15°C Coldest Nights 0°C	5th, 6th, 7th. 3 frosts.

Well, another dry April! Just **17.5mm (0.69")** were recorded for the month of April this spring. This follows the dry April of 2025 and that of 2022 which makes that **3** out of the last **5** April months that have recorded less than **1 inch (25.4mm)**. In fact over the past **24** years only one April exceeded **3 inches (76.2mm)**. In the spring of **2012** April recorded **4.77 inches (121mm)**, which was by far the wettest April over the whole period. Over the **24** recent years, no less than **8 or one third** of the years have received less than **one inch** of rain. With an average of **1.63inches (41.4mm)** April is significantly the driest month in the calendar year. There was actually a large regional variation with Northern Scotland receiving almost **five inches: Storm Dave** being a significant contributor.

The track of depressions (areas of low atmospheric pressure) is of major importance with the **centre** of low pressure systems often close to the north west of Scotland. The two fronts **warm** and **cold** enclose a **sector of moist tropical maritime air**, but weaken as they trail southwards. These two fronts, especially the cold front, are active close to the centre of low pressure and bring the heaviest rain frequently to the north and west coastal regions of the British Isles. Further south the fronts are less active bringing more showery rain to central and eastern parts. These showers have been few and far between this April. Hence the poor rainfall total.

Temperatures have been well up this April with no days below **10 °C** and **five** days exceeding **20 °C**. Still it was behind **April 2025** when **eight** days exceeded **20°C** with one peaking at **26°C**. Both however were behind **2011** when no less than **fourteen** days exceeded **20°C** including two over **25°C**.

*It must be said that April sunshine almost matches August in intensity peaking in **altitude** at over **50°** at the end of the month. Compare this with the sun's intensity in December of below **15°**.*

It has also been a very sunny month (**244.3 hours**) bringing some joy after a particularly gloomy winter. Early May hints at somewhat cooler weather with the hope for some welcome rain?? The river Coln has dropped markedly over the past couple of months, and cracks in footpaths are appearing already.

Clive Watson



COMMUNITY GARDEN EVENT

30th
May

10am-
11am

Community
Garden

🌿 W4W Needs You! 🌿

We need manpower, green fingers, and community spirit! 🙌🌱

We are looking for families, volunteers, and anyone who enjoys being outdoors—bring your children along to learn new skills and get involved in something positive for the community.

Let's come together on a Saturday morning and transform our community garden through weeding, planting, and growing together.

🌸 Kids can also “sponsor a flower” and watch it grow as part of the garden!

Come along, get stuck in, and help us make something beautiful for everyone to enjoy ❤️



Ready for Summer!



**Summer Events for your diary
from the High Five Project Team**

*(See separate details in Church
Newsletters & on Notice Boards
nearer the time)*

**Jos & Ian's Summer Barbecue lunch in
Andy's Garden ☺ Saturday 20th June 12.30**

**Cotswold Music Mix Concert in the church
- Saturday 4th July 7pm**

**Amanda & Mervyn's Strawberry Tea &
Prosecco Afternoon – Saturday 25th
July 3pm**

**Katie & Jeremy's Blackbirds & Pimms
Afternoon Tea - Saturday 22nd August 3pm**



High Five Project 2026

Raising Funds for Children's Charities



The Magic Breakfast Glos Young Carers The Rainbow Trust Smile Train Home Start Cotswolds
and supporting St Mary's Church



*Jos and Ian invite you to their
Summer Barbecue Lunch, with kind
support from Andy*

**Saturday 20th June, 12.30pm
at Andy's Garden, Fairford.**

Chicken skewers, pork sausages, hamburgers,
salad and trimmings. Vegetarian option.

Wine and Juice available by the glass.

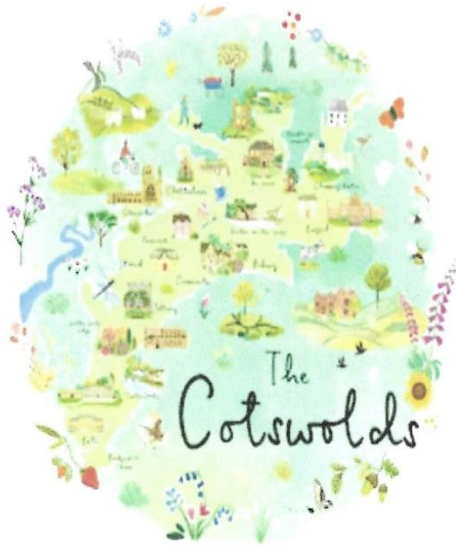


Music from Kencot Ukulele Group.



**Tickets (with address) £15 on sale from the Church
Office, Community Centre from 30th May.**

In aid of  **High Five Project 2026 Fundraising for Children's Charities**
The Magic Breakfast Glos Young Carers The Rainbow Trust Smile Train Home Start Cotswolds.
Also supporting St Mary's church.



Cotswolds Music Mix Concert

With music groups from Fairford,
Lechlade, and surrounds

The Jaybirds - a group of close harmony singers

Kencot Ukulele Band

VoKaL (Voices of Kencot and Lechlade)

and **Special Guest** performer

Conductor: **Jay Mathews**

Accompanist: **Geoff Holmes**

Saturday 4th July 2026
St Mary's Church Fairford
7p.m. (doors open 6.30pm)

Refreshments available before the
concert and in the interval.

Retiring Donations, Thank you.



High Five Project 2026

Fundraising for Children's Charities

**The Magic Breakfast – Glos Young Carers – The Rainbow Trust –
Smile Train – Home Start Cotswolds**

and in support of St Mary's Church.

RIDE + STRIDES for Churches

**12TH
SEPT
2026**

**Discover & Support
Gloucestershire's &
North Bristol's
Historic Churches**

**Travel your way through
the stunning churches and
chapels of Gloucestershire
and North Bristol.**



**Your sponsorship
supports the
Gloucestershire Historic
Churches Trust and your
chosen church or chapel.**



Join Us!

Any Questions? Email us at;
ride-and-stride@ghct.org.uk



**Gloucestershire
Historic Churches Trust**

Your local church is:

St. Mary's Church
Fairford
Glos

Please Contact:

Parish Office
01285 712611