



England have been 'Coming Home' since 1966 – let's hope they make it this year! Good Luck!



South Cotswold Team Ministry Sunday 21st June 2026

Clergy

Vicar: Rev'd Caroline Symcox – 01285 712467

Curate: Rev'd Vicky Falvey – 07356 234248

Priest – Pastoral: Rev'd Canon Denise Hyde
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SERVICES

Sunday 21st June – 3rd Sunday after Trinity

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.00 am Holy Communion Service

Baptism: 12.00 noon - Amayah Bobbi Hadgkiss

Sidespeople: Jilli and Kim Offertory: Fiona Gilroy

Prayer Rota: Michelle Harris and Valerie Trafford

Readings: Sally Salter Intercessions: Ruth Blackwell

Coffee: Amanda and Mervyn Cully

Thursday 25th June

10.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 28th June – 4th Sunday after Trinity

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.00 am All-Age Holy Communion Service and Blessing of the Bug Church

Foundations – Rev'd Vicky's first Communion

Coffee: Janet Edwards and Beth Bruce-Gardner

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

Readings for Sunday: Jeremiah 20.7-13; Romans 6.1b-11; Matthew 10.24-39

There can be no denying that our readings from the Bible this week are particularly uncompromising, and incredibly challenging. It is a truth universally acknowledged that a) a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife, and b) human beings like to be comfortable. It shouldn't surprise us that human beings like to be comfortable. It makes a great deal of sense, however you want to think about it. Comfort means we are secure, unthreatened, in control. Our needs are met. Our fears are assuaged. What could be better?

So when we are hit with a word from Scripture like that we have this Sunday, it is a real shock to the system. These readings we hear from the Lord tells us in no uncertain terms that we are not meant to be comfortable. In fact, to follow Jesus fully and truly means to live in the opposite of comfort. We call Jesus the 'Prince of Peace', and truly that is a title given him by the prophets, but Jesus knew that external peace would actually be threatened by his presence and message, at least initially. He says, "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword."

Jesus' message, and indeed, the whole of God's plan for his creation, does not make for comfort. Jeremiah, that great prophet of Judah before its fall, knew just how insecure a position it was to be someone who spoke God's Word to his people. God's Word was a challenge! No one wanted to hear it! It was unwelcome and unacceptable to a people who just wanted to lead comfortable, untroubled lives. And Jeremiah knew, just as clearly, that to know God's message and not to pass it on, to try to preserve his own peace, would be worse. It burned inside him, and he had to share it, however much trouble it brought him.

To be obedient to God, followers of Jesus, we will find ourselves in opposition to a lot of the world. We will find ourselves on the outside, looked at with suspicion and disgust by those who like to be rich, powerful, selfish and arrogant. And if we are not, then we must ask ourselves why not? Have we compromised our message by succumbing to comfort?

Jeremiah knew the challenge and the cost. Jesus knew it. It is something we must contend with as well. Are we ready to be an uncomfortable people as we offer God's challenging word to his Creation?

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 22nd June. Join us using the information below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81612382676?pwd=nJxe40fVrHIKOR2zbaO95KwhaZXEgA.1>

Meeting ID: 816 1238 2676, Passcode: 604770

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

From Ann Nicholls

By its nature human love is 'conditional'. Only through Christ in us can we produce *agape* (unconditional love), only he can fulfil us in joy, peace and compassion.

Love divines all loves excelling, joy of heaven to earth come down.
Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesu though art all compassion, pure unbounded love thou art,
visit us with thy salvation enter every trembling heart.

Lord thank you for the gift of love, remind us to rely on you each day.

We pray in Jesus's name and for his glory. AMEN

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Please remember the following in your prayers:

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

Those who have died:
Christine Stephens

All-Age Communion – 28th June

Our 10am service on the 28th June will be an All-Age Communion service, at which we will bless the foundations of our new churchyard Bug Church, with the help of pupils from Fairford Primary School, and of course our own Rev'd Vicky will preside at Holy Communion for the first time. Hope to see you there!

NOTICES

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 minibus if enough people are interested. Please speak to Rev'd Caroline to put your name down.

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.

Safeguarding update from Val Trafford (Parish Safeguarding Officer)

Bishop Robert is the new Safeguarding Lead for the Church of England and in his latest communication is alerting us to the new campaign, "It's not Just Policy, It's Personal" which was released last week. Please see his comments.

"The campaign stresses that safeguarding is not merely a matter of compliance or procedure, important though those things are. At its heart is a person: someone who may be frightened, hurt or taking a costly step in speaking up. For those who seek to follow Jesus, safeguarding is therefore not just about getting processes right, but again about how we live our faith. How we listen, how we respond, how carefully we handle what is shared, and how seriously we take the dignity of each person all matter deeply. The campaign's emphasis is timely and important: policy matters, but people matter most."

Stewards, Choir members and Bellringers, you will have recently received an email from your Team leader requesting that you complete the Basic Safeguarding training either on line or at a group workshop. I have had a few replies but I am still waiting for the majority of you to get back to me with your preferred option. Please email me at val.trafford@me.com

Once numbers requesting group training have been confirmed Caroline and I will meet to arrange training days.

Thanks you all for your support in this matter.

Discover the Churchyard!



The brave souls who came to the Discover the Churchyard event despite the rain were treated to a table full of delicious refreshments inside the church, organised efficiently as usual by Helen, with generous donations of cakes and scones.

There was a very interesting display provided by Alison Hobson of the Fairford History Society about some of the older graves of particular interest.

Quizzes, Count on Nature information and an insect identification game provided by Sarah Lovatt were all popular.

The plants for sale just outside the door were well watered thanks to the weather and tin can posies of locally grown flowers were available with the suggestion that these might be used as grave posies, though just as good to take home and enjoy.

So far, funds raised are around £150, thanks to the generosity of those who came along. These will be split between general St Mary's Church funds and Eco Church, which will help fund future events.

Beth B-G

South Cotswolds Foodbank

We were very happy to receive a letter of thanks for our support of the South Cotswolds Food Bank from Anton Wynn – head of CFB.

We managed to donate a total of 16.25kg – a great effort!

A Farm Safari



On Tuesday 9th June a group of 15 from St Mary's were treated to a wonderful evening tour, led by Chris Peachy, of his quarry land at Sunhill and Donkeywell Farm.

It was billed originally as 'A Jane Kidd Walk', but in fact turned out to be more of a farm safari. We travelled in a large open trailer, pulled by a tractor, expertly driven by Tim Peachy with Chris as tour guide, pointing out areas of interest and giving us interesting farming facts. I think we all came away with a greater respect for hard-working farmers, especially those trying to do their best for the environment.

Our thanks to Chris and Tim from all who came along.

Beth B-G

It's Back!

BUG HUNT

In St Mary's Churchyard

*Tuesday 28th
July*

10am-12pm

All ages welcome!

*Children please bring an
accompanying adult*



Bug facts



Crafts



Bug Olympics



Stories and yoga



Refreshments (Yes

that means biscuits!)



There is no charge, but donations would be gratefully received
Advanced booking is not required

The logo for 'RIDE + STRIDES for Churches' features the word 'RIDE' in red with a gear-like texture on the 'D' and a blue chain link above it. A red plus sign follows. 'STRIDES' is in red with blue bunting above it. Below this, 'for Churches' is written in white on a green rectangular background.

RIDE + STRIDES **for Churches**

Saturday 12th September 2026

Can you Help Please? – Volunteers needed!

Ride and Stride are organising an event travelling through Churches and Chapels around Gloucestershire and North Bristol.

We would very much like to offer a comfort break for the tired Riders and Striders here at St. Mary's!

If you feel that you would be able to help with opening / closing the Community Centre and or, serving refreshments, please let the Parish office know – your help would be greatly appreciated!

Thank you!

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)



High Five Project Event - Fundraising for Children's Charities and supporting St Mary's Church



Jos and Ian invite you to a



Summer Barbecue



in the splendid gardens of

The Bull Pens, East End, Fairford, GL7 4AP,

by kind permission of Mrs Andy Wilkinson.

Saturday 20th June 12.30pm

with music from The Kencot Ukulele Group

**Tickets £15 on sale from the Church Office,
Fairford Community Centre.**

Proceeds 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
and supporting St Mary's church.*

COTSWOLDS MUSIC MIX CONCERT

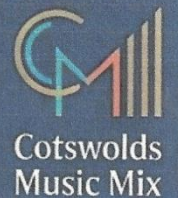
With music groups from Fairford, Lechlade, and surrounds

The Jaybirds – a group of close harmony singers

Kencot Ukulele Band

VøKaL (Voices of Kencot and Lechlade)

Conductor: Jay Mathews
Accompanist: Geoff Holmes



SATURDAY 4TH JULY 2026
ST MARY'S CHURCH FAIRFORD
7PM (DOORS OPEN 6.30PM)

Refreshments available before the concert and in the interval.

No ticket required. Join us for an evening of fun and music

and there will be a retiring donations collection for:
High Five Project 2026 Fundraising for Children's Charities

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



High Five Project Events This Summer Fundraising for Children's Charities and St Mary's Church



Summer Barbecue by invitation of Jos and Ian, to be held at The Bull Pens, East End, GL7 4AP, with kind permission of Mrs Andy Wilkinson. Music from Kencot Ukes. Saturday 20th June 12.30pm. Tickets £15 from the Church Office.



Cotswold Music Mix Concert Saturday 4th July with songs, music, and instrumentals, under the direction of Jay Matthews. 7pm in the church. Refreshments. Retiring donations.



Strawberries and Prosecco Afternoon in the gardens of Finches Field, The Croft, GL7 4BB, by kind permission of Amanda and Mervyn Cully. Music from The Jay Birds. Saturday 25th July at 3pm. Tickets £15 from the Church Office.



Blackbirds and Pimms Afternoon Tea by kind invitation from Katie and Jeremy Blake in the gardens of The White House, London Street, GL7 4AQ. Sandwiches, cakes, Pimms, tea, and music from The Blackbirds. Saturday 22nd August at 3pm. Tickets £15 from The Church Office.