



July; height of summer; 'And Summer's lease hath all too short a date' – Shakespeare's Sonnet 18



South Cotswold Team Ministry Sunday 12th July 2026

Clergy

Vicar: Rev'd Caroline Symcox – 01285 712467

Curate: Rev'd Vicky Falvey – 07356 234248

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

carolinesymcox@googlemail.com

revvickyfalvey@gmail.com

denisehyde15@gmail.com

SERVICES

Sunday 12th July – 6th Sunday after Trinity

8.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.00am Sung Eucharist

Sidespeople: Andy Wilkinson and Jill Connell

Offertory: Fiona Gilroy

Prayer Michelle Harris and Mary Mawle

Readings: Fiona Gilroy Intercessions: Janet Edwards

Coffee: Sarah Bottomley and Carol Thompson

Thursday 16th July

10.30am BCP Holy Communion

Sunday 19th July – 7th Sunday after Trinity

8.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.00am Sung Eucharist

Sidespeople: Jenny Hewes and Heather Gorton

Offertory: Fiona Gilroy

Prayer: Denise Hyde and Ruth Blackwell

Readings: Linda Howlett Intercessions: Alison Godsall

Coffee: Linda and Peter Howlett

From Rev'd Caroline Symcox – 01285 712467 – carolinesymcox@googlemail.com
Readings for Sunday: Isaiah 55.10-13; Romans 8.1-11; Matthew 13.1-9, 18-23

'Why don't they understand?' It's a plaintive refrain, and one we hear, and express, depressingly often. Missed communication sometimes seems to be very much part of the human condition. It can be something as simple as a playground misunderstanding at school, or as high-level as ineffective diplomacy between nations. Something that can seem incredibly clear to us can be utterly impenetrable to someone else, and that's where the pain comes from. We want to talk to the other person, or the other group, but when there's no shared understanding, communication becomes at best incredibly frustrating, and at worst, impossible.

This state of affairs is particularly noticeable in our Christian faith. The truths that we hold dear, our understanding of God's love for us shown in and by Jesus, and our place in God's Creation, are things that people outside our faith may struggle to understand. And of course, these people are often people close to us, people whom we love very much! How much more painful, when someone you care for has no understanding of, or respect for, a belief that is bedrock to us?

So often we can blame this on ourselves. We think that we should have the right words, the ones that will break through this miscommunication. We feel like we should be broadcasting the love of God and the strength of our faith through our actions and attitudes, and if that's failing to reach those other people, well then we just aren't doing that hard enough!

However, Jesus offers us a different story. So many people failed to understand him, too. Is that his fault? Should he have been a 'better' Messiah, so that more people would follow him? Of course not. In the Parable of the Sower, Jesus shows us the truth. People need to be ready to hear. They need to be open to understanding. So many things can close people off to being able to hear the truth. But a word of hope here too – people change, and situations change, and in the end, it is the power of God that will give growth to the seeds that we're casting out into the world. We can't claim credit for that growth, but neither can we hold blame. Understanding is a thing that will come in God's time. Paul shares this same truth in 1 Corinthians – "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth." (1 Cor 3.6-7)

So then, let us not be despairing, my beloved family in Christ, if we feel our words are falling on deaf ears. And don't let that stop you from speaking them, from feeling them, from showing them in our acts and attitudes. Because who knows when those tiny seeds will begin to sprout, by God's good timing?

Rev'd Caroline

Online Morning Prayer

Join us for Morning Prayer via Zoom on Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday at 9am every week. Click below for the week starting 13th July. Join us using the information below:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81567843976?pwd=SqssbAm3dgdLW9zmcpOYlub3aWhDOL.1>

Meeting ID: 815 6784 3976

Passcode: 773809

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. 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 the notice above for clarification).

For further details please contact Rev'd Denise on 01285 713285 or denisehyde15@gmail.com.

Prayer Requests

Would you like us to pray for you? If you have a particular need or concern, please complete a prayer request slip and place it in our prayer request box it will then be included in our Community Prayers every Monday for a month.

Both the prayer request box and prayer request slips can be found on our new prayer table by the pulpit in the Nave or contact Rev'd Denise.

From Ann Nicholls

"The Lord is King! Let the earth rejoice and all the coastlands be glad." *Psalms 97:1*

Lord God, your word is powerful, delivering us from despair.

Your word is wise, guiding us through uncertainty. We are able to read and ponder your word without fear or uncertainty, for this we thank and praise you, Lord.

Teach us to read and trust in your word and leave sin behind accepting your forgiveness and living our lives for your glory.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. AMEN.

o0o

Please remember the following in your prayers:

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

Those who have died:

Graham Morgan, Vicky Jones - Funeral to be held 2pm on 10th July 2026 at Lechlade Memorial Hall. Dress code- floral prints and bright colours.

NOTICES

From Lechlade with Fairford Mothers' Union – *via Denise Hyde*

Steve Hutchinson from Scripture Union has produced a booklet to encourage parents to share with their children before they start their school life, it is called GET READY TO GO.

We have brought some copies for our branch to give to the September reception classes at Fairford, Lechlade and Southrop Church of England primary schools, a card will be put inside to say that the books were bought by Lechlade with Fairford Mothers' Union.

An Invitation from the Ukrainian Church – Gloucester

The invitation below is from the Ukrainian Church where we take all the items we collect to send out to Ukraine.

On the 11th and 12th of July between 1pm and 4pm, The Ukrainian Church in Gloucester will be holding an art exhibition "Icons on Ammo boxes".

The exhibition has been displayed across the world in twenty different countries including the EU Parliament, Wallace Hall - New York, the 2023 NATO summit and the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral in London where an Icon 'Our Lady of Tenderness' was presented to His Majesty King Charles.

In May of last year, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy presented Pope Leo XIV with an Icon 'The Mother of God and Child' which symbolises Ukrainian children and the need to protect them.

Ten of the Icons recently arrived from Kyiv. We are honoured that this is only the second exhibition in which they feature.

We would like to invite you to this exhibition - please feel free to attend on either day. The address of the Ukrainian Church is Derby Road, Gloucester, GL1 4AE. It is just after Gloucester Hospital, over the level crossing, under the bridge, then on the left.

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 (fees apply)
or cash at Fairford opticians from 1st June (01285 713313)

It's Back!



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

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



We could never have envisaged the level of simple joy and delight of being together as part of a community event, when Jay Mathews offered in January to organise a music mix concert to help raise funds for children's charities.

The concert at St Mary's on 4th July included all genres and performers of music and song in Jay's vast ensemble of singers, musicians, and concert pieces. This comprised The Jaybirds close harmony ladies singing group, VoKaL (Voices of Kencot and Lechlade) Community Choir, Lechlade Ukulele Group, and The Memory Lane Singers – who showed everyone how singing and performing together can enlighten life, conquer doubts and fears, and encourage strength of spirit and happiness.

Our audience was certainly not the least of all the groups of performers. They managed joining in rock and roll and pop songs, singing rounds, and responding so well to intros, speeches, and wine drinking! Long may the joy of friendship and togetherness as a community flourish in our delightful little town.

Thank you so much everyone – the tech team, Caroline, David and Simon, all our performers and audience, and especially to Jay and Geoff, for performing, giving without demand or question, encouraging, and responding so generously. Our evening raised a magnificent £820.00.

Linda, Meg, Jos, and Hope.

High Five Project – Our Next Event

**Tickets £15 - NOW ON SALE until 20th July - Church
Office**

Strawberries and Prosecco Afternoon

*with full afternoon tea, in the lovely gardens of Finches Field, The Croft,
Fairford, GL7 4BB, by kind permission of Amanda and
Mervyn Cully.*

Saturday 25th July, 3.00pm

with songs from The Jay Birds



Newsletter

July

June went by in a flash, I can't believe we are already in July! We have so much to look forward to this month, with lots of exciting activities, celebrations, and opportunities to come together.

Wednesday 1st July

Carol will be hosting a thank you afternoon tea for our amazing volunteers – a chance to celebrate and appreciate all the wonderful people who help make W4W what it is.

I will also be attending the Cotswold Food Network meeting in Cirencester, where we will be celebrating their incredible support. They have been so generous in sponsoring our community meals and our cooking course, and we are very grateful for their partnership.

Thursday 2nd July

We have two Craft & Chat sessions happening on the same evening (due to the postponement in Fairford last week):

📍 Fairford Community Centre 7pm–9pm
We will be making Dorset Buttons

📍 Lechlade Baptist Church 7pm–9pm

We will be trying our hand at block printing
Come along, get creative, and enjoy a chat with the community.

Saturday 11 July 10am -11am.

We are asking for help in the Community Garden. Please come along - help plant, weed and water, to help maintain the Garden. We are asking 1 hour of your time - lots of hands make light work.

Wednesday 15th July – Family Hub

Family Hub will be joined by Family Action, who will be helping us make some wonderful milk bottle butterflies.

Friday 17th July – Toddler Group Summer Party 🎉

This will be our last toddler session before the summer break, so let's make it a celebration!

Bring your teddy bears along for a fun-filled party with:

🧸 Teddy bear fun

💨 Bubbles

🎵 Music and dancing

🍰 Cake

We can't wait to celebrate with 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



CRAFT & CHAT

Hosted by W4W Volunteer

7PM-9PM FAIRFORD COMMUNITY CENTRE

£5



NOW
2ND
JULY



CRAFT & CHAT

Hosted by W4W Volunteer

7PM-9PM LECHLADE BAPTIST CHURCH

£3



THURSDAY
2ND
JULY



FAMILY HUB WILL BE JOINED BY

family
action



MAKING MILK BOTTLE BUTTERFLIES

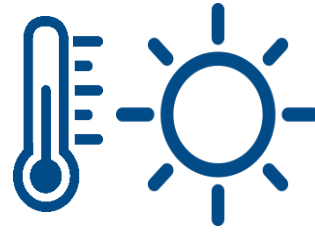
WEDNESDAY 15TH JULY
10:30AM-12PM

FREE



Citizens Advice Column:

How to stay cool in the heat



Summer can be enjoyable, but heatwaves can quickly make your home uncomfortable and even impact your health. **Here are five ways to help you stay cooler:**

1. Let cool air in

Encourage airflow by opening windows on opposite sides of your home, ideally overnight or early morning when outdoor temperatures are lower. This pushes warm air out and brings cooler air in. Opening a loft hatch can also allow heat to escape. If you only have one window, opening internal doors can improve circulation.

2. Keep the heat out

A simple and effective measure is closing curtains or blinds on the sunny side of your home. During the hottest part of the day (typically late morning to early evening), keep windows closed if the air is warmer outside than inside to prevent heat entering.

3. Use a fan effectively

Fans are inexpensive to run (often under 2p per hour). For extra relief, place a bowl of ice or ice packs in front of the fan (at a safe distance) to cool the air being circulated. When it's cooler outside, a fan near an open window can help draw in fresh air.

4. Take a break from the heat

If your home becomes too hot, spend some time in cooler, air-conditioned public spaces such as libraries or leisure centres.

5. Improve insulation

Well-insulated homes stay cooler in summer and warmer in winter. You could consider:

- Upgrading wall and roof insulation or installing energy-efficient windows (e.g. low-emissivity glass)
- Improving ventilation with extractor fans or vents
- Adding shutters or external shading
- Installing solar panels to offset increased cooling costs

Visit the Citizens Advice website for details of available grants and schemes.



**Stroud
& Cotswold
Districts**

Citizens Advice helps with a range of issues. For information and self-help guidance, visit **citizensadvice.org.uk**.

To speak to a local adviser in the Stroud and Cotswold Districts, visit **citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk** to complete our **webform** or call us on **0808 800 0510**.