



Sun's out; school's out; holiday season is upon us with some much-needed time out!



South Cotswold Team Ministry Sunday 19th 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 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 Godsal

Coffee: Linda and Peter Howlett

Thursday 23rd July

10.30am BCP Holy Communion

Sunday 26th July – 8th Sunday after Trinity

8.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.00am Family Service

6.00pm Healing Service with Holy Communion

Coffee: Linda and Peter Howlett

Isaiah 44:6-8, Romans 8:12-25, Matthew 13:24-30,36-43

This week's readings invite us to live with hope while accepting that God's work in the world is often slower and more mysterious than we would like. In Romans 8:12-25, St Paul reminds us that we are no longer bound by fear but are children of God, adopted into God's family through the Spirit. This identity does not remove suffering from our lives. Instead, Paul acknowledges that suffering is part of the Christian journey, yet it is always held within the promise of future glory. He speaks of creation itself groaning in expectation, longing for the day when God will make all things new. It is a powerful image for our own experience. We see signs of beauty and grace all around us, but we also witness pain, injustice, illness, and uncertainty. Like creation, we wait in hope.

Hope, however, is not wishful thinking. Christian hope is rooted in God's faithfulness. Paul reminds us that "if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience". Patience is perhaps one of the hardest virtues to cultivate in a world that expects immediate results. Yet faith teaches us to trust that God is at work even when we cannot yet see the fulfilment of his promises.

Jesus' parable of the wheat and the weeds in Matthew's Gospel echoes this same message. The servants are eager to pull up the weeds immediately, but the master tells them to wait lest they damage the wheat as well. It is a story that challenges our instinct to divide the world neatly into good and bad, right and wrong, worthy and unworthy. God's judgement belongs to God alone, and his patience exceeds ours.

The field in the parable is the world, but it can also be our own hearts. Most of us recognise that we are not purely wheat nor entirely weeds. We are people in whom grace is growing, yet who still struggle with weakness and sin. God's response is not to give up on us but to continue nurturing the good that he has planted. He is patient with us, and we are called to show that same patience towards others.

These readings also speak to our life together as a church. Every congregation is a mixture of different personalities, gifts, strengths, and imperfections. It can be tempting to become discouraged by the faults we see in others or even in ourselves. Yet Christ calls us to remain faithful, trusting that he is continually shaping his people. Our task is not to pronounce judgement but to bear witness to God's kingdom through lives marked by love, forgiveness, and perseverance.

As we continue our journey of faith, may we remember that we are God's beloved children, sustained by the Spirit and strengthened by hope. Even when the world seems troubled and the harvest appears distant, God has not abandoned his creation. The wheat is still growing. His kingdom is quietly taking root. And in his perfect time, all that is hidden will be revealed, and his justice, mercy, and love will be fully known.

Rev'd Vicky Falvey

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

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 20th 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

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

Faith is counting on him when we do not know what tomorrow holds.

Father god, I am overwhelmed by your generous gift of forgiveness, you have erased the mistakes of my past, present and future and you've made me new.

I am in constant awe of your amazing love and boundless grace, thank you that nothing can separate me from your presence.

I lift my eyes O God, in worship and adoration, I focus on your promise and expect your grace, I gather all my needs and desires and bring them to you, 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: Vicky Jones, Maureen Partington

NOTICES

Newsletter Update

Hello everyone, there will be no newsletter next week (20th – 24th July) due to my upcoming holiday; normal service will resume the week after! (for Sunday 2nd August)

PCC Meeting

The next St Mary's PCC meeting will be at 9.30am on Tuesday 21st July in the Church Room. Looking forward to seeing PCC members there, and everyone else, do hold us in prayer as we meet and discuss the role we are to play in the mission of God here in Fairford.

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.

Cirencester Deanery Facebook Page

Our Deanery of Cirencester has recently launched a Deanery page on Facebook to keep everyone up to date with what's going on across our region. Do have a look, and if you're a Facebook user, give them a follow!

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61590172215853>

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



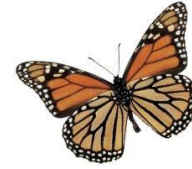
Bug Olympics



Stories and yoga



*Refreshments (Yes
that means biscuits!)*



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



Newsletter

July

Wednesday 22nd July – W4W Turns 5! 🎉🎂

This is a very special milestone as we celebrate 5 years of W4W. When I think back to where we started, that first little café and look at where we are now, it really shows what an amazing journey we have been on.

This achievement is down to the brilliant team behind the scenes who have guided W4W from the very beginning, and the incredible army of volunteers who make every event possible. Because of all of you, we have been able to grow, adapt, and respond to the needs of our community.

A huge thank you to everyone who has ever been involved with W4W, attended an event, volunteered, supported us, or been part of our journey.

Please come and join us on 22nd July to celebrate our 5th birthday, we would love to see you!

🚌 W4W will be booking the Robin Bus from Lechlade for anyone who would like to attend but may struggle with transport.

Thursday 23rd July

We have our trip to Million Dollar Quartet in partnership with The Barn Bus.

If you would like to join us, please let me know - tickets will go quickly.

Thursday 30th July – Craft & Chat

This will be a volunteer-led session with embroidery.

A lovely chance to learn something new, relax, and enjoy some creative time together.

Friday 31st July – Shopping Trip

Our final shopping trip before the summer break will be to Witney. Come along for a browse, a bit of shopping, and some company.

Looking Ahead to August 🌞

Our cafés and digital sessions will continue running throughout August, but there will be no Craft & Chat sessions and no shopping trips during the month.

However, we have lots of exciting children's activities planned, so please keep watching this space for more information!

Thank you as always for your continued support. We can't wait to share another fantastic month with you all.

💛 The W4W Team



Working 4 Wellbeing Fairford and Lechlade Areas

Thanks to the Barn Theatre's wonderful Bus to Theatre project, W4W is delighted to be partnering with them to bring residents of Fairford, Lechlade and Kempsford to a special performance of Million Dollar Quartet. Tickets and transport are fully provided, making this a fantastic opportunity for anyone who might find travel and navigating tickets difficult.

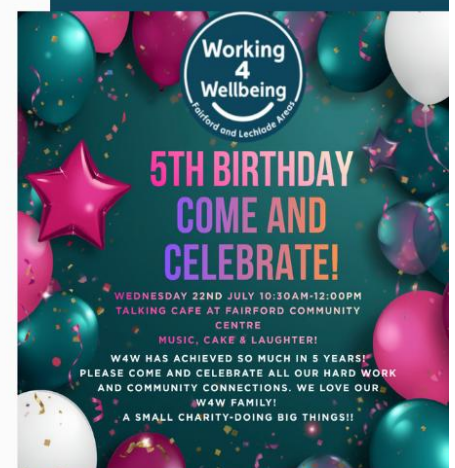
THE BARN theatre BUS

MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET
ELVIS PRESLEY
JOHNNY CASH
JERRY LEE
LENNY
CARL PERKINS

THURSDAY 23RD JULY 2.30PM MATINEE
1PM - LECHLADE - BUTCHERS
1:10PM - FAIRFORD FIRE STATION
1:15PM - FAIRFORD COMMUNITY CENTRE
1:35PM - THE GEORGE, KEMPSFORD.

BOOK CONTACT MARY ANN 07555738138

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





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THE

BARN

theatre

BUS



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BOOK CONTACT MARY ANN 07555738138



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



Strawberries and Prosecco Afternoon Tea

*by kind permission of Amanda & Mervyn.
Fabulous food, beautiful garden, marquee,
entertaining singers, meet up with friends.*

Saturday 25th July, 3.00pm

at Finches Field - songs from The Jay Birds

Tickets £15 – Church Office

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.**



**Your support for all High Five Projects
and our Church is much appreciated.**



Saturday 12th September 2026

Can you Help Please? – Volunteers needed!

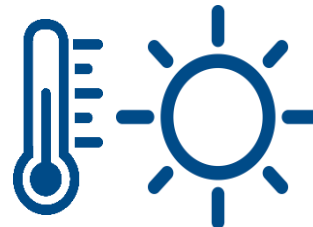
**Please let the Parish Office know before the end of July
deadline, in time for us to register**

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!



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.



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**.