



With the hosepipe ban now in force for the foreseeable future, try placing a container in the shower and a bowl in the kitchen sink; 'greywater' is good for watering plants etc - every little helps!



South Cotswold Team Ministry **Sunday 2nd August 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

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denisehyde15@gmail.com

SERVICES

Sunday 2nd August – 9th Sunday after Trinity

8.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.00am Sung Eucharist

Sidespeople: Eleanor Toby and Jenny Hewes

Offertory: Heather Gorton

Prayer: Lucy Hodson and Mary Mawle

Readings: Mike Godsall Intercessions: Ruth Blackwell

Coffee: David and Sally Salter

6.00pm Prayer & Praise

Thursday 6th August

10.30am BCP Holy Communion

Sunday 9th August – 10th Sunday after Trinity

8.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.00am Sung Eucharist

Sidespeople: Jill Connell and Kim Sutton

Offertory: Wendy Close and Alison Cohoon

Prayer: Ann Nicholls and Michelle Harris

Readings: Fiona Gilroy Intercessions: Meg Ralph

Coffee: Amanda and Mervyn Cully

From Rev'd Caroline Symcox – 01285 712467 – carolinesymcox@googlemail.com
Readings for Sunday: Isaiah 55.1-5; Romans 9.1-5; Matthew 14.13-21

“You get what you pay for.”

It's an aphorism that we've all heard a million times in our lives. The concept is simple – there's no such thing as a free lunch. Everything costs something, and the more you are willing (or able) to pay, the better the end result.

The thing is, our story from Matthew's Gospel this Sunday tells us the exact opposite. No such thing as a free lunch? Well here is dinner served for five thousand people, without a penny to be paid. All these people, gathered to listen to Jesus in the wilderness, and Jesus' compassion and power makes sure that they don't go hungry. The difference, of course, is that this is a glimpse, and a taste in every sense of that word, of God's Kingdom. This is what he has designed and wants for his people – the absolute quintessential free lunch. A world in which compassion is the greatest power, unlimited even by physical constraints. Only have five loaves and two fishes to share among multiple thousands? Not a problem for God's power!

Our problem is that we have cynicism and distrust hard-wired into the way we interact with the world. “You get what you pay for” rings through our thought processes, and we find ourselves doubting the good that is freely available right in front of us. I think Isaiah has real confusion and sadness in his words in that rhetorical question that kicks off our reading from his book – “Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy?” There is nourishment, strength, endless resource for you, freely offered, if you would just accept it – “Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price!”

‘Is this free lunch too good to be true?’ we might ask ourselves. ‘Who can afford to give things away for free without getting anything back?’ The answer, of course, is right in front of us. God, our Creator God, who made the universe out of nothing, who gives us all things, isn't interested in his Return on Investment. He is interested in his children, the Creation he made and loves, whose love is pure abundance, giving more than we could expect or deserve. This is what the grace of God in Jesus looks like. A free gift, poured out into our hesitant hands.

This week, may we recognise and receive the over-abundant love of God into our lives, and may we seek and live the values of the Kingdom – compassion and care above advantage and profit – in our world here and now.

Rev'd Caroline Symcox

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 3rd August. Join us using the information below:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87416436680?pwd=byYRJ1syRXxd5ak2WVMJ6YbHpQ6gO5.1>

Meeting ID: 874 1643 6680

Passcode: 551660

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

Create me a clean heart O God and put a new and right Spirit within me. *Psalms 51:10*

O Lord, we want more than just to be relieved of the burdens of our sin, we want a new life, that participates creatively in your work in the world.

A life that shares healing, reconciling and praising, for Jesus's sake. AMEN

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Please remember the following in your prayers:

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

Those who have died: Maureen Partington, Richard Black, Dawn Dodds

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.

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>

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.





A Notification to our kind High Five Project donators

We would like to thank everyone for their very generous donations, help, support, and kind comments for the High Five Project 2026. Our published target at the beginning of the year was to raise £500 for each of five children's charities – two Gloucester based, another two UK based, and one international. Please do read our small booklet about the charities, the project team, accounting, planned events, contact details, etc., in the High Five information booklet held in the stewards' desk in the church, or ask us for a copy.

We are well on target with our ambition and have a variety of events organised for the next five months. We intend offering a further £500 donation to St Mary's Church if and when our target is reached, therefore, so write now to ask any of our kind parishioners and others who have so far made donations directed solely at the High Five charities whether you have any objection to this. We shall go ahead if we do not hear from you by the end of August and hope you will continue to support our activities. Many thanks.

Linda, Jos, Hope and Meg. Contact details: linda.danceandsing@gmail.com



Strawberries and Prosecco Afternoon

We sold out of tickets for the event on 25th July, and as you can see from the pictures below, everyone enjoyed the chance to chat and relax, listen to The Jaybirds singing, walk around the gardens, take in a cool drink and a savoury and sweet strawberry tea, and appreciate a lovely summer day. Thanks go to Amanda and Mervyn particularly for their kind hospitality and hard work to make the day happen, and to Simon, Ros, Helen, and Val for their help, The Jaybirds songsters, our wonderful cakemakers, Jan and Carly, on the spot 'clearer uppers', and anyone else who contributed to such an enjoyable event – mostly, thanks to everyone who came along to support the afternoon. Everyone's superb efforts mean we have achieved £578.50 towards our target. What would we do without you all? Many thanks.

Linda, Jos, Hope and Meg.



MUSIC
• AT ST MARY'S •

CONCERT

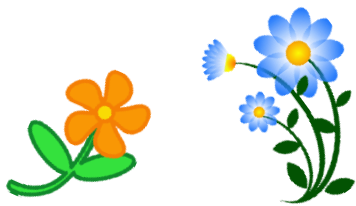
ADRIAN PARTINGTON - PIANO
LEORA COHEN - VIOLIN



Church of St Mary the Virgin Fairford
3pm Saturday 19th September 2026

Timeless masterpieces for violin and piano from Bach,
Beethoven, Elgar and Gershwin
tickets £25/£20 (includes tea and cake)
via [eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk) (fees apply)
or cash at Fairford opticians from 1st August (01285 713313)

Tea and Cake with Linda and Peter



Wednesday 5th August 3.00pm
14 Leafield Road, Fairford GL7 4LS

***Just call us by 3rd August to let us
know you're coming! 01285 672512***



Donations on the day in support of High Five Children's Charities

The Magic Breakfast – Glos Young Carers – The Rainbow Trust –

Smile Train – Home Start Cotswolds



St Mary's Church
• FAIRFORD •



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

'Peekies & Pimms'



Summer Garden Party

Kindly hosted by Katie and Jeremy

in the lovely floral gardens of

The White House, London Street, GL7 4AQ

Saturday 22nd August 3.00pm

**Delightful summer food and drink
with music and songs from The Peekies**

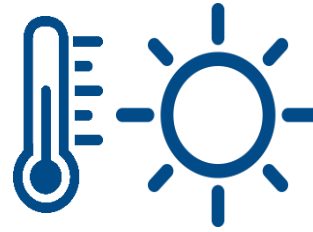
**Tickets £15 from the Church Office,
Community Centre.**

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**



**St Mary's Church
FABRICIO**



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**.