



Looking forward to some much-needed rain and seeing some colour return to the garden – soon please!



South Cotswold Team Ministry

Sunday 23rd 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

carolinesymcox@googlemail.com

revvickyfalvey@gmail.com

denisehyde15@gmail.com

SERVICES

Sunday 23rd August – 12th Sunday after Trinity

8.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.00am Sung Eucharist

Sidespeople: Eleanor Toby and Michelle Harris

Offertory: Fiona Gilroy

Prayer: Val Trafford and Ruth Blackwell

Readings: Peter Howlett Intercessions: Alison Godsall

Coffee: Mary Mawle and Margaret Frazer

Thursday 27th August

10.30am BCP Holy Communion

Sunday 30th August – 13th Sunday after Trinity

8.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.00am All-Age Worship Service

Coffee: Doug and Jean Crowley

6.00pm Healing Prayer Service with Holy Communion

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

Readings for Sunday: Isaiah 51.1-6; Romans 12.1-8; Matthew 16.13-20

“You are my rock.”

I wonder how Peter felt when Jesus said those words to him at Caesarea Philippi? I can imagine a mixture of delight, wonder, fear and trepidation all arising at once. Because what does it mean when the person you've just acclaimed out loud as the Messiah, Son of the One True God turns that around on you and calls you a 'rock' – Simon son of Jonah, now evermore to be known as Petros, Peter – the one on whom Jesus' church will be built? It's a 'well done' that is coming with one enormous kicker!

Because being called a rock is something that is often reserved for God himself in the Bible. In 2 Samuel 22 we hear the words of David in song, “The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge,” and throughout the Psalms we hear the same refrain. Elsewhere in his journeys around Judea, Jesus tells the parable of the wise man and the foolish man – the wise man, of course, being the one who built his house on the rock. We know well, that the wise man's rock is none other than our Lord God himself.

So – Peter? To be a rock? That feels like a big demand indeed! During his time with Jesus we might wonder what aspects of leadership Peter might have shown. What qualifications does this fisherman have to be the one on whom Jesus' own gathered people is to be built? I wonder if his fellow apostles asked the same thing! Because Peter never stands out as the cleverest, or the most thoughtful, or the most skilled. I'm not sure he would score highly on modern measures of leadership ability.

But the thing is, that isn't how Jesus is measuring Peter, or indeed how he measures any of us. Peter is impulsive, excited, eager as a puppy to be near Jesus and learning from him. At the same time he is self-aware, knowing his own shortcomings, and not afraid to ask for help. It is these qualities that commend him to Jesus – faithfulness, honesty, eagerness and love. These are what make Simon the Rock that he is, and will be for all those disciples of Jesus to come. It is what makes him the Rock for us, still – a touchstone of truth and honest vulnerability. Not perfect, but full of the desire to know and serve Jesus. Here is our example, and indeed the rock from which we are hewn.

Peter might not have thought he was up to the job, but Jesus knew him better. May we continue to be built on those strong foundations, led onwards by the love and grace of Jesus.

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 24th August.

Join Zoom Meeting:

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

Meeting ID: 874 1643 6680

Passcode: 551660

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

Please remember the following in your prayers:

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

Those who have died: Maureen Partington, Dawn Dodds, Sheila Benfield.

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

Your unseen helper.

Who knows how many times the Lord quietly protects us, redirects us, or leads us on safer paths.

God, even though we mess up, hurt each other and offend you, you'll still love us.

You still have mercy on us, thank you.

Forgive me for all the times I've chosen anger and bitterness over forgiveness and compassion.

Please reveal who I need to show mercy to today, and then help me to obey your prompting, show mercy how to love people like you love people.

I pray in Jesus' name. AMEN

New Arrival!

A little earlier than anticipated, we have had a new arrival into our St Mary's community as Rev'd Vicky's little one sprang into the world at 3.30am this past Tuesday morning! Little James might be ahead of schedule, but at 6lbs 7oz is doing incredibly well, and both he and Vicky are in good health and spirits. Naturally, Vicky is now on maternity leave, but is planning to bring James to St Mary's to introduce him over the next few weeks. Watch this space!



Friday Bible study group

The Friday Bible study group meets fortnightly, 10:30-11:30am at Janet's house.

The group will be taking a break from meeting in September but would be delighted to welcome any new members when it restarts in October.

For more information, please speak to Revd Caroline

Prayer Ministry at St Mary's

Prayer is such an all-encompassing word - it takes in so many different forms, ideas, practices, emotions and traditions.

The term "prayer ministry" can also be interpreted quite broadly. Generally, within the Christian church context, it's taken to mean an organized effort within a church or faith community where a group of trained individuals intercede for others, provide personal one-on-one prayer, and support spiritual healing.

A prayer ministry team has been a fixture of St Mary's since the 1990's, when Rev John Willard was instrumental in setting it up - we thank the Lord that it's still going strong (in large part thanks to the committed witness of some of the original members who are still at St Mary's).

It's now a natural part of our weekly services - two prayer ministry team members offer to pray with and for people during and after the period set aside for Holy Communion. The monthly Healing Prayer Service also offers the opportunity for this kind of personal prayer.

Have you ever wondered what happens in the Lady Chapel when you come for prayer? Perhaps you have occasionally thought about coming for prayer but been a bit uncertain about what you might be expected to do or say.

Well, you don't have to do or say anything specific!

What often happens is that the person asking for prayer gives a brief explanation of their reason for seeking support in prayer – sometimes the prayer team members might ask few very short questions just to understand more.

Prayer needs may be for others or yourself, for healing, for small or big problems, or sometimes to give thanks. The team members then usually ask if it's ok to hold hands or rest hands on shoulders (it's perfectly all right to say no, you would rather not!). And then we quietly pray as we feel led by the Spirit, to ask for God's blessing, healing, guidance, forgiveness... Wonderfully, sometimes we feel given a word or a message that can have special meaning, even if we don't know it.

If you come for prayer, the prayer team will pray very much alongside you and with you – but you can keep silent, say amen, or join in spoken prayer as you wish. Or you can just tell us about something you would like prayers for and go away. There's no right or wrong way!

It's very important for people to be assured that everything that is said during the time of prayer ministry is fully confidential. The needs are not spoken of outside the prayer time.

We sometimes ask if we can also refer the prayer need to the Monday Community Prayer Group, which keeps a rolling list of prayer needs - either with specifics or anonymously.

All members of the Healing Prayer Team are DBS checked and have had safeguarding training; we have also had Diocesan Prayer Ministry training.

Another thing to emphasise is that prayer ministry is about healing and support – it's not a time to ask you to say or do anything you feel uncomfortable with. We also don't give advice! In fact, we as the prayer team don't really give anything of ourselves but rather try to be a channel for God's healing love.

I hope this might have helped one or two people feel a bit more confident about using prayer ministry. Perhaps you feel called to this ministry yourself.

If you would like to explore being a member of the prayer ministry team, please contact Rev Canon Denise Hyde.

Let me end with this quote from St Paul: *Philippians 4:6-7*

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

o0o

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.

FAIRFORD BRIDGE CLUB

Bridge is a friendly and absorbing game.

Our local club, Fairford Bridge Club, offers a whole range of opportunities from absolute beginners through to competitive Duplicate Bridge.

Starting in October we will run another course for absolute beginners. These lessons are extremely friendly, and no prior experience is needed. All equipment is provided.

For more experienced players we offer online competitions every Tuesday and Friday evening. Details can be found by looking for Fairford Bridge Club on the internet and new experienced players are always welcome.

We also run twice weekly face-to-face Improvers Groups, which meet in Fairford Community Centre each Monday afternoon and Wednesday evenings. These are aimed at those with some Bridge experience, looking for tips to improve and to play some social face-to-face Bridge.

If you are tempted to give any of these sessions a try, please contact:

Steve Love at mallards.quenington@gmail.com Tel 01285 750359, or
margaretbishop308095@gmail.com

Lechlade with Fairford Mothers' Union Project for HMP Eastwood Park

The prison, in Gloucestershire at Wotton-under-Edge, is for women aged 18 and over.

When the ladies are coming out of prison they have nothing. Giving them new bits and pieces can help them rehabilitate and give them dignity.

Apparently, the ladies really value the thought that someone cares enough to donate new things to help their re-entry back into society.

As a branch we are collecting for the next few months **sanitary products, face moisturiser, cleanser, cotton wool pads, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, conditioner, shower gel, small hairbrushes, combs, scrunchies, pants, bras, socks and coffee vouchers along with small holdalls or rucksacks.**

We would also appreciate your support as a congregation with this worthy cause.

If you are able to donate any of the mentioned items above, please leave them in the box provided at the back of the church, in the south aisle.

Thank you for your support.



COTSWOLD
FOOD
NETWORK

FREE Family Breakfast & Play Morning

Join us for a fun morning in Fairford!



FREE
Breakfast for
the Whole Family



Story
Time



Craft
Activities



Play & Make
New Friends



Friday
21st



9:00 AM –
11:00 AM



Fairford
Community Centre



In Partnership with St Mary's Church and Volunteers



FREE
to attend!

Booking is
essential.

To book, contact:

Mary ann



07555 738138



5th September from 10am



**The
BIG RAKE
and the
BIG CAKE**



Help!

The longer grass in the churchyard has given us more insects, birds and bats, now for its annual haircut.

We need to rake up the hay

All ages welcome

Refreshments

Please bring a rake and gloves

Thank you!

St Mary's Eco Church Group





St Mary's Eco Church



invites you to

Chris Packham's film
PEOPLE'S EMERGENCY

BRIEFING



Tickets available from
www.tickettailor.com

Limited number available from Fairford opticians



**TUESDAY
15TH
SEPTEMBER**



**7.30pm
DOORS OPEN 7PM**



**FAIRFORD
COMMUNITY CENTRE**

People's National Emergency Briefing on Climate and Nature

A screening of this important national film is taking place in Fairford, hosted by St Mary's Eco Church, on Tuesday, 15 September 2026, 7 pm for 7.30 start. Our local MP, Roz Savage, has (so far) accepted our invitation to attend.

Attendance is free (donation for cost of venue and/or refreshments), but booking your place is strongly advised via this link

<https://buytickets.at/stmaryschurcheogroup/2286367>.

There is a national website which lists all the screenings taking place - you can see our showing clearly on the map at <https://www.nebriefing.org/>

We will have a few tickets available on the door but expect places to get booked up quite quickly - a similar showing planned in Cricklade the same week is already fully booked! There are also a limited number of tickets available at the opticians.

What is the NEB?

The National Emergency Briefing on Climate and Nature was first delivered to politicians and decisions makers in Westminster in November 2025. The Briefing pulled together key facts about the impact of climate change and nature depletion in the UK and a call to action, urging a wartime scale response to the climate and nature emergency.

A 50-minute film encompassing the contents of the NEB, fronted by Chris Packham, was compiled and launched in Summer 2026. A highly organised operation was launched to ensure that the film was screened as community events across the country to promote engagement and discussion (rather than just making it available online). St Mary's Eco Church responded to the call. The showing of the film is the first of our monthly autumn/winter eco-events of the season.

The film is hard-hitting in its presentation of the facts of climate change and implications for nature, food supply, economy, housing etc. However, people who have seen the film have called it alarming but encouraging at the same time; it shows that by working together we can deliver solutions.

Each screening of the film is followed by a chance to discuss the issues and next steps, with a range of materials and information provided by the national organisers. With huge thanks to Andy Miles for having arranged the screening, we are really proud that Fairford is now on the map as hosting a screening of what is already an historically important film.

Organic farmer Chris Peachey and scientist and environmentalist Barbara Brockway – both Fairford residents - will help facilitate the discussion after the film.

There will be soft drinks and wine served from 7 pm.

We have invited not only the MP but representatives of a range of public service groups in the locality; and have had bookings already from others outside our normal eco-talk attendees. So do please book to secure your place.

The QR code should also take you to the booking site.

Chris Packham's words on the importance of protecting this beautiful Earth are moving and inspiring: "This is our home.... It's where we breathe, it's where we eat, we laugh, we cry, we love, we hate and as far as I know, together with all the other wonderful life on Earth, we are the only known life forms in the universe and we've got nowhere else to go".

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)



Craft & Chat

COME ALONG AND GET CREATIVE!



LECHLADE
BAPTIST CHURCH



3rd September
7PM – 9PM



FAIRFORD
COMMUNITY CENTRE



Thursday 24th
7PM – 9PM

£10-

NO SKILLS NEEDED

*Come along and
get creative!*

MUST BOOK

Contact Mary Ann

 **07555738138**

MAKE
RESIN
PENDANTS
AND KEYRINGS



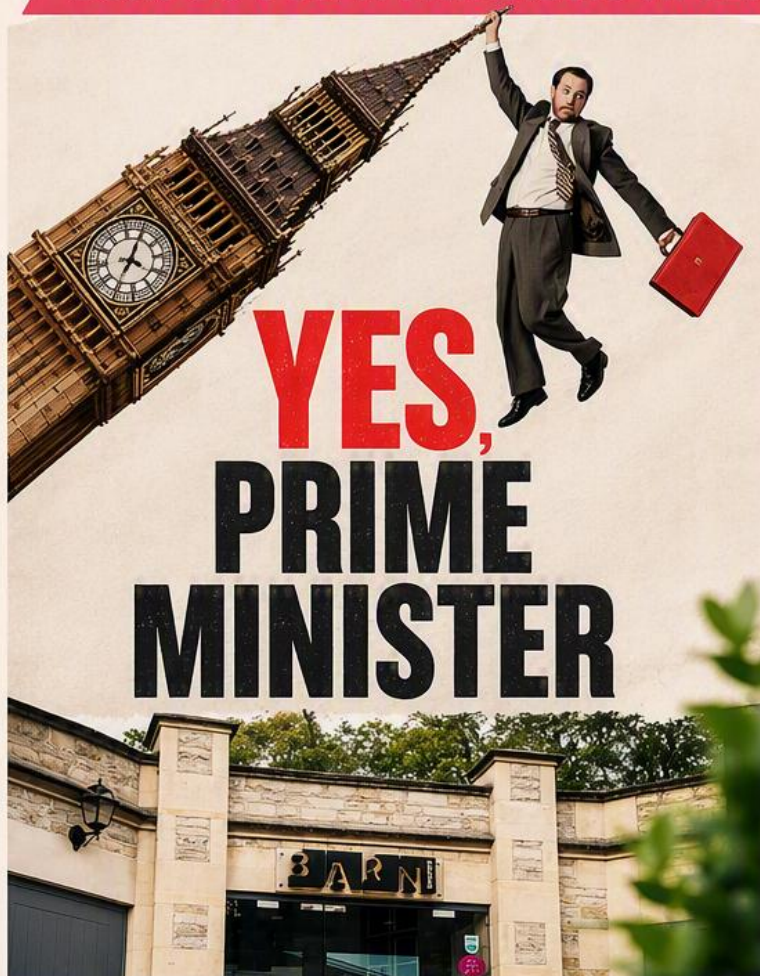


THE BARN theatre BUS



BARN THEATRE TRIP!

JOIN US FOR A FANTASTIC AFTERNOON AT THE BARN THEATRE



**YES,
PRIME
MINISTER**



**THURSDAY
3RD SEPTEMBER**



**1:15 PM
LEAVE LECHLADE**



**MULTIPLE
PICK UPS**



**RETURN
APPROX. 5PM**

A GREAT AFTERNOON
OF POLITICAL HUMOUR,
LAUGHTER & LIVE
THEATRE!



**FREE
TRANSPORT**



**FREE
TICKETS**



*Just bring your money for
refreshments during the interval!*

LET'S ENJOY A WONDERFUL AFTERNOON TOGETHER! ❤️



**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**



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 Gloucestershire 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 four 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.

High Five Activities Coming Up Soon



Peekies & Pimms Afternoon Tea - Saturday 22nd August 3pm. The White House, Fairford. Hosts: Katie and Jeremy Blake. Newsletter posters gives details/ticket info.



Dancercise for Mature Movers - Linda's Fun and not-too-taxing group runs from 10.30-11.30am Tuesdays at Poulton Village Hall, from **Tuesday 22nd September**. Just turn up – any week. £3. Singles and pairs welcome. All subs go to High Five.



High Five Star Talk: Jake Sutton - Jakes 'art' talk coming up in September – watch this space! Light refreshments. Retiring donations.



Lechlade Occasional Choir - Concert: Monday 19th October in the church. The ever popular LOC returns to St Mary's. Retiring donations.

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

Your local church is:

Please Contact:



Gloucestershire
Historic Churches Trust

WE'RE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE SPECIAL

Minister Support Worker

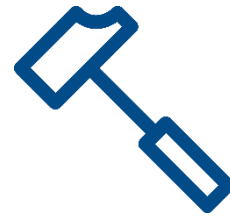
Can you:

- Provide pastoral care for the congregation & others including visiting in times of need such as at home or in hospital?
- Attend outreach & fundraising events, providing help & support?
- Be a representative at Churches Together meetings?
- Help grow our mission, encouraging relationships with other churches & the community?
- Help discover new mission ventures & opportunities?
- Work alongside colleagues supporting exciting new projects?
- Listen, support & communicate well?
- Demonstrate sensitivity & an awareness of Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity issues?

Find out more here:

www.gloucestershiremethodist.org.uk





Citizens Advice Column:

Q: I hired a company to install concrete fencing and a gate in my back garden. The quality of the work is poor, and the gate doesn't shut properly. What can I do?

When you put your trust in a trader and the work doesn't meet your expectations it can be frustrating. If a trader hasn't done a good job with 'reasonable care and skill', the **Consumer Rights Act 2015** entitles you to ask for the problem to be fixed or receive a refund.

Evidence is important. Take photos and make notes about what happened and when, including times and dates, and keep receipts or other proof of payment.

People can experience **different types of problems with traders**, and there is [specific advice available on the Citizens Advice website depending on the issue](#).

When you contact the trader, **explain the problem clearly and provide your evidence**. They should fix it within a reasonable amount of time and without causing you too much inconvenience. The law doesn't define exactly what is reasonable, so **you'll need to agree this with them**.

If they can't or won't fix the problem, you can ask for a **partial or full refund**, depending on how bad the issue is. It's a good idea to suggest an amount and explain why you think it's reasonable. Once a refund has been agreed, it should be paid within 14 days.

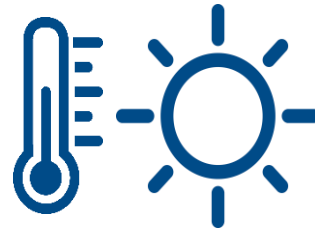
If you **can't reach an agreement**, there are other **options**. If you paid by card, you may be able to complain to your card provider. If the trader is a member of a trade association or quality scheme, this might help to take your complaint further, or you may be able to use an [alternative dispute resolution \(ADR\) scheme](#). If you've tried various things and the complaint remains unresolved, you may be able to complain to the [Financial Ombudsman Service](#).

Anyone experiencing problems with building work, decorating or home improvements can contact the national [Citizens Advice Consumer Service](#) on **0808 223 1133** for advice and support from a trained adviser.



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**



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**.