



Beavers may be reintroduced in parts of Gloucestershire - making use of their unique dam building skills to help create ponds and wetlands and help the landscape with drought and climate change!



South Cotswold Team Ministry

Sunday 13th September 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 13th September – 15th after Trinity

8.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.00am Sung Eucharist

Sidespeople: Michelle Harris and Heather Gorton

Offertory: Heather Gorton

Prayer: Denise Hyde and Val Trafford

Readings: Sally Salter Intercessions: Ruth Blackwell

Coffee: Amanda and Mervyn Cully

Thursday 17th September

10.30am BCP Holy Communion

Sunday 20th September – 16th after Trinity

8.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.00am Sung Eucharist

Sidespeople: Jill Connell and Kim Sutton

Offertory: Wendy Close / Alison Cohoon

Prayer: Mary Mawle and Ruth Blackwell

Readings: Mike Godsall Intercessions: Val Trafford

Coffee: David and Sally Salter

Baptisms: Indie Bird and Cynthia-Ann McGoven

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

Readings for Sunday: Genesis 50.15-21; Romans 14.1-12; Matthew 18.21-35

One of the loveliest parts of my ministry here at St Mary's has always been my work with our wonderful Fairford Church of England Primary School. There are so many opportunities to speak with the children, to meet with staff and subject leaders, and to spend time in discussion with our powerhouse Headteacher, Julie Fellows. It's always a joy to walk up Leafield Road and discover what awaits, be it a classroom full of children interested to ask about the relationship between science and religion, or an opportunity to lead Collective Worship. One of my secret pleasures in planning Collective Worship is choosing the music. I like to have a gentle piece to settle and focus the gathered children to come in to, and then something as they leave that will pick up the theme of the worship, and hopefully get everyone leaving with those thoughts ringing in their ears.

The thing is, our clear theme for this Sunday, and one of the school's core Christian Values, is forgiveness, and I don't know about you, but finding popular songs (hymns are cheating) that speak usefully about forgiveness I find to be an almost impossible task. No one seems to be interested in forgiving others! There's lots of entreating forgiveness, or reflecting on how hard it can be to ask for forgiveness ('Sorry Seems to be the Hardest Word'), but very little on actually finding it in your heart to offer forgiveness fully and freely. Perhaps you have some suggestions? I would love to hear them! Email me!

But in the meantime... I'm drawing a blank. And I think that's very much reflective of the human heart. Forgiveness is a hard topic to write a song about because it can be so deep, so complicated, and honestly, so painful. Of all the things Jesus tells us to do, forgiving others is the one I'm certain is the hardest for the majority of people. Sometimes I think we can experience the thought of forgiving someone who has hurt us almost as another wound. Another blow to hurt our hearts. We risk reliving the damage done, and that feels intolerable. Sometimes we want to hold onto our anger and bitterness, perhaps out of a strange sense of justice – we deserve to feel angry! But in the long run, whether we hold onto that wound out of fear or out of anger, we need to recognise that holding non to it hurts only us.

Reconciliation is always the final goal – that's the ideal that we strive for. A process of repentance, forgiveness and reconciliation that allows healing for all. But practically, that's not always how it works. Those who hurt us may never feel repentance. There may never be a possibility for coming together in peace ever again. But we can choose what we carry. Forgiveness is a way of healing that wound, of letting the hurt move into the past rather than being a constant and present pain. Of course it's a hard and complicated thing to do. We know it! But it is a good one, and one to which Jesus points us again and again. May we have the courage to let forgiveness begin to heal our hearts today.

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 7th September.

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: William Edward Whale

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

An unconditional love!

God continues to love us, even when we don't feel the same about him.

God, thank you for being my safe place. You're here for me no matter what I face, and I'm grateful I can always take refuge in you.

Today help me to come before you honestly, humbly and with complete faith.

Give me the courage to surrender my concerns, and to trust you with the results.

I invite you to be my source of strength in every area of my life.

In Jesus' name. AMEN

Friday Bible study group

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

NOTICES

Music at St Mary's: An Update on Fundraising for St Mary's, Fairford

As many of you will know, one of the PCC's most important responsibilities, and one that occasionally keeps us awake at night, is raising the funds needed to maintain St Mary's and support its ongoing mission and presence within our wider Fairford community.

This is no small task. As a large church, we contribute a significant proportion of our income to support the wider needs of the Diocese. These funds help smaller churches to thrive and provide admin, housing, training and support for our clergy.

You may have noticed a new sign above the donations box and a new viewing window in the Good Box on the desk. These simple changes have already made a difference, with visitors giving more generously than before. Many are genuinely touched by the welcome they receive from our stewards and are often surprised to learn that it costs almost £450 every day to keep St Mary's open, maintained and serving the community.

A major part of our fundraising activity centres on music. When we organised the Carducci Quartet concert a few years ago, we realised that St Mary's had something very special to offer: outstanding acoustics, excellent facilities and the ability to bring world-class music to Fairford. Music has always been an important part of worship and a powerful way of connecting with God, so it felt entirely appropriate to create a dedicated concert programme. From that vision, ***Music at St Mary's*** was born.

Our aim is to host no more than three concerts each year, with every event offering something unique. We want these concerts to bring joy, inspiration and exceptional music to St Mary's and to all who attend. This year we have already welcomed *The King's Men* in April and the *North Swindon Big Band* in July. Both concerts were wonderfully well attended and received enthusiastic praise from audiences.

We are fortunate that many outstanding musicians are keen to perform at St Mary's, often bringing ambitious projects with them. Sadly, we have had to turn down some of the more ambitious proposals, including opera performances and a large orchestra, simply because of the practical challenges involved.

Our final concert of the year takes place on 19th September and promises to be a very special occasion. We will be hiring a grand piano for the event as *Adrian Partington*, Director of Music at Gloucester Cathedral, joins forces with the gifted young violinist *Leora Cohen* for an afternoon of truly exceptional music.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who supports these events, and especially to the army of volunteers who generously give their time, talents and energy to make them happen. Every penny of profit from our concerts goes directly towards supporting the ongoing work and future of St Mary's. Quite simply, initiatives such as these play a vital role in ensuring the church can continue to serve our community for generations to come.

Please support our final 2026 *Music at St Mary's* Concert. Tickets for September's concert can be purchased online at Eventbrite (link on the website and the St. Marys Fairford page at A Church near You or in cash from the Opticians).

Looking Ahead

We are already planning next year's concert programme and would love to hear your ideas. We are considering more outstanding classical performances, something non-classical and maybe the return of one or two favourite acts. If there is something you would particularly like to hear at St Mary's, please let us know.

Thank you for your continued support.

Jane-Emma Peerless (on behalf of the PCC)

Coffee Rota: Volunteers Needed

We are currently a bit short of volunteers to serve coffee and biscuits after the 10 am service every week and would welcome a few new people on the list.

Currently our turn comes around about every two months. It's a good way to meet new people and is much appreciated.

The coffee and tea are provided, so only milk and biscuits need to be brought on the day.

If you are interested in knowing more, please talk to Sarah Bottomley.

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.

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.

Save the Date!

Saturday 31st October at Fairford Community Centre – 12.00noon – 2pm soup lunch and crafts, in aid of Help Madina charity – more details to follow.

Please contact Helen, 01285 713431



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.

Scientist and environmentalist Barbara Brockway – a Fairford resident - 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)

St. Marys next concert: Saturday 19th September 2026 – 3pm



Adrian Partington (piano) and Leora Cohen (violin)

Adrian Partington (piano) and Leora Cohen (violin) unleash an afternoon programme that sweeps from Baroque brilliance to Gershwin's intoxicating heat.

Bach's A major Sonata shimmers with poised intricacy before *Beethoven's "Spring" Sonata* bursts forth in lyrical radiance and athletic vigour.

After the interval, the stormier emotional world of *Elgar's E minor Sonata* takes centre stage. Brooding, restless, and richly expressive.

The evening ignites in a final blaze with Heifetz's dazzling transcriptions from Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*: bold, sultry, and virtuosic. Four iconic works brought to life with commanding artistry.

Adrian Partington is one of the UK's leading choral and orchestral musicians. He has been Director of Music at Gloucester Cathedral since 2007, introducing girl choristers and leading international tours to the USA, Canada, Sweden and Germany. He is also Artistic Director of the BBC National Chorus of Wales, preparing the chorus for hundreds of concerts and BBC Proms since 1999. Trained at the Royal College of Music and King's College, Cambridge, he maintains an active career as pianist, organist and conductor with major UK orchestras.

Leora Cohen is a British-American violinist celebrated for her vibrant solo and recital career. She holds a double first-class degree from Cambridge University and two Diplomas with Distinction from the Royal College of Music. She made her solo debut at 16 at St John's Smith Square and has appeared internationally with ensembles including the LGT Young Soloists, performing for Liechtenstein Royalty and opening the 2022 Heidelberg Festival. She is a regular soloist with London ensembles such as the Piccadilly Sinfonietta and the Albion Chamber Orchestra.

Tickets are available from the Opticians on Eventbrite

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/tea-time-piano-and-violin-concert-tickets-1988236306314?aff=oddttdcreator>



Come and join us for a **FairTrade** coffee morning.



**Saturday 26th
September**



10.00am - 12 noon



**Barker Room
Fairford Community
Centre.**



**St Mary's Church
FAIRFORD**





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



Join us for a Race Night



To celebrate our



90th Birthday!

AT

THE
PALMER HALL
1936



Saturday 19th September

7pm - 11pm

Tables of 4 £8 or Tables of 6 £10

Contact:

palmerhallsecretary@outlook.com /

07825211830 to book



Bar Available * BYO Snacks * Raffle



It's time for a Macmillan Coffee Morning and you're invited

**Let's do whatever it takes to make cancer
care better for everyone, whoever and
wherever they are**

Fairford Bowling Club, East End, Fairford

Friday 25th September 9.15am till 12noon

Contact:

Ingrid Morris

07516 632122

COFFEE AND HOME-MADE CAKES

RAFFLE

PUZZLES AND BOOKS

BRIC A BRA



Macmillan Cancer Support, registered charity in England and Wales (261017), Scotland (SC039907) and the Isle of Man (604). Also operating in Northern Ireland. MAC20383

**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

Dancercise For Mature Movers



'60s, '70s, '80s, + modern music
***Fun group – Nothing too tiring – Go at
your own pace – singles and pairs welcome***

Tuesdays 10.30-11.30am
Poulton Village Hall
22nd September – 8th December 2026

Just turn up – any week - 01285 672512

£3 cash per session – in support of:

 **High Five Project 2026 Fundraising for Children's Charities**

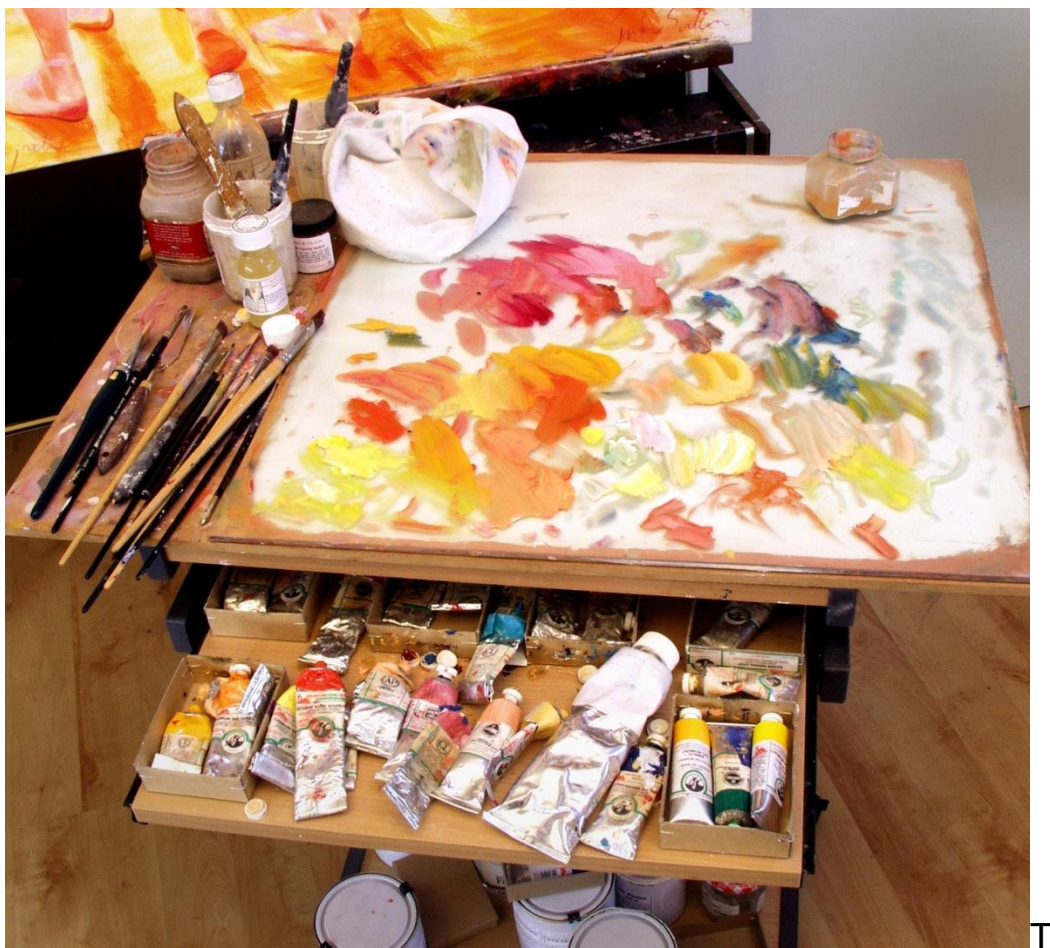
The Magic Breakfast - Glos Young Carers – The Rainbow Trust – Smile Train

Home Start Cotswolds – The James Hopkins Trust – Transforming Lives For Good

‘An artist’s studio’

Jake Sutton

*A survey of traditional materials of the painter from early Renaissance
to the Great War*



Thursday 24th September at 7.30 pm

Fairford Community Centre

Light refreshments served

High Five-Star Talks

The third in a series of five talks from Fairfordians.

Retiring Donations to High Five Children's Charities Project 2026



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.



**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**

Harvest appeal



Ending hunger **together**
across the South
Cotswolds

Donate food



Please donate an item from our list, or scan this QR code to download the BankTheFood app and follow us to check what items we urgently need.

Donate money



Scan the QR code to make a one-off or monthly donation. Every gift helps us provide food and vital support to local people.

Shopping list

Tinned green beans &
mixed veg, tins of rice
pudding, tinned fruit,
tinned soup, 'cuppa
soup', instant coffee,
tinned corned beef, hot
dogs & chicken/beef
curry, long-life juice,
chocolate biscuit bars,
cereal bars.



0300 102 7970

southcotswolds.foodbank.org.uk

Registered Charity in England & Wales (1159810).



South Cotswolds Foodbank



@southcotsfoodbank