



Ampleforth Abbey has one of the most extensive collections of 'Mouseman' furniture in the country, with carvings of mice found on almost every pew as well as on chairs, benches and lecterns!



South Cotswold Team Ministry Sunday 4th October 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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SERVICES

Sunday 4th October – 18th after Trinity

8.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.00am Sung Eucharist

Sidespeople: Eleanor and Michelle

Offertory: Wendy Close

Prayer: Denise Hyde and Ann Nicholls

Readings: Linda Howlett Intercession: Alison Godsall

Coffee: Amanda and Mervyn Cully

6.00pm Prayer & Praise

Sunday 11th October – 19th after Trinity

8.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.00am Harvest Thanksgiving Service

Sidespeople: Andy and Jill

Offertory: Wendy Close

Prayer: Lucy Hodson and Michelle Harris

Readings: Fiona Gilroy Intercession: Janet Edwards

Coffee: Janet Edwards and Beth Bruce-Gardner

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

Readings for Sunday: Isaiah 4.1-7; Philippians 3.4b-14; Matthew 21.33-end

In the Vicarage household, I'm lucky enough to be married to a man who not only can cook, but will cook, and likes to cook, which beautifully supplements my fundamental inability in all three of those crucial areas. To keep the division of labour equitable though, we decided a long time ago that if Paul cooks, then I should wash up and tidy away. This generally works very well and smoothly, but every so often there will be a meal that leaves behind some really grimy pans. And, not to my credit, but in a spirit of honesty, I will admit that sometimes dealing with grimy pans is so distasteful that I put off washing them up for a few days. Now often I don't feel good about that, so some guilt might build up around this unstarted task.

Now imagine being in that position, nasty grimy pans in the sink, a day has passed and you're feeling a bit guilty, and you decide today's the day and you're going to take care of them. And then your other half walks past and says, "Could you do something about those pans?"

The feeling that jumps out of me in that situation is what psychologists call 'reactance theory'. I know the pans need washing. I feel guilty I haven't washed them. I want to wash them. I've decided to wash them. But when somebody tells me to wash them? Well, then I just don't want to anymore. I bristle. My ego puffs itself up. "Why's he telling me that? I would have done it without being told! Am I a child needing to be told what to do?"

All of which, after a calming breath or two, feels very silly. But it's part and parcel of the human condition. Being pushed for something, even when it's something we might normally want to do or offer, can easily be experienced as a threat. In the Parable of the Vineyard, as Jesus tells it in Matthew's Gospel, we see that the tenants are feeling just this threatening pressure. They are tenants. They know they owe rent to the owner of the vineyard. But when that rent is demanded, suddenly that pressure is too much to bear, and they will do anything to resist it, up to and including murder.

For us as followers of Jesus, we are in the situation of those tenants. We have been called into service, and there are expectations upon us in that service. We are to bear the fruit of the Kingdom. The question we need to ask ourselves is – when the Master comes to demand that fruit, what will our response be? Will we bristle? Will we feel threatened and defensive? Will we feel guilty and ill-equipped? Or will we be ready to offer up the fruit of a life lived in service to our Lord? And what might that fruit look like in your life?

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 5th October.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81784817015?pwd=AlVT9gCQl1ssm6un35SSkDYh5nipDb.1>

Meeting ID: 817 8481 7015

Passcode: 309455

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

Please remember the following in your prayers:

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

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

The greatest of all! *1 Corinthians 13:13*

And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love, the greatest of these is love.

Lord, I know that to put my life in proper order I need to love you above all things and all people.

Show me where I am not loving you with all my heart, soul, and mind.

Reveal to me where I have a divided heart and help me turn away from whatever divides my attention and draws me away from you.

Show me what it means to love you with everything I have in me.

In the name of Jesus. AMEN

Friday Bible study group

The Friday Bible study group meets fortnightly, 10:30-11:30am at Janet Edward's house. The group would be delighted to welcome new members as it restarts this October. For more information, please speak to Revd Caroline.

Safeguarding

Parish Safeguarding Officer - Val Trafford - val.trafford@me.com

For those members of the community who need to complete their Basic Safeguarding training, or for those who are just interested and would like to learn more, we would like to invite you to a training session led by Val on Monday 26th October. It starts at 10:00 in the Barker Room at the Community Centre, and will finish with a light lunch of homemade soup, bread and cakes at about 12:00.

Do let Val know if you're planning to attend!

Harvest Thanksgiving

Our Harvest Thanksgiving service will be at 10am on Sunday 11th October. Do come along to take the opportunity to give thanks to God for all his gifts, and the harvest gathered in this year. We'll take a special collection of food for the South Cotswold Foodbank as part of the service. Their current most-needed items are below:

Angel delight	Biscuits	Cat food
Chocolate	Cold tinned meat	Cup-a-soup
Deodorant	Hot tinned meat	Household cleaner
Instant coffee	Long-life juice	Rice
Rich sachets (microwaveable)	Shower gel	Snacks (crisps etc.)
Sponge puddings	Squash	Tinned fruit
Tinned rice pudding	Tinned soup	Tinned spaghetti
Tinned tomatoes	Tinned vegetables	Toilet cleaner
Washing powder		

Next PCC Meeting

The next PCC meeting will be held at 9.30am on Tuesday 13th October. Please do hold our members in prayer as we meet to discuss the work and life of St Mary's.

NOTICES

Music at St Mary's: 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)

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

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.

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.

Church Cleaning – Help Needed

Since several of our hard-working church cleaning team have had to step back recently, we have a pressing need for two roles in particular:

- a) A volunteer to organise the church cleaning rota. The Holy Dusters do a fantastic job, but the teams really need someone to co-ordinate which team is working where and when. Could you help organise?
- b) A volunteer to take on the cleaning of the church brass. Our candlesticks and High Altar crucifix are all made of beautiful brass, which looks great, but needs regular love and attention. Might you be able to take on the task of keeping it shining?



Thank You for Supporting Fairtrade

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our Fairtrade Coffee Morning at the weekend, whether you came along, helped out, baked, donated or simply enjoyed a cup of Fairtrade tea or coffee with us.

Your support helped make the morning a wonderful opportunity to come together while raising awareness of Fairtrade and this year's important theme of Fair Pay.

We are proud that St Mary's Church is a Fairtrade Place of Worship, reflecting our commitment to making choices that support fairness, dignity and better livelihoods for farmers and workers around the world.

As Fairtrade Fortnight comes to an end, our support for Fairtrade does not have to end with it. We can continue to make a difference throughout the year by looking for the FAIRTRADE Mark when we shop and choosing Fairtrade tea, coffee, chocolate, bananas, sugar and other products whenever possible.

We can ask our local shops and cafés to stock Fairtrade products, talk to friends and family about why Fairtrade matters, and choose Fairtrade flowers, wine or gifts for special occasions.

Small choices, made regularly by many of us, can make a real difference. Fairtrade isn't just for Fairtrade Fortnight — let's continue to support fairer pay and a fairer future throughout the year.



Jake Sutton Talk



We were delighted to have Jake take part in our Five Star Talks programme on Thursday 24th September, whereby Fairfordians are giving five talks this year on their chosen subjects, to help raise funds for our children's charities project.

Jake's talk (the third in the series) "An Artist's Studio", a survey of traditional materials of the painter from early Renaissance to the Great War, proved to be a highly successful and enjoyable event

. Over 40 people enjoyed the evening, showing their appreciation by donating £289.50 (after costs) to the fund to help seven children's charities.

We are grateful to everyone who helped on the night (moving furniture, washing up, etc.) particularly to Jake, Peter, and to Helen and Ros, for making the evening such a success.

Our next talk by Peter Howlett will be on Friday 27th November, and our final talk in December will be by Jeremy Blake.

Look out as well for posters advertising **our next High Five event, a concert from Lechlade Occasional Choir on Monday 19th October.** No ticket required. Retiring donations to the High Five project and St Mary's church.

Linda, Jos, Hope, and Meg.

New Housing in Fairford: The Local Plan

You are probably aware that Cotswold District Council has published a local plan which is now at the stage of a Regulation 19 Consultation. This means that there is still an opportunity to comment on the plan before it is submitted for independent examination. There are plans for very considerable expansion of Fairford, with up to 1,400 homes mostly on the Eastern side. The deadline for submitting comments is 11:59 pm, 3rd November 2026.

As Christians, we must recognise that many people need homes and that we should be willing to share our good fortune in living in such a lovely place. At the same time we may wish to contribute to sensible planning which takes current and future needs into account, which is not just a knee-jerk reaction to the requirement from Government that all Districts deliver on national housing requirements. Perhaps we might each individually have something to say about the proposals.

This is obviously something that should be on our list of own prayers, alongside those of the Community Prayer Group as we each seek guidance on what our reaction to the plan should be.

Even if we see the human need, there will be considerable impacts on nature and wildlife - St Mary's Eco Church members will individually be responding to the consultation about its impact on biodiversity in Fairford, already under great strain.

If you feel that it is right for you to respond, all the details are at this link <https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/local-plan-2026-2043/> - this shows you the plan and the way to submit your response.

There is also a local group called Fairford Community Alliance, which has set up a Facebook page with a simple way to top and tail your personal submission. <https://fairfordcommunityalliance.uk/get-involved/#respond>. You don't have to use their messages, but it is a helpful way to understand how to respond to a public consultation.

Harvest Supper

Thursday October 22nd

**At 7.00pm in the Farmor Room,
Fairford Community Centre**

**Cottage Pie (vegetarian option) and Apple Crumble
with music from Ray Shaw**

Tickets £5

**Proceeds to Open Doors
& Mission Aviation Fellowship**

**Available from Jan in St Mary's Church office
Monday and Tuesday 10.00 – 12.00
Wednesday and Thursday 10.00 – 1.00pm**

**If you can help with catering by providing a cottage pie or apple
crumble, please speak to Jan in the office – 01285 712611**



Join us on a trip to...



Westonbirt

The National Arboretum



Tuesday
13th October



10am
Robin Bus
departure



1.30pm
Robin Bus
back



Free
if you have
a bus pass



£6
if you don't
have a bus pass



Free
entrance



Book via Mary Ann
07555738138

Enjoy the
beautiful
colours and
nature!



Art Exhibition by Zehra Ipek Williamson

A member of our congregation, Zehra Ipek is having an exhibition of her artwork at the Community Centre on Saturday and Sunday the 17th and 18th of October. There will be refreshments. She is looking forward to seeing you all.

ART Exhibition by Zehra Ipek Williamson



**Fairford Community Centre
17th and 18th October 2026
open 10 am to 5 pm
Free admission Refreshments**



POP UP £1 SALE

SATURDAY 3RD OCTOBER

10AM - 1PM

LECHLADE PAVILION



FREE ENTRY

NO DONATIONS