



It is thought that wealthy Romans first brought pheasants to Britain to keep as food. Today they are a common sight with their bright, vibrant colours; unfortunately, their road sense is not so bright!



South Cotswold Team Ministry Sunday 25th 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

carolinesymcox@googlemail.com

revvickyfalvey@gmail.com

denisehyde15@gmail.com

SERVICES

Sunday 25th October – Bible Sunday

8.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.00am All-Age Worship Service

Coffee: Doug and Jean Crowley

6.00pm Healing Service with Holy Communion

Thursday 29th October

10.30am BCP Holy Communion

Sunday 1st November – All Saint's Day

8.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.00am Sung Eucharist

Sidespeople: Eleanor Toby and Jenny Hewes

Offertory: Jane Easton

Prayer: Ann Nicholls and Michelle Harris

Readings: Peter Howlett Intercessions: Alison Godsall

Coffee: Linda and Peter Howlett

6.00pm Prayer and Praise Service

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

Readings for Sunday: Nehemiah 8.1-4a, 5-6, 8-12; Colossians 3.12-17; Matthew 24.30-35

Bible Sunday

This Sunday 25th October is the last Sunday after Trinity, also known and celebrated as Bible Sunday, which we will be marking this week. The tradition of having a 'Bible Sunday' is an old one, but the choice of which Sunday that should be has shifted over the years. Within our Anglican tradition, the first specific marking of a 'Bible Sunday' was through Thomas Cranmer's Book of Common Prayer, which has a special 'Prayer of Thanksgiving for the Holy Scriptures', which is the Collect for the second Sunday in Advent. In this prayer we ask, "Blessed Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them..."

Over time though, this day has shifted around, as Advent become the rather busier time that it is now. When the Bible Society was formed (with an aim to make Bibles available as broadly as possible, in as many languages as possible), Bible Sunday became a time to reflect on that mission, and often collections would be taken for the Society at those services. It moved to March, then June, and since 1994 it has now been settled on the last Sunday after Trinity Sunday.

The goal of this day, however, is the same as in Cranmer's time. We seek to remind ourselves of the importance of Holy Scripture, and to recommit to taking time to study and reflect on the Bible, both individually, and with fellow Christians. Scripture is a gift, given to us, and we would be sorely missing out if we didn't fully enjoy and engage with this gift. In 1 Timothy 4, the young leader Timothy is reminded of the value of taking time to deepen his faith, through study of Scripture and through prayer, and those words go out to us too. Time taken in this study and reflection is never wasted.

And so comes the challenge to us! Do you currently set time out in your day or week to read the Bible, and to pray? If not, then I encourage and challenge you to start! A good way to do this is through Morning or Evening Prayer, which will give you scriptures to reflect upon each day. Are you able to talk about your faith and study with others? If not, would you like to? We have three study groups here in Fairford: on a Wednesday afternoon, Thursday afternoon (via Zoom) and Friday morning. Would you like to join us? Just let me know and we can take things from there. Let's strive to deepen our faith, to learn more about God, and his great love for us, and let's see our lives grow as a result!

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 26th October.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81784817015?pwd=AIVT9gCQl1ssm6un35SSkDYh5nipDb.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: Shirley Lewis, Pamela Frances Young – Funeral to take place on Friday 30th October at 2.30pm at St. Mary's, Fairford.

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

It is the little things that usually have the greatest impact in life!

A compliment, a smile, a simple thank you, a hug, it's these things that make up a positive outlook.

Lord, I place my life, my plans, my whole day in your hands. Guide my steps, my words and my decisions. Let your will be done in my life.

I know that without you, I am nothing.

Lead my thoughts, my choices and my actions according to your perfect plan, from morning to night guide me in every way.

Fill me with your Holy Spirit, protect me from all harm, renew my strength and remind me that you are with me always.

I pray in Jesus' name. AMEN

Remembering Service, Sunday 1st November, 3pm

This is a simple quiet and reflective service, remembering our loved ones who have died.

During the service the names of those who have died during the past year from this parish will be read out before God.

If you would like to add other names of your loved ones who have died, please contact Rev'd Denise, denisehyde15@gmail.com or 01285 713285.

Remembrance Sunday Poppies – Volunteers Needed!

Time marches on, and we will soon be at Remembrance Sunday once again, which this year is on 8th November. We would love to decorate the porch and church in the preceding week with our lovely crocheted poppies, but we'll need help from some willing able-bodied folks to do so! Please let Rev'd Caroline know if you can help put up the decorations this year, and we'll get a suitable date and time in the diary.

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!

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)

Harvest Thanksgiving Service at St. Mary's

Some of the beautiful flower arrangements in church, created by the talented Beth and the flower team!



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.

Save the Date!

Saturday 31st October at Fairford Community Centre – 12.00noon – 2pm soup lunch and crafts in aid of Help for Madina charity - **volunteers wanted** to make soup and fruit crumble for the event:

- Carrot and coriander
- Leek and Potato
- Broccoli and Stilton
- Fruit Crumble

A bottle for the raffle would be gratefully received instead of soup or crumble.

Thank you.

Please contact Helen, 01285 713431

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.

Decorating the Red Phone Box – Artists Needed!

Fairford Town Council has adopted the red phone box on the High Street, and are planning on installing shelves inside it for information leaflets etc.

As part of making it more of a feature, they would like to have some "stained glass window" stickers depicting Fairford made, and are inviting groups and clubs in Fairford to design their own 'window'. Could you help produce an offering from St Mary's? You can use your group logo, or words, or make something totally new - it's up to you. **Designs must be no larger than 376mm x 178mm.** You can use as much colour as you like, but any white space will be clear in the finished window. Please speak to Rev'd Caroline with thoughts and ideas.

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?

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.

LIFE'S FIVE BIG QUESTIONS

Origin? Purpose? Suffering? Afterlife? God?

These form the basis of the internationally acclaimed Alpha Course initiated by Rev Nicky Gumbel currently being translated into Chinese and Arabic.

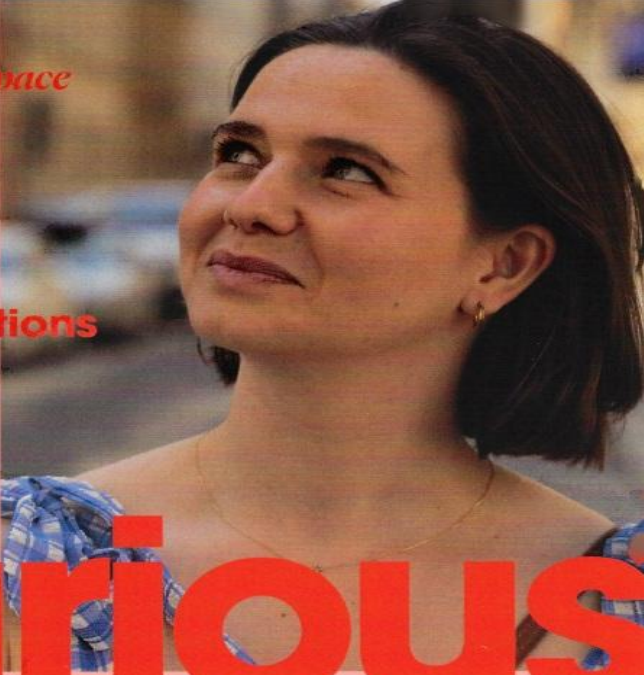
Here in Fairford, we are running an Alpha Course on Tuesday evenings for 7 weeks from October 20th-December 1st.

Please invite and bring family, friends or work colleagues for whom these five big questions of life remain unanswered.

If you have any questions or want to find out more, please let us know.
Jeremy & Katie Blake

FACT (Fairford Area Churches Together)

Email: jrmblk7@gmail.com or ekatie.blake@gmail.com



An open space
to
unpack
life's
big
questions

For anyone
who's

curious

about the
Christian faith

October 20th - December 1st
7.00 - 9.00pm
The Upper Room
London Street
Fairford
You're invited - just register on line!

Try Alpha.



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

You are invited to hear

Hope Price

speaks about

Angels

True stories of how
they touch our lives

Thursday 22nd October

7pm

Barnsley Village Hall,
Barnsley, GL7 5EF

Extra parking over the road at 'Layston'



W4W Craft & Chat

Create ♥ Connect ♥ Wellbeing

Small
donations
make a big
difference!

PAPERBACK BOOK DONATIONS NEEDED

Help us create something special at our
upcoming **Craft & Chat** event!

We're looking for unwanted paperback books
that can be transformed into beautiful crafts
and creative projects.



Please drop donations into
the **Community Centre**
and leave them for
Mary Ann.

OR



Contact Mary Ann
and we can collect.

07555738138

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR:



- ✓ Paperback novels
- ✓ Old books in reasonable condition
- ✓ Books suitable for crafting

Thank you ♥
for supporting
your local community

Working together to improve wellbeing
through creativity, connection and community. ♥





COMMUNITY MEALS

ARE BACK!

WE HAVE DATES!!!! *Yayyyyyy!*

Sunday
25/10
@ 12pm

Thursday
26/11
@ 5pm

Thursday
10/12
@ 6pm

Menu to be confirmed but these book up fast

£7.50 home cooked dinner
and dessert

 **Fairford Community Centre**

HOSTED by Mel at Kitchen Club
and W4W volunteers.

Come share a meal and laughter
with us in the community.




Contact
Mary Ann
07555738138
to book your
space



CRAFT & SOUP

All sales support local charity

HELP MADINA

Saturday, 31st October



12 - 2pm



Fairford Community Centre

Free entry for everyone!

Soup and Bread £5.00

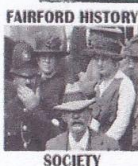
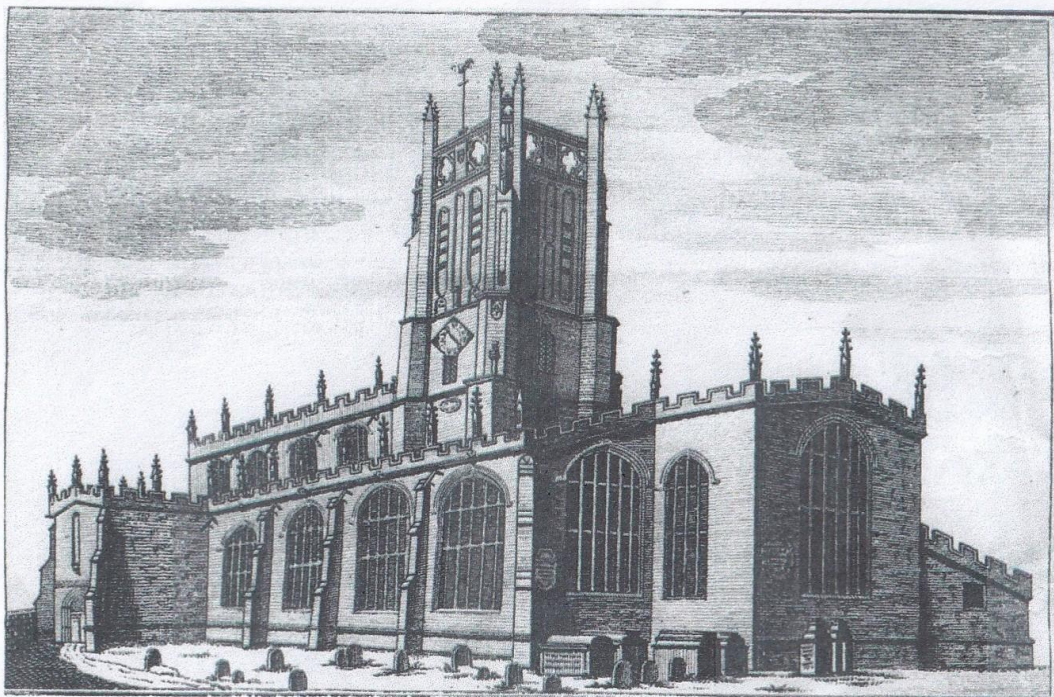
Refreshments £2.50

Charity Raffle Cash sales



**Thursday 19th November 7.30pm at
Fairford Community Centre**

**Music in St Mary's Church, Fairford
by John Read**



www.fairfordhistory.org.uk



High Five Project – Three to go!

Our final four events of the year are coming up – watch the church newsletter and lobby notice board **TWO WEEKS** before each one.

Friday 27th November: **TALK** **3.00pm**

Our fourth of five High Five-star talks - Peter (Howlett) gives a second talk on a new subject, close to the hearts of us all. Watch this space for more info nearer the time. Free admission. Light refreshments. Retiring donation for our children's charities.

Thursday 3rd December: **CONCERT** **7.00PM**

Our terrific Christmas concert "Step into Christmas" with **A Splash of Red** and **The Blue Notes** ladies' choirs. A fabulous evening of song. Free admission. Bring cash for (inexpensive) bar and mince pies. Retiring donation for our children's charities.

Date TBA in December: **TALK** **Time follows**

Fifth of our five High Five start talks, Jeremy (Blake) brings an interesting subject alive - details follow nearer the time. Free admission. Light refreshments. Retiring donation for our children's charities.

Thank you for supporting High Five – put the events in your diary!



The Magic Breakfast – Glos Young Carers – The Rainbow Trust – Smile Train – Home Start Cotswolds – James Hopkins Trust – Transforming Lives for Good



Friends of Fairford and Lechlade Communities

Registered Charity Number: 1180059

Charity Impact Report

We're proud to showcase what we've achieved from January to July 2026. Find out more about our services and events on our website.

Providing health and social care to the people in Fairford, Lechlade and the surrounding villages.

HOME NURSING CARE



Our Home Nursing Team have supported **11 patients**, making **134 visits** and providing **298 hours of nursing care**. We have run **six well attended bereavement cafes**. We have improved the structure of our Nursing Team and welcomed our new Nursing Team Manger.

PATIENT TRANSPORT



Helping local people get to appointments and access essential medication.

- **630 Journeys**
- **20,877 miles**
- **203 prescriptions delivered**

EDNA DAWES LUNCH CLUB



Our Lunch Club has run **28 sessions** and served **385 meals**. We have moved to a new venue, welcomed a new Team Leader and the members and volunteers have created a group phrase, '**Friendship, Dignity and Respect**' as well as their own frinedship bracelets!

OUR CHARITY SHOP

Our Lechlade based Charity Shop generated **£33,660.38** in profit helping us fund vital services for local people. £5,156.78 of this is income from Gift Aid. We have made **3,715 sale transactions** and had 651 hours of volunteer help. We have welcomed a new Shop Manager and increased our presence on social media.



FUNDRAISING



We made an incredible **£20,277** from our annual House to House fundraiser. We have run 5 events which in total have raised **£1,906.07**

GRANT FUNDING



We have spent **£2,820 on counselling** and have supported eight young people. We have donated **£10,000 to Prospect Hospice**. We have spent £1,280 to funded 18 people to access footcare

If you are interested in volunteering with us or making a donation please contact us:

E: admin@friendsoffairford.org.uk

W: www.friendsoffairford.org.uk

WHAT FUTURE FOR OUR RURAL CHURCHES?

A talk by Dame Fiona Reynolds, High Sheriff of Gloucester



Thursday 12th November 7pm,
at the Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester

In this challenging lecture, Dame Fiona will argue that our precious and unique heritage of church buildings is in danger of being lost with many dependent entirely on declining congregations to maintain them. This talk will explore some possible solutions.

£12 in advance or £15 on the door,
to include a glass of wine and nibbles from 6pm

Book online at www.ghct.org.uk
or use this QR code:



This event is being organised by Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust,
which supports the repair and improvement of churches in the county.



www.ghct.org.uk
Registered Charity No 1120266

15th October 2026

Dear St Mary's Church, Fairford,

Thank you so much for your continued generosity in supporting South Cotswolds Foodbank. Your donation, in September, which totalled 33.90 kg, made a real difference to local people facing hardship, and we are deeply grateful for your commitment to our community.

As we move further into autumn, many households are beginning to think about the months ahead. For some, this means planning for Christmas and winter heating costs. For others, it means worrying about how they will manage if an unexpected expense arrives at a time when budgets are already stretched.

One of the messages we have been sharing recently is a simple idea: **Spot, Seek, Speak**.

First, **spot** the signs that finances are becoming more difficult. This might be rising household costs, a reduction in working hours, or simply noticing that there is less money left at the end of the month. While some people have savings to fall back on, many households have little or no financial buffer and can quickly find themselves struggling when circumstances change.

Second, **seek support early**. We know from experience that people often wait until a situation has become a crisis before asking for help. Yet the earlier someone seeks advice or support, the more options are usually available. Whether through welfare advice, debt support, community organisations or local assistance schemes, early action can often prevent a temporary difficulty from becoming a much bigger problem.

Finally, **speak** to those around you. Many people facing hardship feel embarrassed or worry about being judged. By normalising conversations about money worries and financial difficulties, we can create communities where people feel able to ask for help before a situation becomes a crisis.

At South Cotswolds Foodbank, we see every day the difference that timely support can make. Your donations ensure that local people do not have to face hunger alone while giving them the opportunity to access wider help and advice.

Thank you for continuing to stand alongside people across the South Cotswolds who are experiencing hardship. Your generosity helps make practical support, dignity and hope available when it is needed most.

With our sincere thanks,



Anton Wynn

Head of South Cotswolds Foodbank



JustGiving



South Cotswolds Foodbank supports the southern area of the Cotswold District, which includes Cirencester, Tetbury, Fairford, Northleach, Lechlade and the surrounding villages.

South Cotswolds Foodbank takes data security very seriously. If you would like to see a copy of our privacy statement, please visit <https://southcotswolds.foodbank.org.uk/privacy/>