

Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial, St. Mary's Fairford. (*photo courtesy of Margaret*)

St Mary's Church
FAIRFORD

South Cotswold Team Ministry
Sunday 15th November 2026

Clergy

Vicar: Rev'd Caroline Symcox – 01285 712467 carolinesymcox@googlemail.com
Curate: Rev'd Vicky Falvey – 07356 234248 revvickyfalvey@gmail.com
Priest – Pastoral: Rev'd Canon Denise Hyde denisehyde15@gmail.com
01285 713285

SERVICES

Sunday 15th November – 2nd before Advent
8.00am BCP Holy Communion
10.00am Sung Eucharist
Sidespeople: Michelle Harris and Heather Gorton
Offertory: Wendy Close / Alison Cohoon
Prayer: Denise Hyde and Ruth Blackwell
Readings: Val Trafford Intercessions: Janet Edwards
Coffee: Andrena Miles and Liz Jefferies
12.00pm Baptism of Sienna Drake

Thursday 19th November
10.30am BCP Holy Communion

Sunday 22nd November – Christ the King
8.00am BCP Holy Communion
10.00am Sung Eucharist
Sidespeople: Jilli Connell and Kim Sutton
Offertory: David / Sally Salter
Prayer: Ann Nicholls and Val Trafford
Readings: Mike Godsal Intercessions: Meg Ralph
Coffee: Sarah Bottomley and Carol Thompson

From Rev'd Caroline – 01285 712467 – carolinesymcox@googlemail.com
Readings for Sunday: Zephaniah 1.7, 12-end; 1 Thessalonians 5.1-11; Matthew 25.14-30

Our scripture this week makes for tough reading, as in these last few Sundays in our run up to Advent, our thoughts are turned to the Day of the Lord, and the nature and reality of God's judgement.

Divine judgement is a concept that many of us struggle with. Other messages in the New Testament are much more palatable to us, and we may focus on the good news of forgiveness, redemption and new life to the exclusion of other elements of Jesus' teaching. But of course, we can't allow ourselves to close our eyes to the things we find difficult, and Jesus' consistent warning that our lives and actions must and will be subject to judgement, and the consequences of that judgement, has to be taken seriously.

At the heart of this message of judgement is a profound affirmation – what we do in our lives matters. Our heavenly Father sees and knows us in every detail. We are not forgotten or abandoned, and our choices carry weight. That is a wonderful thing! But when our choices matter, they matter for both good and ill. Bad choices are open to us just as much as good ones. God calls us to live good lives. He calls us with the all-encompassing commandment to love our neighbours as ourselves – a love modelled to us by Jesus himself. And when our lives do not show that love, well then we must answer for that failure.

This Sunday is Safeguarding Sunday, when we remind ourselves of the absolutely critical importance of caring for the vulnerable in our communities. Nowhere in recent memory has the Church of England failed more spectacularly to show the love of God in our lives than in our failure to protect people from abuse. We know we must do better as we seek to follow the way of Jesus Christ, and the way we begin that is by opening our eyes to the hard truths. We recognise that bad choices can be made even within communities that feel safe and secure, and we seek to build a culture of openness and love, where no one is afraid to speak, and no secrets are hidden in dark corners. We learn how to look for the signs that someone is suffering, and the places we can go to find help for them. We can do no less for our God of justice and righteousness.

As we reflect on God's judgement, let's commit ourselves once again to living our lives as children of light, in every way we can.

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 16th November.
Join Zoom Meeting:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89157099539?pwd=XiULFcX8FGzuaihMzAt8PPnzgLU2TD.1
Meeting ID: 891 5709 9539 Passcode: 542260

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; Susan Hunt (funeral at 11am Tuesday 17th November at St. Mary's)

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
LIVE TO YOUR POTENTIAL
You can never really tell what potential lies within, until you have a purpose and a will to achieve a goal. Life is an adventure; we get out of it what we put into it.

Dear Lord, help us to see others with grace and be quick to share kindness, we can make a big difference by doing so.

May we never underestimate the power of encouragement.

Help us to see past distractions and prioritise time with you.
Give us wisdom and discipline to seek you first each day.

Thank you for hearing our cries even though at times we have no words.

Help us to trust your faithfulness and remind others of your listening love.

We pray in Jesus' name. AMEN

NOTICES

Calling All Stewards!

On Saturday, 14th November at 3.00pm, John Campbell (a fellow steward) has offered to give us a talk, in church, about the windows etc.

This is open to you all, with tea and cake afterwards.

Do please come and hear more about our historic church and meet other stewards.

Many thanks – Gill Peachey. 01285 711647

Fairford Christmas Day Lunch

The well-established Fairford Christmas Day Lunch will again be held in The Community Centre in Fairford.

As a reminder, the lunch is for individuals and couples who would otherwise be on their own on Christmas Day and would like to spend some time in company.

It is open to residents in Fairford and surrounding villages, plus Lechlade, and will take the same format as before.

The lunch starts at 12.30 and finishes after the King´s Speech at around 15.30.

Our contact details are below and are also on the posters which are being displayed in the area, so please do let us know if you can come - or contact anyone who you think might be interested.

In the meantime, **we are particularly keen to hear from any potential volunteers who** are needed to assist with the preparation and cooking of the meal, drivers to collect and return less mobile guests to and from home and others to act as hosts/hostesses on the day.

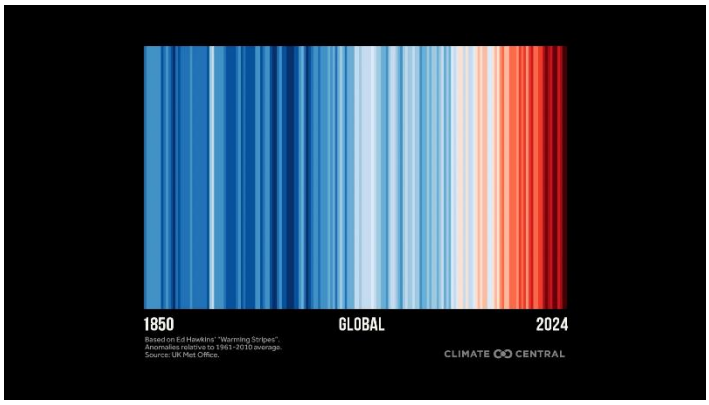
Don't be shy; Please apply!

Amanda or Mervyn Cully. Tel: 01285 712700

Mobiles: Amanda 07960 485946
Mervyn 07773 557846

Save the Date!
Christmas wreaths and posies are often placed on graves in memory of loved ones during the Christmas season. This year, St Mary's Eco Church team will be offering a selection, made entirely of natural materials, on **Saturday 12th December**. Further details to follow.

The Jane Kidd Eco Talks



With the Cop31 Climate Conference in progress in Turkey this month and BBC Panorama 'Fire and Floods: Our Extreme Weather', aired on Monday, the subject of climate change is prominently in the news. The graphic above by climatologist Ed Hawkins shows the rise in global temperatures since 1850.

Here in Fairford, a new series of The Jane Kidd Eco Talks launched in September with a screening of the **'People's National Emergency Briefing'**. The film, showing nationally across communities, aims to build public support for the urgent action required in the face of the current climate and nature crisis. The evening was attended by 65 people, with the opportunity to raise questions after the film.

The October Jane Kidd Eco Talk by Peter Howlett explored the topics of **'Biodiversity, Energy, Food Security and Eco Church',** starting with the motto of Cirencester Agricultural University 'Avorum Cultus Pecorumque', translated as 'Caring for the Fields and the Beasts'. Using bible quotes, quotes from David Attenborough and slides, Peter discussed each issue in turn and its relevance to the objectives of Eco Church. He recommended books including one written as far back as the 1970s by the American Theologian, Frances A Shaeffer. Peter was able to update us on the number of churches worldwide who are involved with the A Rocha Eco Church Scheme, 9,500. It's good to know that we are not alone!

I was asked at the last talk what Eco Church is. I think I answered rather inadequately, but perhaps a fuller explanation will be the topic of another article. In the meantime, the A Rocha website will do a better job of explaining than I possibly could. www.ecochurch.arocha.org.uk

Jane Kidd Eco Talks start with a glass of wine and nibbles at 7pm for a 7.30pm talk. The next talk on **Tuesday 17th November** is **'Slowing Down Fast Fashion'** by Carrie Lomas, the CEO of a company which specialises in helping businesses to embed sustainable practice in their operations.

Beth Bruce-Gardner

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

Please see below a message from Bishop Robert:-

“Recently I had the privilege of preaching at St Paul’s Cathedral, at a special service recognising and celebrating the ministry of Parish Safeguarding Officers from across the Church of England.

The service reflected on the words of the prophet Micah: “What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God?” Alongside Mary’s song, the Magnificat, and Jesus’ teaching in Matthew 25, these readings remind us that safeguarding is not simply an administrative function of the Church. It is rooted in the very character and mission of God.

Too often safeguarding can be reduced to policies, procedures and training. Of course, these things matter. They help create accountability and provide the structures necessary to keep people safe. Yet safeguarding begins at a much deeper level: with the conviction that every person is made in the image of God and possesses a dignity that must be honoured, protected and nurtured.

At its heart, safeguarding is about human flourishing. It is one of the ways the Church participates in God’s desire that every person should be able to grow, belong and thrive. Throughout scripture we encounter a God who hears the cries of those who suffer, protects the vulnerable and calls communities into relationships marked by trust, truth and justice. Safeguarding is therefore not a task on the margins of Christian life. It is central to our calling as the people of God.

One of the most powerful themes of the service was Jesus’ identification with those who are vulnerable: “When you did it to one of the least of these, you did it to me.” In caring for others, listening well, responding to concerns and creating safer communities, we are not simply undertaking a responsibility; we are encountering Christ himself.”

So with that in mind can I please invite those members of the Choir, Stewards , Flowers Arrangers and Eco Church who have yet to complete, or renew their Basic Safeguarding Training to contact me and let me know if they will be completing the training on line or they will join a face-to-face workshop in the New Year. Please do email me at val.trafford@me.com or speak to me directly.

Parish Office
The Parish Office will be closed next week,16th – 20th November. Any urgent enquiries: **Rev’d Caroline – 01285 712467 – carolinesymcox@googlemail.com**

LIFE'S FIVE BIG QUESTIONS

Origin? Purpose? Suffering? Afterlife? God?

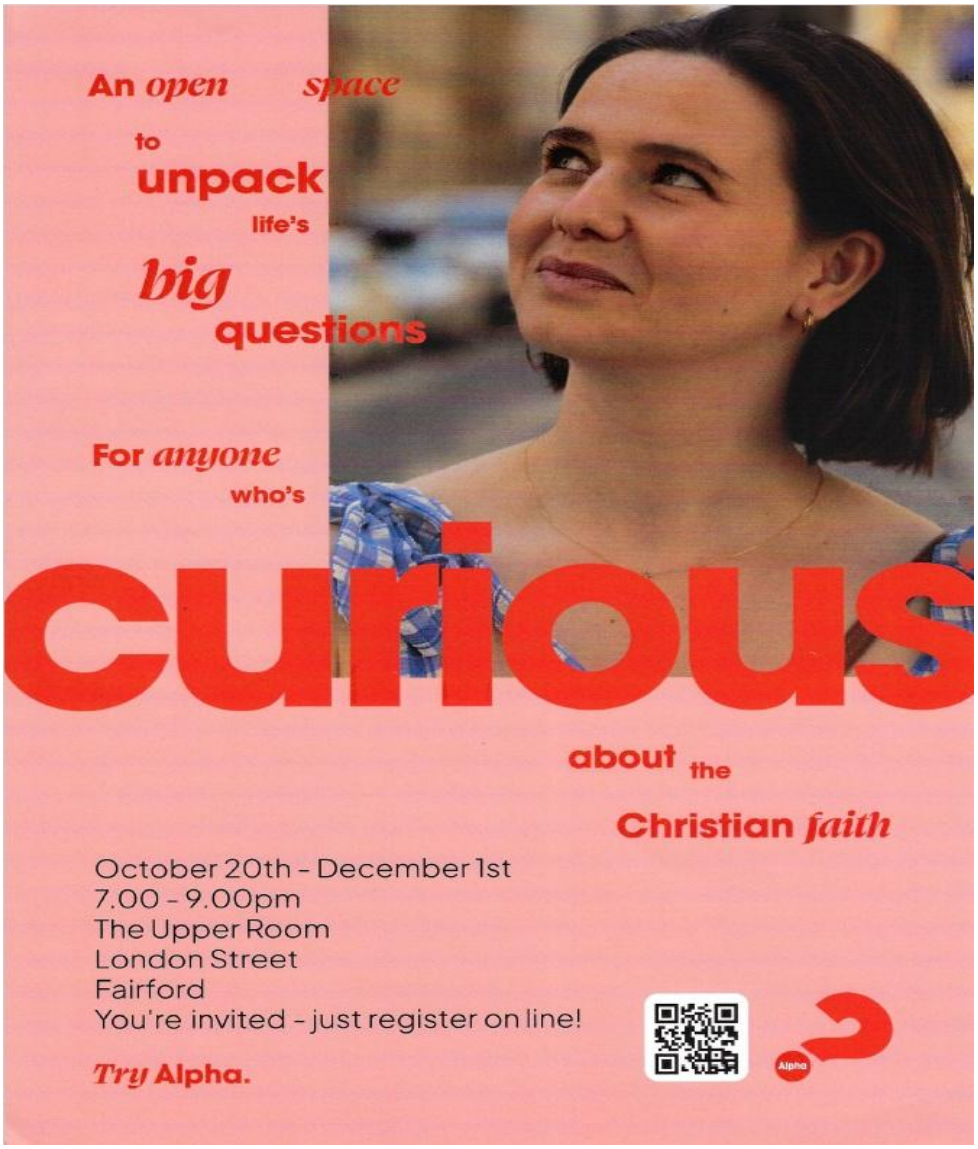
These form the basis of the internationally acclaimed Alpha Course initiated by Rev Nicky Gumbel currently being translated into Chinese and Arabic.

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



The Jane Kidd Eco Talks

Presented by
St Mary's Eco Church Group Fairford

17th Nov

'Slowing Down Fast Fashion' by Carrie Lomas

Farmor Room
Community Centre
Fairford
7pm refreshments
7.30pm start

Future dates

- **19th Jan 2027**
- **16th Feb 2027**

St Mary's Eco Church

Advanced booking is not required
There is no charge, but donations to help cover costs would be gratefully received

NHS

Working 4 Wellbeing
Rochford and Lechlade Area

DAISI
Digital, Accessibility, Inclusion Support & Information

Need help with the NHS APP or with getting confident with the Hilary Cottage triage system?



Working in partnership with Hilary Cottage, the Daisi project and W4W we are offering a drop in session to help you gain confidence.



- Get help with the NHS APP
- Understand and get confident with the Hilary Cottage triage system
- Friendly support from the W4W, Daisi and NHS teams

Location
Hilary Cottage

Date
24th November

Time
11:30am – 1:30pm

Free

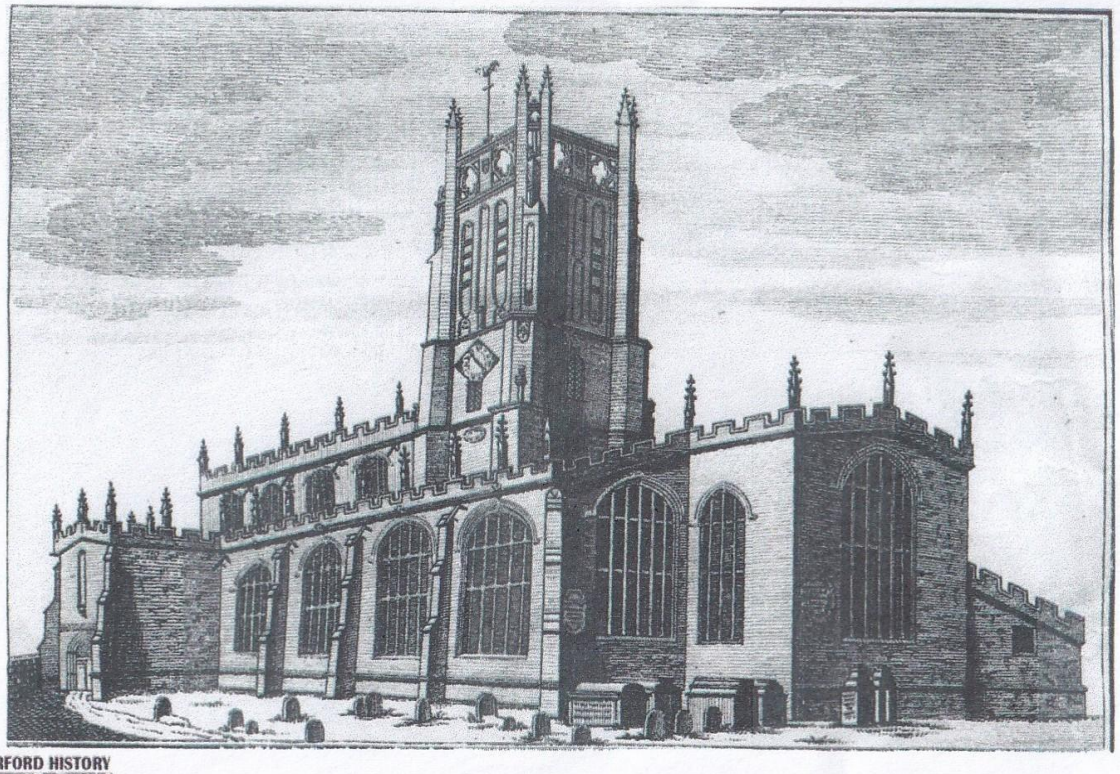
Contact Mary Ann for any questions
07555738138

This is a drop in format so some waiting will be expected however please do contact us if you would like a time slot to go over certain issues.



Thursday 19th November 7.30pm at Fairford Community Centre

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



FAIRFORD HISTORY SOCIETY

www.fairfordhistory.org.uk


Tallis
Choral
Foundation
- Heritage & Opportunity -
Directed by Chris Why
G. F. Handel's
MESSIAH
accompanied by Baroque In The North
Friday 13th November, 6.30pm
St John's Church, Cirencester
Saturday 28th November, 6.30pm
St Mary's, Church Beverley



Fairford United Church

Presents

HARMONY AND HOLLY!



with

SWINDON MALE VOICE CHOIR

Accompanied by Kate Lock

and featuring Special Guests

Rachel Smith & Katherine Newcombe



On November 21 2026 at 15.00.

Tickets £10 to include tea and Cake afterwards.

Phone: Brian Routledge

01285 712853/07712100386