



South Cotswold Team Ministry Sunday 21st September 2025

Clergy

Vicar: Rev'd Caroline Symcox - 01285 712467

carolinesymcox@googlemail.com

Curate: Rev'd Vicky Falvey – 07356 234248

revvickyfalvey@gmail.com

SERVICES

Sunday 21st September – 14th Sunday after Trinity

8.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.00am Common Worship Holy Communion

Sidespeople: Kim Sutton and Andy Wilkinson

Readings: Mike Godsal Intercessions: Ruth Blackwell

Offertory: Jane Easton Prayer Rota: Val Trafford and Sheila Hughes

Coffee: David and Sally Salter

Monday 22nd September

5.00 pm Community Prayers

Thursday 25th September

No communion service – Diocesan Clergy Conference

Sunday 28th September

8.00 am BCP Holy Communion

10.00 am Family Service

6.00 pm Healing Service with Holy Communion

Coffee: Sarah Bottomley

From Caroline - carolinesymcox@googlemail.com, 01285 712467

Readings for Sunday: Amos 8.4-7; 1 Timothy 2.1-7; Luke 16.1-13

‘Money can’t buy happiness’, the saying goes. ‘But,’ as folk of my generation seem to be fond of adding, ‘it can certainly make a good start!’ People who seek to obey God and follow his directives, for thousands of years, have had a turbulent relationship with money. Look at our reading from Amos as a starting point. Amos is writing in the 8th century BC – around 750 years before the birth of Jesus. Already we see that the pursuit of wealth is causing problems. Amos calls out those who are making profit at the expense of the poor and needy, bringing the word of the Lord down upon them and their dishonesty.

It seems that the willingness to feather our own nests while exploiting others has been a problem as long as people have had the means to do so. It is as true today as at any point in our history, it’s just these days we’re even better at it. Technology can really assist in the process of extracting wealth.

We who seek to follow Jesus can see the sinfulness of such things, but we find ourselves in a complicated situation. Because to live in this world involves using money. Barter systems just don’t cut it anymore, and haven’t for a good millennia or so. We need money, simply put. We need it to eat, to have shelter, to get any of the things that we need to just live. The Church needs it – to maintain buildings, to pay workers, to heat and light those buildings, to print and publish material to aid in the sharing of our faith and to be used in worship. We can’t manage without it.

So where does this leave us? Well – on a knife edge, really. We balance in a precarious situation, knowing that any poor move could result in a swift fall. We are directed towards awareness, to being awake to the dangers inherent when money gets involved. The greatest risks are twofold: the temptation to hoard – to succumb to the love of money, which as Paul reminds us elsewhere in 1 Timothy, is the root of all kinds of evil; and the temptation to exploit others – to pay less than we should, to demand more than we should, and generally, in the words of Amos, ‘to make the ephah small and the shekel great’.

Our choices around money must be clear, and fully thought-through. Where we choose to use our money is a window to our true desires and commitments. Where is our heart? Are we using our resources in service, in furthering God’s mission of outreach and love? And we might look further up – is the national Church using its resources like this? Is our government? And where the answer is no, what might we do to effect a change?

This week, let’s strive to live as children of light, rather than children of this age – putting worldly ‘cleverness’ aside, and fully and forthrightly putting our money where our mouth is.

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 15th September:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82935916039?pwd=JrlsJG9gsYK7MozuvG5mjsKBa9sP8w.1>

Meeting ID: 829 3591 6039 Passcode: 636874

From Heather Email address: fairfordpcc@gmail.com or heathergorton31@gmail.com. Telephone: Office: 01285 712611 or home 01285 712428

My office hours are 10.00 to 1.00 on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. I am also continuing to work from home so you can contact me at either the office (712611) or home (712428). The office is closed on Mondays and Michelle will be in on Fridays from 10.00 to 12.00.

If you are sending in your articles, photos etc. for the bumper copy at the end of the month I will need them by 12 noon on the last Wednesday of the month. For the weekly newsletter I would still like articles in by Wednesday midday.

Harvest Festival is on Sunday 12th October. The church will be decorated by the Flower Team on Friday 10th October. If anyone has any fruit or vegetables to display they would be most welcome. Please contact me 712428. Thank you.

o0o

Please remember the following in your prayers:

Those who are ill: Grace Slack, Hannah, Laurence Burgess, David and Glynnis Langley, Geoff Close

Those who have died:

Brenda Alder, Mike Fidler, David Lawrence, Norman Sandell
Jane Kidd – Memorial service 2.30pm, Monday 22nd Sep – St Mary's

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

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 in the Lady Chapel. 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 notices above for clarification)

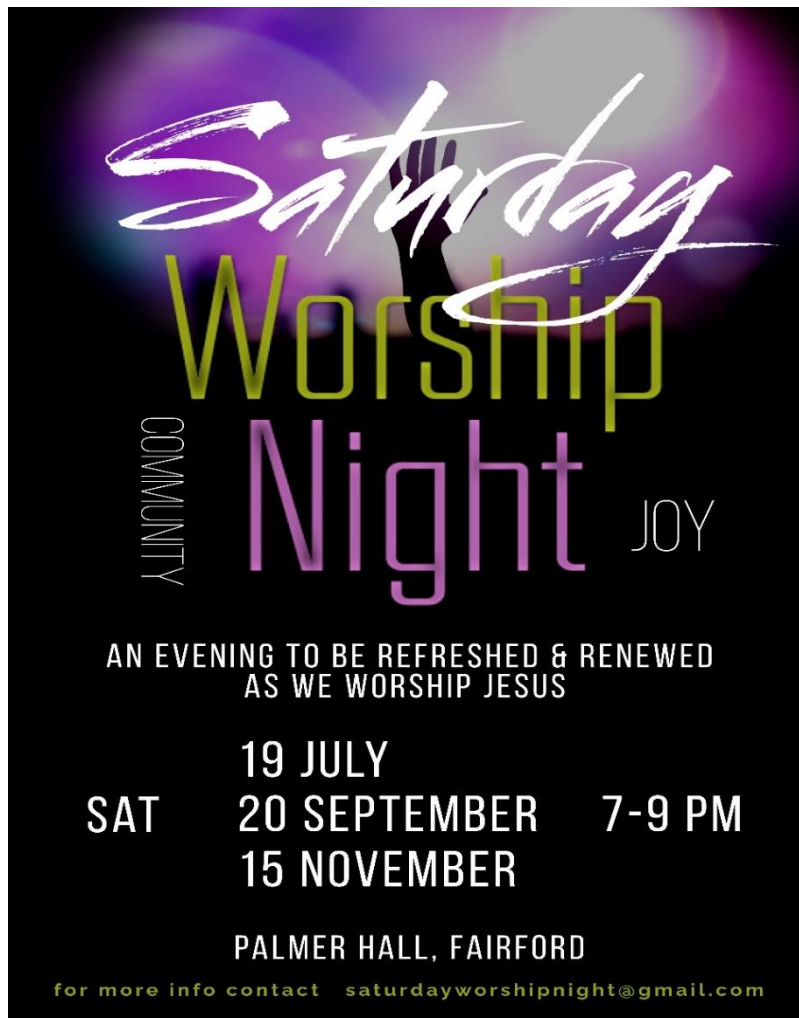
For further details contact Rev'd Canon Denise Hyde
denisehyde15@gmail.com

From Ann Nicholls

In the business of your daily routine, remember God has a word for you. Be still and let God be God in your life. Stop and listen.

Dear Lord, transform our hearts by the power of your Holy Spirit so that we may be fruitful witnesses of your goodness and grace. May we be attentive and take the time to stop and listen when you speak, teach us to study your simple truths and to share them with others. May your will be done in our lives.

For the glory of Jesus name. AMEN



NOTICES

Diocesan Clergy Conference

From the 23rd to the 25th September, Tuesday to Thursday this week, all the clergy across Gloucester Diocese will be gathering in Swanwick, Derbyshire, for our three-yearly Clergy Conference. Accordingly, Caroline and Vicky will have very limited communications, so please do take any important parish business to our wonderful church wardens. Please note that the usual Thursday 10.30am Holy Communion service will be cancelled this week, as all clergy will be away.

Carducci Concert – Tuesday 23rd September

We are nearly sold out and have 6 tickets left - all at £20. These are only available via the ticketsource website. Link here [St Mary's Fairford PCC event tickets from TicketSource.](#)

We are very likely to sell out. We will be selling tickets on the night. These will be any remaining £20 tickets in the aisles and any other space which isn't in the nave or aisles. These will be sold at £10 as they will have restricted views. people will have to turn up in person and buy these on the door - they will not be able to buy them online

Opening and closing church

Please, please are there any able bodies who could help with Opening and Closing the church. We particularly need help on a Monday morning at 10.00 a.m., and occasional help at weekends.

Please get in touch with me if you could help.

Thank you.

Alison Godsal. 01285 713101 or alison@godsal.co.uk

Technical assistance needed please on Friday 19th September!

Would you be willing to help set up and operate the screen in the church including linking to a laptop, for a flower demonstration and talk on Friday 19th September in the morning? If you think you could help, please message or call

Beth on 07791 841201 or smileitsbethbg@gmail.com

Tea, coffee and cake provided! Thank you!

Coffee Rota

Every Sunday refreshments are available after the 10am service, served by a trusty group of volunteers. We now have a few vacancies in the rota (for one or more helpers) so this would be a good time to join it! We have about 20 people on the rota so it's not too onerous - your turn would only come up every 2 or 3 months. It's an enjoyable way to meet people and is much appreciated. If you are interested in getting involved please talk to Sarah Bottomley on 01285712074 or stmaryslmt@gmail.com

Glass Doors in Porch



The doors have now been fitted as you can see from picture and the view into the church during the day will be obstructed only by the new glass doors which feature the enchanting manifestation by Tracey Sheppard. When fully operational, both the metal gates and the oak door will be fixed open when the church is open, and both closed when the church is locked for the night. The doors are controlled by electric mechanism boxes which have been fitted

into the floor under the doors and are activated by push buttons mounted on the wall inside the church and on a separate post in the porch.

There are a number of matters which need attention before the porch can be said to be completely finished, but it is hoped that it will be possible to reopen it for access by the end of this week, with the doors operating as designed. One or two of the matters needing attention may require the west door to be used as the entrance for the odd day, but nothing more.

As the final phase of this project, it is hoped to fit a single hanging lantern but difficulty in establishing the roof strength and structure means that certain investigations have to be concluded before being able to make a definite commitment. In any event, if it is ultimately deemed to be viable having regard to the loading capacity of the roof, the lantern will be dealt with as a separate item in the future.

Mervyn Cully

Items for Ukraine

The people taking a van to Ukraine no longer have room for bedding, clothing or shoes. They are VERY grateful for all the items on the blue poster here. We will continue to take them to the Ukrainian Church in Gloucester who are transporting them to Ukraine. If you have a question about any other items, please phone us on 0779 555 4102

Thank you.

Geoff & Hope

Used Cards

Thank you for all those who have donated their used Cards to The Cobalt Unit. They continue to be very grateful for all cards. If you have any, Birthday; Thank you; New House etc – they can be recycled to raise funds for The Cobalt Unit to help diagnose Cancer and Dementia. Please put your cards (there is no need to cut off the written bit as they put a cover over this) in The Paper Recycling box in The Corpus Christi Chapel in St Mary's Church Fairford.

Thank you in anticipation. Carol Thompson



Please Save the Date!

Fairtrade Fortnight is coming up (22nd September until 5th October) with the theme 'Brew it Fair' and we will be holding a Fairtrade Tea Party on **Saturday 27th September** in the Barker Room. Although a tea party, fitting in with this year's theme, it will be in the morning from 10.30 – 12, and yes, coffee will also be available! Please pop the date in your diary now and come and join us on the day. (see poster)

Dates for your diaries

- Remembering Service, Sunday 2nd November, 3pm. We remember those who have died, especially in the preceding year, but anyone we have lost and wish to remember and name.
- Remembrance Sunday, Sunday 9th November, starting 10.50am in church, or 10.30am outside the Hyperion House Nursing Home.

Cirencester Deanery invites you to **A Morning of Sustainable Church Flowers**

**Friday 19th
September
9.30am–12.30pm**

**At St Mary's
Church, Fairford
GL7 4AF**



- *Flower arranging demonstrations*
- *A talk about 'Flowers from the Farm'*
- *Ideas for harvest and winter*
- *Tea, Coffee and Cake*

**Tickets
Cost £6 cash
on the day.**

**Bookings
Rosemary Bailey
meajrb@aol.com**

 **SCF**
SUSTAINABLE CHURCH FLOWERS

CONCERT

CARDUCCI STRING QUARTET
RODERICK WILLIAMS (Baritone)

Schubert Quartet D87: Die schöne Müllerin (arr. for quartet)



Church of St Mary the Virgin, Fairford
7PM Tuesday 23 September 2025

Tickets £25 or £20 | £10 for Student & Under 18's

www.ticketsource.co.uk/carducci-fairford25 (fees apply)
0333 666 3366 or by cash at Fairford opticians 01285 713313


St Mary's Church
• FAIRFORD •

sponsored by

HOLDSWORTH
Windows



CRAFT & CHAT

Hosted by I Felt Fantastic

£7



THURSDAY
25TH
SEPTEMBER

We will be joined by I Felt Fantastic to make felted sunflower. This is a wet felt something we haven't done before!

- Just bring your chat and laughter
- Fairford Community Centre 7pm-9pm

Contact Mary Ann for more details
07555738138

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



**Let's do whatever it takes
to support people living with cancer.**



**Fairford Bowling Club
East End, Fairford GL7 4AP**

**Friday 26th September 2025
9.30am – 12.30pm**

**Not just coffee and cake –
books/puzzles, plants, raffle,
bric-a-brac, Tombola.**

Contact: Ingrid Morris
E: Ingridsusanka@hotmail.co.uk
M: 07516 632122



Macmillan Cancer Support, registered charity in England and Wales (261017)

**St Mary's Church invites
you to**

**FAIRTRADE
TEA
MORNING**



**FAIRFORD COMMUNITY CENTRE
BARKER ROOM
SATURDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER
10.30 AM - 12NOON.**

- **Join us for a friendly morning of freshly brewed Fairtrade tea, coffee, homemade cakes and community spirit!**
- **Learn more about Fairtrade**
- **At the same time browse the plant and seed bring and buy sale.**





Autumn Concert

St Mary's Church Choir
& Friends



Musical afternoon

A popular programme of sacred and secular songs, traditional and modern - with some to sing along to!

**Sunday 19th
October
2025**

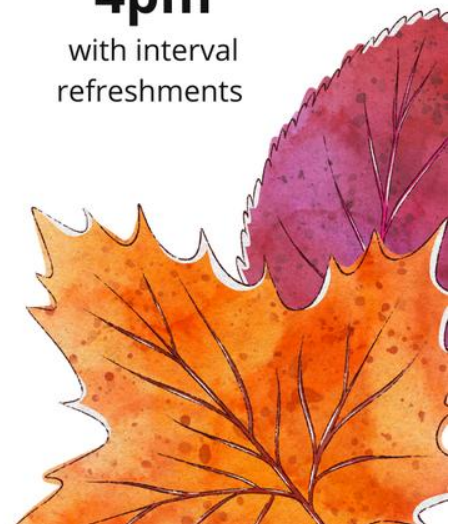
**St Mary's Church,
Fairford**

**2:30pm-
4pm**

with interval
refreshments

Entry FREE

Donations to St Mary's
Church welcome



Churches Together around Fairford

Harvest Supper



Thursday, October 23rd

at 7:00 pm in the Farmor Room,

Fairford Community Centre

Cottage pie (vegetarian option) and apple crumble

Entertainment by Barry and Jean Kilgariff

Tickets £5

Proceeds to : Christians Against Poverty

and : Help Madina

Tickets are available now!

Please contact Jeremy and Katie Blake by email - ekatie.blake@gmail.com - or message on 07480 235066.

We also need 2 people to provide a cottage pie for 8 people. If you can help with this, please contact us using the above details. Many thanks!



We plan to play host to a series of musical concerts this year to raise money and the profile of our beautiful church.

23rd September – the internationally acclaimed Carducci Quartet returns in a very special evening concert accompanied by the peerless baritone, Roderick Williams OBE.

11th October – The Blue Notes and Coln Choir sing 'Harvest Harmonies'

29th November – Fairford & District Choral Society Winter Concert

13th December - Coln Choir Concert

This is an exciting programme, and it needs good organisation. Thank you to everyone who has offered to help make these events a success. If you would like to help with making these concerts a success in raising money for the church. Please speak to a member of the PCC to find out more or to express an interest. Your PCC members are (in order alphabetical): Doug Crowley, Jackie Cullum, Fiona Gilroy, Alison Godsal, Sheila Hughes, Jane Emma Peerless, Meg Ralph, David Salter, Michael Vann