



This month marks the 75th anniversary of probably Britain's snowiest winter since the mid 19thC. See below for the Met Office account

South Cotswold Team Ministry

St. Mary's Church Fairford – Newsletter

Sunday 23rd January -Third Sunday of Epiphany

10.00 am Common Worship Holy Communion

Sidesperson: Andy Wilkinson

Readings: Mike Godsall

Intercessions: Jane Kidd

Coffee: Carol and Richard Thompson

Thursday 27th January

10.30 am Holy Communion

Sunday 30th January – Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

8.00 am BCP Holy Communion

10.00 am Family Service

6.00 pm Healing Service with Holy Communion

Coffee: Caroline New and Wendy Close

Please note that following the announcement of COVID Plan B, masks are now required to be worn during services.

Online worship: Rev Caroline broadcasts 9am Morning Prayer Monday-Thursday and Saturday) on Facebook

From Caroline

01285 712467 / carolinesymcox@googlemail.com

Readings for Sunday: Nehemiah 8.1-3 5-6, 8-10; 1 Corinthians 12.12-31a; Luke 4.14-21

All through this time immediately after Christmas, in the season the Church calls 'Epiphany', we've been looking at and thinking about Jesus revealing himself and being revealed as the one the world has been waiting for – the one sent by God to transform the world and people within it. We've seen it in the recognition of the wise men, in Jesus' own baptism, in the first of the miracles he performed – changing water into wine – and this Sunday we see Jesus embracing this truth in his own words.

Standing in the Synagogue in Nazareth on a Saturday morning he reads from the prophet Isaiah, of the prophecy of the one who will 'proclaim the year of the Lord's favour'. Then he sits down, looks everyone in the eye and tells them, 'that's me'. An astonishing thing to do, with a very mixed response, as you might imagine! But here we see Jesus giving us the truth as simply as he can. 'I'm the one you've been waiting for'.

Now, as then, Jesus' statement is one that demands a response. If he is indeed the one we've been waiting for, the one who will change us and the world, what does that mean for us? How will we answer him? What shape will our lives, and the lives of our communities take if we take Jesus at his word?

Paul in his first letter to the Corinthians is offering a response to that young Christian community in Corinth. How will you respond to Jesus? Respond by joining together with the community of faith to use and offer up the gifts you've been given. Recognise the value in each other, how everyone is different, and every gift and skill is different, but how each difference is valuable, and builds up the strength of the whole.

YOUR response, YOUR skills, YOUR faith are important, beloved, vital. You, with your experiences, your thoughts, your gifts, are a crucial part of the body of the church as we try to live out our response to Jesus. Let's seek to build ourselves and each other up as we recognise this great and encouraging truth.

How are you, individually and as part of the great body of Christian believers throughout the world, recognising and responding to Jesus today?

Rev'd Caroline

From Heather:

Telephone: 01285 712428

Email address: fairfordpcc@gmail.com or heathergorton31@gmail.com.

My office hours are 10.00 to 1.00 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 at 10.00 to 12.00.

Flower Team request see below

Do please keep sending in your articles, photos and amusing stories!
Favourite recipes or garden tips welcome - do need your input!

Contacts

Rev'd Caroline 01285 712467

Rev'd Canon Denise Hyde 01285 713285

Mike Godsall 01285 713101

Christine Benzie 01285 713395

Wendy Graham 01285 711765

Please remember the following in your prayers:

Those that are ill: Rev'd David Gray, Grace Slack,
Jane Read is now starting a long period of convalescence and rehab at
home.

Those that have died: Olivia Bovill, Chris Fitzpatrick

NOTICES

We continue to extend our activities as we gauge what is safely possible
to include within our worship at the present time.

**From Sunday 13th February we will begin to hold an extra 8am Book
of Common Prayer Communion service per month. 8am BCP
services will now be on the 2nd and Last Sundays of the month.**

Fanny Hugill currently living in Hyperion House will be 99 on January
22nd. We wish her a very Happy Birthday; and look forward to the 100
celebrations next year

Working for Wellbeing (Updated)



For those who haven't heard Working for Wellbeing have now gained Charity Status and you can find us under charity number 1197291. We want to thank everyone who have been so supportive of W4W, there are too many to name! We wouldn't be doing the great work without all the support of partnerships, networking, Volunteers, Funders, attenders and the great team that is behind W4W. We have had an exciting first 6 months and we are here to continue are support and signposting as well as bringing some fantastic new provisions.

W4W is excited to bring you a Digital inclusion programme. This will consist of Workshops hosted by Barclays Digital Eagles virtually. These workshops can be accessed remotely from home or attended in a community space where computer Buddies will be able to assist you in your learning. The Digital Eagles sessions will start off with the basics, we are aiming these workshops for beginners however we have a more developed programme as we go along so whatever your skill level please get in touch. The workshops will run over 4 consecutive weeks commencing on the 24th of February 12pm start. The Workshops will be dealing with basics of internet and devices, scams, internet safety and using the internet and devices for entertainment. If you would like to sign up to these workshops as a service user, please contact me. If you are already digitally confident and you could offer your skills during the workshops as a Buddy I would love to hear from you.

We are also delighted to confirm the DigiBus is coming to Fairford and Lechlade. Digibus is a mobile digital lab in an accessible converted double-decker bus, fitted with computers, laptops, tablets, a 3D printer, robotics and coding and a virtual reality system. An onboard trainer will provide personalised sessions for visitors so they can learn as much or as little as they like; whether it's how to order their medication or groceries online, chat to friends and family, stay safe using the internet, or finding out about important services or social networks that can provide further support. For those that want to be inspired they can experience virtual reality or try out coding or even robotics! We would love to see as many of you on this programme as Service Users or as Buddy Volunteers, so I look forward to hearing from you.

W4W have also set up a Lego Club in Lechlade the last Saturday of the month commencing Saturday 29th January 1030am-12pm at St Lawrence Church please contact me to register interest. This is a FREE group with donations welcome. Fairford Crafters are coming to Fairford on the 1st Wednesday of the Month. First session will be 2nd February 2pm-4pm at Fairford Community Centre. This is a social group for all skill levels and all types of crafts. You will attend each week with any medium of craft and share with the group what you have been working on and take ideas from others and their projects.

This is a FREE group with donations welcome Men's Shed is coming soon please keep a look out for updates or please contact me to be added to the Men's Shed emailing list.

Every Wednesday the Coordinator can be found at the W4W Talking Café at Fairford Community Centre 10am-12pm, come along for a cup of tea. Most Wednesdays you will just find us all chatting and drinking tea but on occasions I do invite speakers along, as well as on the last Wednesday of the month a book swap. Also, Lechlade Baptist Church have a lovely café called The Beans Café, they run every Saturday 10am-12pm with lovely homemade cakes and I am grateful for them hosting me on alternative Saturdays to pop in and say hello and offer any support and signposting anyone in the area needs. Working For Wellbeing UPDATE! Mary Ann Dibbs Community Wellbeing Coordinator coordinator@working4wellbeing.org.uk 07555738138

Bereavement Café starting Friday February 4th, 10am-12pm in the Heritage Room at Fairford Community Centre

Celia Kennedy is setting up a Bereavement Cafe for The Friends of Fairford and Lechlade Hospitals Home Nursing Team starting on Friday February 4th. This will be a monthly Cafe on the first Friday of every month from 10 am to 12 in The Heritage Room at Fairford Community Centre.

It will be a drop in, informal support group for any bereaved person to talk, share experiences and look at ways to adjust and cope following a death. The team will have access to a bereavement counsellor to refer on to if necessary. Any questions, please refer them to Rev Caroline who will put you in touch with Celia.

Prayer Requests

Our Prayer Team is still fully active, praying for the needs of individuals and our wider community. If you have a prayer request for the team,

please either fill in a prayer request slip and put it in the prayer box or email Rev Denise on denisehyde15@gmail.com.

ONLINE PRAYER AND WORSHIP

Suggestion from Rev'd Denise to help you in your prayer life.

Over the past weeks I have found the 'Lectio 365' App (which is available to be downloaded for free on both Android and Apple platforms) helpful in my prayer times. It was devised by Pete Grieg (of 24/7 prayer) and focuses on the pattern of P.R.A.Y. (Pause, Reflect/Rejoice, Ask, Yield) as a way of entering into God's presence. Each day's devotion is about 10 minutes long and can be either read or listened to and is a great way to start or end the day.

Prayers from St Mary's

Caroline's Morning Prayer every day except Friday and Sunday from 9.00 am - www.facebook.com/stmarysfairford

Daily Hope from the Church of England

A good option for worship if you can't access the internet. It is a free phone number where you have the option of the prayer for today, hymn for today and reflections. Telephone 0800 804 8044 Sent by Andrena Miles.

Prayer Ministry Team

We have sadly for some time been unable to offer prayer ministry during our Sunday, 10am service due to Covid. Because this is such an important part of the ministry at St Mary's we as a team have decided to make ourselves available at an alternative time for anyone who would like someone to pray with them. Please do contact one of us to make arrangements, and anything shared is totally confidential. God loves us to share our concerns and burdens, wanting to carry them for us. He also loves to hear our thanks.

Christian healing is God meeting us at our point of need. (Bishop Morris Maddocks)

Mary Mawle 01285 712174

Ann Nicholls 01285 713063

Rev'd Denise 01285 713285. denisehyde15@gmail.com

Prayer Walks

These will take place every Wednesday at 2.30pm in or around Fairford. People from any church, or none, are invited to join the walks. If you want to take part, meet at the start/finish point just before 2.30. Weather permitting we will go for a circular walk of 45 mins to 1 hour offering to

God the houses and businesses we walk past. We pause for prayer for particular aspects of Fairford life at appropriate points. For those who have time we have refreshments at the start/finish point.

If the weather is too bad to walk, we will stay at the start/finish point and pray indoors. If you don't want to walk but would like to be involved, you could offer to be a start/finish point and offer refreshments at the end (or at 3pm if the weather is too bad for walking). If this is the case, please contact Barbara Bridges (01285 712204 or arbarajbridges@talktalk.net) Dates and start points can be found on the United Church's website (www.fairfordunitedchurch.org) or by contacting Barbara (details above).

Old Time Singalong

With many of us still feeling somewhat restricted it seems like the right time to set up another evening of fun and entertainment on Zoom. Please join us on

Thursday, January 27th at 7:30 p.m

for an

Old Time Singalong with Ray Shaw on the keyboard.

Don't worry, no one will be able to hear you! Singers and non-singers are all welcome.

To receive the Zoom joining details and the song lyrics please contact Maureen Partington on mandgpartington@gmail.com

There is no charge for this event but you are invited to make a donation to the DEC appeal for Afghanistan where 1 million children are at risk of dying from malnutrition this winter.

<https://www.dec.org.uk/appeal/afghanistan-crisis-appeal>

The Friends of Fairford Church

The AGM will take place at 5.30 on Sunday 6 February before Evensong at 6 pm. Do come along and support the Friends.

Messy Church

Messy Church will be based at home this month. We will be thinking about the parable of the lost coin and will be reflecting on how God welcomes all those who have lost their way and been 'found'. We will also be encouraging further entries to a poster competition. For more details contact Sarah Bottomley on 01285712074 or stmaryslmt@gmail.com

St. Mary's Flower Team

If you would like to join the flower team helping with the flower arrangements in the church then do please contact me. A knowledge of arranging flowers is not essential but enthusiasm is! Each arranger does two weeks twice a year either the arrangement by the hymn board and the high altar or porch. We are a jolly bunch and get together for Easter, Harvest and Christmas. We do need people. Three have left Fairford and one has retired. Thank you. Heather 712428

Fairford Library Club



**3rd Thursday of each
month**

11.00am-12.00pm

Call 01285 712599 to
book.

We meet on a monthly basis to choose books and chat over a cup of tea or coffee.

It is a lovely, informal group and everyone is welcome.

The library supplies books in a variety of tastes and styles, in normal print or large print, and audiobooks are also available. Our staff and volunteers will be more than happy to help you choose something you would like.

Do you, or someone you know, have difficulty getting into the library?

We provide free community transport for customers who need help getting to and from the Library Club.

Please telephone the library to arrange this, and for more information.

Fairford Library, London Road, Fairford, GL7 4AQ 01285 712599

From Ann Nicholls

Father God, help us to rid our lives of harboured hurts and needless fears that keep us from the joy of your abundant life. Galatians 5:1 tells us it is for freedom that Christ has set us free, stand firm then and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

Help us dear Lord to walk in that freedom, release us from that spirit of fear, we ask in Jesus name.

He said, “freely freely you have believed, freely freely give, go in my name and because you believe others will know that I live.

The Winter of 1947



Seventy five years ago, from late January until mid-March, easterly winds drove a succession of snowstorms across the UK resulting in what was believed to have been the snowiest winter since the mid-nineteenth century. Six weeks of snow, which began on January 23, led to thousands of people being cut off by snowdrifts. As the UK was recovering from the effects of the Second World War, the armed forces were called upon to clear roads and railways of snowdrifts that were up to seven metres deep in places.

According to the record, snow fell every day somewhere in the UK for a run of 55 days. Because the temperature on most days barely exceeded freezing, much of the snow settled.

More Cracker Jokes....

What athlete is warmer in Winter?
A long jumper

Why does Christmas scrabble take so long with Boris Johnson?
He keeps going back on his word

What's the most popular Christmas wine?
"I don't like Brussel sprouts"

Why are Santa's reindeer allowed to travel on Christmas Eve?
They have herd immunity

How did Scrooge win the football game?
The ghost of Christmas passed

How do you know the heating bill for December is too high?
Dad won't even let you open the windows on your Advent calendar.

What does Santa get when he's stuck in the chimney?
Claus-trophobia

Why did the pirates have to go into lockdown?
Because the 'Arrr' rate had risen.

All pets are
therapy pets.
Most are just
working undercover

