

# **This is the 50<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Pew Sheet/Newsletter in this format!**

*(First edition published on 22nd March 2020 – the start of Lockdown – it was only three sheets - and in case you start counting I was on holiday for one week!)*



*Snow Moon over St.Mary's last Saturday taken by Alan Williams*

## **St, Mary's Church Fairford** **Newsletter**

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> March: Third Sunday of Lent**

***As from this Sunday services are restarting in St. Mary's***

**10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) at 10.00 am.**

***If you would like to attend please let me know. Numbers are still limited.***

**Online worship: Rev Caroline broadcasts 9am Morning Prayer Monday-Thursday and Saturday) and BCP Evening Prayer at 5pm on a Sunday on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/stmarysfairford>**

Please do also make use of weekly Sunday worship produced by the South Cotswold Team, with Fairford folk regularly contributing. These will be continuing for the foreseeable future. Weekly videos can be found here: <https://worship-at-home.weebly.com/>

## **From Caroline**

01285 712467 / [carolinesymcox@googlemail.com](mailto:carolinesymcox@googlemail.com)

*Sunday's readings: Exodus 20.1-17; 1 Corinthians 1.18-25; John 2.13-22*

It feels very good to be anticipating a return to physical worship on Sunday, although of course we recognise that not everyone will want or be able to join us again yet. There is a long way to go before life returns to anything approaching normal, and everyone must move at their own pace and feel as safe as possible as things move on. Nevertheless, our readings for this Sunday are a strong reminder that Lent is a time for reflecting deeply on what we believe and how that reflects in our lives.

Last Sunday we were asked to consider the very notion of 'faith'. This Sunday we are pointed to another great question: on what do we base our faith? What is the heart of our belief and our worship? Is it ceremony? Is it law? Is it a place? In Exodus we see the defining moment when God gave Moses the basis of the Law on Mount Sinai. This was the ground on which the Jewish faith was based and built, from then until now, and as a breakaway part of that faith (which is of course what we as Christians are), we recognise that the Law was and is important to us too. In John's gospel we're reminded that in Jesus' time, the Temple was the place of worship, and indeed was so important that people were expected to travel there from all over the country to make their religious observances. But even with that place being regarded as so important and so holy, it was still being misused by people out to make dishonest money.

Both of these things were and are important, but we as Christians are asked to consider that our faith has something different at its heart. We aren't first and foremost people who follow a set of rules. We aren't first and foremost people who worship at in a particular building or in a particular way. We are above all people who follow Jesus Christ. Jesus – his life, his example, his teachings, the truth and power he revealed in his death and resurrection – is our rock. What makes us who we are is in our efforts to follow him. Those efforts are sometimes poor attempts, we make plenty of mistakes and fall far short of the example we've been given. But with his help we pick ourselves up and keep trying.

We are reminded of the source and ground of our faith: "Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God."

Let's do our best to follow him this week.

**From Heather:**

Telephone: 01285 712428

Email address: [fairfordpcc@btconnect.com](mailto:fairfordpcc@btconnect.com) or [heathergorton31@gmail.com](mailto:heathergorton31@gmail.com).

Please do phone or email me if you have any queries about anything and I will do my best to answer them.

Do please keep sending in your articles, photos and amusing stories!

**Would you like to write something for the Newsletter?**

'A day in my life under lockdown'? - 100 words of how you are spending your time at home, and what you actually like about it?

or

100 words on 'The three things I most want to do when coronavirus is over.'

*(If you do decide to write to me could I please have it by Wednesday evening)*

**Contacts:**

Rev'd Caroline 01285 712467

Rev'd Canon Denise Hyde 01285 713285

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Parish News: [stmaryspn@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryspn@gmail.com)

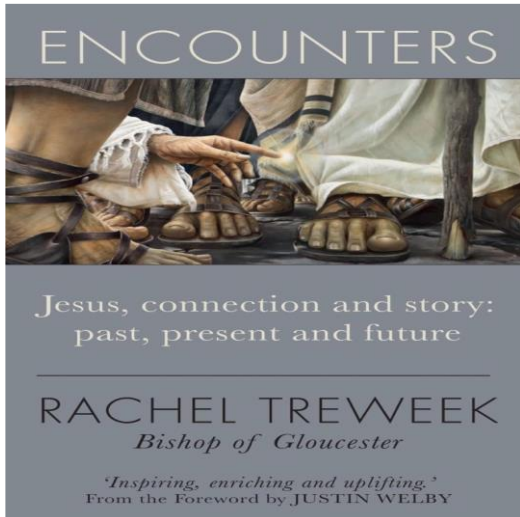
**Please remember the following in your prayers:**

**Those that are ill:** Rev'd David Gray, Helen Foxall, Grace Slack, Niall McDiarmid, Gordon Miles

**Those that have died:** Denny Rawlinson, Andrew Paton

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 4pm:** PCC Meeting via Zoom. Please hold all members of the PCC in your prayers as we meet to discuss the work of the Church here in Fairford.

## NOTICES



### South Cotswolds Lent book 2021:

*Encounters: Jesus, connection and story: past, present and future*, by Bishop Rachel Treweek

Our first session will be led by Bishop Rachel on **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February at 6:30pm**

Subsequent discussions will be led by different members of the South Cotswolds Team each Wednesday at 6:30pm  
**3<sup>rd</sup> : 10<sup>th</sup> : 17<sup>th</sup> : 24<sup>th</sup> : 31<sup>st</sup> March at 6.30pm**

ZOOM link available from John Swanton on [john@swanton.plus.com](mailto:john@swanton.plus.com)  
Books available from Amazon, Blackwells or all good Christian Bookshops

For those who can't make Wednesday evenings, we are conducting a parallel group in Fairford on **Thursdays at 3pm, beginning Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February** led by Rev'd Caroline, following the same reading pattern as the Wednesday group. Please contact Rev'd Caroline if you would like to attend this group and to receive the Zoom invitation.

### Live Lent Booklets

We've received our delivery of *#Live Lent: God's Story Our Story* booklets, a collection of readings and reflections for each day of Lent. They are £2 each – please do let Rev'd Caroline know if you would like a copy, or there will be copies you can pick up in the church.

## **Lenten Litter Pick**

Heather Kent, one of the younger members of our church community (13) and a dedicated worker for the environment, is this year doing a sponsored litter pick rather than giving up anything for Lent. She plans to go out every day and pick up at least a bag of litter – with the goal of collecting 100 bags in memory of Sir Captain Tom Moore. This year she is looking for donations for the Great Western Hospital (brighter futures). If you would like to sponsor Heather, the best way is to follow this link:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/abagadaykeepsthelitteraway2021>

Or for the less technologically inclined, you can call Heather's mum Julie on 01285 713310

## **Church Opening Hours:**

Monday to Friday the church will be open for private prayer 11am – 1pm.

Weekends the church will be open for private prayer 12noon – 1pm.

If you feel you'd like to help out to help us open longer through this lockdown period, please do contact Rev Caroline.

## **Online Prayer and Worship**

Caroline's Morning Prayer every day except Friday and Sunday from 9.00 am, and Evening Prayer at 5pm on Sunday:

[www.facebook.com/stmarysfairford](http://www.facebook.com/stmarysfairford)

## **Services from Gloucester Cathedral**

Gloucester Cathedral has been offering high quality online services across this period of lockdown, and continues to do so. You can find their services on their YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/DioceseofGloucester/videos>

## **Pause and Reflect**

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York are issuing a call to the nation to pause and reflect to remember the more than 100,000 people across the UK who have died after contracting Covid-19 and all those who know and love them.

They invite everyone across England – whether they have faith or not – to pause, reflect on the “enormity of this pandemic” and to pray at 6pm each day.

## **The Real Easter Eggs**

The Real Easter Egg is the chocolate egg that shares The Easter Story will not be available in supermarkets this year and we as a church will not be doing a bulk order. If you would like to order your own you can do so through their website

[www.realeasteregg.co.uk](http://www.realeasteregg.co.uk)

## 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 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 email Rev Denise on [denisehyde15@gmail.com](mailto:denisehyde15@gmail.com).

**Sunday Blue Reading Sheet** - The March sheets are attached

## Food bank

The box is in the Church porch for all donations to the Food Bank. Open 10.00 am to 4.00 pm. ***Please note that the containers in the church porch are for food only. No clothes, shoes etc PLEASE***

**Messy Church** is still meeting at home and each week we write to our families with ideas and suggestions for having their own Messy Church. This Sunday we are offering a link to two sessions of Lent Godly Play told by Hannah Roberts. For further information or to join our mailing list please contact Sarah Bottomley on 01285712074 or [stmaryslmt@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryslmt@gmail.com).

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**Church Border** - Several people have mentioned to me how lovely the border alongside the church in Mill Lane is looking. I do know a bit about it as Gill Peachey – one of the flower team – looks after it for us and we are fortunate enough to be able to cut flowers from the border for the church. I am sure she will appreciate the kind remarks made just as all the flower team thank her too.

## From Ann Nicholls

Another favourite more modern chorus:

God will make a way, when there seems to be no way, He works in ways we cannot see  
he will make a way for me, He will be my guide, hold me closely to his side,  
With love and care for each new day, he will make a way, God will make a way.

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Lord, help me to be so strong in you that my Hope never wavers. Help me not to lose hope even when it seems you have not heard my prayers or things are not going the way I prayed they would. My hope is in you and I praise you for your hand of blessing on me. Thank you that as I look to you, you are making the way for me. I pray in Jesus name. AMEN



**From Phil Trickett:**

*He and Margaret are looking forward to:*

Burning masks

Meeting friends and family

Having a haircut

Getting back to our weekly activities

Going out for a meal

Going to the theatre

Going on holiday

Being able to try on clothes in a shop

Going to a bookshop

Being able to wear glasses in a shop or church.

I wonder if anyone has anything else to add.



*This beautiful photograph of 'The Ivy Church' Ampney St. Mary was taken by Alan Williams on his way home from work the other morning.*

**From Alison Hobson**

***Parish News March 1889***

### Early Closing

A public meeting of the tradesmen and employers of Fairford will shortly be called to see if any arrangement can be made for closing early on one day in the week. Due notice will be given by bills in the shop windows.

[and why did they want early closing?]

### The Cricket Club

An effort will be made this year to revive the Cricket Club. If the early closing movement, just referred to, should result in a weekly half-holiday, the cricketers of Fairford will at once be invited to meet and confer as to the steps which should be taken to secure a ground for practice, and to arrange a series of matches during the coming season. Meanwhile we hope that those who are interested in our national game will talk this matter over among themselves, so that they may come to the meeting full of plans and suggestions for the management of the club.

Francis R Carbonell

### **From Janet Edwards**



Lord, give us the constancy and the courage of the snowdrop,  
as it remains strong and beautiful throughout all kinds of weather.

Give us the optimism and trust of the spring bulbs,  
pushing through the soil to welcome the future.

Give us the joy and spontaneity of the robin,  
singing to welcome the warmer lighter days.

Give us the daffodils' message of hope, bursting forth each day,  
to greet us with their beauty.

And guide us too, through this difficult and uncertain time,  
Knowing that, like nature, we can trust in You.

Amen





## **Dream**

Today, I dared to let myself dream,  
That the world will one day open again.  
That the locks will loosen, the walls will fall,  
The doors will fly open and reunite us all.

I dared to imagine the warmth of a cuddle,  
A group of my friends all locked in a huddle.  
I felt all the heartbeats, drumming with mine,  
I heard all the laughter, I tasted the wine.

I thought of the feelings I've missed for long,  
The room full of music, united by song.  
The freedom to roam, to plan and to meet  
To hold someone's hand, to meet, to greet.

Just for a moment I dared to dream of,  
The flights I would board to the places I love.  
The moment those eyes would meet mine at the gate,  
The feeling of joy after so long a wait.

Today, I dared to let myself dream,  
That the life we once had would happen again.  
That we'd no longer fear the danger of air,  
That our lives would not depend on such care.

They say that we mustn't wish time away,  
But it's hard, my friend, when faced with a day,  
So long in blank hours and so wiped of laughter,  
It's tempting to drift away to thereafter.

So yes, I dared to dream just a while,  
Of life coming back, it brought me a smile.  
One day I know, this will be in the past,  
And hugs will be free, again, at last.

*(Not sure where this came from but surely what we are all thinking)*

### ***Some Children's Remarks!***

1. Never trust a dog to watch your food. - Patrick, age 10
2. When your dad is mad and asks you, "Do I look stupid?" don't answer him. – Michael, 14
3. Never tell your mum her diet's not working. - Michael, 14
4. Stay away from prunes. - Randy, 9
5. Felt markers are not good to use as lipstick. - Lauren, 9
6. Don't pick on your sister when she's holding a baseball bat. - Joel, 10
7. Never try to baptize a cat. - Eileen, 8
8. Never allow your three-year old brother in the same room as your school assignment. - Traci, 14
9. You cant hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk – Armir 9
10. Dont wear polka-dot underwear under white shorts – Kellie 11
11. If you want a kitten, start by asking for a horse – Naomi 15

