Hello from... ... Margaret Davey

Moving from Middlesex in the summer of 1982 with husband Keith and our sons, Paul and Giles, I felt very fortunate to have found our new home in the beautiful and friendly Cotswold village of Southrop. Having given up my



teaching job, I quickly became involved in village activities, especially the new Community Shop in the village hall, which opened following a very snowy winter when the village was cut off for several days. Stocking fairly basic goods, there was soon a complaint - better quality toilet rolls were required! We now have a Post Office and serve tea/coffee, so it's a good meeting place each Wednesday morning.

I've been associated with many aspects of village life - Parish Council clerk, prompt for Leach Valley players and our pantomime, Cinderella, in 2000. Also fetes, harvest suppers and open gardens - many of which have been to raise money for our village hall, and the church where I've been Churchwarden for seven years. In 2012, the year of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, I decided to hold a "diamond" raffle for the Jubilee Trust. It raised £1,000 and in 2013 I was thrilled to be invited, with Keith, to a reception at Buckingham Palace where we met the Queen.

So, 38 years have passed and the village has changed extensively, but it's still a good place to live as I learn to adapt to advancing years!

CHEQS DIARY 2020

Saturday, 29th Feb	10am	Southrop litter pick - start on The Green
Saturday, 29th Feb	2pm	Jumble Sale, Southrop Village Hall
Saturday, 29th Feb	doors open 7pm	Great Cabaret Safari, Quenington Village Hall
Sunday, 1st March	10am	Southrop litter pick - start on The Green
Thursday, 5 th March	3pm	Friendship Circle - Eastleach Village Hall
Saturday, 7th March	10 for 10.30am	Eastleach litter pick - meet at the Victoria Inn
Friday, 13th March	doors open 7.30pm	Quiz & Chilli - Southrop Village Hall
Saturday, 14th Mar	10.30am-12pm	Coffee Morning, Quenington Village Hall
Saturday, 21st Mar	9.30am	Coln St Aldwyns litter pick - by chestnut tree
Saturday, 21st Mar	10am	Quenington litter pick - meet at village hall
21st - 22nd March	10am to 4pm	Southrop Archives in Southrop Village Hall
Friday, 27th March	7pm for 7.30pm	Coln Cinema - Downton Abbey
Weds, 1st April	12.30 - 2pm	Lent Soup Lunch - Old Rectory, Hatherop
Thursday, 2 nd April	3pm	Friendship Circle - Southrop Village Hall

ANNUAL VILLAGE LITTER PICK - YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS YOU!



Most of the CHEQS villages have a litter pick at this time of year. Do come and join in if you can, to help make our villages look even better than they usually do - it can be a great way to meet new people too! The litter picks are organised by our parish councils, and all equipment will be provided.

SOUTHROP - Saturday, 29th February & Sunday, 1st March at 10am

Meet on the village green by The Swan, either day at 10am. For more information, contact Jerry Hibbert 850582 or Tim Guest 850189.

EASTLEACH - Saturday, 7th March at 10am for 10.30am

Meet at the Victoria Inn, where Tom and Maya are kindly serving complimentary teas and coffees at 10am to volunteers, ready to start the litter pick at 10.30am. For more information, contact Pete McHugh: pete.s.mchugh@gmail.com or 01367 850041.

COLN ST ALDWYNS - Saturday, 21st March at 9.30am

We will meet under the horse chestnut tree by Coln Stores.

QUENINGTON - Saturday, 21st March at 10am

Meet outside Quenington Village Hall.

FAIRFORD ART SOCIETY

Thursday, 5th March at 7.30pm, Farmor Room, Fairford Community Centre

A talk by Celestino Valenti entitled "The Life and Times of a Professional Artist". Entry is £1 for members, and £4 for visitors. There will be coffee available, and also a raffle.

In addition: Get-Together sessions are held each month on the first and second Tuesday, and the third and fourth Thursday, at Fairford Community Centre at 1.30pm. This month the subject is The Colour Blue. The cost is £3 per session. Visitors are welcome, but it would be helpful if you let Sallie know you are coming - call 01367 850385. Check www.fairfordartsociety.weebly.com for more information.

ALDSWORTH ART GROUP

Open House & Coffee Morning, Monday, 9th March 11am - 1.30pm

Come along for coffee and cake, chat to the artist, and see what we are all about.

Calling all singers!

Come and join our fun and friendly 4-part choir!



The Hill and Valley Singers

(formerly the Chedworth Singers)

There are no auditions and it's not essential to read music. Just bring your enthusiasm, commitment and enjoyment of singing. You can be sure of a warm welcome!

We meet on Thursdays 7.30-9.00 pm, at St Andrew's School, Chedworth GL54 4AJ

Rehearsals start on March 5th, 2020 in preparation for our next concert on June 6th.

Musical Director - Shirley Jee Accompanist - Rachel Emmerson For more information contact our Chairman, Neil Irving, 01285 720403

QUIZ & CHILLI NIGHT, SOUTHROP VILLAGE HALL

Friday, 13th March, doors open 7.30pm for 8pm start

- £10 for Quiz and Chilli Dinner
- Veggie option available
- Cash bar
- Maximum of 6 people per team
- Tickets from Southrop C of E Primary School
- Email: southropcofepta@gmail.com
- Proceeds to Southrop C of E School PTA



SOUTHROP VILLAGE ARCHIVES



Recently some Southrop documents were found at Coln church, including this Southrop magazine of 1909. The inside pages were handwritten by the vicar, Reverend Charles Squire with some interesting reports, "For a united service with Eastleach quite a large number came over and there would have been more but for the weather and the state of the roads." Not much has changed! The village photographic collection and archives will be on display in Southrop Village Hall on 21st and 22nd March from 10am until 4pm.

WIND VANES IN CHEQS

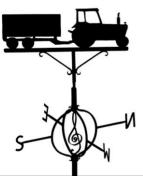
Wind vanes (also known as weather vanes or weathercocks) have been used for thousands of years to show the wind direction. How do they work? The part of the



design in front of the pivot point has a smaller surface area than the part behind it. The wind exerts more force on the larger end, moving the vane around so that the smaller end faces the direction from which the wind is blowing. The main points of the compass are indicated below, so that knowledgeable observers may be able to predict what type of weather will ensue.

It can be fun to look out for weather vanes, especially when they are particularly sculptural or decorative - we have some lovely examples in our villages. The swans above are in Coln St Aldwyns, at Waterside. Sometimes vanes are purely decorative,

and do not move with the wind, like this peacock in Southrop. The images can be fascinating, often reflecting the interests of the person who owns them.



The tractor, trailer & treble clef wind vane was erected to celebrate a special birthday of Quenington farmer, Tim Morris. It reflects both his

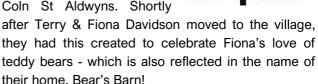


working life and his love of music - Tim is the organist at Quenington church, and also sings in various choirs. The vane was made by the recently departed Den Bartlett, who used to have the forge at the bottom of Hatherop Hill until the late-1980s. Several decades

earlier, Den's father, Charlie Bartlett, made the cow wind vane found at Hannington Hill Farm, Quenington. It used to stand on the cow shed when it was a dairy farm, but is now in the stable yard.



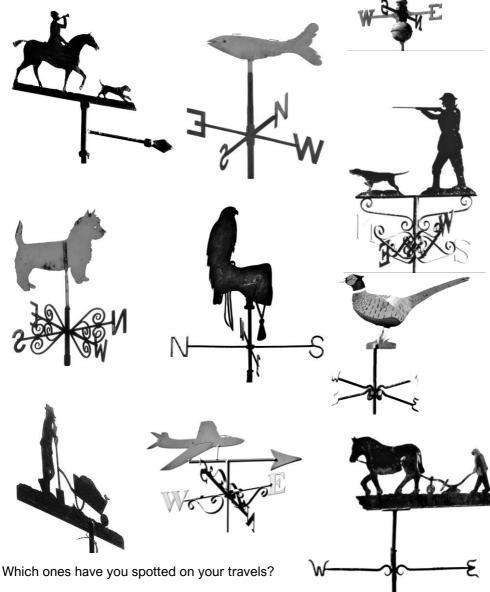
Another special and personal wind vane is to be found in Coln St Aldwyns. Shortly



This humorous wind vane shows that pigs really *can* fly! It is another Quenington one, at Coneygar Barn.

Many of our village wind vane images are symbolic of the countryside and its activities. Which is the odd one out?





LECHLADE HISTORY SOCIETY

Monday, 16th March at 7.15pm for 7.30pm at Lechlade Memorial Hall

At the outbreak of the First World War several thousand non-British civilians were living, working and holidaying in Britain. They were considered a threat to security and imprisoned for the remainder of the war. German combatants were captured and brought to Britain. Civilian and combatant aliens alike were termed Prisoners of War (POWs). They were put to work to plug the gaps left by men who had gone to fight. Twenty POW camps were opened in Gloucestershire alone, some not very far from here. This illustrated lecture by Dr Colin Chapman describes the background to the WWI POW system, with particular reference to Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire. Entry is £1 for members, and £4 for guests.

QUENINGTON VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNING

Saturday, 14th March from 10.30am to 12pm

Come and join the regulars for a hot drink, home-made cakes and a chat. Everyone is welcome, from babies (with an adult!) to nonagenarians.

QUENINGTON VILLAGE HALL 100 CLUB

This is a lottery which raises funds for the village hall, and gives two monthly prizes to members of £15 and £10 from randomly drawn numbers. It costs £12 to join for the whole year, or pro rata for part way through the year. If you would like to join, please email queningtonvillagehall@gmail.com - new members are welcome.

JANUARY 1st no. 30 - D Smethurst 2nd no. 14 - A Goddard FEBRUARY 1st no. 11 - R Sheldon 2nd no. 24 - M R James

COLN CINEMA - DOWNTON ABBEY

Friday, 27th March, at 7pm for 7.30pm at Vicarage Cottage Barn, Coln

The popular TV series comes to the big screen, as the beloved Crawleys and their intrepid staff prepare for the most important moment of their lives. A royal visit will unleash scandal, romance and intrigue that will leave the future of Downton hanging in the balance. With Hugh Bonneville, Laura Carmichael, Jim Carter, Maggie Smith & Penelope Wilton, amongst others. £4 entry, Certificate PG, runtime 122 minutes.

FAIRFORD UNITED CHURCH (CONGREGATIONAL/METHODIST)

Our monthly Contact Group meetings are on Friday, 6th March and Friday, 3rd April from 12.30 to 2.30pm – meet friends old and new, over light refreshments.

On Saturday, 14th March we have a coffee morning and light lunch at 23 Moor Lane, Fairford from 10am to 2pm - in aid of the Mission Aviation Fellowship.

MOTHERING SUNDAY (THE BISHOPS ARE COMING!)

Mothering Sunday is on 22nd March, and this year it is the weekend on which the two bishops of the diocese - the Bishops of Gloucester and Tewkesbury - are visiting churches in our area. Normally, of course, CHEQS

has well-attended Mothering Sunday services, but this year there will be **no** morning services in the CHEQS churches, and parishioners are encouraged to attend the **10am Mothering Sunday service at either Lechlade or Kempsford** - one of the bishops will be involved at each church.

All are invited to a **bring-and-share lunch**, at the Parish Rooms in Fairford from midday onwards. Following this, at about 1.30pm there will be a walk to Quenington. Tea will be provided in Quenington Village Hall from 3.30 - 4pm, and then the bishops will hold a **Question & Answer session** in the hall - do feel free to bring your church/faith/spiritual queries for them to tackle!

In the evening, at **6pm, St John the Baptist Church, Coln** is the venue for a united service led by the Team Rector, John Swanton, and with the bishops attending.

BRITISH SUMMER TIME

A reminder that the clocks go forward by an hour during the night of Saturday, 28th March. Therefore, the evening services at Quenington church will return to 6pm on the following week - Sunday, 5th April.



REVEREND SIMON BRIGNALL (ADVANCE NOTICE)

There will be a special service to license Simon as the vicar of the CHQ churches, at Hatherop church on Thursday, 30th April at 7.30pm. All are welcome to attend, and support Simon as he starts his ministry with us. The service will be followed by a reception at Hatherop Castle School.

SOMETHING TO DO



This month we have four R's connected with becoming a bit more green - there are plenty of positive local initiatives through which we can all help improve the environment, including the litter picks in our villages. As Helen Wade reminded us last month: no-one can do everything, but we can all do something!

REDUCE

Most of us have a lot of stuff: decorative items, furniture, clothes, toys, shoes etc. One way to save the world's resources is to buy fewer things. Many people are thinking seriously before buying plastic goods, but all new products have an impact on the environment. Continuing to use items which still work well, rather than following fashion trends, can help reduce waste. Some larger equipment (lawn mowers etc) could be shared with friends and neighbours, rather than each household having their own. If we do want to buy something different, have a look at some of the suggestions for re-using items, rather than buying new. There are some quality items and great bargains to be had!

REPAIR



When a household item breaks, we often throw it away and buy a new one. Years ago, items would have been repaired - to save both money and natural resources.

Tash Gasson, of Eastleach, is hoping to set up a Repair Café in the CHEQS villages. The idea is that people donate their time and expertise in mending portable household items, clothes, bikes etc. The Repair Café would be based at a

village hall, and tea and cake would also be available to buy (proceeds to the hall). People bringing their broken goods would have a designated slot, and be shown by an experienced person how to mend their item. Anyone who is willing to share their skills (not necessarily qualified or professional) should contact Tash with information about their areas of expertise, so that a resource database can be collated. Not only are Repair Cafés a great way to help the environment, but they are also a lovely opportunity to get together and meet new people, and share skills with each other. The Repair Shop on BBC TV is a great inspiration, but you don't have to have quite such exceptional abilities as those on the programme! Send Tash an email with your contact details and the set of skills you can offer: ncrowesis@gmail.com

SOMETHING TO DO

REUSE

Many items can be used again for a different purpose - often people use old jam jars for storing nails, screws etc. It is much better for the environment if we reuse something, rather than recycle or throw it away. Items can also be reused by others - advertise on local shop notice boards, or use the following to give, sell or buy:

- Charity shops (2 in Fairford, about 15 in Cirencester)
- Car Boot Sales (monthly in Quenington from April October)
- Auctions (Moore, Allen & Innocent, and Cotswold Auction Company)
- o Cirencester Antiques Centre
- Facebook Marketplace
- eBay and other online selling sites

RECYCLE

This month, changes will be taking place in the recycling services carried out on behalf of Cotswold District Council. Each household should have received an



information pack last month, and also a new, larger, grey kerbside food recycling bin, and a new blue bag for cardboard. We will also all need one black box for glass, and one for paper. At the Women's Institute meeting in January about waste and recycling, Councillor Andrew Doherty stressed the importance of putting items for recycling in the correct receptacle, so that the system

works as efficiently as possible. For instance, cardboard and paper should not be mixed. Food and garden waste must not now be mixed, but put out in their own bins. However, the large white bags can contain plastics and tins, as these are easy to separate with machines. Do keep hold of the information leaflets from CDC, or check online. Some of us will also have a new collection day, as CDC have re-structured the rounds.

A new collection service being offered by the council is for batteries, Tetra Pak cartons, textiles, shoes and small electrical items. Please only put out items which cannot be reused - if you have something to dispose of which could be given to a charity shop, the editor will be happy to take it for you!

The main supermarkets in Cirencester now have collection bins for thin plastics such as carrier bags, frozen food bags, bread bags, crisp packets etc. Check the label on the bins to see which of these plastics can be recycled, then take them in when you do your shopping.

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOLS

Southrop Church of England Primary School *Together we can fly*



In February, the School Council and Maths Coordinator organised a successful Number Day, raising funds for the NSPCC. With the focus on money and change, the children visited Southrop Community Shop and Post Office. Each child bought a stamp to send a letter to their chosen author, inviting them to re-open our school library once the refurbishments are complete. Some pupils bought packs of jelly which were made up, sold and enjoyed by pupils and younger siblings at the end of the day. Others donated their purchase to the food bank or took the item home. We are very grateful to Margaret Davey and Shelagh Benfield for their warm welcome, and their patience in counting out and explaining the change!

Greek Day took place in the Swan classroom, with a 'real' Ancient Greek visitor teaching us about the Persian invasions and the differing responses of the Athenian and Spartan states. Later, we de-camped to the village hall to look at weaponry and armour, practise army drill, and participate in the Olympic Games and myth-telling.

Our Science coordinator organised a fabulous Science Day with the whole school taking part in activities exploring the human body. The Cygnets were looking at what we eat and how we digest it, using a pair of tights and the remains of the preceding day's lunch to simulate the work of our intestines – very messy! Equally so was the dissection of pigs' hearts and the creation of imitation blood that took place in the Swans' class. We were all ready for our break at half-term!

We are getting excited about bat investigations and a bat walk in April/May by the river in Eastleach. If you would like to join us, it will be on Thursday, 2nd April at 7.15pm (weather permitting), with a fall-back date of Friday, 1st May at 8.15pm. The walk will be led by Dr Richard Rolfe of the University of Gloucestershire.

The Governing Body of Southrop C of E Primary School is looking to appoint a Clerk to Governors, working 60 hours per annum. Full details can be found on the school website at www.southrop.gloucs.sch.uk/vacancies/vacancies.html

Hatherop Church of England Primary School Caring, Believing, Achieving



An important part of life at Hatherop C of E Primary School is our School Council – a group of children elected by the school pupils to represent each year group. Megan (Year 6) has written a piece for the CHEQS magazine:

'I am a member of the School Council at Hatherop. We present ideas to the school and help the school to fundraise for charities. We organised a Bake Sale to raise money for Children in Need and it was great to see everyone contributing to this. We have made a Welcome Banner for our school to make sure people feel welcome, and we are making a Welcome Booklet for new children. It was our idea to have a school pet and we are very happy that Mr Russell brings his dog, Otto, to school. We think it is really nice to have a dog around and Otto is very calm and sweet. We all really enjoy being on the School Council and seeing our ideas developed.'

Look at our website www.hatherop.gloucs.sch.uk for all our latest news.

VOLUNTEER REQUIRED!

Secretary to Coln, Hatherop & Quenington Parochial Church Council

The united CHQ PCC is looking for a volunteer for the role of secretary to the PCC. There are four meetings a year, in addition to the annual meeting. The secretary works with the chairperson to distribute agendas and minutes, and also takes minutes of the meetings, in addition to preparing for the annual meeting (organising reports etc) and sending records of the annual meeting to the diocese.



The role requires good typing and computer skills, and an ability to make a succinct and accurate record of meetings. Good organisational skills are essential. If you meet these requirements, and would be willing to give some time to the church, please contact the current secretary, Val Trafford on 01285 750504.

THE EDNA DAWES LUNCH CLUB

The lunch club is one of the activities of the Friends of Fairford & Lechlade Communities. It is a vital service provided twice a week (Mondays and Wednesdays) for around 30 frail and elderly people, to enable them to socialise and enjoy a cooked meal. Transport is



provided for those who have difficulty in getting to the venue in Fairford, with an extra escort to help support the driver. Volunteers are needed to drive the mini bus for the lunch club. Can you spare 4 hours on a Monday and/or Wednesday? If you would like to find out more, please contact: Shirley Rice on 07980 117749 or email shirleyrice22@aol.com, or Kate Barnes on 07710 672455 or barnespeebs@aol.com

EASTLEACH AND SOUTHROP FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

Beryl Whiteley, a helper at the Friendship Circle writes: What is the Eastleach and Southrop Friendship Circle? It may sound like something to do with country dancing, but it's actually a welcoming monthly group for the over 60's! It was started way back in 1958, and although we meet in the village halls of Eastleach and Southrop (alternating each month), we welcome members from all the surrounding villages.

Most months we have afternoon tea with sandwiches, scones & cake (all home-made by the helpers) followed by entertainment - often musical, but sometimes games and talks. In the summer there are coach outings, and a special highlight - the garden tea. We have been invited to some wonderful local gardens over the years. In December, we enjoy a Christmas Lunch at the Victoria Inn at Eastleach.

A lot of effort goes into the meetings: helpers arrange the hall, produce the teas and, where necessary, organise transport for the less mobile members. Membership is £5 annually, plus £2 at each meeting. The cost of the summer coach trips varies, but they are subsidised, as we are fortunate to be supported by local charities.

If you would like to join the Friendship Circle, you can be sure of a very warm welcome - contact Jane Jenkinson 01367 850393 or Sally Parris 01367 850321.

EASTLEACH CHURCH NEWS (MORE DETAIL NEXT MONTH!)

Gordon Land has been appointed licensed Lay Reader for St Andrew's Church.

HATHEROP SOUP AND CHEESE LENT LUNCH

Wednesday, 1st April from 12.30 – 2pm at The Old Rectory, Hatherop All welcome - delicious homemade soup, bread and cheese, and good company!



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HIDDEN BUSINESSES

Behind the walls of some of our CHEQS residences, people are busy

running small businesses.

This month we put the

SPOTLIGHT ON...

...Charlie Collett

Once upon a time, every village had a blacksmith.

They would shoe horses, of course, but they would also repair almost anything - the idea of replacing something just because it is broken is one of those silly, modern ideas!

Then the car came along and changed everything for the blacksmith. Some turned their skill with metal to repairing cars and selling fuel, some used this new found mobility to enlarge their sphere of work. Some shut up shop and worked for others.

In Quenington, some of my ancestors fulfilled the role of blacksmith. They resisted progress as long as possible, but my grandfather finally gave up around 1961. My mother shod the last horse here, and the forge became just another cold, dusty shed.

Showing a distinct lack of imagination, it took me until 2010 to think about clearing out the forge and seeing what was left. It was rammed to the rafters with junk - it took two years of spare time to empty it! Then we found the forge itself, the anvil and quench tank, and a set of bellows that still worked. Well there was only one thing to do: light the fire. Except we couldn't, because back in the 1970s the chimney had fallen off in the storms, and it was capped off. Getting a new chimney installed took a little while and a lot of money! I'd never set foot in a proper blacksmith shop, but

we had some steel about the place and it was a wet day, so why not have a go? I spent five hours in the forge, mangling and burning bits of steel (and myself), knowing the shape I was after, but having no idea how to get this straight piece of metal to behave. By the time I gave up, I had ruined about 30 feet of steel, I was burnt, bruised and exhausted, but I had learnt more than I have ever learnt before in a single day. Oh, and I had five simple hooks, and I was well and truly hooked!

Since then, I've learnt a bit more - here is my latest creation. **charlie@thegrumpyblacksmith.co.uk**



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CHURCH OF ENGLAND SERVICES

Sunday,	1 st March	Sunday, 8 ^t	^h March	Sunday,	15 th March
8.30am	Hatherop (HC)	No service	Hatherop	8.30am	Hatherop (HC)
9.30am	Southrop (HC)	9.30am	Southrop (MP)	9.30am	Southrop (MP)
11am	Coln (HC)	9.30am	Quenington (HC)	11am	Coln (HC)
11am	Eastleach (MP)	11am	Eastleach (HC)	11am	Eastleach (MP)
4pm	Quenington (EP)	6pm	Coln (EP)	4pm	Quenington (EP)

Sunday, 22 nd	March (Mothering Sunday)	Sunday, 29 th March		
*No service	Hatherop	11am	Hatherop (HC)	
*No service	Southrop	9.30am	Southrop (MP)	
*No service	Quenington	No service	Coln	
*No service	Eastleach	11am	Eastleach (MP)	
6pm	Coln (EP) with the Bishops	No service	Quenington	

^{*10}am services at Lechalde & Kempsford with Bishops (see article in magazine)
HC=Holy Communion, MP=Morning Prayer, EP=Evening Prayer

ROMAN CATHOLIC SERVICES

Williamstrip private chapel, the Chapel of Our Lady, is open to local residents for Mass at 9.30am on Sundays

Mass is also celebrated at the Parish Church of St Thomas of Canterbury,
Horcott Road, Fairford at 6pm on Saturdays,
and 11am on Sundays (which includes a liturgy for children).

OTHER LOCAL CHURCH SERVICES

ST MARY'S, FAIRFORD Sundays 8am Holy Communion, 10am Sung Eucharist (Family Service on last of the month), 6pm Choral Evensong. On second Sundays it is 'Funday Sunday' 4pm - 6pm with crafts, games, worship & a cooked tea.

ST LAWRENCE, LECHLADE Sundays 8am Holy Communion, 10am Morning Worship with children's activities (Holy Communion 1st, 3rd, 5th; Informal 4th, All-Age 2nd); 6pm Evening Worship (Evensong 1st, 3rd, 4th; Holy Communion 2nd; Healing 5th).

FAIRFORD UNITED CHURCH (CONGREGATIONAL/METHODIST) Sundays 10.30am. On Sundays when there is no All Age Worship, there is Sunday School provision for children. We meet at 79 Milton Street, Fairford.

LECHLADE BAPTIST CHURCH Sundays 10.30am Morning Worship (with prayer from 9.45am); 6pm Evening Worship (2nd & 3rd Sundays).