

FRIENDS OF ST JAMES OLD SCHOOL

Sad, bad news: we have learned that there is after all no more government capital funding for disadvantaged 2 year old provision, so our last real feasible option for the use of the building has gone. The Trustees (the Rector and Church Wardens), whose responsibility is to both the old school site and its replacement, Church Cowley St James School, Bartholomew Road, are therefore likely to recommend the commercial sale of the site but no decision has yet been made

However the 'Friends' are committed to maintaining local interest in the much loved building, at least until its future is decided, and hopefully for the long term.

Thank you to those who 'sponsored' our clearing/painting of the horribly ugly exposed end wall of the building on Monday 15 February, which also included much ivy clearing: we raised £50.40, for the 'Friends' funds. Special thanks to Cllr David Henwood for the inspiration, the paint and painting.

Rosanne Butler will still repeat her fascinating series of 4 talks on 'The Story of Cowley', on Wednesday evenings, once a month April to July, with refreshments: 6.45 for 7.00, £5 per evening, in St James Centre:

April 6: (1) how it all began – Cufa's Ley

May 11: (2) 3 settlements and stone

June 8: (3) the bread basket of the university

July 6 (4) Victorian Cowley

No need to book. Information from Rosanne (01865 453257) or Lesley Williams (01865 779562), or email: oldschoolcowley@gmail.com.

You can still of course join the 'Friends' for just £10 a year: pick up a leaflet and registration form in St James Church or Centre.

RIPON COLLEGE CUDDSDON

During the research for the article on Ripon College we ascertained that small parties could visit the College to see the chapel, a building which has won prizes for its architecture.

Visits can be arranged most days between 10am – 12 noon and 2 – 4 pm weekdays, with group sizes up to about 20 people at one time.

Notices will be posted in both churches and St James Church Centre with some suggested dates so that we can see if there is an interest. People who have already visited this building say with great enthusiasm that it is well worth a visit.

So please sign one of the forms indicating you would like to come.

Sally Hemsworth

HYMN OF THE MONTH

ALLELUIA! SING TO JESUS

By William Chatterton Dix (1837 – 1898)

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!
His the sceptre, His the throne.
Alleluia! His the triumph
His the victory alone
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood
Jesus out of every nation
Has redeemed us by His blood.

This well known, and I think, well-loved hymn, has stood the test of time, though it is perhaps not sung quite so often these days. It was intended as a Eucharistic hymn to be sung especially at Ascension-tide. For a long time the first verse was repeated to give a total of five stanzas. Nowadays only four verses are sung. Once again Bristol comes into the scene and Dix attended Bristol Grammar School and afterwards went into business. In his spare time he was a prolific hymn writer, and published four volumes of his own hymns as well as translating from Abyssinian and Near Eastern sources. His own other famous hymns include "As with gladness men of Old", "To thee, Oh Lord, our hearts we raise" and "Come unto me ye weary, and I will give you rest".

Once again the first tune by Samuel Wesley is not the tune mostly sung today. This is Welsh in origin and is the majestic "Hyfrydol" written by R H Prichard and is admirably suited to the hymn. Thus we have a great hymn accompanied by a fine tune that has ensured its lasting success. Pritchard worked as a loom tender's assistant in manufacturing in North Wales. He was only 25 when he wrote this lovely melody – which is also much used for "Love Divine, all loves excelling".

It is interesting to note that neither the writer or the composer in this case were ordained. Thus showing that lay people can show a real talent in this field. I commend this fine hymn to you.

John Shreeve

COWLEY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Tuesday 15 March 2016 at 8.00pm

TALK

Votes for Women—The History of the Women's Suffrage Movement in Oxford 1870-1918

An illustrated talk by Kathrine Bradley

At United Reformed Church, Temple Road, Cowley
Annual Membership fee £18 (OAP £16)
Visitors welcome £3 per meeting



Our annual event this year is all about...

MONEY MATTERS

'Getting it, managing it & making the best use of it'

Keynote Speaker:
Dame Philippa Russell

Presentations on:

- Benefits – changes to benefits and becoming an appointee
- Personal Budgets – getting one, managing it & challenging decisions
- Court of Protection & The Mental Capacity Act – becoming a Deputy under the Court of Protection
- Financial Abuse – how to keep your relative safe

And lots more...

Information stands
Lunch & Refreshments



14th March 2016
9.30am - 4.30pm
The Kassam Stadium,
Grenoble Road, Oxford,
OX4 4XP

Parents/Carers - £20
(Concessions available, please ask!)

Professionals - £65

To find out more and to book your place please contact
info@oxfsn.org.uk
Or Tel: 07891 734987

Or book online @ www.oxfsn.org.uk

*Places are limited for this event so please book early to make sure you don't miss out!

RECIPES

Here are two nice tea-time recipes for a treat at Easter (or any other time, of course!). Both are quick and easy.



Lazy chocolate cake

1 oz plus another teaspoon of melted butter
4 oz flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
8 oz sugar
2 eggs
2 fl ozs milk
4 oz dark melted cooking chocolate
1 teaspoon vanilla essence
1 tablespoon fresh orange juice
3 ozs chopped hazel nuts (optional)

Lightly grease a 7 inch cake tin with the teaspoon of butter.

Sift together the flour and baking powder and stir in the sugar.

Make a well in the dry ingredients and pour in the butter, eggs and milk. Stir until the mixture forms a smooth batter. Stir in the melted chocolate, vanilla essence and orange juice. Add the nuts (if used).

Spoon the mixture into the prepared cake tin and bake in the oven – Gas 5, 190°C, for 35 – 40 minutes (test with sharp knife or skewer).

Turn out cake on to a wire rack to cool.

Ice the cake as follows:

Melt 4 oz dark cooking chocolate in a heat-proof bowl over pan of boiling water. Stir in 2 oz butter and 1 tablespoon of cornflour. Beat constantly to form a smooth paste. When the cake is cool use this paste to spread over it. Leave to cool.

Lemon cookies (makes about 20 cookies)

6 oz butter (plus a little for greasing)
5 oz castor sugar
1 egg yolk
¼ teaspoon lemon essence
8 oz self-raising flour

Grease a large baking sheet with butter.

Cream the butter and sugar together till light and fluffy.

Stir in the egg yolk and lemon essence.

Add the flour little by little beating until the mixture forms a firm dough.

On a floured board roll out the dough to ¼ inch thick then cut into cookies (maybe Easter bunny shape?)

Space the cookies well apart on the baking sheet allowing for them to spread.

Bake for 12-15 minutes, until golden brown, in a fairly hot oven – gas mark 6, 200° C.

Cool on a wire rack.

FRIENDS OF ST JAMES OLD SCHOOL



THE STORY OF COWLEY

A monthly series of four talks by local historian Rosanne Butler, telling the history of the village of Cowley, from early days until Victorian times

St James Centre, Beauchamp Lane, OX4 3LF
Wednesdays

6.45 refreshments for 7.00 – 8.30
£5 per evening

April 6 (1) *how it all began – Cufa's Ley*

May 11 (2) *3 settlements and stone*

June 8 (3) *the bread basket of the university*

July 6 (4) *Victorian Cowley*

no need to book

information from Rosanne Butler – Membership Secretary
Friends of St James Old School
01865 453 257

Lesley Williams – Chair
Friends of St James Old School
07982 439 828
oldschoolcowley@gmail.com

www.cowleyteamministry.co.uk/The-Parish/St-James-Old-School

Rosanne interviews Eleanor Pritchard

I first met Eleanor, or Ellie as she likes to be called, when she wandered into St James Church Centre last May. She was pushing a buggy which contained the most adorable tiny baby you could wish to see. I was introduced to Charlotte, just a few weeks old at the time, and I was hooked. It was the day of the annual plant sale and Ellie, newly arrived in Cowley, was exploring the neighbourhood and noticed our big banner. She told me that she received such a lovely warm welcome and found lots of very friendly people and was quite moved. It was my husband, Frank, who told her about Seashells and suggested she might give them a try. Well, she did and is now firmly established in our parish. She found that bringing her baby daughter to church was a pleasant experience too as no-one minded the little cries or fidgets that are inevitable and all she got were welcoming smiles. She then made friends with Claire and Luke Holden and was fully established as a St James' "ten-o'clocker".

How far had Ellie come in her life up to this point though? Well, that, of course, is the theme of this article.

She was born in Hitchin, Hertfordshire, the eldest of a big family of seven. She has four sisters and two brothers and admits to being a bit bossy, as many elder sisters are. Her mother was a social worker and her father a teacher in a primary

school who specialised in teaching pupils with special needs. He later became a bookseller much to Ellie's delight. The family moved to Stevenage when it was a new town and that is where Ellie grew up living in one of the houses built by her paternal grandfather.

She absolutely loved her school years in class with boys and girls who were close neighbours and playmates. It became clear, very early on that she had a gift for music and soon began to learn to play a recorder. Many children did, as we know, but I wonder how many continued to make music on their recorders into their twenties and thirties and even played nursery tunes for their children as Ellie does. I found it fun to hear how little Charlotte, now nearly a year old, takes the recorder in her hands and tries to make a tune. Give her time!

Alongside her initial instrument Ellie plays the flute and the violin and played in the Central Youth Orchestra. She also sang in concerts at school and loved taking part in drama productions. Asked about her sporting ability she told me, "None except swimming". As a small girl she was an enthusiastic Brownie with an armful of badges and moved on to Guides where she became a patrol leader (it was that big sister ethos, I guess).

As a teenager she worked on Saturdays and in school holidays at the local museum and was

also continuing with her music. After "the required" GCSE passes she took her A level exams in English, history and, naturally, music.

Her degree course in contemporary East European Studies with language was pursued at the School of Slavonic and Eastern European Studies in London – part of the University College. She lived in London for three years sharing a flat with friends. She stayed on to study for an M.Phil researching the popular culture of Eastern Europe. During that year Belgrade was bombed and Ellie decided to help the people about whom she had learned so much. She offered her services to Oxfam and was sent to Macedonia and Kosovo. Whilst there she learnt the Albanian language. She worked out there for six years in a variety of roles, teaching and writing asylum reports for Amnesty International.

It was then time to return home and she spent four years in a totally different post. At the Institute of Electrical Engineers' international department she checked the qualifications and experience of potential personnel. The salary she earned helped her to clear her student loan. And then she was off on her travels again.

This time she turned her attention to China. She was based mainly in Beijing where she was investigating the standards of potential students wishing to study in

England. She was attached to Queen Mary University in London and was working there and also in China. In 2009 she was offered a teaching post at Queen Mary's and then decided a few years later to combine this with working for a D. Phil at St Cross College in Oxford. So that's what brought her to our area. She based her studies on how law operates in an established society. Her socio-legal emphasis was mainly on her understanding of the culture of Kosova.

She had just begun her course in Oxford when she became pregnant. She took maternity leave from QM and her baby was born in 2015. Ellie looked around for somewhere affordable and pleasant to live and decided on Cowley. She knows she made the right decision and this is almost where our article began.

There is a little more to say about her experiences in our area, though. Ellie "found" the Florence Park Children's Centre and cannot say enough about the advice, support and friendship she has experienced there. She was devastated when it was proposed to close it due to council spending cuts. The day that I interviewed her the news came through that a temporary reprieve had been announced. As a campaigner to save our children's services she was so delighted to hear that news.

Ellie loves living in our neighbourhood. She thinks it is an ideal area in which to bring up her daughter and is almost

overwhelmed by the warmth and friendliness here. Well – we, who live here know that, don't we? Still it is nice to learn that a person like Ellie feels it too.

How would you describe yourself as a young child?

Happy, sociable, musical and I loved reading.

Have you any special childhood memories you would like to share?

Every Boxing Day we had all our extended family – aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents crowded into our happy house. Mum is an amazing cook and always prepared a wonderful buffet lunch. How did she do that with seven children, I wonder?

Has there been anyone in your life who has had a strong influence on you?

My music teacher at secondary school, Mr Tear. He was so encouraging in a very gentle way. He gave me a great love of playing in a group.

Has your faith been with you since childhood?

Yes. My dad took junior church sessions which were fun. I have always loved the "shape" of a service and the music of a service. I became a young server. We had great parish trips to Walsingham. When I

moved from home I did not find all that. At university I felt something was missing.

Do you have a treasured possession?

My teddy bear.

What is your opinion of present-day society?

I think a lot of people feel sad and stressed. They don't spend enough time to put down roots. Since moving to Cowley I find there is a strong society below the surface. I want to help to make it stronger.

If you could change something in a special way what would you do?

Keep the Children's Centres!

Which period of your adult life has given you the most satisfaction?

The last year, with Charlotte.

How do you spend your leisure time?

Listening to music, reading lots of history especially about medieval England, and also good novels, and soaking in a bubble bath.

What plans do you have for the future?

I want to stay in Cowley. I look forward to becoming more involved in lots of aspects of society and working locally.

GUIDEPOSTS - INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTRE

Moved to Abingdon in April 2012 – Now based at the Abingdon Resource and Well-being Centre, Audlett Drive, Abingdon, OX14 3GD

Information Line: 01235 524857

Email: ilc@guidepoststrust.org.uk

Web-Site: www.guidepostsilc.org.uk

The Independent Living Centre, in partnership with Oxfordshire County Council, provides information on products and organisations to assist people with disabilities and older people to increase and maintain their independence. The Centre provides this free service to any adult residing in Oxfordshire.

We have access to a range of equipment for viewing and demonstration to enable:

- moving around in the house or outside
- reaching things
- preparing or eating food
- getting in or out of bed
- using the bathroom
- going up and down stairs or steps

The Centre also has an Information Line available 01235 524857 which can give information on a variety of topics, such as where to hire a wheelchair, where to find accessible holiday accommodation, how to find a local or national support group for a particular illness and much more. We also have a comprehensive Resource Handbook which is now available on our web-site.

The Centre is open 5 days a week for general viewing. You do need to book an appointment to ensure that the equipment you wish to see is available. An Occupational Therapist (OT) is available by appointment on a Monday or Tuesday. To try some of the equipment you would need to book an appointment to see an OT. The Information Line is open Monday to Friday (9 am to 5 pm).

The average amount of time between throwing something away and finding that you urgently need it is about two weeks.

PARISH REGISTER

Baptisms

19 April 2015	Riley Webster-Farrant
3 May 2015	Blake Lee Packford
5 July 2015	Harrison Carter Molloy
19 July 2015	Aidan Alexander Esnouf
6 September 2015	Halle May Dudley
18 October 2015	Autumn Kathleen Ellis

Weddings:

19 June 2015	David Lydiat and Sarah Doe
14 August 2015	Simon Venn and Natasha Howes
22 August 2015	Gavin Jones and Amy Eckley
5 September 2015	Stuart Milsom and Leonie Sims

Funerals/Cremations:

23 January 2015	James Tanner
27 February 2015	Beau Charles Shearer-Rust
6 March 2015	Eugene Cynthia Baugh
6 March 2014	Percy Cyril Talboys
2 April 2015	Ivy Joan Hanger
17 April 2015	Patricia Kathleen Smith
7 May 2015	June Rosemary Cherry
14 May 2015	Cyril George Buckingham
21 June 2015	Dorothy R Horne
30 September 2015	Margaret Elizabeth Gillett
1 October 2015	Catherine Phillips
29 October 2015	Dorothy R Horne
18 December 2015	Stanley J Ledwell
23 December 2015	Beryl Lilla Tayt