

Dear Friends...

We started Lent after Ash Wednesday and this is observed in the forty days before Easter. Lent in English means 'spring'. It is a season which provides for discovering new life in God. In early Christian tradition the period leading up to the Pascha, or Christian celebration of Passover, was a time for training candidates for baptism. An extended period of preparation for baptism was essential in order to test their sincerity. Besides study and prayer, this was a time of fasting. Fasting is a freely made choice to deny oneself food, recreation or some pleasure in order to prepare to serve God more effectively. St. Paul used the picture of the athlete in training in 1 Corinthians 9.24,25 as an example of what fasting meant for him in his service of God. Lent can be a time for renewed commitment as we see for instance the suffering of Christ which awakens and commits us and so has its effect to open our eyes to the suffering of all humanity.

The figure forty is based on the forty days that Jesus fasted in the wilderness after his baptism, before he began his ministry. It is calculated either by omitting the Sundays, when the Lenten discipline is relaxed, or by finishing on Palm Sunday. In the early Church, candidates for baptism at Easter prepared for it by forty days of learning and fasting, and soon the rest of the congregation wanted to join with them. Instead of going without food, today Christians 'give up something for Lent'. This is good training in self-control, but must not lead to self-righteousness. More important is to train oneself to do something good in Lent: to read the Bible, spend more time in prayer, attend extra services or a study group, or do

something to help others. Like Advent, Lent is a penitential season, so altar frontals and vestments are purple, or unbleached linen representing sackcloth and the Gloria is omitted. It is a good time to examine our lives, accept responsibility for our sins and confess them to God. Once we are committing our time of self-sacrifice then we are doing great things for the Kingdom of God. In his book 'Divine Conspiracy' Dallas Willard argues that every time we do things to fight against evil we are building the Kingdom of God. Jesus himself said "the Kingdom of God is like a treasure hidden in a field". Indeed, if we are to find this treasure in the world we are called to a life of self-sacrifice and searching.

We look for this treasure in our Lent journey with our own efforts amongst and alongside the bad. Every time we are doing something good, we are showing the world what the Kingdom of God is like. In another book I have read called 'God of Surprises', Gerard Hughes suggests that this field could be in our very own hearts. Does God really build his Kingdom in our hearts? Hughes tries to persuade us that we can become more spiritual by practising the teachings of Jesus. We are then encouraged to build the treasure, which is the Kingdom in our hearts and in our lives. The only way to find this treasure and to build it up is to seek it while wrestling good with evil in our Christian journey. In this way God has seen our efforts and our deeds.

I hope you have a good spiritual Lenten journey during Lent in our Parish.

Richard

Chronicle

March
2015

Editor's Letter

Dear Readers

Did you get to see the glorious carpet of snowdrops and aconites in our lovely old churchyard? This year they were at their very best for the two weekends of Snowdrop Days. A goodly number of new visitors came to find us as a result of the advertisement in the newspaper. Those that I met expressed real pleasure at finding our church tucked away behind the shopping centre and the multi-storey car park. They also said how nice it was to be greeted with a cup of coffee or tea, home-made cake, good activities for their children and a warm welcome. So thank you to everyone who came and helped, the greeters, the cake bakers and all. Some of the visitors even bought one of our Good Food Cook Books.

Talking of the cookbooks, we have already sold over fifty copies. There are still a few available so if you have not got yours yet and would like one do let me know. Half the money raised from their sale is going to the fabric fund of the churches and half to meet the printing cost of the document so to buy one creates a win-win situation.

I have had my wrist metaphorically slapped (and I am not going to reveal who by!) for saying in my last editor's letter that the date for the forthcoming plant sale had not yet been published when, of course, it had! In case, like me, you missed it here it is – Saturday, 16 May.

If you were to come and take a peek at either of our groups for the babies and toddlers on a Monday or Tuesday morning you would know to what good use the Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers that you collect are put to. Some of the items that have been secured in the past include some Spacehoppers and some superb little scoot-along tricycles. The Spacehoppers were greeted with glee by the "Little Stars" at St Francis (who meet on a Monday) and the trikes are a real hit with the "Seashell" toddlers (Tuesdays). All this is really to encourage you to

keep on collecting the vouchers again this year. There is a box in the Church Centre where you can just pop them in, or, alternatively please give them to May Morgan, Chris Knevett or any of us and then lovely new activity toys can be acquired for our little ones.

On going to press we shall be half-way through Fairtrade Fortnight. Do you buy Fairtrade products? There are loads to choose from. If you are not sure what is available there is a whole shop full of things in the Headington shopping area. It is called The Windmill and you can get there on a Number Ten bus! Fairtrade is a very worthwhile cause, maybe we should support it more. You can order Fairtrade Easter Eggs this year from Lesley Williams. Not only do you get a yummy choccy egg but included is the real Easter story.

Our next issue will come out on Easter Day this year. By then spring will really be here – now there is something to look forward to.

God Bless
Rosanne

Prayers from the Ark

By Carmen Bernos de Gasztold

Translated from the French and with a Foreword and Epilogue by Rumer Godden

THE PRAYER OF THE GOLDFISH

O God,
forever I turn in this hard crystal
so transparent, yet I can find no way out.
Lord deliver me from the cramp of the water
and these terrifying things I see through it.
Put me back in the play of your torrents,
in Your limpid springs.
Let me no longer be a little goldfish
in its prison of glass,
but a living spark
in the gentleness of your reeds
AMEN

I sent a congratulatory e mail to Michael Spence and the following is the main part of his reply to me. I have his permission to put this in the Chronicle. For those who do not remember the Spence family, Beth who was American was a curate with us some years back and Michael, an Australian, was an NSM with us. They had five children, one a babe in arms - I remember nursing her in my arms all through one PCC meeting.

"Thanks for your message. It is all the more special because of the computer sagas and the effort that it has taken to produce! The children, Jenny and I have just come back from what we have called our family-moon. We had five days on Sabah with Jenny and me in one resort and the children in another about an hour away. Then we had four days all together in Singapore. It was a good way of staging the move into living together in the same house. I have also bought a flat across the road from our house for the older two children. This means that they are close enough to be a support to their siblings, but it gives Jenny and me a chance to establish a new life together. The wedding day itself was extremely special. The children looked great as bridesmaids and groomsmen and spoke at the reception with both generosity and honesty. We could not have asked for a nicer day. Below is a link to some of the photos that the photographer took which you might want to forward on to some St James people if your computer is up to that. It is worth hearing what the photographer had to say about the day because she really captured it in the text that she wrote on the page at the link. <http://www.samanthamacabulos.com.au/blog/michael-jenny-a-wedding-preview>

Much love to all at Cowley. They are a lucky person who is eventually offered your incumbency."

Una Dean

Jack and the Beanstalk

The Florence Park Community Centre revived a past tradition with its first production for many years and delighted many local residents with their pantomime Jack and the Beanstalk. Playing to full houses every performance and obviously much enjoyed by both performers and audience. The scenery and staging were amazing, very local, backdrop a view of the park, with small row of Florence Park houses as home of Widow Park and son Jack. The beanstalk too was ingenious growing up and up and up (on a pulley) and all managed to get to the top to the Ogre's castle even the cow Lollipop. The scenery rapidly changed to the Ogre's kitchen with a large oven and the Ogre played by Steve Barry and his wife, Liz Gould were very loud and threatening.

Much play was made on local names - Widow Florence Park played by Jon Flint; her son Jack played by Teresa Heapy' The Mayor and Mayoress Horthpith (the wicked landlords) were played by Rob Earl and Susannah Reide' and their daughter Violet Elizabeth was Helen Woods, and my! could Violet Elizabeth scream, living up to her namesake. The comic interest, Sergeant Plod and Constable Painting were Richard Hadfield and Monica Aspell-McLellan quite a giggle. A small orchestra of local talent, several youngsters playing busy rats and a whole host of talented people were all ably brought together by their producer Viv Peto and directed by Emma Webb.

A most enjoyable experience. Well done to all involved.

Sheila Tree



HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR CHURCHES

This is a picture of the redundant boiler house chimney at St Francis Church. Note the fine brickwork and the cross on the top ridge.

Godspell — at the New Theatre, Friday 5 June 2015

Following the critically acclaimed sell-out success in London's West End, the show is returning to the UK in a one-of-a-kind production, with a brand new, modern day rock score that features Light of the World, All Good Gifts and Day by Day.

This timeless tale of friendship, loyalty and love has touched the hearts of countless theatregoers all over the world - now you can join in the celebration as a spectacular ensemble stirs your soul, raises your spirit and lifts you right out of your seat.

If you would like to join a theatre group to see this wonderful show (do you remember when we produced it in the Parish Hall?) watch out for the sign-up sheet or contact Lesley Williams 01865 779 562 lesleyjwilliams@btinternet.com.

JOKES

1. HOW DO YOU DECIDE WHOM TO MARRY?

(written by kids)

You got to find somebody who likes the same stuff. Like, if you like sports, she should like it that you like sports and she should keep the chips and dip coming (Alan, age 10)

No person really decides before they grow up who they're going to marry. God decides it all way before, and you get to find out later who you're stuck with (Kristen, age 10)

2. WHAT IS THE RIGHT AGE TO GET MARRIED?

Twenty-three is the best age because you know the person FOREVER by then (Camille, age 10)

3. HOW CAN A STRANGER TELL IF TWO PEOPLE ARE MARRIED?

You might have to guess, based on whether they seem to be yelling at the same kids (Derrick, age 8)

4. WHAT DO YOU THINK YOUR MUM AND DAD HAVE IN COMMON?

Both don't want any more kids (Lori, age 8)

Spring is on its way!

Since thinking up that snappy, but clichéd, title, we have had yet another day of biting wind and rain. However we have had some recent sunny days which have led me to get going in the garden tidying up ready for the Spring when it comes. Certainly, it is noticeable that the afternoons are getting longer.

In the few minutes I have before my sciatica kicks in, I have been in the garden a few times recently cutting down the buddleia bushes. It always impresses me how each Buddleia stem can grow up to 6 feet in one season. Cutting these back in the late winter to a pair of side shoots at the base, encourages the plant to grow again and bring forth the beautiful panicles of flowers that the bees and butterflies love. I remember one year when we had an influx of Painted Lady butterflies. They would guzzle on the nectar and then drop to the ground only to recover after a short while and reach into the flowers again for more. The best specimen I have is white flowered and when in bloom with branches spread out in all directions, it looks like a firework exploding.

Another job I need to finish is to prune the wisteria back to a couple of buds on each branch so that they can swell into flower buds. I have already had a go at the whippy growth but now I need the ladder to finish the job. I would prefer it, however, that I have some warm sun on my back while I do it.

I went to the first day of the RHS Plant and Potato Fair in the Horticultural Halls in London in February. One of the halls was mainly devoted to potatoes. As it was half term, there were activities for children such as potato printing and

making sculptures out of mash! We went to buy some seed potatoes for the allotment. There was a huge choice of about 150 varieties and we chose 4 kinds of early or second-early varieties. I shall buy our main crop locally. Desiree is our usual one as it does so well in the Elder Stubbs soil.

I also took the opportunity to buy some dahlia tubers. Buying from one of the nurseries at the show means you can choose from the excellent quality stock.

On entering the other RHS hall, you were hit with gorgeous scents of the displays of primulas, amaryllis, miniature iris, Sarcococca, alliums and many others including, what lots of folks have come for, the snowdrops! I know a single from a double and not much more but here the galanthophiles (snowdrop lovers) congregate to buy the rare varieties of which there are upwards of 250 cultivars. I had a quick look through the melee and saw pots of single plants being sold for £25 but, no doubt, the real rarities go for much more.

I guarantee we will have no plants on sale for those sort of prices at our Plant Sale on Saturday 16th May in St. James Church Centre. Please get the date in your diary. Have a think of what you can bring to the sale and we also would love offers of help on the day. I am determined, cold wind or not, to get seed sowing as soon as possible!

Joan Coleman

FLOWER OF THE MONTH—FORGET-ME-NOT

When a bed of tulips is under-planted with blue forget-me-nots it makes for an unforgettable show. So I chose these little, dainty flowers for this month. Their botanical name, *myosotis*, comes from two Greek words “*mus*” (mouse) and “*Otis*” (ear) so to describe the little grey leaves you could call them mouse ears.

There are three main families of forget-me-nots, the water variety, the wood and the field. Our garden plants are probably cultivated versions of the field forget-me-nots that grow on the edge of cornfields in summer.

There is a charming legend from Germany which explains how the plant got such an unusual name. It goes like this: long ago a knight and his lady were strolling along by a river and she saw some beautiful blue flowers growing by the bank. She asked for a bunch. The knight scrambled down the steep bank, slipped and fell into the river. Unable to swim he threw the flowers up to his lady-love and as the river swept him away cried “*Vergiss mein nicht*” (don’t forget me).

Pierre Redouté, the famous French painter of gorgeous botanical illustrations in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, produced a watercolour of forget-me-nots with the French translation of the name – “*me n’oubliez pas*” but it was at that time, in England, known as scorpion grass. John Gerard the sixteenth century botanist who tried to find natural cures for just about everything prescribed the leaves as a cure from snake bites.

To two of our best-know poets the pretty little flowers are signs of spring. Coleridge wrote, in 1802:

“That blue and bright-eyed flowerlet of the
brook
Hopes gentle gem, the sweet forget-me-
not!”

Clare wrote a poem for *May Morning* in which he includes this verse:

“The little blue forget-me-not
Comes too on friendship’s gentle plea
Spring’s messenger in every spot
Smiling on all – ‘Remember me!’”

But earlier than May we see the tiny pink buds which open into bright blue with a little yellow eye at the centre of the flower. Insect pollinators are particularly attracted to the combination of blue and yellow as discovered by a German botanist in 1793. The idea was rejected by naturalists for about half a century but when Darwin read about this and made observations he corroborated this fact.

With its pretty name it is not surprising that the forget-me-not is often used to decorate Valentine cards. I wonder if you still remember the first person who sent you a card on Valentine’s Day?



DIARY DATES TO REMEMBER

Mothers' Union

Monthly Meeting on 3rd Monday of month
from 2.30pm.

St James Church Centre

Women's Institute

Monthly Meeting on 3rd Wednesday of month
from 2 – 4.30 pm

St James Church Centre

St James Café at St James Church Centre

10am—1pm

The last Saturday of each month

Next open on Saturday 28 March 2015 at St Francis
Church when the Parish Easter Fun Day is being held

Coffee, Cake and Communion

Monthly meeting on 3rd Tuesday of month
from 10.30 a.m.

With Rev Skye at the Vicarage, 27 Don Bosco Close
(Tel: 434160)

Women's World Day of Prayer

Friday, 6th March 2015 at Rose Hill Methodist Church

Easter Card Making and Coffee Morning

Saturday, 7th March 2015 at St Francis Church from
10-12

Film Club

Friday, 13 February 2015 -

"Ladies in Lavender"

St James Church Centre,

commencing at 6.30pm with coffee and cake

Cowley Local History Society

8pm at United Reformed Church, Temple Road

Tuesday, 17 February 2015

Talk: Women on the Home Front

An illustrated Talk By Edward Dixon

PCC Meeting

Sunday, 22nd March 2015, at 12.15 pm at St James
Church Centre

Easter Services from w/b 23 March to Saturday,
4th April are shown separately in The Chronicle

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday, 19th April 2015, at 12.15 pm at St James
Church Centre

Following a Christian Aid Super Soup Lunch

St Francis Church Annual Congregational Meet- ing

Sunday, 3rd May 2015, at 12.15 pm

St James Church Annual Congregational Meet- ing

Sunday, 10th May 2015 at St James Church Centre

Plant Sale

Saturday, 16th May 2015, at St James Church Centre

Cowley Festival of Christmas Trees 2015 - First planning meeting

Friday, 22 May 2015, 09.45 am in the Ranklin Room,
St James Church Centre

*Please note Additional Dates throughout
the year:*

To help raise funds for essential repairs to St.
James' Church a home-made cakes and puds
stall is planned. These will take place on the 3rd
Tuesday of the month to carry over into
Wednesday and will be held in the Church
Centre.

If you enjoy baking and would like to help by
baking a cake 2 or 3 times a year on a rota basis
Chris Woodman or Margaret Weller would be
pleased to hear from you.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

This month we thought it would be appropriate to put a picture of the organ at St Luke's with the handwritten details written by the architect on the back of the photograph – this information is from the Parish of Cowley archives kept at the Oxford History Centre but also kept as a computer record within the Parish. This ties in very nicely with the article from Maureen Chatterton.



St Luke's Church, Cowley, Oxford.
The Organ/Harrison & Harrison, Durham) is a
two-manual instrument, the Specn being supervised
by Thomas Armstrong, Mus:Doc, Organist of
Christ Church, Oxford.
This photograph shows
- The north front of the Organ - Forwards Chancel
- The gallery in S. Aisle for musicians -
- part of the back of Chancel Screen
- Choir & Clergy seats, & simple electric light fittings
designed by
Harold S. Rogers MA, FRIBA
Oxford.
Photo - Yvonne Howard.

St Luke's Church Cowley Oxford

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This photograph shows:

The north front of the organ – Forwards Chancel

The Gallery in S. Aisle for musicians

Part of the back of Chancel Screen

Choir and Clergy seats and simple electric light fittings

Designed by Harold S Rogers, MA, FRIBA

Oxford

Photo: Yvonne Howard

FROM HERE TO AUSTRALIA

There are still a few of us who were members of St Luke's congregation and who may remember the 1960s or thereabouts when John Betton was Vicar of Cowley parish. He and Marjorie and their family lived in St Luke's House beside the church.

Their son and his wife, Richard and Dodge were here recently and not surprisingly there were some happy reminiscing.

You may remember that our lovely organ was later purchased by a church in Australia, and it turned out that Richard and Dodge were planning to visit Australia for the month of October. Between us, and with the help of the Archive Centre, we discovered that the organ was in St Mark's Church in the Diocese of Melbourne – and yes, that is where they were going!

They have since visited St Mark's Church. It was a weekday and the food bank was in progress, but they introduced themselves and one of the parishioners showed them round. I think Richard said that the Vicar has since made contact with them.

Thank you for following this train with me.

I feel pleased that the organ has gone to a church that will appreciate it as we did and it seems to me entirely appropriate that the Bettons have made that link for us.

Maureen Chatterton

COWLEY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

17 March 2015
Commencing at 8.00 pm

TALK:

WOMEN ON THE HOME FRONT
An illustrated Talk
by Edward Dixon

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

FREE TO A GOOD HOME

(but a donation to church funds is encouraged) -
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ROLE DESCRIPTIONS OF VOLUNTEERS

This is a new series of articles, and we are starting with two of the roles which Margaret Martin undertakes at St James Church. You will see that she is a very busy lady and for the last few months has been without an Assistant Deputy Warden as one was not appointed at the last St James Congregational Meeting:

Deputy Warden, St James:

- Support the clergy and church warden in any way possible
 - Collaborate with Alan Howell to produce the Sunday Rota and with Sunday morning duties, e.g. ensuring that all sidespersons, readers, etc. are present; also counting the congregation. The Sunday rota is for church duties and includes:
 - Sidespersons*
 - Readers*
 - Intercessions*
 - Chalice*
 - Junior Church
 - Healing Team
 - Coffee
- *for 8 am service
- Ensure hymn books, The Links and order of services are out on the table
 - Check that the communion vessels are returned to the safe and the sacristy cupboard after the service
 - Ensure that the collections are counted by sidespersons or other responsible people and that the money is returned to the safe.
 - See that the church is left tidy, safe (candles extinguished) and secure after the 10 am service – Deputy Warden usually locks up, or arranges for someone else to do this.
 - Be available to all for queries, messages, etc.
 - Liaise with vicar regarding replacement of church linen
 - Liaise with vicar regarding cleaning/replacement of church gowns

Sacristan

- The sacristan has no legal responsibilities, but the term is used for the person who looks after the sacred vessels used for Holy Communion. This entails the following duties before the service:
 - Make sure the communion tray is in place and set up with the following:
 - Chalice, paten, pall, corporal, purificator, and chalice veil – during festivals
 - Finger towel and bowl for washing
 - 2 large wafers
 - Vessels to be presented during communion are set up in the vestry – ciborium flaxen with wine and another with water

- Candles around altar are cleaned and lit. This includes pascal light when used, and candles by the lectern.
- Vestments and linen cloths for the altar are washed and in place
- Responsible for the rota for cleaning altar cloths
- Change the vestments (with rector) around the altar to reflect the seasonal cycle
- Training people to undertake Sacristan duties
- Train and guide Altar Servers
- Ensure communion vessels are returned to the safe and the sacristy cupboard after the service

In addition to this, she is involved in counting money, church cleaning, flower arrangements in the church, updating the memorial Book, and doing some gardening in the graveyard.

A very busy lady indeed – We do hope that she gets an Assistant Deputy Warden/Sacristan to help her with some of these tasks.

Congratulations, Margaret, for being our first contributor to this new series of articles.

MOTHERS' UNION NEWS

The February branch meeting focused on the coming service for the Women's World Day of Prayer. The service will take place at Rose Hill Methodist Church on March 6th at 2.30 pm. As is traditional, each year, the host church serves a tea party after the service.

The main discussion at the meeting was our support for our "Make a Mother's Day" scheme. We reviewed the possible options and decided to donate mainly to the Mothers' union literary project which helps women in Africa to learn to read and subsequently set up small businesses.

Members were reminded that their annual subscriptions are now due.

We were also delighted to welcome prospective new members.

The March meeting, which occurs during lent, will be led by Skye. We are looking forward to a quiet afternoon of prayer and meditation.

We are always pleased to welcome visitors who feel that they might enjoy our meetings. We meet in the Church Centre at 2.30 pm on the third Monday of each month.

line!

full house!

bingo!

St James Church Centre
Beauchamp Lane
every Friday – 2.00-4.00

BINGO				
3	17	31	19	71
3	35	52	69	
13	26	58	63	
2	25	38	66	
14	16	44	57	

tea
raffle
laughter
friendship

Home Groups during Lent

All our home groups are following the same course during Lent and each of them would be pleased to welcome anyone who would like to join one. The course that we are studying comes from the "Pilgrim" books devised and written by Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Chelmsford, Steven Croft, Bishop of Sheffield, Paula Gooder, a writer and lecturer on the new Testament and Robert Atwell, Bishop of Exeter. Their introduction to the course is printed as follows and may be an invitation to you to take part.

"Life is a journey. It begins when you're born. It ends when you die. You don't need to be a Christian to know this. But as we get older we do know that there is probably more road behind us than ahead of us.

So what difference does being a Christian make? Well the journey of life that ends in death becomes a holy pilgrimage that ends in life. Christians believe that in Jesus, God has walked this earth before us, and that with Jesus as our companion and guide we can travel through life differently.

We can live and travel as pilgrims. We set our sights on God's kingdom of justice and peace and as we journey home to God, the pathway of our life becomes more meaningful and joyful and the world a better place.

This course is designed to help you discover this Christian way of life. It unpacks the basic message and teaching of the Christian faith and also shows you how to pray and how to live like Jesus. It does this in a way that is reflective and conversational. No one will force the pace. But this course will change the perspective of your life; it might also change its direction."

The area of the course we are studying during Lent is the creed with all its complexities and deep faith.

CELEBRATING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF VE DAY

Victory in Europe after the Second World War was celebrated on 8th May 1945. It was felt by the St James Church Committee that it would be a shame to let an anniversary such as this go by unnoticed even though it will be surrounded by an incredibly busy time in our Parish. So on Saturday, 9th May, we are going to celebrate with a bring and share tea-party just as it would have been seventy years ago. We are going to jerk a few memories with some of the songs that won the war and hope that many of our (slightly) older parishioners will remember singing them when they were children. We are also going to set up some "old fashioned" board games such as Ludo and Snakes and Ladders for young and old to join in. Please put the date in your diaries and come along. This is a whole parish occasion and everyone is invited.

REAL EASTER EGGS from the Meaningful Chocolate Company

If you failed to sign the order list at church, you can find the Real Easter Eggs - the only egg on the market to declare the Good News and enclose a copy of the Easter story in the box - in some Tesco stores and at the Windmill Fairtrade shop in Headington and Fairtrade St Michael's in Cornmarket. If that is difficult, Lesley Williams will go and shop for you, if you ask nicely!

Nearer Easter, there will be a supply of the Meaningful Chocolate midi-egg – no box but with 'Christ is risen!' on the foil and with an Easter story leaflet – price just £1 – available at both churches.

MORE MESSAGES FOR THE MILKMAN!

Dear Milkman

I've just had a baby. Please leave another one.

Please leave an extra pint of paralysed milk.

Cancel one pint after the day after today.

Milkman please close the gate behind you because the birds keep pecking the tops off the milk.

Please cancel milk. I have nothing coming into the house but two sons on the dole.

STRICTLY

Let's go back thru' the ages
If you'd linger for a while
We'll try to do the dances
And hope you like our style

Nowadays we'll have the punk
It's a rum dance you'll agree
Come show them how it's done
I'm glad it's them not me

In the '60s we had mod style
You danced all on your own
It was so unromantic
As you will now be shown

Before the mod came rock 'n roll
It really caused a scene
The older generation said
"Whatever does it mean?"

Now ballroom was a lovely dance
So smooth and so sedate
Come grab yourself a partner
I've found myself a mate.

The Charleston was a hard dance
Danced by just a few
Come on and get that swivel
And show us what to do.

Maida Simmonds

CHRONICLE

Editorial Team- Rosanne Butler, Sally Hemsworth, May Morgan, Nicki Stevens

Deadline for the next edition:

Wednesday 25 March 2015

If possible, please send entries by email to Sally at chronicle@cowleyteamministry.co.uk

The Editorial Committee in no way accepts responsibility for goods or services supplied by our advertisers.

Rosanne interviews Rebecca Chand

When I tell you that this month's interviewee has in my opinion, the widest, warmest smile in Cowley which lights up her big brown eyes I think my readers will realise that I am talking about the wife of Richard, the leader of the Asian Church and one of our excellent clergy team. Like almost everyone I invite to feature in our magazine she demurred and told me that she was not very special and did not have much of a story to tell. Well I venture to disagree and I think you will too.

It was while she was living in Southall in London with one of her sisters that she first met Richard at a party. A little while later they met again and a week (yes a week!) afterwards they were married! Brought up in the Hindu faith and about to marry a Christian it was essential for Rebecca to embrace Christianity in order to approach her wedding. So on her actual wedding day she first went to John Bunyan Baptist Church to be baptised. From there she entered St James Church for the marriage ceremony. Next the wedding party moved on to St Luke's Church where she was confirmed and finally there was a big family reception held in the old Parish Hall in Between Towns Road! Wouldn't you say that that was a pretty special list of experiences? I know I would.

She and Richard then set off for the Lake District on honeymoon

and Rebecca told me that that was one of the happiest times of her life.

All this was a world away from the Punjab in India where she was born and brought up. In a big house in a little town called Jalandhar Cantt she lived with her mum and dad and eight brothers and sisters together with an aunt and uncle and a clutch of cousins. It was a very happy home especially when their busy father was back from his work. He was a social worker who was involved in local politics but at home he would sit on the floor and make beautiful fruit salads for his big family. "I can still smell the beautiful spices he used" Rebecca told me with rather a wistful smile.

She was a busy little girl who liked to run everywhere. Whenever anyone had an errand to be done she would happily volunteer – messages, shopping or anything required. Her school was an all-girls establishment which she attended with her big sisters. Her school uniform was a little green dress which she loved because her parents allowed all their daughters to wear western-style dresses until they were about twelve years old (very modern thinking!). After that they were required to wear white trousers, green tunics and coloured scarves to match the colours of their school house teams. She remembers her mum buying huge bolts of green cotton

cloth, enough to make all the girls' dresses using her old hand sewing machine. The other fond memory of her mum is that of seeing her pack a huge lunchbox for her four schoolgirl daughters. Rebecca was not so keen on the lunchbox because she would have liked her own in order to join her own classmates for lunch instead of having to share with her sisters.

Rebecca enjoyed school especially science experiments with their bangs and smells and she really shone at athletics – not just running but putting the shot. In fact PE was her favourite subject. Lessons were taught in Hindi which she learnt to read early on. The girls were also taught Punjabi and from year six they had English lessons too.

At fifteen she left school in order to have private tuition. This was to help her pass her exams (which she failed). So at seventeen she was at home with her mother learning domestic skills including cooking. Anyone who has tasted her bhajis and samosas will know that her mum taught her well. By this time one of her big sisters had travelled to London and had settled there. This same sister returned home for a visit, described life in England and teenage Rebecca was enchanted. She begged her parents to allow her to come to England so a hurried passport, visa and luggage were gathered and off she went. She kissed her mum goodbye

on the railway platform in New Delhi and her mum turned to her elder daughter and said "Get her married" which, of course, she did. Those were the last words Rebecca ever heard her mum say. Her mum died before she could get back to India to say her goodbye.

After their honeymoon Richard and Rebecca returned to Oxford. She was warmly received into the Chand family. I found it very charming to hear her speak of Fr Wazir and his wife, Joyce, whom many of my readers will remember, as mum and dad. Fr Wazir bought a house in Frederick Road for the young couple to move into. Their next door neighbours were Clivea and Patrick Philbin. When Richard and Rebecca's first baby, Elizabeth, was born, guess who became her godparents – yes Clivea and Patrick!

When Richard was called into the church the couple moved to London for a while. This became a very lonely time in Rebecca's life especially when she gave birth to her baby son, Danny. However, a return to Oxford was on the cards. They were not able to return to the Frederick Road house as, by now, Richard's brother had moved in. After a brief period in bed and breakfast accommodation they were allocated a local authority house. This was much better for all of them but especially for Richard who was immersed in his theological studies prior to ordination. Seven years ago he was ordained and in 2009 when Moore House (next to St James

Church Centre) became available the family moved in.

Sadly "mum" Joyce died some years ago and "dad" Fr Wazir died last year. Richard and Rebecca would like to celebrate 25 years of marriage in a few months' time but the silver wedding party has had to be put on hold as, according to their India culture, they are still in a period of respect to the memory of Fr Wazir. Now that her children are grown-up though still living at home, Rebecca admitted that she is rather lonely. She does get involved in some parish activities but she told me that she is basically a shy person and does not quite know how to cope with this. I wanted to reassure her that she is a much-loved and valued member of our parish family.

How would you describe yourself for a young child?

Very lively – later on a bit shy – I liked to run errands for the whole family.

Do you have any special childhood memories?

I remember whenever my cousins were bullied by the other children it was always me that sorted it out.

Is there anyone in your life that has had a strong influence on you?

My dad – he was in politics and he would sort out everyone's problems. We would have a queue outside our door of people who wanted help. When he was at home he would sit on the floor

and make our lovely fruit salads. He was a good man.

Has your faith been with you since childhood?

I was born into the Hindu faith but after meeting Richard I became a Christian.

What is your opinion of modern society?

The world is a very scary place. If I were alone I would be very lost.

If you could change something important what would it be?

If I could change something I want to have everyone in the same area of the world follow the same faith. It would sort out lots of problems. People should get on together, we should not fight over religion.

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

When I had my children.

How do you like to spend your leisure time?

Watching TV, especially romantic movies. I like to visit friends with Richard. We often take the children to see my sister.

What plans do you have for the future?

First I am looking forward to my children getting married and then be a granny. Maybe when Richard retires we might go back to Goa in India. Then I would like to travel around the world cruising.

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT: February 23 – March 8 2015

Cowley was registered in the past as a Fairtrade Parish but recently we have let things slip in our commitment to use as many fairtrade products as possible.

How to become a Fairtrade Church – the three goals

The Parochial Church Council must agree to the following:

use Fairtrade tea and coffee after services and in all meetings for which the church has responsibility

move forward on using other Fairtrade products such as sugar, biscuits and fruit

promote Fairtrade during Fairtrade Fortnight and during the year through events, worship and other activities whenever possible

The PCC will review this commitment at their next meeting but in the meantime, please, if you wish to donate hospitality items to either of our churches, source fairtrade versions or give us the cash to buy them ourselves. Thank you!

When you are supermarket shopping, look out for the logo and see if you could add one fairtrade item to your regular shop. It may cost a little more than your usual choice, but it will be supporting a farmer or producer somewhere in the world to live in dignity. There are plenty available -

bananas – biscuits - chocolate – cleaning products - coffee – cotton – crafts –
flowers - gold – pineapple – sugar - tea



CHILDREN'S SOCIETY CHRISTINGLE COLLECTION

Thank you for an excellent, generous response to our first charity collection of the year.

Totals currently stand at:

St James Church:	£252.65
Church Cowley St James School:	£103.08
St Francis School	£ 39.01
	<u>£394.74</u>

But we believe there is still some in the safe! So we should reach £400.

Many vulnerable children will be helped.....

Lesley Williams

NEWS FROM ST FRANCIS

As Ash Wednesday is now past and Lent is with us, we are faced with the usual enigma. How do we explain to a hostile and sceptical world why the public execution of a good man, at one point in history, should be of such great significance?

Even established Christians often struggle with it at times, hence our Lent Courses. And so we at St Francis, along with hundreds of other churches all over the world, make plans for the usual Easter Services, and follow our usual Lent Courses. To most people in the world at large Easter is a complete mystery, just a time for Hot Cross Buns and a public holiday. Yet we, as Christians, dare not forget it, for it is the crux of all our beliefs. So we can only reach out to the world round us, give the message, and trust that

the Holy Spirit working in mysterious ways will bless our efforts.



Things are moving on steadily in our church of St Francis. We have a Family Fun Day coming up and a session for making Easter cards. We have had a church committee meeting which was quite successful, and important issues were attended to. We have made social plans too for the year ahead - a trip to the seaside, a theatre visit, and a summer Garden Party. Now all we need is people to get behind them and make them work. Easier said than done!

John Shreeve

CHRISTIAN AID - once a month

March - OVER THE EDGE;

April - SUPER SOUP LUNCH;

May - CHRISTIAN AID WEEK;

June - QUIZ AID

It looks as though it is only Lesley Williams who is brave enough to 'go over the edge' for Christian Aid, abseiling from the tower of St Mary Magdalen Church, Magdalen Street, Oxford on Saturday 7 March. So she is looking for sponsorship, in her bid to raise £250 – you are invited to sign her paper form or donate on line at www.justgiving.com/Lesley-Williams70. Lesley is sharing 70 years of life with Christian Aid and will make this the start of her celebrations.

Our next Christian Aid event will be the Super Soup (and fruit) lunch immediately prior to the APCM on Sunday 19 April – there will of course be a sign up sheet for that.

And then there is Christian Aid Week, May 10-16 when we will be collecting door to door as usual: please mark it in your diary and, if you are able to join the team, be prepared to come to a short social planning gathering during April.

For June: be ready for a Quiz Aid evening on Friday 26 June.

FAMOUS HYMNS AND THEIR STORIES

Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine

By Mrs Frances Van Alstyne

(better known by her maiden name – Fanny Crosby)

It seemed appropriate to me that at a time when we have just appointed our first woman Bishop, we should take a look at a woman hymn writer. And what a woman! Born in New York state, she was totally blind from infancy and yet she managed to write more than 8,000 hymns. She published her first book of poems at the age of twenty-four, and was converted to Evangelical religion during the singing of Isaac Watts' hymn 'Alas! and Did My Saviour Bleed' at a meeting in a Methodist Church in New York. Later she met the great evangelist Ira Sankey who set many of her verses to music. The tune of this particular hymn though was by another American woman, Mrs Phoebe Knapp. Fanny herself had contracts with a number of evangelical publishers. One firm commissioned her to write three songs a week. Among her more popular hymns are 'To God Be the Glory', 'Safe in the Arms of Jesus', 'Rescue the Perishing' and 'Oh my Saviour, hear me'.

In this hymn 'Blessed Assurance' we can find confidence in God's loving care – which is what we all need:

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine
Oh what a fore taste of glory divine
Heir of salvation, purchase of God
Born of His Spirit washed in His blood.
This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Saviour all the day long

Her great love for our Lord shines through all her work and she is certainly worthy of our commendation.

John Shreeve

ST JAMES OLD SCHOOL

Church Cowley St James School is just about to start their gardening project in the playground of St James Old School. The children will design and build planters at school; they will be installed in the Old School playground and then planted up with flowers and vegetables and small trees. They are very keen to involve members of the community in the gardening – to help physically or just to give advice and encouragement. Speak to Lesley Williams in the first instance and she will put you in touch with the school.

We have also given the school some boarding on which to produce a mural to install on that horrible ugly end wall where the extension has been removed – that will happen soon.

Meanwhile the Old School steering group is exploring a further option for the use of the building which is likely to attract initial capital funding for the major refurbishment that is required and then be sustainable: a social enterprise hub, offering office space to small start-up enterprises – and that might be able to include the teaching kitchen & family life skills centre on which we had been focussing.

Rosanne Butler is signing up interested people, particularly former staff and pupils but anyone with a wish to invest in the future of the much loved building.

PARISH OF COWLEY ELECTORAL ROLL

It's the time of year when we review the Parish electoral roll, confirming current membership, removing any folk who have moved or sadly passed away and adding active new members. It is also the opportunity to check that the contact details you have given us, which are held securely, are still current: please let us know if you have moved or changed landline or mobile phone number or e-mail address during the year!

The revision period runs from Sunday 15 February – Sunday 15 March. The revised roll with personal contact details will then be displayed at services in the two churches from Sunday 22 March for checking; corrections can be made but no further additions are permitted until after the Annual Parish meeting on Sunday 19 April.

The electoral roll should represent those who attend either of our churches on a regular basis and/or contribute to the life of the Parish financially or with their time or talents; it is a 'membership' list of those who truly love and actively support Cowley Parish, St James and/or St Francis church, in whatever ways they can.

If you have newly arrived with us during the past twelve months – or before - and wish to make this statement of 'belonging', please take an electoral roll form from the table behind the main door (St James), in the lobby (St Francis) or contact Lesley Williams, Electoral Roll Officer.

Return the form to the labelled box in either church or direct to Lesley Williams at St James Church or posted to 9 Wykeham Crescent, OX4 3SD by Sunday 15 March

Here is the official regulations bit: under the Church Representation Rules you are entitled to have your name entered on the roll if you: (1) are baptised and are aged 16 or over and (2) have signed a form of application for enrolment. Anyone who will turn 16 during the year may complete a form now and be added to the roll after their birthday.

Additionally you must be (1) either a member of the Church of England or of a Church in communion with the Church of England and (2) be resident in the parish or, if living outside the parish, have habitually attended public worship in the parish during the six months prior to the application for enrolment.

During the coming month, we will be seeking nominations for Church Wardens and Parochial Church Council members, who will be elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 19 April.

Lesley Williams

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Film Club at the Centre

Our February club evening was as well attended as ever with several new members joining us. The film "On Golden Pond" was an example of the problems of reaching an eightieth birthday and coping with family relationships. There were quite a lot of amusing moments and several moving ones too. What made it most enjoyable were the excellent performances of the leading actors.

Speaking of leading performances the two ladies who take the lead roles in our March film "Ladies in Lavender" need absolutely no introduction or commendation. They are those amazing actresses Judi Dench and Maggie Smith. This film has been requested and recommended by quite a number of our members. The film is a completely British production which is a contrast to the one planned for April.

Another recommended film is "West Side Story" which will be our April showing. A list of our planned programme for the rest of 2015 complete with the dates is now available. Prospective members can obtain one if they wish. We have a few gaps in our membership and would be pleased to welcome anyone who enjoys a good film, pleasant company and excellent refreshments. Film night at the Centre is held on the second Friday of the month.



THE COLOURS OF THE CHURCH

As we enter March the colour of the altar frontal and hangings in our churches is purple, marking the season of Lent. This is a period of penitence and reflection recalling the time Jesus spent in the wilderness before the events leading up to His crucifixion. As another symbol of the austerity of this season there will be no flowers in our churches.

On Palm Sunday (29 March) when we remember Jesus triumphal entry into Jerusalem the colour changes. At St James a frontal showing symbols of the crucifixion will be used, and at St Francis there will be either red or the "all seasons" frontal. Maundy Thursday sees a change at St Francis to either the white or the "all seasons" frontal. After the services on Maundy Thursday all hangings are removed, leaving the altar and lectern bare and all candlesticks and the sanctuary lights are also cleared away.

The altars remain bare on Good Friday and Holy Saturday.

What a difference on Easter Day as we celebrate the Resurrection. Our churches are filled with light and flowers and the altar frontals are again in place. At St James the gold frontal will be used and at St Francis the "all seasons" frontal.

Margaret Martin

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Contrary to common belief the Worldwide Day of Prayer is nothing to do with the Mothers' Union. It is open to all women everywhere.

Each year a different country is featured and a group of Christian women from a wide range of denominations compose the format of the service. It is always a service to be shared with a number of readers. This year the country to do this is The Bahamas. It is with this country in mind, with its needs and problems, as well as its astounding beauty that we shall offer prayer and worship.

It is too easy to dismiss a place like The Bahamas, a popular holiday venue for people throughout the world, as a country without problems. Nothing could be further from the truth. Those lovely islands with their rich vegetation, seas full of fish and wonderful coral reefs and endless days of sunshine are situated in, what is known as, hurricane alley. Every year the population is fearful of the devastation which fierce hurricanes can cause. Sometimes one storm will be followed by another and yet another which can destroy homes, crops, power supplies and much worse. The Bahamas is a Christian country catching up with the modern world where the women are still considered to be owned first by their fathers and then by their husbands. They were only given the right to vote in 1962 and still have a long way to go to enjoy the freedom which women in this country take for granted. So they need the prayers and support of women worldwide.

The hosts for this year's service in our area are the women of Rose Hill Methodist Church. Participant churches who will take part in the service are the Sacred Heart, Blackbird Leys; Holy Family, Blackbird Leys; The Blessed Dominic Barbary, Littlemore; the Cowley United Reform Church and Cowley St James. Other churches in our area John Bunyan; St Mary and St Nicholas, Littlemore; and St Francis, also St Mary's at Iffley, have all been invited.

The service will be held at Rose Hill at 2.30 pm on Friday, 6 March followed by a tea party. It would be really good if a number of parishioners from St James and St Francis felt that they would like to take part.

Rosanne Butler

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SAINT OF THE MONTH—William of Norwich

William's saint day is marked on 26th March. His story is a stark reminder that anti-Semitism which has reared its ugly and wicked head in recent months is nothing new in England. It is a timely reminder of how cults can lead to evil deeds.

William was born in Norwich in 1132 and apprenticed to a leather tanner in the town. His job, a very unpleasant one, was as a skinner of animals to provide the leather for so much that was produced from that material in the early middle-ages. Thomas of Monmouth, a monk attached to the cathedral, wrote of William's short life in 1169. In 1144, at just twelve years of age, the boy was abducted by a strange man. The promise was that William would spend a more pleasant life as a kitchen boy working in the archdeacon's palace.

Instead he was gagged, shaved, lacerated with a crown of thorns and crucified. His body was then dumped in the middle of a nearby wood. His Uncle Godwin put it about that he had been murdered by Jews. There was at this period in our history a widespread though totally false belief that somewhere in Britain Jews were sacrificing a young Christian once a year. That year it was to be Norwich's turn.

William's body, once it was discovered in the wood, was carried to the cathedral chapterhouse for burial. A little chapel was built in the wood. His shrine became a popular site for pilgrims where miraculous cures were said to occur. By 1314 the offerings at the shrine amounted to £1.1.5d though these declined and by 1343 had dropped to 4d.

The decline was mainly due to two sets of papal letters in 1247 and 1272 refuting the blame of his murder on to the Jews. However, the little chapel in the woods also attracted pilgrims for several centuries before it was allowed to fall into disrepair. William of Norwich is not an important saint but the cult which at the time blamed the Jews is an example (the first in England) of an abhorrent kind of anti-Semitic propaganda. We shall never know who actually carried out the murder but it is a lesson about casting blame without proof on a group of fellow men.

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PRAYERS DURING THE VACANCY

Lord God,

We pray that we will seek you throughout the process of appointing our new Team Rector.

We pray for patience, and faith, like Abraham, as we wait to receive the applications and while we continue to carry out the ministry of the church during the interregnum.

We pray for wisdom, like Solomon, as we play our roles in selecting from amongst the candidates.

We pray that, like the apostles, when they added Matthias to their number, we will be active in the decision-making, allowing you to use whatever gifts we can offer to fulfil your will.

We pray, Lord Jesus, that we never forget the ministry of this, and every church, is your ministry. May all of our endeavours be for the ultimate purpose of the establishment of your kingdom.

We pray to the Father, through the Son, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Heavenly Father

We pray for the guidance of your Holy Spirit as we seek a new parish priest to lead us in mission and ministry.

We pray that, as you call the right person to apply,
you will grant us the grace to recognise that call.

We pray for your blessing on all those involved in the decision making process

Through Jesus Christ our Lord Amen.

Loving Father

Keep us rooted and grounded in your love
Amen

SIGNIFICANT DATES IN MARCH

On 2nd March 1882 Robert MacLean failed in a bid to assassinate Queen Victoria at Windsor.

On the same date in 1988 Members of the Liberal party merged with the Social Democrats to form the Social and Liberal Democrats (the Lib-Dems).

The Jewish Temple in Jerusalem was completed on 10th March 515 BC. Originally built by King Solomon over 400 years earlier it had been destroyed during an invasion by the ferocious Babylonians.

Also on 10th March in 1969 James Earl Ray pleaded guilty to murdering American civil rights leader Martin Luther King.

Isabella Mary Mayson who became Mrs Beeton of cookery fame was born in London on 12th March 1836.

Mr G S Selfridge opened Britain's first department store in London on 15th March 1909. The shop occupies six acres of space on Oxford Street.

21st March 1991 saw Michael Heseltine, Environment Secretary at the time, scrap the poll tax in Britain replacing it with a new property tax, now known as the Council Tax.

The first close-up pictures of the planet Mercury were taken by the US spacecraft Mariner on 29th March 1974.

Notes of the Deanery Synod meeting, 6 November 2014.

There was a special emphasis on the work on the subject of disinvestment and climate change that was the focus of the first part of the meeting. *[A more detailed paper is available at the Parish Office if anyone wishes to read more]*

The first motion was proposed by Ruth Conway in a 5 minute speech. The speech showed that people are experiencing climate change now by those who haven't caused it and had no voice in the issue. A number of meteorological examples were given in some poorer parts of the world. According to the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) the peak for oil production has to be the year 2020, but the oil industry isn't listening to the IPCC, therefore there is a need to disinvest from fossil fuels by the Church of England. The rationale for this was that mass disinvestment could make stocks in fossil fuels lose value. Also reinvestment in low carbon technologies could perform better so there was therefore a great economic case for a change in the Church's investment portfolio and we should only keep investments in fossil fuel companies who were investing in carbon capture and storage over a 3 – 5 year period.

Miles Allen (from the IPCC) then gave a speech in which he pointed out that there was an increase in costs to the value of 2.5 fold for carbon fuels with carbon capture and storage technology. He also pointed out that people in India who have a lot of coal wouldn't be able to use their coal if there was a blanket disinvestment from carbon fuels and those in India would have to buy solar and other technologies made in China and that had financial implications for those in the 3rd world economies. Also, how would these people feel about it considering that they have a great reserve of nationally owned energy that they wouldn't be allowed to use if this plan went ahead. Therefore a carbon capture and storage route would be more positive for those in the third world. Miles Allen was broadly in support of the motion but suggested an amendment.

A gentleman called Hugh Lee who had spent over 20 years in the coal industry also spoke in favour of disinvestment and was more in favour of the amendment proposed by Miles Allen than out and out disinvestment.

Questions were put from the floor to those two speakers. The following amendment was agreed upon.

"We will disinvest from all fossil fuel companies unless the company can demonstrate that they have a credible plan to progressively increase the fraction of carbon capture and storage up to 100% by the time that the global climatic temperature has risen to 2 degrees Celsius"

The motion was passed in a democratic vote.

Andy Gosler progressed to the discussion of the election of new members. Trevor Jones then spoke on the parish share and the fact that there is an increase in the allocations of £9,820 on top of the value for previous year.

Nick Dewey

St James Café
for this month only at
St Francis Church
Hollow Way

Saturday
28th March

For more information
Vicky Hall on
07901 895 825

part of the
Easter Fun Day

tea - coffee - homemade cakes
hot cross buns - hot dogs
AND NOW bacon butties!

BOOK REVIEW

'Ring of Truth: A Translator's Testimony' by J B Phillips

This fascinating book is so much in line with our Lent course book this year that it might have been tailor made for it.

By the eminent translator of the New Testament into modern English, this book was written for many Christians whose simple faith in the basic statement of the Christian creed is being undermined by the widespread publication of the views of some modern scholars. Canon Phillips' experience in translating the New Testament convinced him that what is written in the Gospels, however much modern scholarship may try to explain it away, has indeed the 'Ring of Truth'.

In this personal statement of faith he shares the exciting discoveries he made during the course of translation and his delight in them. He commu-

nicates the fruits of his scholarship and his intimate knowledge of the New Testament. Yet even more he offers his spiritual certainty to those Christians who may be bewildered by the destructive tone of so much modern Christian writing.

Ring of truth will do much to combat modern scepticism. The average Christian dismayed by theological argument, will be reassured that here is a New Testament scholar who is still convinced of the validity of the bible, and its relevance to contemporary experience.

It is very rare to get such direct feedback from the pen of a Bible translator and I have pleasure in commending this book to you.

John Shreeve

EASTER SERVICES

w/b 23 March	Experience Easter - Prayer/teaching stations Church Cowley St James and St Christopher's schools will visit in class groups Volunteers will be needed
Saturday 28 March 10.00 – 1.00	Parish Easter Fun Day @ St Francis with St James Café@ St Francis
Sunday 29 March 4:00 pm	Palm Sunday Worship Walk Churches together in Cowley with a real donkey from St James via John Bunyan, Temple Cowley URC, Our Lady's finishing at St Francis - meditations from St Mark's gospel at each church – donated hot cross buns requested for tea at St Francis
Thursday 2 April 7pm	Maundy Thursday Supper – St James Church Centre followed by the watch of prayer - St James
Friday 3 April 12.00 – 3 pm 4:00 pm	Good Friday meditations – St James Stations of the Cross - St Francis
Saturday 4 April 8.00 pm	Holy Saturday - the bringing of the light service - St Francis

RECIPES

This month we have chosen two good fish dishes for Lent. The first is a quick and easy version of an old favourite:



Fish and Potato pie

- 1 lb cod fillets, skinned and cut into 1 inch pieces
- 1 lb haddock fillets, skinned and cut into 1 inch pieces
- 4 large potatoes, cooked and sliced
- 4 fluid ozs milk
- 2 eggs
- Salt and pepper to season
- 3 tomatoes sliced
- 2 ozs fine dry white breadcrumbs
- 2 ozs Cheddar cheese, grated
- 1 oz butter cut into small pieces

Set the oven at gas mark 4 or 180

Arrange the fish pieces and potato slices in alternate layers in a medium sized baking dish topping with a layer of potatoes

Beat the milk and eggs together in a small bowl, season and pour over the fish and potatoes

Arrange the tomatoes on top

Mix the breadcrumbs and cheese together and sprinkle over the top. Dot pieces of butter over this

Bake in the oven for 1 hour until the top is brown and crisp

Serve with green vegetables

Fisherman's Lemons – a dish from Portugal

To serve with a nice crisp salad

Crisp flat lettuce leaves (to line the serving dish)

6 large lemons cut in half (across)

7 ½ ozs tin of salmon or tuna

Black pepper and salt to season

2 -3 tablespoons of mayonnaise or sour cream

2 hard boiled eggs, roughly chopped

1 tablespoon of chopped fresh parsley

Squeeze all the juice from the lemons and keep about 2 teaspoons of this

Scrape all the flesh from the lemon skins and discard. Cut a small slice off the bottom of each so that they stand still. Place them on the lettuce leaves in the serving dish

In a medium mixing bowl mash the fish with a fork, mix in the seasoning, the mayonnaise or sour cream, lemon juice and half the chopped egg. Mix thoroughly.

Fill the lemon shells, sprinkle over the egg and parsley

Chill in the 'fridge for at least ¾ hour before serving

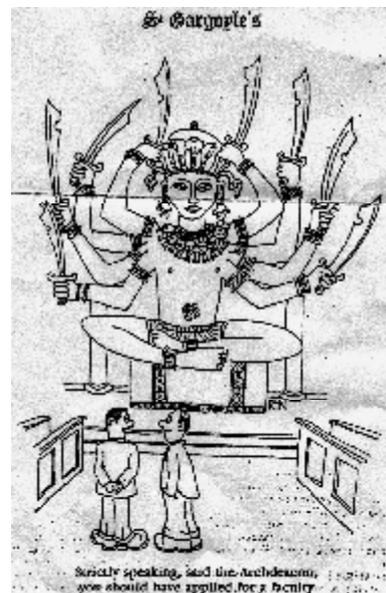
REPORT FROM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

The Section 12 meeting has been held – a very delightful meeting with Martin Gorick, the Archdeacon. At this meeting, we finally agreed the Parish Profile (copies will be available on the web and in the churches so that you can have a look at this). In addition, most importantly, we agreed the advertisement and the programme which is:

Advertisement: 13 and 20 March 2015
Closing Date: 7 April 2015
Shortlisting: 17 April 2015
Interviews: 29 and 30 April 2015

The arrangements for the first day of the interviews include a visit to Cowley St James School, a walk around the Parish, a visit to the Rectory and a social evening at St Francis. More details will be available as when these are finalised church members will be invited to participate at the various events. The formal interview will be held on the 30 April 2015, and a reminder that the Patronal Board is:

The Archdeacon
Team Vicar
3 lay members of the PCC: William Hartley
David Stanley
Lesley Williams
2 Parish representatives: Clare Edwards
Joshua Hordern



We also fitted in a full meeting of the PCC on the 22 February 2015 to discuss other important things:

Accounts for 2014: The PCC agreed that these should be submitted for inspection and the inspected accounts will be approved at the March meeting of the PCC ready for the APCM on the 19 April 2015.

Faculty applications for:

- The disposal of the unused bell at St Francis Church
- The refurbishment of the kitchen at St Francis (agreed at the PCC meeting on the 22 February)
- The refurbishment of the vestry at St James
- Disposal of old Altar Rails/Front of Church Rails – Archdeacon approval is needed for this and an application has been made.

Planning application for:

- Solar panelling at St James Church Centre
- We also discussed ways to improve the railings around the parking areas and various things are being investigated.

Some of the Faculty work has taken a back seat during the extra PCC meetings dealing with the replacement of the Rector, but things will move forward now.

One other thing the PCC agreed was that role descriptions should be collected for all those people who undertook important jobs within the Parish. These would not be written in stone, but would be a useful “start” for the new Rector. I have been tasked with the co-ordination of this, so will be approaching relevant volunteers. But if you do not hear from me and would like to volunteer your role description, please contact me!

Sally Hemsworth

SUNDAY SERVICES

ST JAMES CHURCH, BEAUCHAMP LANE

8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Sung Eucharist
Sunday Sunday Lunch – the date varies so watch for notices

ST FRANCIS CHURCH, HOLLOW WAY

10.30am Parish Eucharist
2nd Sunday All Age bring n/share lunch

MID-WEEK SERVICES & MEETINGS

Monday	10.00-11.30am	Little Stars Playgroup— St Francis
	2.30pm	Parish Mothers' Union— St James (3rd Monday)
Tuesday	10.00am	Seashells Toddler Group— St James
	12.00pm	Eucharist—St James
	12.30pm	Tuesday Lunch Club— St James
Thursday	2-4pm	Prayer Space—St Francis
	7.00pm	Cowley Parish Healing Service St Francis (1st Thursday)
Friday	2.00pm	Bingo—St James

HOME GROUPS

Leader	Time/Venue
Connie Uren	Alternate Tuesday afternoons at 2.30pm St James Church Centre, Ranklin Room
Friends of St Francis (John Shreeve/	2nd & 4th Tuesday afternoons at 2.30pm St Francis Church
Mark Oxbrow	Alternate Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm Mark's home
Rosanne Butler	Alternate Thursday mornings at 10.00am St James Church Centre, Ranklin Room
Josh & Claire Hordern	Thursdays at 8.00pm, often at 55 Glanville Rd joshuahordern@hotmail.com
Joel Denno	Thursday at 7.45pm at The Vicarage, Don Bosco
Helen Beetham	Alternate Friday mornings at 10am

The Parish Office in St James Church
Centre is open:

Tuesday, 2—5pm
Wednesday, 10—1pm
Friday, 9—2pm

The Parish Office is currently staffed by
volunteers and members of the ministry
team.

Contact details: Tel: 01865 747680
Email: office@cowleyteamministry.co.uk
Out of hours tel: 07501 908378
Website: www.cowleyteamministry.co.uk

Team Rector:

Vacancy

Team Vicar:

Revd Skye Denno
Tel: 01865 434160 Mobile: 07720 768684
Email: skye@cowleyteamministry.co.uk
Skye has Wednesday as her day off.

Self-supporting Ministers

Revd Richard Chand
01865 701948
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Revd Canon Mark Oxbrow
01865 461953
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Revd Dr Amanda Bloor
Tel: 01865 208221

Revd Tony Beetham
Tel: 01865 770923
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Churchwardens:

David Stanley Tel: 776602
Norah Shallow Tel: 765199

Deputy Wardens
Margaret Martin Tel: 718532
John Shreeve Tel: 717987

St James Church Centre Manager:

Chris Woodman Tel: 778078

Hall Bookings:

Church Centre: Pat Sansom Tel: 778516
St Francis Church/St James Church:
through Parish Office

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