

Chronicle



**Ash Wednesday
Service
Wednesday 6th
March**

**7:00 pm baked potato
supper**

**7:30 pm Communion
service with ashing
St James
Beauchamp Lane**



Easter Prayer Spaces for Schools

St Francis Thurs. March 14th

St Christopher's Wed/Thurs March 27/28th

CCSJ Wed/Thurs April 3rd/4th

**If you can
help
please
speak
to Geoff,
Gemma
or Dave**

**HELP
WANTED**



March 2019

From the Editors

Sally Hemsworth and Nicki Stevens

Snow for the first Saturday of the Snowdrop Weekends followed by dry, warm weather more akin to early summer than February. The snowdrops have finished, spring flowers have arrived and daffodils are in full bloom, many weeks early. And as we get this edition of the Chronicle ready the weather has turned colder and the rain has come!

Things are building up for Lent and Easter – there will be many notices in the churches and church centre about the different events.

We are continuing our Parish Walks – the first is on Monday, 4 March. We just hope the rain goes away!!

Pat Chambers is still looking for people to join the holiday – do have a word with her if you feel you would be interested and need more information.

Thank you to all who have contributed this month. We look forward to receiving more articles next month – perhaps you would like to start a series of articles or just put in a one off article on a subject of particular interest to you. Your favourite prayers and recipes would be appreciated.

Nicki and Sally

Lesley Weston
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A word from the Rectory



*Father, I place into your hands
The things I cannot do,
Father, I place into your hands
The things that I've been through.
Father, I place into your hands
The way that I should go,
For I know I always can trust you.*

The season of Lent will soon be upon us. A season preparing for the great celebration of Easter. Each of us has our own understanding of Lent and what it is about. Key, for me, is a desire to get closer to God and to live life in way that better imitates Christ. To be become more Christ-like.

Scriptures talks of two useful approaches.

The first is to consciously put on Christ: To be clothed in Christ. To cover ourselves with Jesus. This is a conscious decision to adopt a way of life that is in tune with the way Jesus lived. When we do that we decide to be increasingly peaceful, loving, patient, kind, gentle, compassionate, courageous, and all the other features that can be observed in Jesus the Gospels. It is about us striving.

To be more Christ like.

The second approach recognises that we do not in ourselves have the resources to live perfect lives. We need God's strength, the strength of the Holy Spirit, to provide that which is missing in our strivings. It is here that those words Father I place into your hands the things I cannot do. When our own



striving is, on its own, not enough and we need a bit of help.

So this Lent find the place and time to strive to be more Christ like. Then ask God to fill in the gaps.

Amen



Benson Cottage



Mothers' Union News

Have you ever tried to make a paper carnation with half a red serviette and a long green pipe cleaner? No? Then you should have been at our Mothers' Union branch meeting in February! It was all part of our preparation for The Women's World Day of Prayer. Let me explainWe had learnt lots about the country where this year's service is focused and chosen those people who were prepared to read at the forthcoming service and then came the tricky bit. Because, you see, the national flower of Slovenia is the red carnation and the ladies at Rose hill Methodist Church asked if the Cowley Mothers' union could produce some paper carnations as part of the preparation. Well, what a laugh, you should have seen us. We had red tissue paper in all directions but it was a lot of fun and dear Chris Woodman wielded the dust-pan and brush quite happily clearing up our mess.

The other event we had planned last month was our annual puddings and quiz evening which turned out to be a little bit disappointing as so few people came along to join in the fun. Those who did had a great time and declared the half-time puddings delicious. The funds we raise from our social evenings go

mainly to support families in difficulties both in Britain and across the world so despite being few in number we did manage to make a profit of £54. Many thanks to those members who came along in support.

Our March meeting on 18th will be our regular reflective afternoon for Lent. This year we shall be led by the Revd Gemma Beesley. As members will already know, Gemma preaches a very engaging sermon so we can be sure of an afternoon full of good reflections.

On 25 March (Lady Day) our new Diocesan President is being installed at a special service at Christ Church in Abingdon. We, as the only branch in the Oxford Deanery, have been asked to provide three or four members to act as stewards. Needless to say we have already received enough volunteers from our members. Details of times, how to get there, etc. will be finalised at the March branch meeting.

All our members have been so prompt in paying their annual subscription this year that I received a congratulatory phone call from head office to thank them.

Rosanne Butler

COWLEY FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS TREES 2019

13-22 December 2019

Is this the first Cowley mention of Christmas 2019? The first planning meeting to decide on the theme and the structure of the Christmas tree festival - not necessarily the same as previously - and its associated events will be in the w/b 20 May: date and time to be announced following consultation with some key supporters.

But we do hope there will be new members in the planning team.... please talk to Lesley Williams if you would like to know more

Lesley Williams 01865 779 562 07982 439 828 ctf@cowleyteamministry.co.uk



CHILDREN'S CORNER

So, how did you get on with the changes and promises for Lent? I have managed to have some interesting conversations, without phone or television interruptions. Keep it up. And how about the answer to my question about St. Valentine? Yes, that's right. He was originally a Roman soldier. If you have not looked up the details on your computer, look at the details that are really interesting and a little sad.

Do you have a garden at your house? When I was much younger we had quite a reasonable garden large enough for a lawn with a flower border and a vegetable plot. Later, I moved house and the garden was quite tiny by comparison so I had an allotment for growing vegetables and the small garden at the house was our lawn with a flower border.

I expected to be able to grow the same flowers and vegetables but the soil was totally different, even though the gardens were only a short distance from each other. And we are like that. 'Poles apart' as one might say! (now that's an odd saying) and the test for this month. What is a 'pole'?

Returning to the garden, it is time for us to clean it up, give it some food and prepare it to grow flowers or vegetables. If we don't, it will go to sleep and eventually waste away. In the same way, we have to prepare ourselves, feed ourselves in mind and body, and sow the seeds to bear fruit later. In the same way that the different soils need different treatment, so do people. Everything needs preparation and good food to be healthy, and so it is with us. Good seed and properly prepared soil give good results. If we ignore faults with the soil or use poorly prepared seed, the result will not be so good as when we clean the soil and use good seed, and continue to see that the soil is looked after and weeds removed. Good thoughts, do the best in all we do and continue to look after ourselves, and help others to do the same.

Whether we are thinking about garden preparation or looking after ourselves and helping each other to be better 'gardeners for life' we must have patience to achieve the best results possible. Nothing grows overnight, or if it is neglected. There is no examination of the end result, but everyone who has contributed will be a happier person.

If you haven't got a garden of your own, why not come to help at the parish hall, on the last Saturday of the month, 9.30 am onwards. There is always someone who will show you how to do the jobs, or tidy up. That really would make me happy.....and do you good. Nothing grows on its own. We all need help but working together and with God's help, we can make things better.

Uncle Ben.

Prayer Space

Father, you never forget us or turn away from us even when we fail you. You sent your Son, Jesus, who gave His life for us, cured those who were sick, cared for those who were poor, and cried with those who were sad. He forgave sinners and taught us to forgive each other. For all your love we give you thanks. We open our hearts to him; we remember how he died and rose again to live now in us.

Scottish Liturgy

COWLEY HISTORY GROUP
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Wednesday 27 March
WILL WYATT
 Will speak on an OXFORD BOY
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 Email: erc.cowleyhistory@yahoo.com
 Call: **07392 606040**

PARISH MISSION AND SOCIAL PLANNER

MARCH	APRIL	MAY
SUN 3rd 12:00pm <i>Lenten Super Soup lunch for Christian Aid</i> (CC)	MON 1st 7:30 pm <i>M&S meeting</i> (88 Temple Road)	SUN 12th – SAT 18th <i>Christian Aid Week – stall</i> (TS)
TUE 5th 4:30pm <i>Flipping heck! free pancakes for students</i> (F - outside)	SUN 7th 12:30 pm <i>Sunday lunch</i> (CC)	TBC <i>Big Brekkie/Brunch</i> (outside somewhere)
WED 6th 7:30pm <i>Ash Wednesday service</i> (J)	SAT 13th 3:30-5:00pm <i>Easter bonnet crafty tea party</i> (F)	SAT 18th 10:00am-1:00 pm <i>Plant sale</i> (CC)
SUN 17th 12:30pm <i>Lenten Super Soup lunch - for Christian Aid</i> (CC)	THU 18th <i>Maundy Thursday Fellowship supper + Holy Communion + prayer vigil</i> (J)	
	FRI 19th 10:00-11:30am <i>Good Friday Messy Church</i> (??)	
	FRI 26th 7:00pm <i>Moonrakers concert</i> (J)	

(CC) - St James Church Centre - Beauchamp Lane (J) - St James Church - Beauchamp Lane
 (F) - St Francis Church - Hollow Way (A.A.L.C) - Anglican Asian Living Church (J & CC)
 (TS) - Templars Square (CH) - Corner House pub

REAL EASTER EGGS

Of the millions of chocolate Easter eggs sold each year, this is the ONLY one on the market that is made from Fairtrade chocolate, is palm oil free, uses no plastic packaging, includes a 24 page story of Easter with activities booklet *and* contributes some of the profits to charity

As usual there is the:

- standard milk chocolate egg (£3.99)
- dark chocolate egg + 3 chocolate squares (£5.50)
- special edition + hand woven bookmark + chocolate bar (£9.99)



See the posters on display in both churches and St James Centre.

There is also:

- a sharing box containing 30 small eggs and 30 Easter story booklets (£30)

which would be useful if you have a group of friends/family with whom you wish to share the New Life message &/ or for an Easter egg hunt .

You should be able to buy the standard egg at larger branches of Tesco, Morrison's, Waitrose and Asda, and at Oxford's Fairtrade shops in Headington and Cornmarket.

But order lists are in both churches and St James Centre – deadline for orders (so we get free delivery) is Sunday 17 March

BUY THE 2019 REAL EASTER EGG HERE

Original (RRP £3.99)
The 2019 plastic free design includes a large 24 page Easter story-activity book, a prize competition and a super thick milk chocolate egg (150g) with a lovely creamy taste. 35% cocoa – Palm Oil free.

Special Edition (RRP £9.99)
Includes a smart guide to Easter, a beautiful keepsake made by disabled craft artists in India, a Fairtrade orange milk chocolate bar (80g), and Fairtrade milk chocolate egg (80g) with a lovely creamy taste. 35% cocoa – Palm Oil free.

Dark (RRP £5.50)
Inside this plastic free dark chocolate edition of The Real Easter Egg you will find a simple Easter guide and an Easter sharing book, 3 dark chocolate Mini Squares (2.5g) and a luxury smooth dark chocolate egg (1.6g).

New Design Easter Story
A fun and Easter story-activity book illustrated by the fine artists who make the eggs.

Out of the 80 million chocolate Easter Eggs sold each year, The Real Easter Egg is the only Fairtrade one with the Easter story in the box.
www.realeasteregg.co.uk



Mother's Day: A day of mixed emotions.



- ∅ We give thanks for the Mums of the world.
- ∅ We give thanks for Mums that have died and are no longer with us.
- ∅ We give thanks for those who take on the role of mother in our lives.

The Bible is rich in imagery showing the character of God as a Mother. This passage comes from the book of Ruth (2:12)

"May the LORD repay your work, and may you receive a rich reward from the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have taken refuge."

On Mothering Sunday, we will give thanks for the wings we have sheltered under. We hope this will be a community occasion. In consequence, Communion will be available only at the 8 am St James service on that day. Communion will be available the following Tuesday 12 noon in the Ranklin room of the St James Centre.

An advertisement for Shaun Guard TV Aerial Services. The background is a blue sky with a large satellite dish antenna mounted on a tall metal pole. The text 'Shaun Guard' is at the top in large blue letters. Below it, 'TV AERIAL SERVICES' is written in large, bold, dark blue letters. A list of services is provided in blue boxes with white text: 'Poor reception solved', 'Aerials - supplied & repaired', 'TV's - hung on your wall or set up & tuned', 'Internet - extension points & improved wifi', 'Extra TV Points - for aerial and Sky (also in HD)', and 'Sky TV - also foreign language satellite'. At the bottom, the 'OXFORD AERIALS' logo is shown in red and black. Below the logo, the website 'www.oxfordaerials.co.uk' is written in white, and 'Call Oxford 01865 400141' is written in large white letters on a red brick background.

Blessed is the one who perseveres

This week I've been really brave! I gave my first 'public performance' on my ukulele! I took my little instrument along to our schools and in assembly we thought about perseverance. As any musician knows, the quality of perseverance is an important one to acquire if one wants to improve.

The children came up with a good definition for perseverance: 'carrying on even when it's difficult.' Learning an instrument isn't always easy: practice can feel like a chore, progress plateaus, and busy lives mean time can be scarce. Perseverance is needed!

As well as a lack of practice and expertise, playing the ukulele and singing in front of people was hard for me, because in the past I have been told that I can't sing, and I'm not good enough. Has something like this ever happened to you? Are you now reluctant to have a go at something because in the past you've been criticised or ridiculed for not being good enough? It's a real knock to confidence, and it takes a lot of perseverance - carrying on even when it's difficult - to come through and carry on despite hurtful comments.

Through my ukulele playing in assembly we established that one of the biggest factors for helping people persevere was encouragement, support and friendship. The children did this admirably and helped me by singing along with enthusiasm!

My ukulele is only a simple example of a much bigger issue. Enabling our children and young people to be resilient, independent thinkers who are able to persevere when things really do get tough is so important.

In the news recently we have heard how a

few years ago three children made the decision to travel to Syria and join ISIS. One of them, Shamima Begum is now seeking to return to Britain. In a radio interview, another young woman who made a similar decision in 2005 and who is now living in the US, said she identified with Shamima, being from the same area of London with the same cultural heritage, and gave some reasoning behind her choice. She said 'growing up my family had no aspiration for me, except to get married, be a mother, then a grandmother, and then die. I was never taught to think for myself.' The voice of the groomers must have offered such an attractive hope of a meaningful life for these children. I wonder how different their lives could have been if someone could have shown them the importance of perseverance, and fostered the qualities of resilience and independent thinkers able to question truth and meaning.

I believe Christians have so much to speak into these situations. The bible is full of wisdom about perseverance, because our faith in God demands that we persevere in prayer, and in God's purpose for our lives. And God has faith in us. I encourage you this month to persevere in prayer for all young people who do not have the resilience to make good choices for themselves, pray that they will be able to persevere through difficult times in their lives.

Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. James 1:12

Gemma Beesley

Film Club at the Centre

There is no doubt about it, Judi Dench is an amazing actress. This was the opinion of many of our members at the end of the February film evening. Their appreciation of the film "Victoria and Abdul" was great and even days afterwards several of them have remarked upon a most enjoyable evening.

March is now traditionally our western showing and this month we have a classic to look forward to. "The Big Country" is a great film with some of the best stars and some very memorable music. The stars include Gregory Peck, Jean Simmons, Charlton Heston and Burl Ives. It tells the story of a

retired ship's captain who heads out west in America and finds himself embroiled in a hot-bed of jealousy and dangerous rivalry. Needless to say good prevails over evil and love conquers all as it does in all the best westerns! Members are warned that it is quite a long film so finishing time will be rather later than usual but it is a good story so well worth a viewing.

Our club members are still donating generously and our monthly contributions to parish funds are usually between £70 and £80. What a pleasant way to fund raise!

Rosanne Butler

'MOONRAKERS' CONCERT

Friday 26 April, 7:00, St James Church

Bringing live music to Cowley

Oxford's popular and much-toured 4-piece band, Moonrakers (Celtic harp, cello, stringed instruments, whistles, female/male vocals), is coming to us in Cowley! You're in for a real treat!

The band prides itself on having brought traditional and contemporary folk music to new audiences in village halls, churches, arts centres and festivals across the south of England in recent years. With songs and tunes from the English, Irish and Scottish tradition as well as their own compositions, they've been described as "startlingly talented" (*Oxford Times*), with five albums of "exquisite music" (*BBC*) and "truly wonderful" (*Wycombe Festival*) performances.

2018 saw the launch of their latest album 'Tides' which has received glowing reviews in the music press ("The real deal", *The Living Tradition*; "Uplifting, sensitively crafted songs and tunes" *FATEA magazine*).

To see and hear more, go to www.moonrakers.net

Be ready to buy your tickets soon

Early bird: adult - £10; students - £3; under 16s - £1

On the door: adult - £12; students - £5; under 16s - £2



BIRDS, BIRDS, BIRDS!

Following on from Joan's gardening article last month where she mentioned garden birds and the annual RSPB Great Bird Watch, I thought I would list the birds I see in my garden over the year. My garden backs onto Florence Park which provides a good habitat for birds and other wildlife, and as Joan mentioned in her February article referring to her garden looking untidy, she says "but at the moment, let nature use the seeds and hiding places", and like her I leave many of my plants unpruned through autumn and winter. It is a joy to see goldfinches busily pecking at the old lavender flowers as well as the ver-bena which seems to be their favourite!

Over the years then, from the smallest upwards I have seen the goldcrest (rarely), wren, robin, blue/coal/longtailed/great tits, sparrow, dunnock, goldfinch, starling, black-bird, song thrush, great spotted woodpecker, jackdaw, crow, rook, collared dove, pigeon, jay. The biggest surprise I had was a visit a

few months ago from a green woodpecker which spent 10-15 minutes on my back lawn busily pecking deep into the ground for insects. I had never seen one that close before and with its striking red head and colourful green and yellow feathers it looked for a moment as if an exotic parrot had landed in my garden! I also see seagulls, swallows and red kites overhead but they tend not to land in my garden; I have also heard owls at night but never managed to see them! Oh, and very occasionally, I see ducks, geese, swans and heron flying high overhead. So, all in all throughout the year I see about 28 different types of bird from my garden.

In January I went to visit my brother in New Zealand; luckily he is keen on birds too! So with his help I managed to identify 43 different types of bird which of course made my holiday!

Ruth Goodwin



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RECIPES

Savoury Pancake

For the pancake:

- 140g plain flour
- 2 eggs
- 25g butter, melted, plus extra for buttering
- 350ml semi-skimmed milk
- Sunflower or vegetable oil, for frying

For Filling:

- 12 thin slices of ham (135 g pack), torn
- 260g bag spinach, cooked
- 140g grated cheddar
- 100 ml half-fat crème fraiche
- 3 spring onions, sliced (optional)

Method:

For the pancakes:

- Ø Tip the flour into a mixing bowl and make a well in the middle. Crack the eggs into separate dishes, remove any shell, and add to the flour. Tip in the butter, add a little milk and whisk until smooth.
- Ø Whisk in the rest of the milk, in a steady stream, until you have a smooth batter that is similar to the consistency of double cream. Now carefully pour the batter into a jug.
- Ø Using kitchen paper, wipe the pan with a little oil. Place the pan on the stove and heat until hot. Remove from the heat and pour in enough batter to cover the base, swirling it around. Return to the heat for 3 mins until the underside is cooked.
- Ø Take the pan off the heat and, using a spatula, loosen the pancake. Flip the pancake in the air (or simply turn it over with the spatula) and cook the other side. When cooked, put the pancake to one



side, then repeat the procedure to cook 7 more pancakes

For the Roll-Ups:

- Ø Heat oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6.
- Ø Butter a large baking dish. Now lay a pancake in front of you and scatter over some ham, spinach and cheese (remembering to save 25g of the cheese).
- Ø Carefully roll up the pancakes and put them into the buttered dish. Repeat with all the pancakes.
- Ø In a small bowl, mix together the crème fraiche with the remaining cheese and spring onions, if you like.
- Ø Spread the topping over the pancakes, sprinkle with breadcrumbs and bake for about 30 mins until bubbling and golden. Serve with a salad or veg.

But, perhaps you think the best pancakes to have on Shrove Tuesday are the traditional ones. Served warm, straight from the pan and sprinkled with caster sugar and plenty of fresh lemon juice - nothing beats it!

Ingredients to serve 6!!

- 250 g plain flour
- 1/4 teaspoon of salt
- 2 large eggs
- 500 ml milk
- Knob of butter for frying
- Caster sugar (for sprinkling)
- Fresh lemon (for squeezing)

Method for cooking pancakes: as above

COWLEY TEAM MINISTRY, OXFORD



Serving God,
Cowley and Headington

HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

Our policy, so far as is reasonably practicable, is to provide and maintain safe and healthy working conditions, equipment and systems of work for all our employees, casual labour and voluntary helpers, and to provide such information, training and supervision as they need for this purpose.

We will also endeavour to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of all members of the congregation, contractors, visitors and others who may visit the church, churchyard and any associated buildings.

The allocation of duties for safety matters and the particular arrangements that we will make to implement the policy are set out below.

The policy will be kept up to date, particularly in the light of any changes to our buildings or activities. To ensure this, the policy and the way in which it has operated will be reviewed regularly and the appropriate changes made.

In order to ensure that health and safety matters are kept constantly under review, an item on health and safety will be on the agenda for all meetings of the Parochial Church Council and Church Committees and employees and voluntary workers will be consulted on a regular basis in order to seek their view on health and safety matters.

Agreed by PCC October 2018



FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 2019 25 February – 10 March



25 years of Fairtrade

The Fairtrade mark appeared in 1994 with one chocolate, one coffee and one tea on shop shelves. Today, more than 400 companies sell 4,000 Fairtrade products in the UK, ranging from coffee and tea, to cotton, raisins, spices, cut flowers, cakes, wine and gold jewellery.

There are now over 550 Fairtrade Towns, 1000 Fairtrade schools, 170 universities and colleges and 7,000 Faith groups all actively promoting Fairtrade. More than 600 producer groups from 60 different countries are now benefiting from supplying the UK with Fairtrade produce.

How much money do you need to live a decent life?

In the UK, the national minimum wage in 2018 was set to £7.83 per hour. Daily life, however, is much more expensive than a minimum wage can realistically cover.

People living on the minimum wage suffer a [shortfall equivalent to](#) more than six months' food and drink bill for an average household or almost three months' worth of average rental payments.

Over 4,400 employers in the UK, including the Fairtrade Foundation, have chosen to pay at least the 'Living Wage' as defined by the Living Wage Foundation. The Living Wage is set at £8.75 or £10.20 for Greater London. It's an amount that lets people live with dignity, afford the basics, the bills and to put away a little in savings.

What's the difference: Living Wage vs Living Income

A living wage is a salary paid by an employer to a worker that covers a basic standard of life. A company who commits to Fairtrade's Textile Standards must work towards giving every cotton worker a living wage within six years of starting the scheme.

But if you're a smallholder farmer, for example, there's no one to pay you a salary and there are a lot of other factors that come in to play. That's where the concept of a living income becomes useful.

A living income (defined by The Living Income Community of Practice) is calculated as the net annual income needed for a household to afford a decent standard of living for all members of that household. That means you need to earn enough to eat nutritiously throughout the year, drink safe water and access healthcare. This would also allow you to send your children to school, live in a decent home, save for unexpected setbacks and allow the elderly to retire with dignity.

Farmers' income often comes from multiple sources such as crop sales, farm business and remittances. To work out whether a farmer achieves a decent living, all of these sources of money are combined and checked against a living income benchmark price. Many of the farmers who grow our food don't come close to earning a living income. It's clear that there is a lot of work to do and many industry players to convince.

All farmers deserve to earn a decent living and the Fairtrade Foundation is committed to making living income a reality.

Fairtrade Fortnight

For two weeks each year, thousands of individuals, companies and community groups across the UK come together to celebrate the people who grow our food, people who live in some of the poorest countries in the world and who are often exploited and badly paid. This year the focus is on the people – in particular the women – who grow the cocoa in the chocolate we love so much.

A campaign freepost postcard "She deserves a living income" has been provided for everyone – it's such an easy way to be an activist and tell the Prime Minister that we want the UK Government to make sure our trade with developing countries puts poverty reduction first in order to deliver a living income for producers, especially women. Please sign (just name and postcode) and post the card – or leave it at the church and we will put it in the post box.

The Cowley PCC has declared that it wishes to become a Fairtrade Parish but we have made little progress towards it over the past year, still regularly accepting gifts of non-fairtrade products. Perhaps this Fairtrade Fortnight, we could take a further step towards achieving it for the sake of all our worldwide brothers and sisters in Christ who deserve it.

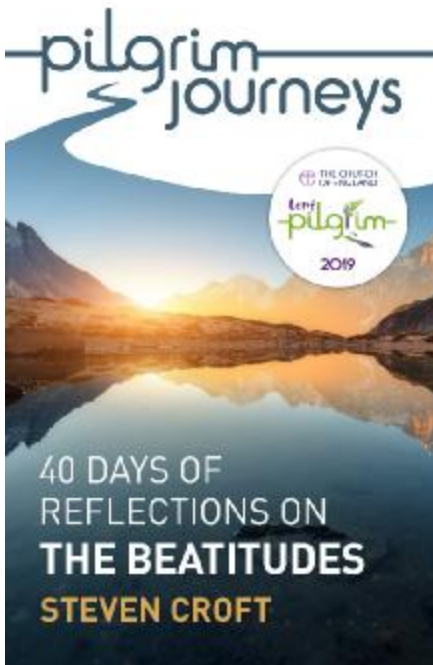
We of course thank you if you are donating supplies to the Parish kitchens at St James and St Francis. *Please only give Fairtrade products when they are available*

If you are still sceptical and read stuff on line, please look up:

<http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/Media-Centre/Blog/2016/June/7-things-people-get-wrong-about-Fairtrade>

<http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/get%20involved//Current-campaigns/Fairtrade-Fortnight/Fairtrade-Fortnight-for-Campaigners>

<https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/Resources-Library/Fairtrade%20Fortnight%202019/Fortnight%202019%20Assets#>



Lent 2019: Cowley Team Ministry

In Lent, the build-up to Easter, we will be joining with others around the world in reflecting on the Beatitudes. They are part of a most beautiful and powerful talk given by Jesus on the side of a mountain: the Sermon on the Mount. These words have shaped history and turned many people's lives inside out. Right at the beginning of the talk are eight short sayings which all begin with the word 'Blessed'.

These sayings are a portrait of Jesus, the Son of God. They answer the deepest question of our age: what does it mean to be human? For some they will be a very simple introduction to Jesus. For others they will be a way of going deeper. We will read them in Lent, but they can be used at any time of year. Some will use them to prepare for baptism and confirmation. Others to go deeper in the Way of Christ. On Sundays our sermons will focus on these themes. We suggest you use the reflections for Monday to Friday. They will then stay in step with the sermon series. And yes, we will continue for a few weeks after Easter.

Cowley Team Ministry: Lent Sermon Series 2019				
Week	Date		Booklet Days	Theme:
Lent 1	10 March		Days 1 to 5	BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT...
Lent 2	17 March		Days 6 to 10	BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO MOURN...
Lent 3	24 March		Days 11 to 15	BLESSED ARE THE MEEK...
Lent 4	31 March	Mothering Sunday	Days 16 to 20	BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HUNGER And thirst
Lent 5	07 April		Days 21 to 25	BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL...
Lent 6	14 April		Days 26 to 30	BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART..
Easter Day	21 April			
Easter 2	28 April		Days 31 to 35	BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS...
Easter 3	05 May		Days 36 to 40	BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO SUFFER PERSECUTION...

A number of groups will also meet over the period of Lent:

Tuesday 2:30 pm Cowley Rectory (12/3, 19/3, 26/3, 2/4, 16/4)

Tuesday 7:30 Cowley Rectory (as above).

Wednesday 7:30 13 Annesley Rd., Cowley- Home of Revd Mark Oxbrow

However you take this Pilgrim Journey, make space. Allow God's word to dwell in you richly as we seek together as a Church to know Jesus better and to become more Christ-like in everything we are and in everything we do.

Archbishops Justin Welby and John Sentamu



Copies of the 'Pilgrim-Journeys: The Beatitudes' will be given out in the Church services on Sunday March 3rd. If you miss them do please ask and we will get a copy into your hands. Donations in the region of £2.50 will enable us to cover costs.

The Little Maid

I've laid out my best shawl and bonnet
My boots I've shone up like the sun
'Cos tomorrow I've got the day off
And I'm going to visit my mum.

Tomorrow is Mothering Sunday
As soon as my tasks are all done
Mistress says I can get away early
So I'll rise before even the sun.

If I get up at five I can do it
Be out of the door before eight
And run all the way to our cottage
I really don't want to be late.

I was fourteen when I first came here
And that was twelve months ago
This is the first time I've been home
It will be just lovely I know.

I wish I had something to take Mum
But a shilling a week's all I get
So I'll pick her a bunch of wild violets
And she'll say "Thank you, my pet".

I'm going to give her my shilling
I'll tuck it up safe in my glove
And tell her to buy a small present
To show her she has all my love.

I expect she'll have made a fruit cake
With almond on top, so delicious!
And she'll meet me and hug me up tight
And cover my face with her kisses.

I'll sit by the fire in our cottage
With no work to do all the day
And perhaps my two little sisters
Will bring out their Ludo to play.

After tea we'll all go to church
And sit in our family row
And I shall be so very happy
Surrounded by people I know.

Then we'll leave and it will be time
To return to the Manor once more.
Dad will give me his arm and whisper
"You'll come back next year that's for sure.

Now be a good girl, serve your mistress
In service you'll learn lots of things"
So I'll wave them goodbye with a tear
And wonder what next year will bring.

Rosanne Butler

ELECTORAL ROLL

2019 is the year (it happens every 6) when all electoral rolls are renewed – not just checked and updated. There will be a COMPLETELY NEW ROLL and EVERYONE who fits the criteria below and wishes to be on it must complete a form.

All persons who wish to have their names entered on the new Roll, whether or not their names are entered on the present Roll, are requested to apply for enrolment on the form available from both churches, the Parish Office and from Lesley Williams, Electoral Roll Officer, to be returned not later than Sunday 17th March.

You will then be entitled to attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting and to take part in its proceedings but of course you can also be added to the Roll at any time during the year.

The new Roll will come into operation on Sunday 7th April

The new Roll will be publically displayed for not less than 14 days for the details to be checked

Under the Church Representation Rules any lay persons are entitled to have their names entered on the roll if they—

- (i) are baptised and aged 16 or over;
- (ii) have signed a form of application for enrolment;

and either

- (iii) are members of the Church of England or of any Church in communion with the Church of England being resident in the parish or (not being resident in the parish) having habitually attended public worship in the parish during the six months prior to the application for enrolment;
or:
- (iv) are members in good standing of a Church (not in communion with the Church of England) which subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity declaring themselves also to be members of the Church of England and having habitually attended public worship in the parish during the period of six months prior to enrolment.

The statutory form gives us solely your name and address. As previously, we ask you to complete a Parish subsidiary pro forma giving us some personal details, to aid our communication with you, including telephone and e-mail address and an emergency contact in case of accident or illness. In line with GDPR (data protection) requirements, all these details are of course held securely and will only be shared with Parish Officers.

SAFEGUARDING IN COWLEY PARISH

SAFEGUARDING IN COWLEY PARISH

As a Parish, we are committed to the Christian care, nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children and all adults but particularly those who are vulnerable.

So we will ensure that our policies and practice on selection and training of those with any responsibility within the Church are in line with safer recruitment principles, including the use of Disclosure and Barring Service criminal records checks where applicable.

We intend that St James and St Francis churches will be safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is a culture of 'informed vigilance' as to the dangers of abuse.

We will challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.

We will follow statute, guidance and recognised good practice in all safeguarding practice and ensure that all users of our premises do so too.

Negotiating dates is in hand for a further C0 and C1 course at St James Centre on a Tuesday evening or Saturday morning during March/April/May for those volunteers who missed them last year or who are new in a Parish role that requires the training. But the two hour sessions are also open to anyone who wishes to access background knowledge and understanding of the subject

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

Lesley Williams 01865 779 562

07982 439 828

safeguard-

ing@cowleyteamministry.co.uk



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From the Archives

JANUARY 1960

SALE OF COWLEY VICARAGE

The price of land continues to soar in Oxford, and this was made clear by the sale of Cowley Vicarage and grounds for £40,000.

What becomes of the money? It will be paid to the Church Commissioners. Part will be used to build the new St. James' House, and to renovate the Vicarage Cottage. The rest will be held as a capital sum. Part of the income will be used to increase the stipend of the Vicar, the income from endowments at present being about £575 per annum.

It is understood that the rest of the income will be paid to the diocese, and some of it may be available for paying assistant clergy.

But the diocesan administrators will have to weigh the needs of other areas, especially new estates, and may decide that this parish, as an established area, is better able than a new estate to raise the money to pay its clergy.

Farmer-Parson

The land was given in the first place for the maintenance of the clergy. Those who remember the Reverend George Moore will know that until his death 31 years ago he used to farm it along with other land built upon in the 1930's. The house was built by Mrs. George Moore. The money can be used only for the housing and payment of clergy, for that was the purpose of the original gifts.

SEPTEMBER 1961

BRIGHTER WINTER AHEAD AT ST. JAMES'

There was, no doubt, a certain charm about the old lighting at St. James' Church - single tungsten electric bulbs hanging on the end of flex.

It was easy though to overlook this charm in the dingy gloom which prevailed any night after dusk, even with all the lights switched on.

However, the fact that some of our lights, notably the one over the pulpit (was this an electric tribute to many departed preachers?), switched themselves on, showed that the wiring needed to be renewed. The time had come.

Many were the discussions over what kind of lighting should be installed, whether it would be appropriate to use newer fluorescent type of installation in so old a building as Cowley Parish Church. In any case, how were we to pay for it?

The latter problem was greatly eased when it was found that we could put towards the cost a £200 bequest to the parish church which had been in the reserves for some time.

Architects assured us that the lighting tubes could be so installed that brightness would prevail without harsh and obviously twentieth-century lines of light being too obvious.

The architects proved to be right. The new lighting is powerful, yet not harsh, and the source not over-obvious.

And the opportunity was taken, during the rewiring, of raising the hanging infra-red heaters to the walls so that the nave of the church is found to be once again, spacious, lofty and un-

cluttered.

And now from ceiling to foundations - or almost. Certainly the foundations and lower walls of the parish church were suffering until recently because of rain water. Instead of running away along the gullies round the walls, it was seeping down through the porous brick channel. Volunteers (we are very grateful to them) with pick, shovel and bare hands, removed the brick channels and a contractor has laid in concrete all around the walls a half-section of drain pipes, (sounds odd, but it is true); and now the rain water whizzes down them to the soak-aways at the east end of the church.

JANUARY 1962

ST. JAMES' PLAN TO AUGMENT CHURCH HEATING

After complaints that St. James' Church was still cold, even after the installation of the new heaters, the management committee decided at their last meeting that some additional heating should be provided in the chancel and the bell-tower, possibly in the form of portable radiators.

It was also decided that the choristers should wear ruffs, which members of the Management Committee offered to donate.

It was reported that the system of road wardens was well in hand in the St. James' area.

There was also a report on the new scheme being used at Children's Church of study leaflets for each child, based on the Sunday's lesson. It felt that if some large notice-board could be used entirely for children's work this would be a great help to the children.

After the meeting, the material for the notice-boards was given by an anonymous donor and the boards are now in place and in continuous use.

News was given of the Horspath Road Sunday School, where there are now over 100 children under eight.

MAY 1962

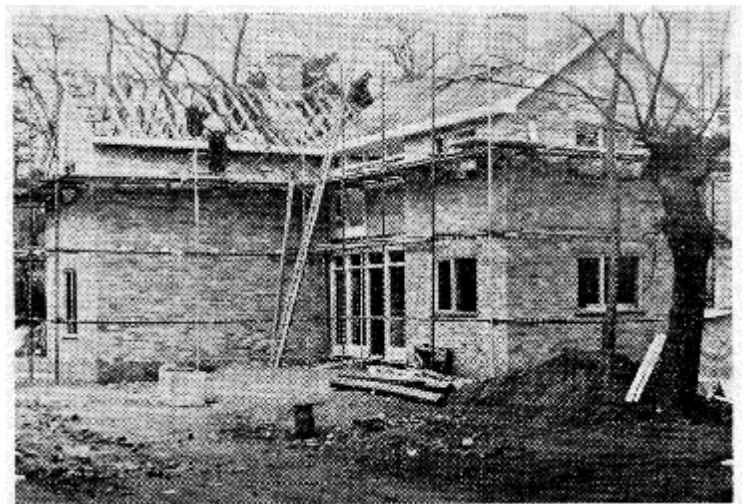
St. James' House, which is being built in the drive of the old vicarage

It is going up fast. Since this photograph was taken the tiles have gone on. It is going to be a fine house surrounded by many lovely trees.

As you go in through the front door, you will enter a spacious hall, warmed in winter, where it will be possible to sit and wait in comfort. To the right, nearest Beauchamp Lane, is the fair-sized study.

To the left of the front door, off the hall, is a glass door behind which the life of the family can go on undisturbed. Father and Mrs. Norton will be moving in as soon as it is finished.

Researched by Les Hemsworth



REPORT FROM THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

The PCC met on the 24 February 2019. The main reason for this meeting was to go through the 2018 accounts in detail and agree that they should be inspected and agreed ready for the Annual Meetings. Joan Coleman puts a lot of work into this. She presents the report, gives the background to different items, and answers many questions from PCC members. The reports were accepted and PCC members agreed that they should be sent for inspection.

The PCC also discussed the following:

- ∅ Parish Giving Scheme: The Parish is being encouraged to introduce this and you may well find people talking to you about this, or paperwork being circulated.
- ∅ The usefulness of a coin sorting machine – there is one at St Francis Church which is regarded as very useful, and this is going to be borrowed by St James to see whether they would find it as useful.
- ∅ Lettings: We have agreed letting conditions and lettings at both St James Church Centre and St Francis Church are increasing. We have been finding that sometimes people do not read the conditions thoroughly and problems occur, so the arrangements are being reviewed and strengthened to overcome this.
- ∅ The work of the Ministry Team is reviewed at every meeting, and Gemma Beesley informed the meeting that she is starting a preaching module and will be asking for feedback. Watch out for more information in the churches.
- ∅ A Bishop's Mission Order for St Ebbe's Cowley Congregation plant
- ∅ A Bishop's Mission Order for the Anglican Asian Living Church.
- ∅ Data Protection
- ∅ Safeguarding

Parish Logo

For the last eighteen months, the following logo has been used on documents and headed paper – its use is kept under review at regular intervals:



St Francis:

- ∅ HIVE has been installed to allow better control of the heating – HIVE allows control without going to the building and its use is corrected weekly against bookings which have been made.
- ∅ A digital projection scheme has been trialled and the Church Committee has asked that an application is made for a Faculty to allow a permanent scheme. The PCC endorsed this request, so the paperwork will be prepared.

St James:

- ∅ A feasibility study has been undertaken for the provision of a toilet and handrail at the south door. This will be discussed further by the Church Committee.
- ∅ Digital Projection: Estimates are being obtained for a permanent scheme at St James. Once a scheme is prepared and costed, a Faculty will be requested.
- ∅ The refurbishment of the floor in the main hall has been completed and has improved the appearance of the hall considerably
- ∅ There have been drainage problems caused by tree roots
- ∅ The continued siting of the CEF Portacabin at the back of the church is still awaiting Diocesan permission
- ∅ Wi-Fi has been installed, and HIVE (to allow better control over the heating) is due to be installed in January.

St James:

- ∅ The PCC agreed to apply for a Faculty to allow the Ox and Bucks Light Infantry Memorial to be placed in the church
- ∅ Provision of toilet/handrail at south door – the result of a feasibility study is awaited.
- ∅ Digital Projection – estimates are being obtained on various schemes to allow further consideration
- ∅ The estimate for the repairs to the bells was accepted by the PCC

Another reminder – please do come to the Annual Meetings. The dates are in Dates to Remember and notices will soon appear in the church buildings.

Sally Hemsworth
PCC Secretary



BIBLE SOCIETY 'MORE THAN A BOOK' REGISTRATION

If you order anything on line or by phone from the Bible Society, please use the unique Parish reference number 12044 *or* select the 'Parish of Cowley' from the drop down menu when placing an order and we will benefit from the 'More than a book' cash back scheme. It's that easy! We earned £8 from an 'Open the Book' resources order,

Do look at the on line shop – Bibles, prayer books, cards, courses, fiction, dvds etc.

<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/products/>

PILGRIMAGE TRIP

As many of you will know already, back in February I had the great joys of joining my college, St Mellitus, on pilgrimage trip to Israel. It was an opportunity to visit the places Jesus lived and ministered in, but also to meet the Palestinians and Jews living there and get some insight into life in the Holy Land in modern times.

It was a very busy time and in one sense this report would not do justice to what I did see and encountered out there - it was a week of full on days and when I came home, I joked that I needed another holiday to recover from what we did out there.

I had an amazing trip and the memories will stay with me throughout my life and ministry. One highlight was going to the Wailing Wall. This is an ancient and historical place of worship for the Jews, and a place that Jesus would have seen from outside the Wailing Wall, as it was part of Herod's palace and was connected to the Jewish temple.



I had the opportunity to go there on the sabbath, the Jewish holy day, and join in prayer with many Jewish people praying on that wall. It reminded me of a vision that Paul gave in the New Testament of Christians and Jews in the temple praying and worshipping God together. In this beautiful place in Israel, amid all the violence and unrest, we experienced that night a moment of peace and unity, as we worshipped together.

Another highlight was when I went up to the place from where Jesus ascended to Heaven. This is a place that Christians and Muslims share as a holy site. In the weeks leading up to the time of Ascension, Christians camp out in the church and near the end of the week the Muslims go and worship as well at the site as part of one of their religious festivals. This was another wonderful image of unity, two faiths sharing a common site which held religious significance for both.



I visited what I think must be one of the finest places on Earth, where the gap between heaven and earth is the thinnest. This is around Lake Galilee, where I sat on the beach which it is believed that Jesus encountered his disciples after Easter and shared a barbeque on the beach. Additionally, this is the lake where Jesus walked on water and calmed the

storm. I was reminded on my visit here, of the peace that Jesus brings into our hearts. I hope and pray that the peace of Jesus will be poured out on this land that has known so much violence and so much hurt. I also pray that people will not see the divisions, but actually the things that unite us, such as the Wailing Wall and the site of Jesus' ascension. And may we also, in our daily lives, seek Jesus' peace, and endeavour through Christ to find unity and common ground with our brothers and sisters, in this community and beyond.

David Benskin



Cowley Women's Institute

Going out for a cream tea in February was a resounding success. What more could you ask for than taking the opportunity to catch up with friends over delicious food?

Still fearing we may get some wintery weather in March, we are going to stay close to home for our next outing. We are going to treat ourselves to a visit to St Mary's Church, Oxford followed by cake, coffee and chat.

We learnt all about the Shipton-on-Cherwell Railway disaster Xmas Eve 1874 at our February meeting. It is always fascinating to hear more about our local history.

We shall be reflecting on our past year at our Annual Meeting in March and vote in our committee and President. We will also be having an Energy Saving presentation given by the CAB.

Our WI meets monthly on the third Wednesday of each month. We meet from 2pm – 4:00pm in St James Church Centre. If any woman is interested in joining us, we would love to meet you, so please come to a meeting to find out more.

Sarah Lawrence, Secretary to Cowley WI
cowleywi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk

Spring awakening...

Reading "From the Archives" of over 20 years ago in February's Chronicle, I remember my failure to follow up on the idea of creating a wildflower meadow in St James' churchyard. I was teaching full-time (and full-on!) at the time so it fell by the wayside.

I did make an enclosure with canes and string in the area lacking in headstones which is now newly in use for the burial of ashes. It was very disappointing floristically in the grassy space. We had one ox-eye daisy plant and nothing else of note so I didn't follow up. There was an idea of creating a nature trail around the churchyard but that never got off the ground.

We do have the early show of the yellow winter aconites, purple crocus and our snowdrops. There is some thought that snowdrops may be native in the far south west of Britain but aconites and crocus are not native to Britain. Certainly each of these plants have originally been planted on graves and many churchyards across the country have snowdrops growing in them as well as in innumerable gardens. They often show the position of long demolished dwellings. They have been loved as a sign of Spring and new beginnings for centuries. One name for the snowdrop is "snow-piercer" as the leaves are strong enough to grow through a covering of snow.

In 2017 and again last year, some of us braved cold and rain and began to distribute the snowdrops more widely in our "God's Acre". As the flowers fade, there are over-

crowded clumps that can be split and transplanted elsewhere and it is the best time to do this. We previously had no plants alongside the path from Beauchamp Lane to the porch and very few on the right hand side of the path leading to Church Hill Road. There are still loads of places where we can plant more and I propose to have another go this year.

Back home in my Staffordshire village, there are few snowdrops but the real beauty comes later in the form of swathes of wild daffodils or lent lilies. They are a gorgeous sight to see being quite short and the petals, around the trumpet, being a paler yellow. They are now restricted to the churchyard but my father remembered more along hedges and into fields around the village. They have succumbed to modern farming methods but the churchyard ones are still flourishing albeit suffering the tidiness epidemic in those that cut the grass! Also to be found are the delicate blue harebells and fox and cubs, a tawny-orange daisy.

I was saddened to see the eventual demise of the almond tree in the High Street. I always made an effort to glory in its beautiful abundant pink blossom. We do, however, have one here in Cowley in the corner of the grounds of St. Luke's near the traffic lights. I shall keep my eye on it to herald yet another Spring.

Joan Coleman

DIARY DATES TO REMEMBER

Mothers' Union

Monthly Meeting on 3rd Monday of month
from 2.15 pm

18 March 2019 – Reflective afternoon for Lent
led by the Revd Gemma Beesley
St James Church Centre

Women's Institute

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

20 March 2019 – Annual Meeting and
Presentation on Energy Saving
St James Church Centre

Gardening

Last Saturday of the month – Gardening at St
James Church/St James Church Centre

Film Club

Friday, 8 March 2019 – “The Big Country”
St James Church Centre, commencing at 6.30
pm with coffee and cake

Lenten Super Soup Lunches for Christian Aid
Sunday, 3 March 2019, 12 noon at St Francis
Church

Sunday, 17 March 2019, 12 noon at St James
Church Centre

Parish Walk

Monday, 4 March 2019

Monday, 18 March 2019

Details of the walk to be announced in The Link

Sunday Lunch

Sunday, 24 March 2019, 12.30 pm

St James Church Centre

Parochial Church Council (if necessary)

Sunday, 24 March 2019 at 12.30 pm

St James Church Centre

Parish Mission and Social Planning

Monday, 1 April 2019, at 7.30 pm

88 Temple Road

St Francis Annual Congregational Meeting
(with lunch)

Sunday, 7 April 2019, at 12 noon

St Francis Church

Sunday Lunch

7 April 2019, at 12.30 pm

St James Church Centre

St James Annual Congregational meeting

Sunday, 14 April 2019, at 12 noon

St James Church Centre

Maundy Thursday Fellowship Supper

+ Holly Communion + prayer vigil

Thursday, 18 April 2019

St James Church

Messy Church

Good Friday, 19 April 2019 10 – 11.30 am
Venue to be fixed

Moonrakers Concert

Friday, 26 April 2019, at 7.30 pm

St James Church

Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday, 28 April 2019, at 12 noon

St James Church Centre

REMEMBER: Tuesday lunches at St James
Church Centre from 12.30 pm

CHRISTIAN AID 2019



SUPER SOUP LENTEN LUNCHES:

After church on:

Sunday 3 March at St Francis (*so that is actually pre-Lent and will be happening the day that many of you read this*)

Sunday 17 March at St James

Enjoy a simple Sunday lunch of home-made soups – french bread – cheese – fresh fruit and donate to Christian Aid

There will be a list to sign for the event at St James in order to gauge how many pans of soup to make..... but don't worry if you fail to sign it – just come!

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK: Sunday 12 – Saturday 18 May

New fundraising ideas are encouraged – let's do something *really* different to impact on Cowley..... *suggestions needed please*

but it will definitely include a Big Brekkie, which may will be a Big Brunch and possibly outdoors or at Templars Square

QUIZ AID: Friday 28 June 7:00 pm St James Centre



SUPER SOUP LUNCH
Sunday 3 March St Francis
Sunday 17 March St James
12:15 *donations*

The image is a promotional graphic for the Super Soup Lunch. It features the Christian Aid logo at the top, a collage of four photos showing different soups and breads, and a red box at the bottom with white text providing the event details.

CHRONICLE

Editorial Team- Sally Hemsworth, Nicki Stevens

Deadline for the next edition:

Monday 25 March 2019

If possible, please send entries by email to Sally at

chronicle@cowleyteamministry.co.uk.

Paper contributions should be left at Parish Office for the attention of Sally.

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

A Thank You from the Archway Foundation



As part of our Mission Giving for 2018, £220 was sent to the Archway Foundation which, they answered “will be translated into practical action to bring much needed relief from the pain of loneliness”.

They go on to say that “in addition to our weekly supportive social groups we provide a one-to-one befriending service for those whose physical, and or mental health prevents them from getting out even with the offer of subsidised transport. It is not unusual for us to encounter individuals who have not left the house for years and yet with the regular commitment of an accepting, non-judgemental Archway volunteer and patiently listening and spending time with someone, we have the privilege of witnessing what might appear to be minor achievements but for some are huge steps.”

One comment: “Since being visited regularly by K, I am able to do things I wouldn’t do on my own. I feel more confident about myself and it’s made my life so much better.”

GARDENING PARTY

HELP REQUIRED – COME AND BOOST THE NUMBERS
LOOKING AFTER THE AREA AROUND ST JAMES CHURCH
AND ST JAMES CHURCH CENTRE.

LAST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH (EXCEPT DECEMBER) –
9.30 AM ONWARDS AT ST. JAMES CHURCH CENTRE.

Come and have fun, fresh air and exercise as we prepare the St. James Church Centre garden for another beautiful spring and summer showing. If possible bring your own tools but I be available. Both heavy and light work available plus coffee and cake.



UNA'S CORNER

Memories

My baby brother who will be 75 on Friday is to be a great grandfather. It suddenly occurred to me that would make me great-great aunt! Of course I then realised my baby brother had been a great-great uncle ever since I had been a great grandmother. I was horrified it sounds so very old. I remember when my brother was born, I was nearly seven and scared stiff. He was born at home. I was innocent as we were all those years ago. I remember my elder brother was dispatched to fetch my grandmother so I was alone downstairs for a little while. My father poked his head round the door and said the nurse had on her bicycle a basket and a saddlebag - did I think that meant twins. I remember my elder brother and I being taken upstairs to see our baby brother. He was in a cot and to us he looked yellow and not very attractive, and we went round the bed to kiss our mother. We said he looked Chinese - my poor mother after all she had been through that's all we had to say. Of course in those days women had no idea how the babies were born, consequently they fought against the pain instead of going with it and nowadays a seven-year-old would know far more than I did. Anyway that yellow looking baby is about to become a great-grandfather.

I remember when I was very small being

taken to see my great-great aunt Ada. It must have been in the war. Ada lived fairly close, I remember a little old lady rather bent and very small. I do not know where she fits in my family tree, whether she was on my father's or my mother's side of the family. My younger brother is trying to re-search the family but it's pretty hopeless as my paternal family are called Smith.

Somehow I don't see myself as looking like great-great aunt Ada. The world has changed very much in my life time and somehow little old ladies don't really exist in the way they used to. We are much more active at least most of us are. I think I qualify for being an old lady but I do try to stand straight and keep my shoulders back, that is of course when I am not in a wheelchair or in my recliner chair. I do various things around the house. I don't just sit around all day long I keep busy.

I was the middle child between two brothers. Roy was 5 years older than I and Ian seven years younger. We always knew that Ian was a mistake but he was much loved. As you will realise there are 12 years between my brothers which is a long time when you are young. Roy was old enough to babysit Ian after a couple of years so Roy and I were downstairs while Ian was sleeping. Ian remembers all the instructions we were given before we were left. My nephew

Kevin, Roy's son, was left alone for about half an hour. I can't quite remember why. He was about 12 and was given a long lecture about not opening the front door, not doing this not doing that. When they came home he told them someone had called selling stuff.

"How'd you know", they said, "we told you not to open the front door". "I didn't", he said, "I went out of the back door and up the sideway to see who it was. Honest I didn't open the front door." His parents were horrified. Talking of front doors, I remember Simon as a little boy standing beside me when I opened the door to the insurance man. I was signing the book and Simon said would you like a nice cup of tea. Not really what you say to an insurance man but the child was so use to me offering people tea he thought that it was said to everybody.

Still talking of children. When my husband was dying and bedridden, his grandson Dean stood on a stool and very carefully shaved his grandfather with an electric razor. His tongue was between his lips during the whole operation but he did shave his grandfather beautifully, he made very good job of it.

I seem to be jumping generations. I don't suppose many men nowadays shave with brush, soap and a razor. Of course even in my day there were safety razors. It must have been much more interesting when they used open blades. It was one of the treats when we were allowed to watch daddy shave.

I remember another night when there was a noise in the boys' bedroom. My elder brother had his young brother in his arms and was hanging out the window preparing to drop Ian onto the concrete below. My parents pulled him away and took my young brother away from him and led him to his bed. He had been sleepwalking. My mother spent the rest of that night in the boys' bedroom terrified to leave them. I believe she consulted a doctor who said it was a one-off because Ian had annoyed Roy the evening before. Roy had a large poster on his wall of the film star scantily dressed but decent lounging on a couch. Ian used to have his cot in my room but when he had a bed he went in with Roy. He objected to that poster and said it kept him awake to see that horrible woman watching him. There was a terrific argument. Roy liked the poster, it was his bedroom and he wanted it but I'm afraid my young brother got his way. The poster was taken down. The doctor thought Roy was dreaming and in his sleep wanted to get Ian out of his room so he was sleepwalking trying to throw Ian out of the window. At the time I cheered him on but I did get into trouble for that.

I think you must believe I come from a very strange family. I do not think we were - it was just the timespan five years between Roy and me with seven years between myself and Ian which makes 12 years between the boys which is a lot and both Roy and I resented Ian's appearance.

SUNDAY SERVICES

ST JAMES CHURCH, BEAUCHAMP LANE

8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Sung Eucharist
1.45pm Anglican Asian Living Church
Sunday Lunch – the date varies so watch for notices

ST FRANCIS CHURCH, HOLLOW WAY

10.30am Parish Eucharist
1st Sunday All Age bring n/share lunch

MID-WEEK SERVICES & MEETINGS

Morning Prayer	7.45am	Tue, Wed, Thu, Sat at St James; Mon at St Francis
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—Ranklin Room, St James Church Centre
	12.30pm	Tuesday Lunch Club— St James
Thursday	7.30pm	Local House of Prayer, St James

HOME GROUPS

Leader	Time/Venue
Friends of St Francis (Katherine Reed)	2nd & 4th Tuesday afternoons at 2.30pm St Francis Church
Geoff Bayliss	Alternate Wednesdays at 10am St James Church Centre, Ranklin Room
Mark Oxbrow	Alternate Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm Mark's home, 13 Annesley Road (just behind the Rose Hill Coop). Enquiries to Mark at 01865 461953
Rosanne Butler	Alternate Thursday mornings at 10.00am St James Church Centre, Ranklin Room

The Parish Office in St James Church Centre is staffed by volunteers and is not covered continually. Please leave a message and someone will get back to you.

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