



Apply now for right to remain in UK – Citizens Advice

If you are a European Union citizen living or working in the UK, you might be wondering what will happen when the United Kingdom leaves the EU and what you should do so that you have the right to remain in this country.

The government has set up a programme called the EU Settlement Scheme which is intended for you. There is no charge for applying to this scheme. Citizens of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland can also apply. It is important that you apply NOW, without waiting until the UK actually leaves. You can begin the process here: <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families/applying-for-settled-status>

If your application is successful you will be able to continue living in the UK after 30 June 2021. You will also have the right to work in the UK, use the National Health Service, get access to benefits and pensions if you are eligible, and travel in and out of the country. There is more information about your rights on the government website.

The new deadline for the UK to leave the EU is 31 January 2020 but it is still unclear exactly how it will take place, especially in view of the general election in December. If the UK leaves the EU without a deal, you will need to be living in the UK BEFORE it leaves the EU in order to apply.

Check the Citizens Advice website at: <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/immigration/staying-in-the-uk-after-brexit>

South Oxfordshire District Council also has up-to-date advice on www.southoxon.gov.uk/brexit

You can visit Citizens Advice in person or call us on Adviceline (0300 330 9042). For locations of offices and opening hours see www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale

PERSONNALLY SPEAKING

A note from Chloe Clark:

“Some people may/may not know that I have a condition called Ankylosing Spondylitis. It's a progressive type of arthritis from the auto immune family of arthritis. I am on a lot of medications including one that I inject which is an immunosuppressants so my immune system is very low and I catch infections very easily. I need to be careful with the risk of infection. I've had nine respiratory infections this year and cannot clear these without antibiotics.

“I don't wish to offend anyone if I don't touch hands during the peace. I want to share the peace with everyone but not by touching hands during the peace. I do hope you understand.”

COWLEY FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS TREES 2019



**Cowley festival
of Christmas trees**

St James Church
Beauchamp Lane OX4 3LF
14 – 22 December 2019

music – crafts – refreshments – trails
adults : £2.50 family : £4.00 under 14s : free

fundraising for : **ROSY & SeeSaw**
www.cowleyteamministry.co.uk

**Cowley festival of Christmas trees
'Cowley United'**

festival open

Saturday 14 & 21	10:00 – 4:00
Sunday 15 & 22	2:00 – 4:00
Wednesday 18	6:30 – 9:00

and also

Saturday 14	10:00	tree decorating at Templars Square
	7:30	concert with Jubilee Brass
Sunday 15	10:00	Christingle service
	2:30	pop-up singing workshop
Wednesday 18	7:00	Rising Voices & other choirs
Saturday 21	10:30	Messy Church - Christmas party
Sunday 22	4:30	carols by candlelight




**COWLEY FESTIVAL OF
CHRISTMAS TREES 2019**



Jubilee Brass (Oxford) Band

Jubilee Brass

Saturday 14 December 7:30pm
St James Church
Beauchamp Lane, Cowley, OX4 3LF

fundraising for



TICKETS : £10
cash or cheque payable to Cowley (Oxford) PCC
on line www.eventbrite.co.uk/ctf-jubilee-brass
: FREE for children and full time students

ENQUIRIES : Lesley Williams 07982 439 828
ctf@cowleyteamministry.co.uk




**We are celebrating
'Cowley United'**

at the Christmas tree festival
in St James Church
Beauchamp Lane, OX4 3LF
December 14th to 22nd

what tells
the story of
Cowley
United for
you?

write -
draw - photo
knit - verse
your
uniting story

drop it off at or post it to :
St James Centre
13 Beauchamp Lane OX4 3LF
or email : ctf@cowleyteamministry.co.uk
www.cowleyteamministry.co.uk



Friday 13 - Sunday 22 December
with the theme COWLEY UNITED – celebrating community life in Cowley fundraising for
ROSY and SeeSaw

Friday, 13 December	5:30 – 6:30	Opening reception for all participants and invited guests
Saturday, 14 December	7:30 – 9:00	Jubilee Brass Concert
Sunday, 15 December	10:00, 10:30 services 2:30	Parish Christingle Pop-up singing workshop
Saturday, 21 December	10:30 – 12:00	Messy Church Christmas Party
Sunday, 22 December	4:30	Carol Service



Festival open:

<i>Saturday 14 , Saturday 21</i>	<i>10.00-4:00</i>
<i>Sunday 15, Sunday 22</i>	<i>2.00-4:00</i>
<i>Wednesday 18 December</i>	<i>6:30-9:00</i>

Of course, we can't open without volunteers to be welcomers and stewards – there are lists to sign up for that – or just contact Lesley and say when you would like to help

Whilst not planning to open during the weekdays, we can of course do so for any groups or schools wanting to visit – and we will provide a festive tea!

..... for which another request/volunteering opportunity: we love to offer Christmas biscuits - stars or Christmas trees or just iced – and Christmas cake, mince pies, stollen etc. – donations therefore invited

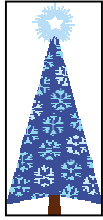
AND ALSO

Get in the picture – Saturday 14 December – all day at Templars Square with a Christmas tree to decorate.

The advertising cards are available now to take for friends and family and to deliver to every home in the Parish, starting in the w/b 25th November, along with the Parish Christmas services invitation cards. Special thanks to Les Hemsworth who counted and bundled every *single card*, including 45 bundles of 30 for the classes and staff in our three Parish schools.

Please take as many as you can manage over the weeks beginning 24 November, 1 & 8 December – young people are very welcome to join in! and working as a pair makes the delivery more fun. Remember to pray for each household as you pop the cards through the letterbox! And if you are visiting any community or leisure centres where cards could be left, please ask for a pile.

Tickets for the Festival Jubilee Brass concert on Saturday 14th December are now available or you can book on line with Ticketbrite, if that's your preferred way (www.ticketbrite.co.uk).



Jubilee Brass (Oxford) Band

The band was formed in 1977, the year of the Queen's Silver Jubilee, by Ken Membury. The band has become established locally in Cowley and the wider Oxford area, performing at many local events to raise funds and to support local charities. Over the years the band has enjoyed many concert tours to North Wales, Cornwall, Holland, Germany and Malta. Jubilee Brass also takes part in local and national brass band contests, 2014 being the most successful year to date, winning the 4th section of the local ODBBA contest and winning the London & Southern counties area 4th section contest. That year also saw the band take part in the West of England Brass Band contest in Cornwall, where they gained 3rd place in one section and 1st in another. The band members are looking forward to playing at the Cowley festival of Christmas trees concert, on Saturday 14 December. They will entertain us a range of favourite music from their repertoire, including, of course, a seasonal selection - and we will get a chance to sing!

Clifford Sadler – Musical Director

Clifford started with brass bands in the junior band at the City of Oxford Silver Band in the late 1960's. He went on to have a very successful time with championship section bands including Halls Oxford Concert Brass and Hanwell, which included several appearances at the National Finals at the Royal Albert Hall. He spent 27 years with the Royal Green Jackets Waterloo Band & Bugles (now The Rifles) Territorial Army both as player and deputising for the Director of Music on various occasions.

Cliff brings his own unique style of conducting and sense of humour to the conductor's rostrum which the band enjoys and is becoming very successful, having recently guided the band to winning the 4th Section at the London & Southern Counties Regional contest and gaining promotion to the 3rd Section.

If you would be interested in coming along to the band, all players and ages are very welcome. Contact Clifford via email: jubileebrassoxford@gmail.com for further information.

At the time of publication, we would still love to have more trees promised: details of how to enter a tree – a real or artificial one or a non-tree creation – as an individual, family, group, school, business - are available now from Lesley Williams.

There is also a Sponsorship invitation, should you know of any generous businesses.

Not so much a competition: just a display at the festival, in the entry porch to the church : please tell us what 'COWLEY UNITED' means to you – with a picture or photo or poem or story and hand it in at church or St James Centre or email it to ctf@cowleyteamministry.co.uk – by Wednesday 11 December or bring it along to the festival

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



You are invited to come to a Messy Church Party to celebrate

Christmas

crafts toys games story
songs

All ages are welcome

at St James' Church
Beauchamp Lane, Cowley, OX4 3LF
Saturday 21st December
10.30am – 12 noon

We will be in the church amongst all the festival Christmas trees

For more details contact:
Mary Bayliss 01865 778 596 m.bayliss41@btinternet.com
or contact the Cowley Parish Church Office 01865 747 680

COWLEY HISTORY GROUP

At The Venue
242b, Barns Road
Cowley, OX4 3RQ

OUR CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

6.45pm to 8.45pm
£2.00 on the Door

Wednesday 18 December

FREE refreshments,
Mince Pies, Sausage
Rolls etc.,

WITH
LIVE MUSIC
FROM THE
COWLEY
UKULELES



FREE Raffle Prizes with door entry
www.cowleyhistorygroup.co.uk
Email: cowleyhistorygroup@yahoo.com
Call: 073 92 60 60 40
For further information

THE INCOMPARABLE CHRIST

More than two thousand years ago there was a man born contrary to the laws of life.

This man lived in poverty and was reared in obscurity. He received no formal education and never possessed wealth or wide-spread influence.

He never travelled extensively. He only once crossed the boundary of the country in which He lived.

But this man's life has changed the course of history.

In infancy He startled a king; in childhood He puzzled doctors; in manhood He ruled the course of nature, walked upon the waves, and hushed the sea to sleep.

He healed the multitudes without medicine and made no charge for His services.

He never wrote a book. Yet His life has inspired more books than any other man.

He never wrote a song. Yet He has furnished the theme for more songs than all songwriters combined.

He never founded a college. But all the schools put together cannot boast of having as many students.

He never marshalled an army, nor drafted a soldier, nor fired a gun. Yet no leader ever had more rebels surrender to Him without a shot fired.

He never practised psychiatry. Yet He has healed more broken hearts than all the doctors far and near.

Once each week the wheels of commerce cease their turning and multitudes gather to pay homage and respect to Him.

Though time has spread two thousand years between the people of this generation and His birth, He still lives. His enemies could not destroy him, and the grave could not hold Him.

This man stands forth upon the highest pinnacle of heavenly glory, proclaimed of God, acknowledged by angels, adored by his people, and feared by devils, as the risen Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

"God also hath highly exalted Him (Jesus Christ), and given Him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:9-11).

"If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved" (Romans 10:9)

UNITED COWLEY

Have you ever had a so-called “light-bulb moment”? Well they don’t come round very often but a couple of weeks ago whilst thinking about our Christmas Tree Festival theme one came to me. I suddenly thought “Yes! That’s got to be it!!” And I decided I’d like to share it with you.

I was walking away from Templars Square past Wilko’s with the Co-op on my left when for some inexplicable reason I stopped and looked (properly) at the wonderful mosaic mural which has been there almost since Cowley Centre was built.

I have admired it before as a beautiful work of art – one of Cowley’s hidden gems – but it suddenly struck me that everything depicted on that mural is exactly what unites us all. It is our wonderful heritage.

It starts with the date when Saxon Cowley got its name, Cufa’s Lee and traces our history throughout the years right up to a dear little bright mini. It is all there - our close connection to the University, especially our former landlords, Christ Church, our agricultural heritage depicted by a fine Oxfordshire hay wagon, our first industry, the steam plough company right up to our proud car production. And there’s more. Why not go and see what you can find?

Yes, it’s our proud heritage that unites us and I really hope that our Christmas Tree Festival manages to reflect it.

Rosanne Butler

Prayer Space

A prayer for Advent:

Our heavenly Father, as once again we
prepare for Christmas,
help us to find time in our busy lives for
quiet and thought and prayers that we
may wonder at your love for us and allow
the story of the Saviour’s birth to
penetrate our hearts and minds. So may
our joy be deeper, our worship more real,
and our lives worthier of all that you have
done for us through the coming of your
Son, Jesus Christ our Lord

From Contemporary Parish Prayers
Ed. Frank Colquhoun

A prayer for Christmas:

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descent to us we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in;
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad Tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel.

From: “O little town of Bethlehem”
Phillips Brooks (1835-83)

HOW TO PRAY FOR THIS GENERAL ELECTION



(A Presidential Address to the Oxford Diocesan Synod on Saturday 16 November. Update: A pastoral letter was sent to the Church of England by the Archbishops on 19 November: "It's time to leave our echo chambers and listen to others.")

My title for this address is *How to Pray for this General Election* – by which I mean how to pray for the renewal of our political life in our nation at this present time. This may seem a foolish or foolhardy topic to address. Foolish because, of course, Christians already know how to pray. Foolhardy because saying anything in the present political climate might be instantly taken hostage. My inner Sergeant Wilson has been rising-up all week and asking: "Do you really think that's wise?"

But these are unusual times, and I do not believe silence is an option. There are things that need to be said and done to address the turmoil in which we find ourselves. It's not my purpose to tell anyone how to vote or to be party political. The Church has a responsibility to pray for our Government and our nation in the best of times and in the worst of times. But how should we then pray?

Over recent months, friends and colleagues on different sides in Parliament have in all seriousness asked me to pray for them and our Government. So great is the rising tide of desperation, the sense that we are running out of answers, the sense of paralysis at the heart of national life. Those requests are sincerely made, and I want to respond to them: hence the need to give thought to how we pray. So how might we set about that task especially in this Advent season?

Simple physical symbols help me to pray. This week I took a piece of rope. I placed six knots in the rope because I believe there are six different dimensions to our prayers for this election. Each morning until we have a new Government and possibly beyond, I intend to pray through this sequence for the life of our nation, for a new Government, for positive ways forward and the renewal of our political life.

I share these six movements with you as a resource for your discipleship and ministry. You may like to make your own rope or fashion your own patterns. The inspiration for all six comes from the Book of Psalms, not just from the verses I will share with you but the pattern of prayer which is caught by the Psalms and which stands at the heart of the prayer life of the Church worldwide. The six movements are praise, lament, thanksgiving, intercession, discernment and stillness.

Praise

Our prayers must always begin with the praise of God: we cannot rightly pray until we have brought to mind the greatness and the sovereignty and the majesty of God. We cannot pray for our human politics until we have them in the right perspective in the context of God, our creator and redeemer.

God is our refuge and our strength, a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. Psalm 46.1-3

I often come to prayer, having listened to the news or looked at the paper with my mind full of the politics of the day. Before I can pray, I need to lift my eyes and catch a vision of God as creator, God who is above and beyond all I can imagine, God who is there generation after generation, the God of stability and power and love, our Father in heaven, hallowed be his name. This God is the one we worship, who calls us to pray, to whom the inhabitants of the earth are like grasshoppers as Isaiah says. From eternity to eternity, God is God. God is our rock, our fortress, our perspective and our strength. As my mind catches a vision of God's majesty, so I take the first step in praying for human power and authority and good government.

Those of us called to preach and to pray in public during this Advent and Christmas season have the challenge of setting before the nation a fresh vision of God and of the kingdom of God and the story of God's salvation. That seems to me to be more important, not less in a time of uncertainty. In seasons of earthly turmoil, our society needs a heavenly vision of God's sovereignty and justice and peace, of God's majesty incarnate in the Christ Child, of Christian hope for this world and the next, of God's justice and care for the poorest, of peace and reconciliation and purpose, of God's love for each person in creation. As our nation comes to the end of its resources, so as the Church we need to have courage to unfold the resources of God.

By the grace of God, hundreds of thousands of children and adults will come to worship in our churches over these coming weeks. May each of them catch a fresh vision of eternity and God's majesty, sovereignty and love.

Lament

The second movement of my prayer is towards that other great theme of the Psalms, to lamentation. Blessed are those who mourn, says Jesus, for they shall be comforted. We pray your kingdom come because there is so much still to be set right in God's world.

Help O Lord for there is no longer anyone who is godly; the faithful have disappeared from humankind. They utter lies to each other; with flattering lips and a double heart they speak. Psalm 12.1-2.

Those are the opening verses of Psalm 12, but they could be from scores of other Psalms. At the heart of the scriptures, we do not have a book of intercessory prayers. We have a text composed in almost equal parts of praise and lamentation: we are in sorrow for the pain and turmoil in the world.

There is much that we need to lament together as we move through this General Election. Although we might all name different things, there are elements which reasonable people of every political party would hold in common.

I lament and grieve the hate speech and the death threats which have become a regular part of the life and experience of our politicians, especially women. I lament and grieve still that in the last General Election campaign, one of our MPs, Jo Cox, was murdered on the streets of her constituency. I lament and grieve the racism which insinuates itself into the politics of left and right. I lament, and I name the fear of antisemitism which has caused one of our Rabbis in the Diocese to speak out. I lament and name the fear of Islamophobia which concerns many in the Muslim community.

I lament the plight of the earth and the effects of climate change globally and throughout the United Kingdom, and the suffering caused by floods this week in my former diocese. I lament the lack of energy and resource invested in education and health. I lament the mental health crisis in our nation, especially among the young. I grieve at the prospect of further division in our relationships with Europe and within the United Kingdom. I lament at the inequalities in our nation and long for the poorest to be protected and wrongs to be set right. I grieve that truth is such a casualty of political life on all sides of the debate.

Naming what is wrong to God is a powerful pathway of prayer. We lament without being partisan, without laying blame at the door of individuals. We acknowledge what is wrong, we lay injustice before God, we are angry, and we weep in order to carry that anger and sorrow into the rest of our prayer and our lives.

Thanksgiving

My third movement of prayer is thanksgiving. From Psalm 92:

It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to your name, O Most High; to declare your steadfast love in the morning and your faithfulness by night. Psalm 92.1-2

There is much that is wrong, but there is much for which we need to give thanks. For politicians and people of goodwill on every side of the political debate who give their whole lives in the cause of good leadership and government. For good local MP's and candidates. For dedicated civil servants. For the rule of law which is respected. For sincere and open debate whenever it happens. For the privilege of living in a democracy. For the resources our nation can apply to good government here and elsewhere. For the leadership we are still able to offer to the world. Our situation is serious, but we must not swallow the lie in our prayers or our lives that we are without hope and a future.

The Psalms are such a gift to us. So often we come to our prayers disorientated, overwhelmed and confused. We remember who God is; we name our griefs and sorrows, we begin to feel solid ground under our feet, a re-orientation, a strengthening for the task before us.

Intercession

And we find the strength for the fourth movement of our prayer: intercession. From Psalm 90:

Turn, O LORD! How long? Have compassion on your servants! Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. Psalm 90.13-14.

I find it easier to pray when I come to intercession via praise and lament and thanksgiving. I have a clearer vision of God, a more accurate picture of the world and some signs of light and hope.

I find myself praying that people will participate in the election and will vote. I find myself

praying that the election will not be about a single issue nor the potential prime ministers but a serious appraisal of policies. I pray for a Government which can offer leadership for a five-year parliament. I pray for the formation of that Government's policy on the environment, for the encouragement and regulation of technology, for pathways to reconciliation, for the care of the most vulnerable, for our influence on the world for good.

No party and no politician is perfect. Democracy is often about compromise and choosing the least bad option. So I pray for an electorate that can make informed and responsible choices for a way forward for our country and for politicians of wisdom and character who can listen and find good, practical pathways forward. I pray for moderation, kindness and mutual respect in political debate.

You might think then with this fourth movement that our prayer is finished. There are two further knots in my rope and two further stages to our prayers.

Discernment

The first is discernment. Is there anything I need to do? Any action I need to take?

In Psalm 94, I think, it is God who speaks amid lament and praise:

Who rises up for me against the wicked? Who stands up for me against the evildoers? Psalm 94.16.

There is an echo here of God's voice in Isaiah's vision: Whom shall I send and who will go for us? (Isaiah 6.8).

Is there some way I am called to make a difference? Are there people to be comforted, encouraged or challenged? Is some change needed in my own life? Is there a call to be answered? Do I need to put in the hard work and read the manifestos? How can we be as wise as serpents yet as innocent as doves? If there is to be renewal in our political life, then God will be calling good people into public leadership.

Stillness

And the final act is to come back to the beginning. The work of prayer must end in stillness, in peace and trust before God, in reorientation and rest.

I began with the opening verse of Psalm 46 and end with the final verse of the same Psalm. Once more, it is God who speaks:

Be still and know that I am God. I am exalted among the nations. I am exalted in the earth. The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Psalm 46.10-11

How are we to pray in this General Election? In one sense, in any way we can. In another, the Psalms call us to prayer which is rooted in praise of God, which gives space to lament and thanksgiving, to intercession, to hearing God's voice and at the end to stillness, confidence and peace.

+Steven Oxford

16 November 2019

The Journey continues...

This September I started my third and final year of training. I have to say I have loved my time in my training, and it has been three wonderful years. As someone with severe dyslexia, this type of training really suited my learning style. I feel being in Cowley has helped me to grow so much and I have loved working with and learning from you all.

If you were in church on Sunday 24th November, you would have heard that I have been appointed as curate of the Benefice of Icknield in Watlington, Pyrton, Britwell Salome, Swyncombe. Also, you would have heard that we as a family are also expecting our third child next year around Easter.

We are very excited for this next stage of our journey.

This next stage of my journey – curacy – will help me grow in the role in that God has called me to fulfil. Curacy is a wonderful time to try new things and spread your wings. As Geoff would say, “a great learning opportunity” to prepare for running a parish.

I often think curacy is a bit like potty training – you are out of the nappies but not quite ready yet to run the parish by yourself. This method is like the model Jesus used when he called disciples. He worked with them for some time and walked alongside them, and then he sent them out. In Matthew's Gospel chapter 10, Jesus sent the 12 out to minister to the surrounding community. However, Jesus was still near them to help and to guide them when they needed it and there were still limitations. For example, the disciples had places where they could not go and minister, i.e. to the Gentiles and Samaritans. Not until that time when Jesus ascended to heaven were the disciples able to go into other lands. In a similar way in curacy, you are allowed to try new things and spread your wings. Only when you have finished your training are you allowed to be in charge of your own parish.

However, when the disciples did take up the Great Commission they preached the Gospel to all nations. However, they did not go alone as they went out with the Holy Spirit and bathed in prayer.

Alice, Amelia, Isabella and I would also appreciate your prayer at this time, as the Holy Spirit guides us. We will be preparing to welcome the new baby, move house, school and church.

The final thing I would like to say is that if you feel God is calling you into a ministry and you feel you cannot do it, do not let that hold you back. God can move all obstacles and He will not call you to ministry without helping you fulfil that calling.

David Benskin

MOTHERS' UNION NEWS

The November branch meeting was a great success, well attended and much enjoyed mainly due to an excellent talk by Mr Brian Lowe on the author, C S Lewis' time in Oxford. Mr Lowe's talks are always well illustrated with slides of the places and people he describes. We look forward to booking him again in the future as he has prepared a talk on Cardinal Newman, our local Saint.

Plans were made at the meeting for our contribution to the forthcoming Christmas Tree Festival. A group will be meeting to prepare items for our tree (sustained by tea and cake – the group, not the tree).

Plans were also discussed for this month's Christmas tea-party. It was decided that this will be a bring-and-share tea. There will also be our usual readings and carols beforehand and some lighter readings afterwards. At the same time we shall be collecting items for the Children's Hospital, which we have been doing for several years now. The lovely knitted garments and shawls, toiletries for visiting parents and books, pencils, stickers, etc for older children are our contribution to support local families – all part of Mothers' Union ethos throughout the world. Our next meeting is on Monday, 16 December 2019.

Rosanne Butler



CREATION THEATRE – THE SNOW QUEEN Saturday 4 January

Belated decision to make a group booking to see Creation Theatre's seasonal production at the North Wall, Summertown for a new year pick me up – the 2.00 matinee performance on Saturday 4 January.

Ticket prices are under negotiation but will be in the range of £19 (on high stools) to £24 (proper seats). Expect Creation's usual crazy, anarchic style of story telling.

Sign the list in both churches or tell Lesley Williams you will join the group – invite friends and family.



St Francis CE Primary School

The past year has been a very positive one for our school and one in which our community links have grown further.

New beginnings last year included a free breakfast being offered to all the children and new "30 hour" sessions in our nursery.

The 'Open the Book' assemblies continue to be an embedded weekly feature of collective worship and have become a firm favourite with the children as confirmed by our recent collective worship survey. The children are always excited to see Geoff and Gemma and enjoy being actors and participating in storytelling. Huge thanks to the team of volunteers who regularly attend and play a part in these assemblies. We are grateful to Lesley Williams for agreeing to lead this at St Francis going forward.

We now have an established prayer space in the front entrance which has promoted prayer outside of collective worship and is open to all members of our school community including parents. The theme changes each half term and links to whichever value is in focus. The children themselves came up with the smart idea of prayer passes so that the space can be used safely at break and lunch times.

As a school, St Francis is always looking for ways to enrich children's lives and to provide them with immersive experiences that will last a lifetime, experiences that they can take with them into the future and provide them with the self-esteem, confidence and resilience that will carry them through. We were

thrilled to be a part of the Oxford Homeless Project's 4th birthday celebration a couple of weeks ago, such a valuable experience for the children and an opportunity to demonstrate that, given the opportunity to give to others, we are able to recognise that whatever our situation, we are all just the same. Outdoor Learning is now a fully-fledged part of our curriculum.

We are broadening our curriculum to ensure that children's talents are harnessed and that children receive a rich and immersive experience. As part of the wider curriculum and provision for vulnerable children we are very proud of our inter-generational project running as part of the Full Circle Charity which links together schools with elderly volunteers from the local community. We visit Shotover View every Tuesday lunchtime and the children eat lunch with a group of the residents and then carry out activities such as painting or knitting together. As you can imagine there have been lots of interesting conversations comparing life in the twentieth century with now!

We look forward to further strengthening our links with the parish and local community, including working with Geoff and Gemma as we continue on our journey beyond our OFSTED "good" rating

in the forthcoming year.

Fleur Belcher
Head Teacher

5th Cowley Guides

During the autumn term the guides have been working on the new programme completing various unit meeting activities resources. These have been on different ways to pay bills, staying safe when out on your site and making bowls out of old magazines. Some girls did some cooking to complete their confectionery badge.

The Guides have just started to work on Christmas crafts to gain a Christmas fun badge. Hopefully we will finish the term with a Christmas party.

At the end of October we were privileged to present Cynthia Retter her 50years service award. The Guides celebrated this achievement with a tea party inviting past guiders, friends and family. This was a complete surprise for Cynthia who was for once speechless. Cynthia was presented with a beautiful cake made by Laura Turner



ON THE STREET CAROL SINGING -

Friday 20th December at 6.00pm

Join a gathering of Christian singers for some door to door Carol singing, handing out mulled wine and mince pies, smiles and love.

Meet at the Coop at the top of Bartholomew

Road at 6.00pm on Friday 20th December.

If there are any hardcore community supporters who would like to donate mulled wine / thermos flasks / cardboard cups or mince pies they'd be very happily received: get in touch with Tom Stocker

tomstocker88@gmail.com



CHRONICLE

Editorial Team- Sally Hemsworth, Nicki Stevens

Deadline for the next edition: Monday 20 January 2020

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, errors and omissions excepted.

NOTABLE PEOPLE & CHARACTERS OF COWLEY

Extracts from The Cowley Chronicle

SEPTEMBER 1964

DR. AND MRS. FIRTH LEAVING COWLEY AFTER 37 YEARS

After 37 years in Cowley, Dr E.K.A.Firth is retiring at the end of September. He and Mrs. Firth are going to live in Devon near their son, who is practising medicine there. They will be missed very much indeed: there can be few other people who have been in Cowley so long and who are known by so many people. When Dr Firth arrived in January 1927, he was assistant to Dr Hitchins and Dr McKay, of Headington, and for the first six months had to cycle over from Headington to his surgery at the Minchery, on the site where St. Luke's is now.

In those days Cowley was a village, with fields and narrow lanes, and only the Bulan Road estate was built. It was the era of Georgie Moore: and well before the days of the National Health Service.

Dr and Mrs. Firth will be missed in many different spheres. Not only will patients miss their doctor, but Mrs. Firth will be missed by St. Luke's people, for she has helped to organise sick-visiting and run the Church Embroidery Group. They have both done much for the Church whenever they have had the time.

Those who want to meet Dr Firth before he leaves will have the opportunity to do so on Wednesday, 16th September in Temple Cowley Congregational Church Hall from 7.00pm to 8.30pm.

Researched by Les Hemsworth



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A few words from one of our Church Wardens

Well, I thought it would be a good thing to give everyone on the St Francis electoral roll a Christmas card. I found myself with a chore to do in the town centre and used the moment before my appointment to go Christmas card shopping. It was exciting. The Christmas music was playing in the background in the charity shops and there was quite a variety. The lady behind the counter made a comment that I was buying quite a lot. I told her it was for the Church and she asked me which church I went to. I told her it was St Francis and suggested that she come to our Christmas services.

Then rushing back home to fill them all out. One thing that makes filling out Christmas cards pleasant is playing Christmas music in the background. Reminds me why I am doing this and who I am doing it for. The season is definitely under way! Then laying out the cards on the table before the service and having people thank me for having thought of them. It gave me a nice warm feeling.

We had the service for Christ the King last Sunday and Gemma and Mark got busy changing the colour of the altar and lectern cloths to purple prior to the first Sunday of Advent next week. I don't really know where my head was last Sunday. I had a moment of panic that the projector and audio were not working and hey presto! Mark and Gemma had to point out to me that I had done everything right, apart from having plugged the relevant things into the power. Mark said with a smile "One thing you have learned from this, Nick, is that you need electricity to run these things!". Silly me!

One thing that I get from this time of year is the sense of routine and a feeling of continuity. Oxford always has its lantern procession, there is always the time when the decorations are lit in the city centre and we always have Christmas in Church, which due to family celebrations, I can't always attend, but I know it's there. I know that soon we will have carols in the

church, we can expect that the Nine Lessons will come out soon and money will probably be raised for the Children's society.

To say I am excited about Christmas therefore is an understatement. I know that traditionally I tend to have a bit of a serious demeanour about me, but the excitement is there.

I have a personal tradition in that I turn a new Christmas song into the one for that year. This year it's The Carol of the Bells by John Williams. Last year it was Personnet Hodie (a carol in Latin based on a traditional folk tune, and no, I don't know what the words mean in English!) and the year before that, it was Gaudette (which in Latin means Rejoice). So maybe when I am old I will have gone through all the key modern and traditional Christmas songs.

We may be a small parish church but we are active. Shirley was busy during the service making a Christmas cake with the children by way of continuing the tradition of Stir Up Sunday (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stir-up_Sunday) and so it was good to see that an older Anglican tradition had a small revival in our Church. I have included the Wikipedia link above so that you can find out more about it. It's part of our Pre-Christmas traditions that seems to have got lost as we find ourselves busy with other things. I do sometimes wonder what other parts of our Anglican Christmas have been lost over time.

I also want to quickly mention how thankful I am for how much work and personal sacrifice our ministry team goes through to serve us. I remember last Christmas Geoff did our Carols by Candlelight with a terrible cold. If I was that ill I would probably not have been able to carry my way through it, but he persevered just to give us a great Christmas.

Wishing you all Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Nick Dewey.

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	8.00am	Tue, 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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Chris Woodman Tel: 778078

Hall Bookings:

St James Church Centre, St James Church, St Francis Church: Please contact the Parish Office Tel: 747680

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