

## **Remembrance Day: Sunday 14th November A Service for Cowley**

**St Francis Church  
Hollow Way 9:30 am  
St James Church  
Beauchamp lane**

**11:am**

*They shall grow not old,  
as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them,  
nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun  
and in the morning  
We will remember them*

**Hymns, Readings, Prayers,  
Act of Remembrance,  
Communion**



**[www.cowleyteamministry.co.uk](http://www.cowleyteamministry.co.uk)**

# From the Editors

*Sally Hemsworth and Nicki Stevens*

Sunflowers last month, poppies for the November issue - what a contrast in meaning.

It is good to see that Christmas gift sales are taking place at both churches in November – St James Church Centre on the 20 November 2021 from 10 am – 1 pm and at St Francis Church on the 27 November 2021 from 11 am to 2 pm. Cakes are required please for the 20 November 2021 – perhaps you would like to use one of the recipes mentioned in the Chronicle?

The collection date for the Samaritan's Purse shoeboxes is 15 – 22 November. A lot of people have indicated they will be making financial donations, but please let Sally know if you are going to bring box/es to the Church Office ([office@cowleyteamministry.co.uk](mailto:office@cowleyteamministry.co.uk)).

It is lovely to see outside groups are meeting at both centres now. A new group has booked to use St James Church Centre – the Cheney over 50s Group. Their second meeting will be on Wednesday, 24 November 2021, 1.30 – 3.30pm, and their speaker, Ann Sharman, will be talking about Arctic People. Both the WI and the Cheney Over 50s Group are looking for new members – perhaps you would like to join them?

Congratulations to Lesley Williams for undertaking the walk along Camino Way to Santiago de Compostela, and then joining the YCCN Relay. The Parish Walks continue but, from the photograph taken on the last walk, with a relaxed approach.

General plea again, I am afraid, for interesting articles – tell us about your favourite Christmas/New Year occasion, an interesting holiday, activities you have undertaken over the last couple of years when things have been particularly restricting, your favourite recipe, etc. We would love to hear from you.

All our best wishes to you

Sally and Nicki

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## WISE WORDS

When you are about 35 years old, something terrible always happens to music.

I used to dread getting older because I thought I would not be able to do all the things I wanted to do. But now that I'm older I find that I don't want to do them anyway.

(Nancy Astor at 80)

In Love – as in other matters – the young are just beginners.

Wrinkles should merely indicate where smiles have been.

They say such nice things about people at their funerals, it makes me sad that I'm going to miss mine!

The trick is to grow old without growing up!

Everyone is as God made him - unless he has managed to make things worse.

## A word from the Rectory

Our Fields of Remembrance:

Remembrance Sunday is a central part of our 'Season of Remembering'. On the day we remind ourselves of the sadness and devastation that wars bring. We recommit to working for peace and looking for reconciliation. And we remember those who have died in the struggle to bring peace and health to our world. Jesus tells us that he came that 'we might have life in abundance' (John 10:10). That path led to his own death.



Through history, the ongoing struggle to 'bring life in abundance' has led to many paying the ultimate cost. Whilst many have died, others have been left behind experiencing a loss that can only be understood through experience.



On Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November, our 'Act of Remembrance' will be held at both Churches. St Francis will host it at the 9:30 service. At St James we will kick off our 11 am service with the laying of wreaths and two minutes silence.

Outside both buildings you will find a silhouetted figure, depicting a Soldier. In the days before, and after the service, there will be an opportunity to place a small wooden cross in the surrounding ground. You might like to write on the cross, perhaps a name, or maybe a thought. This will form part of our personal and corporate act of remembrance. In the service on November 14<sup>th</sup>, we will remember Pri-

vate Herbert Cook, a local lad who was baptised in St James Church. He was an indoor servant with 4 siblings, who enlisted on the 8<sup>th</sup> of April 1914. He arrived in France, as part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Oxford and Bucks Light infantry, on the 14<sup>th</sup> of August. He was one of the early casualties of the war, dying in Nantes General Hospital on the 11<sup>th</sup> October 1914. We have no image of him.



Benson Cottage

## CHILDREN'S CORNER

I've always been interested in seeds. There are so many and each type is different. Some can be eaten but they are usually simply used to grow more plants or flowers. Large or small they all have their own special use and each has a story.

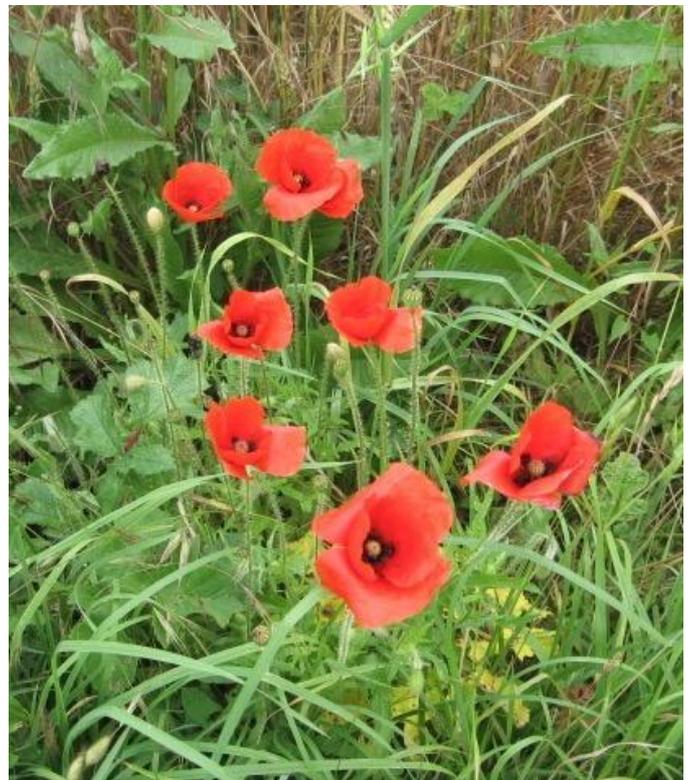
One of the smallest seeds that I have found is not only used to decorate some special bread products but produces lovely flowers. It is the poppy seed, a small black seed that I thought only produced the red poppy like the poppies we wear during November to remember the soldiers who died in wars. This was organised just over one hundred years ago because they grew in the fields of Northern France where some of the soldiers had been fighting and died and we wear a poppy to remember them and to assist the charity for service men and women who have fought in more recent wars and need help. There are also white poppies that people wear for the same reason, but also to remind us that we are at peace.

I have also had orange and occasionally yellow poppies growing in my garden, not because I planted them but because birds had brought them from somewhere else as seeds and dropped them in my garden. The sad thing is that the flowers don't last long but do look beautiful and are best left alone rather than be picked. When they appear in your garden, wait until the flower dies and the seed pod appears, and if possible wait

until it dries off and goes brown. Carefully cut off the pod and you will find about one hundred seeds inside each pod. If you open the dried pod carefully the seeds can be removed. Do this over a dish or saucer. They can be scattered in a corner of the garden for a display next year.

So when you see the poppy sellers or people wearing poppies, say thank you for those service men and women who are remembered with the humble poppy, and need help. We are so lucky because of them and so many others.

Uncle Ben



## MOTHERS' UNION NEWS

*Times are changing in the Cowley Mothers 'Union in quite a big way.*

It has been obvious for some time recently that our membership is decreasing, mainly through the sad deaths of several much-valued members and also through the demands of increasing old age, disability and family needs. So at our October meeting it was unanimously agreed that we should close our small branch down.

However all is not lost, because the members who attended that meeting also agreed that each one of us should become *diocesan members* thus holding us to our loyalty and the values which we so much admire in the world-wide movement.

Instead, we shall in future be a *diocesan members' prayer group*, meeting each month as we have done for many years, and choosing a different theme and dimension to each of our sessions which will be led by one of our members.

In the meantime, Mary Bayliss is going to negotiate details of our foreclosing service. This will replace our November meeting and the time and date of that will be circulated to members as soon as it is arranged. Plans were made for our Christmas Party which will be held in The Ranklin Room at the Church Centre on 20<sup>th</sup> December at 2.30pm and promises to be a very jolly affair.

Rosanne Butler



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## OPEN THE BOOK

Telling scripted Bible stories in assemblies for our three Parish schools – an essential part of our mission to the children of Cowley.

Welcome to the team to Chris Lee but more team members are still urgently needed in each school. During the pandemic, we recorded stories on Zoom and sent the link to the schools. Now we are back in person but have lost several of our faithful team members and hope there are some new volunteers out there.

The commitment is for alternate weeks in each school but you can do as little or as much as you wish:

alternate Mondays at 9:00 – arriving at 8:40 – St Christopher's School, Temple Road

alternate Tuesdays 2:45 – arriving at 2:15 – Church Cowley St James School, Bartholomew Road

alternate Thursdays 10:30 – arriving at 10:00 – St Francis School, Horspath Road

*to learn more about what's involved, talk to Geoff – Lesley Williams – Joan Coleman – Jill Ling*

## RECIPE

(From The Chronicle Good Food Cook Book published June 2014)



Try one or two of these for enjoyment or for donation to the cake stalls at the Fairs at St James Church Centre and St Francis Church

### Moist Dorset Apple Cake

- 1 large Bramley apple, about 225g
- 225g self-raising flour
- 125g cold butter, diced
- 125g caster sugar, plus 1 tbsp for dredging
- 1 tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp mixed spice
- Finely grated zest of 1 lemon
- 2 medium eggs, beaten

1. Preheat the oven to 190°C, gas mark 5 and lightly grease a 20cm spring-form cake tin. Peel the apple, cut into quarters and remove the core. Reserve one of the apple quarters and dice the rest.
2. Sift the flour, baking powder and mixed spice into a large bowl. Rub in the diced butter to form fine breadcrumbs.
3. Stir in the sugar, diced apple and lemon zest, then gradually stir in the beaten eggs to form a stiff mixture. Spoon into the prepared tin and level the surface with the back of a spoon. Thinly slice the reserved apple quarter and arrange on top of the cake.
4. Bake for 30-40 minutes, until springy to the touch. Dredge with the remaining sugar, then leave to cool in the tin for 10 minutes. Turn out on to a wire rack to cool completely, then slice and serve with clotted cream.

### Banana Cake

- 2 big ripe bananas
- 2 eggs
- 8 ozs SR flour
- 4 ozs margarine
- 6 ozs sugar

1. Mash bananas
2. Mix all other ingredients together, and when the mixture is well mixed stir in the mashed bananas.
3. Put in a lined loaf tin and bake at Gas Reg for one hour.

### Granny's Cinnamon Cake

- 2oz unsalted butter
- 4oz caster sugar
- 2 eggs, separated
- 4 fl oz milk
- 7 oz plain flour
- 3 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp cinnamon or mixed spice
- Icing sugar

1. Butter a 9in square cake tin and line with baking parchment. Heat the oven to Gas 4/5.
2. Cream the butter and sugar together then add the egg yolks one at a time and beat. Add the milk and continue beating (don't worry if the mix looks a little 'bitty' at this stage).
3. Fold in the sifted flour and baking powder then fold in the cinnamon. Beat the egg whites until stiff peaks form (add a pinch of salt) and then fold into the cake mixture with a metal spoon.
4. Bake in the middle of the oven for 25-30 minutes. Take out, cool in the tin for 5 minutes then turn out onto a wire rack to cool completely. Cut into squares and dust with icing sugar.

# Christmas Prayer Spaces are back!

After a long while without, Prayer Spaces are back. They will link with the Christmas Tree Festival theme of 'Shine a light' and will be looking at stories of God shining a light on us! They will also be linked with the Bible Society Christmas story 'the impossible promise'!

We will need lots of volunteers so please, if you are able, sign up and lend a hand.

Thank you so much

Revd Geoff

Dates and locations:

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> Dec - St Francis Church- with Tyndale School KS2

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December - Grace Church a joint project – with St Christophers School

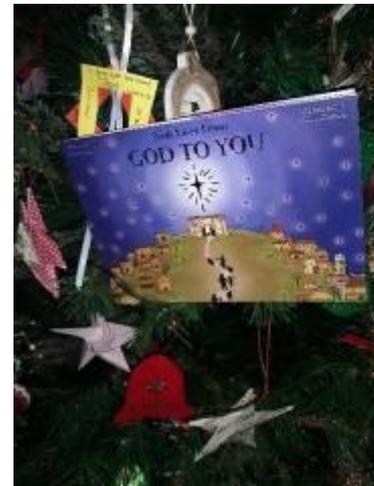
Thursday 9th December - St Francis Church – with St Francis School

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December - St James Church - with Church Cowley St James School.

Time slots for each day:

08:15 – 09:15	(setup time)
09:15 – 09:55	6 people needed
09:55 – 10:35	6 people needed
10:35 – 11:15	6 people needed
11:15 – 11:55	6 people needed
13:20 – 14:00	6 people needed
14:00 – 14:40	6 people needed
14:40 - 15:10	(strip down time)

Doodle [link](#) for signing up



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07952127534**

[kate@nurturefootcare.co.uk](mailto:kate@nurturefootcare.co.uk)

# COWLEY FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS TREES 2021

## Shine a light

Our next and final planning meeting is on Wednesday 17 November, 9.00 in the Ranklin Room. Let Lesley Williams know if you are able to join in.

At our fourth planning meeting in October, we talked more about promotion of the event – and started on practicalities of setting up, refreshments etc.



Flo's – the Place in the Park and Oxford City Farm in Cornwallis Road will be 'outposts' of the festival in their settings with their own tree and activities, and banner saying 'Cowley Festival of Christmas Trees is here and at St James Church, Beauchamp Lane'. We still hope to add Florence Park Community Centre, Restore and Ark-T and perhaps the Oxford Factory on the Business Park.

We will plan a trail that takes people to all the outposts to find a clue from each tree – characters in the Christmas story – with answers brought back to the home festival.

The music programme is still a work in progress but we can confirm for your diary:

Tuesday 14 or Wednesday 15 December 7.00-8.30

a free singing workshop 'Lovely, dark and deep' with Emily Marshall

come to sing or just listen – with refreshments.

Friday 17 December 7.30-9.30

Jubilee Brass 'Light up Cowley'

£10 – tickets available soon from Lesley Williams and already on EventBrite.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/light-up-cowley-with-jubilee-brass-tickets-204100910317>

The invitation to enter a tree and registration form are now available as paper copies – ask Lesley Williams for your copy - but you can also register on an online google form <https://bit.ly/cowleyfestivaltrees>.

Please send us further ideas/offers for activities and music during the festival.

AND, as ever, ideas of how we can reach and involve other community groups, schools etc.

THANKS to Thembi Hall, we have a SOCIAL MEDIA promoter.

BUT we'd love to hear if you have any local BUSINESS LINKS – with shops, service and manufacturing companies – and/or are able to go door knocking to them.

And please be ready very soon to sign up to a steward duty slot during the festival opening times.

Lesley Williams 01865 779 562 07982 439 828 [ctf@cowleyteamministry.co.uk](mailto:ctf@cowleyteamministry.co.uk)

# Prayer Space

Lord, I want to thank you for your hope-bearers in impossible conditions of injustice, distress, mistreatment, poverty, filth and depravity - they shine as lights on the hill.

They, with a passion that seems to deny the circumstances, find faith and project strong love and truly are your hands, feet, face and smile to the refugee, the drug addict, the street kid, the AIDS victims, the starving village, the elderly, the orphans, the widows.

For 2000 years you have raised them up to minister, to care, to love unconditionally.

I thank you this is no exclusive club, no fleeting opportunity to serve, for we can all be Jesus to the poor who, sadly, we will always have with us.  
Balfour

(One time director of Tearfund)

Sovereign God,  
you tell us that from those who have been given much, much will be expected in turn. Forgive me for forgetting sometimes the second part of that challenge, rejoicing in your goodness, celebrating your gift of life and the new life you offer in Christ, but forgetting that all this brings responsibility as well as privilege, and that one day I will be called to account for the way I have lived and acted. Teach me then, to live wisely, responding to your guidance and doing your will, even though in this life, everything may seem to count against it. Help me to be faithful to you, as you are faithful to me, through Jesus Christ my Lord.

Amen

Taken from "Prayerfully Yours"  
by Nick Fawcett



## A WARTIME CHILDHOOD

(Part 14)

The classroom for the juniors at the little village school was quite different in character from the infant's room although it did have a big open fireplace with a similar iron fireguard and the same high windows. It was furnished with cast iron framed desks for the bigger children as they grew and smaller versions for the seven-year-olds. The desks were all double ones with flip-up lids. They also had a channel carved into the top to take pens or pencils and a pottery inkwell, which was filled up every week by two of the older boys.

At one end of the room, next to the blackboard and easel was a large cupboard (called the 'map cupboard'). On the top shelf a collection of large wall-maps were housed. These maps only rarely appeared, being taken out once a year, dusted and spread across the desk. How we loved those old maps, tracing the pink bits of the British Empire across the world. The other shelves in the cupboard were my absolute delight because they housed a big collection of story books.

Several days a week, our teacher would set us assignments to complete – an English exercise, a page of arithmetic or an essay to study in our history or geography text-books, maybe. My friend Margaret and I would gallop through ours because when we had finished we could go and choose a book from the map cupboard. What delight! Milly-Molly-Mandy was a great favourite, also Dr. Doolittle, Mary Poppins and so much more.

We had to learn our tables, of course, and history and geography were new lessons for us. Because it was wartime, our text-books were pretty worn but irreplaceable. History was all about lives of children who had lived in spe-

cific ages long ago and started with the Romans. We only had these lessons occasionally, so once we had worked our way up to the Middle Ages the school year would end and the next year we would go back to the beginning again!

Geography focussed very much on the British Isles and her products – Sheffield steel, Northampton's boots and shoes, Luton straw hats, Welsh coal etc. Our teacher had a little car and before the war she had travelled around Britain extensively, so we would get her talking about the areas she'd visited and learnt a lot more about British geography from her than we got from our tired old books.

It was, of course, a church school, so at least once a week the vicar, Mr. Farrar, would come and test us on our knowledge and the child who answered up the best would be awarded the Bishop's Prize, a beautiful leather-bound copy of The New Testament. I won it (twice)! Each Monday morning while our teacher had paperwork to do, we were set to learn the collect from yesterday's service off by heart. It is a strange thing but I still know the words of those old prayers from the Book of Common Prayer even today.

There were all sorts of lovely lessons too, like singing, art (using pastel chalks), P.E. on sunny days in the playground and country dancing in the winter, but the very fondest memories I have of those five years was the end-of-the-day story time. In winter the room would get cosy, the oil lamps hanging from the ceiling would be lit, the infants would come in from next door to be slotted between two of us on our desk seats and our lovely teacher would read us wonderful stories. We loved Enid Bly-

ton's 'Magic Faraway Tree' and 'Brer Rabbit' stories, we cried at 'Black Beauty' and heard about Kipling's 'Rikki-tikki-tavi' – the clever little mongoose.

The teacher's garden was only the other side of the fence, through a wooden gate, and on warm sunny days she would take us through to sit on her lawn and have our story-time out there – wonderful!

I think you can see that school for me was just about perfect, but that all changed when the evacuees descended upon us and I was not best pleased! They came from a school in Battersea Bridge Road, in London accompanied by two teachers who in my estimation were a couple of bad-tempered skinny women (so different from my well-rounded, well-groomed friendly teacher). There were so many children that our little school was crowded out. It was then decided (even when villagers lent the

school some kitchen tables and chairs to fit them all in) that we village children would be reduced to half-time schooling – us in the morning and the evacuees in the afternoons. No more lovely end-of-day stories apart from anything else.

However, they didn't all stay for more than about a year. Most returned to London leaving only a handful who stayed in the village throughout the war years. One of the girls was a bully and took a dislike to me. She would chase me and pull my hair, until my mum, meeting me from school one day saw what was going on and sorted it out with the teacher and the people the girl lodged with. Her name was Pat Lilly, and I can still remember what it felt like to be bullied at school. In my teaching years, I would always sort out that kind of behaviour immediately.

Rosanne Butler



# Should we stay or should we go?

I have been getting ready for winter. After suffering the loss of my tomato crop earlier this year, I thought I would make a special effort to wash the greenhouse. So after clearing everything out and weeding the gravel, it was into an old shirt and trousers with a solution of Jeyes Fluid to give the inside glass and frame a good scrub. I hope that it will lessen the chances of getting blight again. The clothes, already paint-splattered, went in the bin. Jeyes Fluid is very pungent!

We still have some chillies cropping in the greenhouse and I have now put in pots of stuff that might be susceptible to frost such as geraniums and begonias. I also have some seedlings coming up of annuals and biennials to get a start for next season and I will put in my agapanthus plants too. They are the hardy ones but, being in pots, they could succumb to frosts. I also have put in my auriculas too, to be on the safe side, and at nose height, because their flowers come earlier in the Spring with lovely scent.

I have been collecting seed this autumn in the garden and potting up sections of perennials with an eye on the Plant Sale next May. Put May 21<sup>st</sup> in your diaries! I hope that you are collecting stuff too.

I recently spent a few days with my siblings. It's great to be able to chat and reminisce without spouses, children and their families, not to mention grandchildren who get all our attention when we have family gatherings,

which we do twice a year, August and Christmas. We met up at our youngest sister's house just inside North Wales. On one day, we went to Liverpool by train and travelled on the ferry "cross the Mersey" and though windy, the rain temporarily stopped for the trip, but we got a thorough soaking afterwards. Getting home, my rain gauge recorded 51 mm which is just over 2 inches of rain! This was mainly on one day, according to my Other Half. No doubt this will be exceeded time and time again as our climate changes.

Wheeling heavy pumpkins from the allotment in our elderly barrow, we noticed that rust is about to cause the wheel to come away. Do we get a replacement? We will have to make a decision as to whether we give up the plot. We are ageing. My OH has recently had yet another operation on his hands and I have a problem with my back. It will be a complete change in our lives as we have had an allotment for nearly all of the 46 years we have been married. Talking about it, I did remind him that I have already got our supply of seeds in for next year so, probably 2022 will be our final year and we will be handing in our keys by Lady Day 2023.

I put three pumpkins outside our gate for folks to take and they were gone within the hour!

Joan Coleman

## PARISH WALKS

Parish Walks continue – the next one is on Monday, 8 November 2021, meeting at the entrance to the Memorial Garden at 1.45 pm, to walk around Christchurch Meadow.

The last walk started at Jacob's Inn, Wolvercote and the party



walked back to Oxford via the canal – you can see that the party enjoyed lunch beforehand! It was lovely that the timing of the walk suited Dave Stanley, who was back in Oxford for the weekend.

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## FREE WILL WRITING SERVICE

This autumn, the Church of England has partnered with Farewill, the National Will Writing Firm of the Year 2020, to offer an online will writing service, which can be completed from the comfort of one's home in less than 30 minutes.

Farewill's specialist team is available to help clients over the phone or live chat seven days a week, 9am–7pm. There is a limited number of wills available on a first-come, first-served basis.

There is no obligation for anyone to leave a gift in their will to their church but it is hoped that this service will encourage some to do so. <https://farewill.com/parish-buying>

## CHRONICLE

Editorial Team- Sally Hemsworth, Nicki Stevens

Deadline for the next edition: Monday 22 November 2021

If possible, please send entries by email to Sally at [chronicle@cowleyteamministry.co.uk](mailto: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.

# CAMINO to Santiago de Compostela, Galicia – the Way of St James

2-9 October 2021

With and for Traidcraft Exchange

Lesley Williams



An account and thoughts:

Because of my Novavax trial vaccine status, I had to do the “fit to fly” PCR test before going and a LFT 48 hours before returning - for the latter, one has to post on-line a video of one-self doing the test and a photo of the result and of one's passport -- then receive a QR code back to show on my phone ..... but actually none of that extra stuff was looked at, either way!

It was a great experience with an interesting group - 14 paying 'pilgrims' - aged 40 to older than me! but the average probably late 50s - 3 clergy, 1 wife of a cathedral Dean, 2 others with mission linked jobs - from all over GB, including a Church of Scotland minister who wore his kilt on the final day;

2 Traidcraft Exchange staff, one of whom, aged 24, had planned all the TE side of the project from the beginning, back in 2019; the Group leader, a doctor, a back up driver, and the Spanish guide from Global Challenge Adventures, the organising company, which only supports charity fundraising expeditions.

I really enjoyed the 5 days non-stop walking although the arrival in Santiago and the cathedral were a great disappointment - I'd assumed we'd go straight into the cathedral for a blessing - perhaps an act of worship. I don't know how much was C-19 related but you could only go to Mass and had to queue for at least a couple of hours for that - which a few

of us did but others of us failed to get in and just waited to go into the cathedral after the service - but even then couldn't get to St James' shrine and actually I hated the brashness of it all.

We started each day with a prayer but that was all - I'd have liked an evening prayer and some singing too, but evenings were just taken up with dinner - and people went to bed early. I shared a room with Moyna, a former teacher, who was I'm pretty sure older than me - but she wouldn't give her age. I'd taken ear plugs but she didn't snore - and she didn't say whether I do!

After all my training, I found the walking easy (15, 14, 18, 15, 10 miles). We stayed in nice hotels and had our luggage moved each day so it was not at all true pilgrimage style! I was glad to be allowed to walk at my own pace at the front of the group for most of the time, with the Spanish guide, Ana - so then waiting for all the others to catch up, but that was ok.

The path is very well marked with the gold on blue shell sign all the way, passing through hamlets, villages and a few towns. There are café bars at regular intervals along the route – although post-Covid not all were open so the mid-morning and mid-afternoon coffee stops were appreciated.

It was fascinating sharing the walk with so many other pilgrims of all nationalities and ages – some alone, couples, other groups – all

cheerful and wishing one another 'Buen Camino'. Quite a few had walked the full 500-mile route of the 'France's Way' from Saint Jean Pied de Port, France; one girl walked in flipflops with a 'vow of silence' notice pinned to her backpack so we couldn't learn any more about her.

The Galician countryside was beautiful – gentle hills – just a few steeper ones – with wonderful vistas. Fields of maize – cabbages – sunflowers – eucalyptus trees – hydrangeas. It was showery for the first 3 days but then two glorious blue, sunny days which we were told were very unseasonal.

On the final day, based in Santiago, half us booked onto a coach trip which took us out to Finisterre (or Fisterre as it's called there) via several other interesting stops and a seafood lunch - the day was excellent - especially the coast, with fantastic waves crashing against the rocks.

Fundraising:

My 250.5 mile walking during April raised an amazing £1,375 and with some other donations, I transferred £1,875 to Traidcraft Exchange at that time, which hit the requested target for the project, as I had paid my own transport and cost-of-living fees.

But I'm now hoping to top it up to £2,500. There's a new on-line giving page, with GoFundMe, with a target of £750 which will of course overtake my target figure but there are system fees to deduct. Although there is also gift aid to add! As at 02/11/21, there's £350 on this page so I am well over £2,000.

If you don't like on-line giving, I'm happy to accept the cash and I'll pay it in.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/traidcraft-exchange-camino-de-compostela>



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## UNA'S CORNER

There was a lane between Rymers Lane and Cricket Road which was used as a car park in the summer. The path was made of earth, with trees and hedges down the middle as well as on each side, so no room for vehicles.

Rymers Lane and Cricket Road were joined at the brook – Boundary Brook, the boundary between East Oxford and Cowley – so Elder Stubbs allotments backed on to Cricket Road, *not* Rymers Lane. I spent many happy hours playing in Florence Park. Rymers Lane was named after a family and not after 'Rhymes' as in verses.

Una Dean

Editor's Note:

Who can remember this – a country lane. We were all pleased when Rymers Lane and Cricket Road was made into a through road as it allowed a certain amount of traffic to avoid Between Towns Road!

# JOHN SHREEVE'S ARTICLES FROM THE PAST

THE UNKNOWN WARRIOR

November 2008

As we come up to the time of another Remembrance Day, it is difficult for us to imagine the strength of feeling there was throughout all our nation about the appalling carnage and loss of life during the First World War. There was hardly a family in the land that hadn't been touched by tragedy, in one way or another. Many families had lost several sons during the conflict and were swamped with grief and sorrow.

Then someone in the army came up with the idea that one dead soldier should be chosen to receive special honour and to represent in the nation's consciousness all those soldiers, especially those who had been lost without trace. Surprisingly, those in authority quite quickly gave their approval to this plan. Then came the question of how they should make the selection. It was important that it should seem to be impartial. An officer was chosen to do the honours, and before him were placed the bodies of three unknown soldiers. He made his choice completely at random and the body was brought to the coast of France and transported across the Channel. Upon arrival in this country, it was put on a special train and sent to London. Although all this had been done without any publicity, somehow word had got out and all along the journey to the capital, people from all walks of life came and stood in silence beside the railway line to pay their respects. Two or three weeks later, in the presence of the Royal Family and thousands of on-lookers, the body was lowered with great ceremony, into a tomb in Westminster Abbey, where we can still visit today.

Then came the idea of a National memorial in central London which everyone could visit, and the Cenotaph was designed and put into place. The original one was made of wood, later replaced by the stone one which is there in Whitehall to this day. After the Last Post was sounded on that first Armistice Day, it was said that the silence was so palpable, you could almost have cut it with a knife, as people stood in their thousands, shaken by grief.

At this time there were no local memorials throughout the land, but such was the sense of feeling that those who had given their lives in battle should be named and remembered in their own locality, that crosses and memorials began to spring up in towns and villages everywhere. Now these include those who were killed in the Second World War also. People wanted a focal point where they could stand and remember, just as they did in London. Of course, Christian churchgoers wanted the names displayed in their own churches and have memorial services there, which is what we do today and so we can repeat once again those words of Lawrence Binyon:

*"They shall not grow old as we that are left grow old. Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning – WE WILL REMEMBER THEM!*

John Shreeve