

# A season of Remembrance:

November brings in a season of remembrance. In a few short weeks we remember: First the Saints of the past - Followers of Jesus who have shown us the way to walk the Christian life. Secondly, All Souls- those who have died but whom remain loved by us and are in our thoughts each day. Thirdly, on Remembrance Sunday, those who have given their lives in times of war and conflict.

At this time of year thoughts of remembrance turn our minds towards the brokenness of the world. This reminds us of a simple truth: We need God to step in and help us. We need him to step in on a big scale to save the world, but we also need him to step into our lives.

I find it is when I allow things to touch me on a personal level that I understand most clearly what is going on. With this in mind I want to tell you about a Cowley man - Arthur Coomber. He came from a Cowley family. Frederick, his dad was born in Rymers Lane and married a local lass, Martha. Arthur came into the world whilst his dad served in the regular army and was away in WW1.

Indeed, he may well have been conceived during their honeymoon. It was just before Frederick joined up.

When you go home, tell them of us and say " For your tomorrow, we gave our today".  
*Kohima Epitaph*

Arthur grew and worked into his 20's. As WW2 approached he volunteered and joined the 1st battalion of the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry. Together they were sent to Belgium in September of 1939. On May 10th the following year the Battalion was driven backwards across Belgium and then northern France. Whilst just still in Belgium, some 65 kilometres from Dunkirk, Arthur's battalion attempted to hold their ground near Ypres and

To everything - turn, turn, turn  
There is a season - turn, turn, turn  
And a time to every purpose under heaven

A time to be born, a time to die  
A time to plant, a time to reap  
A time to kill, a time to heal  
A time to laugh, a time to weep

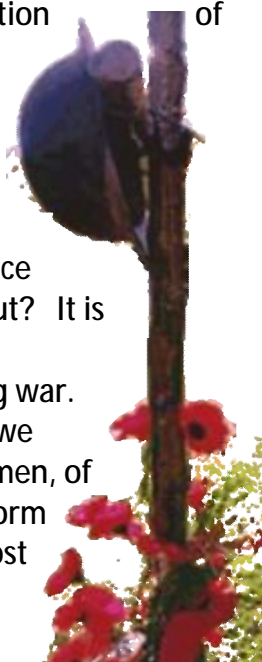
To everything - turn, turn, turn  
There is a season - turn, turn, turn  
And a time to every purpose under heaven

A time to build up, a time to break down  
A time to dance, a time to mourn  
A time to cast away stones  
A time to gather stones together  
(The Limelites 1962/ The Byrds 1965)  
Based on Ecclesiastes chapter 3

Comines. As they faced the opposing army on the 25th May Arthur Coomber was killed. His death followed 15 days being driven backwards across Europe. The following day 26th May 1940 Operation Dynamo- the evacuation of Dunkirk started. The action of men like Arthur bought the time needed to get the boats, manpower and resources in place.

What is Remembrance Sunday about? It is not about glamourizing war. On this day we

remember men and women, of all nations, those in uniform and civilians who have lost their lives in times of conflict. So we give thanks for sacrifice, remember loss and we look to a time when such things will no longer be needed.



# Chronicle

November  
2016



Benson Cottage

# Editorial Letter

Unfortunately, no-one has come forward to fill the post of Editor, but the PCC has agreed that The Cowley Chronicle can continue and be run by an Editorial Team.

Currently the team consists of Sally Hemsworth, May Morgan and Nicki Stevens – no order of seniority just an alphabetical list! We would welcome extra input – please let us know if you would like to help.

Ideas for articles and, indeed, articles from you would be extremely helpful. Do you have any recipes which you particularly enjoy and would like to share; do you have some jokes to make us laugh; etc., etc. We want to ensure that the Chronicle continues to be a paper which is enjoyed – please help us achieve this.

If you do not see us in church and wish to submit an article, please email to:

[chronicle@cowleyteamministry.co.uk](mailto:chronicle@cowleyteamministry.co.uk) or leave at the Parish Office at St James Church Centre.

The deadline for the next edition is: Monday 21 November

This is the double issue and covers December 2016/January 2017 so we want to make it an interesting and seasonal one.

May, Nicki and Sally

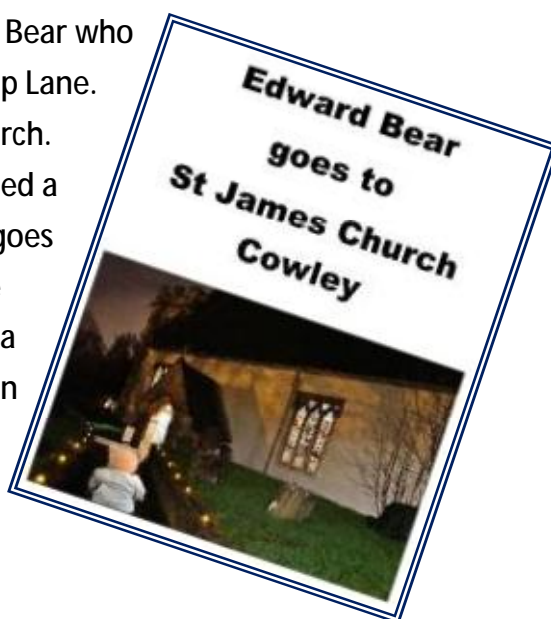
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## Meet Edward Bear

Edward Bear is a very inquisitive Bear who lives in the Rectory in Beauchamp Lane. Recently he visited St James Church. He recorded his visit and published a small book called 'Edward Bear goes to St James Church Cowley'. He shared the story of his visit with a group of 6 and 7 year old children

from Church Cowley St James School. They were visiting the Church as part of their RE week. You too can share his book. Copies are available at the back of the church.





# Get in



## the picture Cowley

Advertising Church Christmas events  
in the weeks before Christmas.

We will be in the Cowley Centre on  
Dec 10<sup>th</sup>.

10 till 4 pm

A team will be needed from the  
Churches in the area. I hope some of  
you may be able to help!



[www.instagram.com/getinthepicturecowley](http://www.instagram.com/getinthepicturecowley)

## Get in the Picture 2016

### 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> December Temple Square

This is a project to advertise what we are doing within the local churches over the Christmas period. I have been quietly getting on with preparations for this and have got to a point when I need a bit of help.

- We have two sessions booked in Templers Square Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December, 10 am till 4 pm AND Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December 12 noon till 3 pm
- I have started constructing a web page and linked it with a flickr.com album. The album will hold the photographs taken.
- I have started to put together the kit that will be needed for the 'Photo Booth', a very simple stable scene.
- I have some dressing up costume- but that needs extending

### What is needed?

- Anybody that would like to help on the day or before in preparation.
- I have set aside a Planning/Training evening for Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> Nov 7:30 pm in the St James centre for those interested. It will be a chance to see what we already have in place and work out the next steps forward.
- People can just turn up of that, but if they are able to let me know it would be helpful.

Thank you for your help with this  
Revd Geoff



# Get in



## the picture Cowley

# DIARY DATES TO REMEMBER

## Mothers' Union

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

21 November 2016—A demonstration of Christmas  
flower arrangements  
St James Church Centre

## Women's Institute

Monthly Meeting is on 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of month  
from 2 – 4.30 pm

16 November 2016– A Talk on the Royal National  
Lifeboat Institution  
St James Church Centre

## Coffee, Cake and Communion

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

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

## Cowley Parish Bike Rides

Usually the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month

## Narnia: A journey of Discovery at Dorchester Abbey

22 October to 22 November 2016

## Ladies Pudding Party!

Tuesday, 8 November 2016 at 7.30 pm  
The Rectory

## Film Club

Friday, 11 November 2016 – "Roman Holiday"  
St James Church Centre, commencing at 6.30 pm  
with coffee and cake

## St James Church Committee

Tuesday, 15 November 2016 at 7.30 pm  
St James Church Centre

## St Francis Church Committee

Sunday, 27 November 2016 at 12.15 pm  
St Francis Church

## Parish Sunday Lunch

Sunday, 20 November 2016 at 12.30 pm  
St James Church Centre

## Parochial Church Council

Sunday, 4 December 2016, at 7.30pm  
St James Church Centre

## Christmas Party

Wednesday, 7 December 2016 at 7.30 pm  
St James Church Centre

## Christmas Tree Festival

9-17 December 2016  
St James Church

## Advertising Church Christmas Events

Saturday, 10 December 2016 from 10 – 4 pm  
Templar Square

## Carol Singing at Templar Square

Saturday, 10 December 2016 at 2 pm.

## Xmas Open House

Thursday, 21 December 2016  
3.00pm – 9.00 pm  
The Vicarage

## Christmas Roast Dinner

Monday, 25 December 2016  
St Francis Church

## Men's (mild) Curry Night!

Monday, 9 January 2017 at 7.30 pm  
The Rectory

REMEMBER – Tuesday Lunches at St James Church  
Centre from 12.30 pm

## 5th Cowley Guides

The Guides have been busy so far this term. After a great summer camp in August we returned in September to full company of 24 Guides. The Guides have been completing "Go For It's" in their patrols. They chose in their patrols to do the Go For It's Peace, Light's Camera Action, Parties and Experiment. These covered a wide range of activities they can choose from which they plan and complete in their own patrols.

Alongside this the Guides have also completed Animal Active Badge a Guide interest badge they chose to do last term. This has included learning about endangered animals, learning about looking after pets and keeping a diary about what care their pets need on a daily basis.

In the next term the Guides will be doing activities from a badge called Christmas Around the World which is challenge badge from a Gloucestershire Salvation Army Guide unit.

The Guides finished the half term on the 20th October with a special night to celebrate their 70th anniversary. The unit was registered in January 1946 as a Church Army Unit and registered in 1954 under its current name of 5th Cowley (St.Lukes') Guides. The Guides had an open evening for parents and invited along some fellow Guiders and ex Guides. The Guides and guests could join in

with some examples of activities the girls have done over the last couple of years to gain badges or challenges or just for fun. This included making bookmarks, making paper boats, chocolate quiz, crystal maze challenges and making edible campfires. The Guides then had a campfire (pretend) singing some of their favourite songs. The evening was finished with one of the oldest and newest Guides blowing out a candle on a fabulous cake made especially for us by an ex Guide Laura Turner.

The evening was made even more special as each Guide had gained over the previous two terms the Senior Section 100 years challenge. Kate Coldwell the Division Commissioner for Oxford City 1 and Mandy Grime the District Commissioner for Cowley and Blackbird Leys also presented some leaders with long service awards. Alison Retter received her 20 years award and Cynthia Retter received her 40 years' service award. Cynthia who started her leadership at 21 in Marston has been at 5th Cowley Guides for almost 30 years out of her 40 years of service and has put so much time and effort into the company to make it the success it is today and it was lovely for her to share the moment with ex Guides current Guides and parents.



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# FROM THE ARCHIVES

COWLEY CHURCH & HOME MAGAZINE—November 1893

From the Vicar: Rev. George Moore

I have thought it well to print some remarks made by the Marquis of Salisbury on the position of our Church schools. We in this parish know how true they are in respect to Mr. Acland, who, as most of us remember, lived here, and who took no interest in schools whatever. It is a real misfortune to have a person of his stamp placed at the head of the Education Department. He only can claim any qualities for fitness for this post on the ground of his peculiar political opinions, and surely the education of the children of the poor ought to be saved from the hands of the low political jobber. Men like Mr. Acland took no interest in the children of the poor till their fathers had a vote. The schools which Mr. Acland wishes to see in this country are ignored by the middle and upper classes, and why should they be thrust upon the poor?

The following taken from the Times are the remarks of the Marquis:-

Nothing is more striking than the despotic Department sitting in Whitehall. Our ancestors would have cut their hands off before they would have given the power that is given now to the Education Department or Local Government Department. But Parliament has been anxious to get at the result anyhow. It has in doing so despised all the salutary principles it has inherited, it has neglected all precautions, it has made these bureaucracies within certain limits absolutely despotic, and it has trusted to good feeling and the probability that they might be restrained in time and that these powers would not be misused. Now, I quite admit that the Civil Service of this country consists of a number of very highly qualified, very capable, and very high-minded and disinterested men. I do not think we have the slightest grounds for

apprehending any motives that would drive them to abuse the powers which they possess, but men are apt to consider that there is nothing like leather. (Laughter.) They are always apt to consider that there is no such remedy for the cure of any public ailments as the application of the powers in all their entirety with which they have been intrusted, and therefore they interfere on all occasions and to the largest possible extent, and they grow up in a circle of pure bureaucracy. Their thoughts are wooden, their system is red tape, their one hope is to reduce to a perfect uniformity the action of all who are under them in the submission to the conceptions which have been learnedly elaborated at Whitehall. It is a very high ideal. You have heard of the French Minister who held out a book and said, "Look at this book; it is a grammar; at this moment – 20 minutes past eleven – every child in France is repeating that grammar." That is the ideal of the bureaucrat. We are not so bad as that here now, but that is the ideal to which I am afraid we are constantly tending, and I bless as a warning to my countrymen the appearance of Mr. Acland upon the scene. The fear has always been that some man should arise not able to detach himself from his own particular antipathies and systems, and should assume for the purpose of pushing them the exceptional and anomalous powers which have been placed in his hand. That Mr. Acland has done. That is the spirit which drives him. He hates the denominational system; he hates the voluntary schools; and he has used the power which the Department gives him, whether moderate or extreme, to force his own predilections on the English people. (Cheers.) I say I hail the institution of these local bodies, for I have no doubt we shall be able to use them as a check on the unrestrained, irregular, pedantic

action by which the Education Department has recently distinguished itself. (Cheers.)

### Denominational Education

In touching upon that I am reminded that that is a question which ought to occupy the attention of Parliament as speedily as possible.

Denominational education is becoming again the burning question of the day. You have on one side religious men who wish to teach the religion in which they believe; you have religious parents who wish that that religion should be taught. On the other side you have those learned gentlemen in London who find that this conflict of religious opinion is exceedingly inconvenient for the work that they have got in hand. It is said by Gibbon that in the earlier Roman Empire there were many religions which, to the people, were equally true; to the philosopher were equally false; and to the magistrate were equally convenient. (Laughter and cheers.) That is absolutely a description of the attitude of the official mind; it indicates the line which the official is tending to take. Numbers of persons have invented what I may call a patent compressible religion which can be forced into all consciences with a very little

squeezing, and they wish to insist that this should be the only religion taught throughout the schools of the nation. (Cheers.) What I want to press on you is that if you admit this conception you are entering upon a religious war of which you will not see the end. There is only one sound principle in religious education by which you should cling, which you should relentlessly enforce against all the conveniences and expediences of official men, and that is that a parent, unless he has forfeited the right by criminal acts, has the inalienable right to determine the teaching which his child should receive upon the holiest and most momentous of subjects. (Prolonged cheers.) That is a right which no expediency can negative, which no State necessity ought to allow you to sweep away – (cheers) – and therefore I ask you to give your attention to this question of denominational education. It is full of danger and difficulty, but you will only meet the danger by marching straight up to it and declaring that the prerogative of the parent, unless he be convicted of criminality, must not be taken away by the State.

Researched By Les Hemsworth

**MY HOPE**

**BILLY GRAHAM**  
Evangelistic Association  
*Always Good News.*

**An Introduction, Information and Training evening for the Local churches.**

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov**  
**7 pm for 7:30**  
**St James Centre Beauchamp Lane**  
**OX4 3LF**

# Gardening in November

November!

No sun - no moon! No morn - no noon -

No dawn - no dusk - no proper time of day.

No warmth, no cheerfulness, no healthful ease,

No comfortable feel in any member -

No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees,

No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds! -

November!

Well, Thomas Hood is being a bit depressing about this month. There can be days which are so dank and foggy that they could match what he is describing but, some November days can also be sunny with clear blue skies. There are flowers and fruits, butterflies and bees and the autumn leaves are spectacular this year.

As for the birds, I have cleaned some and replaced some of the bird feeders in the garden. Their contents have largely been ignored so far because there are easy pickings of Nature's bounty all around. I am sure that when winter begins to bite, we will have customers. I particularly love it when a flock of long-tailed tits come to dine. If they stay still long enough to look at with binoculars, they have wonderfully-coloured feathers on the little ball of a body and notable for their long tails. We generally keep binoculars close by to view what comes in to feed.

It is all about preparation for the future this month. I shall be planting garlic on the allotment and tulips in the garden at home. My borders are still full of colour (and bees!). Nasturtiums in various shade of orange are climbing everywhere. The deep red Michaelmas daisies are still in

bountiful bloom as are the annual cosmos giving great big patches of pink and white. Once they are finished they will come out so I can plant tulips in their spaces. I am still disappointed with my dahlias. As I write at the end of October, two have only just come out of their sulk to give me some flowers! Spray chrysanthemums have yet to start.

I am going to finish the clearing of the greenhouse and bring in the pots of lilies and agapanthus to protect them from the winter. I will soon have my seed order and then plan for next spring.

We will have a Plant Sale again next year. Provisionally, it will be on Saturday May 13th, so if you would like to grow something for the sale, it is good to plan ahead. To that end, I have been collecting seeds from plants in the garden. Some I am starting now and others are to be kept cold and dry until spring.

So I am not following Thomas Hood's depressing ideas about this month, I am optimistic and will enjoy the sunny days that will come.

N.B. The poem was written in London in 1844 when smog peasoupers were commonplace and I can imagine what it would make me feel.

Joan Coleman

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## Ladies Pudding Party! Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November 7:30pm in the Rectory

If numbers grow we may need to meet in the St James Centre!  
Can you offer a pudding/cake? Please sign up or let Mary Bayliss know if you would like to come along.  
Do bring along what you fancy to drink –there will be tea and coffee  
(There will be a plate for donations to cover costs)

## Men's (mild) Curry Night!



Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January  
7:30 pm in the  
Rectory

Please sign up or let  
Geoff Bayliss know if you  
would like to come along.

Do bring along what you fancy to drink –there will be tea and coffee  
(There will be a plate for donations to cover costs)

## COWLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

An excellent illustrated talk "Beer, Sausages and Marmalade" was given at the October meeting of Cowley Women's Institute by a local historian who described the production of these commodities in Oxford during the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. At one time there were six breweries, including Morrells and Halls, all making beer near the centre of Oxford. All have now closed: the premises of some have been converted into luxury flats; and the present shop of Marks and Spencer in Queen Street now stands on the site of another. Oxford sausages were made by an Oxford woman as early as the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Her recipe has been slightly changed since then – one version being included in an edition of Mrs Beeton's cookery book. They are still made today and can be bought in Oxford's Covered Market. The marmalade, of course, is the world famous Frank Cooper's Oxford Marmalade. It is still made, but no longer by the Cooper family, the company having been sold to another firm several years ago.

Our next meeting will be in the Church Centre at 2 pm on Wednesday, 16 November, when there will be a talk about the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, and we shall have a cake stall.

Since our meetings resumed in September after the summer break we have been delighted to welcome four new members.

We hope to see you on 16 November.

Ann Withers

President, Cowley WI

# COWLEY FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS TREES 2016 – 10 to 18 December 2016

Theme: The Greatest Gift

fundraising for SeeSaw & ROSY

Six weeks to go.... here are some reminders and new suggestions/requests for how we hope you will get involved

∅ there will be two creativitrees to which you are invited to contribute :

1. Knit one, purl one tree : please knit or crochet 4 inch/10 cm squares in any shade of green that you have ..... (*anyone with green wool you are not using, please bring it along*) and wait to see how they become a tree.

Deadline: ideally 30 November but we can add more later and during the festival

2. Poetree : please write or bring a copy of a short poem, preferably on the theme of gifts – which could be interpreted as parcels, birthdays, talents & skills, wishes – these will be hung upon a tree.

Deadline: ideally 30 November but we can add more later and during the festival.

∅ Our target is now 60 trees. If you are involved in any local group or business which would like to decorate/make a tree/mobile/picture – or you are/know a creative family or even an individual please put them in touch with us! The trees can be any size from 12 inch/30 cm table centre to 4 ft/120 cm.

∅ We would still love to enrol a publicity person - someone who is good with social media, who can sit quietly at home/in the office/in the pub and regularly post updates about the festival to spread the word about it into the community ..... and a writer of press releases.

∅ And we also seek further financial sponsorship, which last year raised £800 towards the £2,352 we received for SeeSaw and ROSY. Ask Lesley Williams for a letter and leaflet to hand to any companies/organisations with which you have a connection/ influence.

∅ Once the Christmas gift and craft fair is over and everyone has taken a deep breath, we will be looking to fill our rotas for volunteers to:

- (1) count & bundle the advertising cards (along with the Parish Christmas services card) : on Friday 11 November, from 9:30 am until it's done
- (2) deliver the bundled cards to every home in the Parish over the weeks from Sunday 13 November
- (3) steward the church during set up and opening times (see the timetable)
- (4) serve refreshments during opening times, at the concerts and services

May Morgan will be the holder of lists – please seek her out

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

# NEWS FROM ST FRANCIS

We have moved on chronologically in our Church story but have we moved forward spiritually? I think that as far as "Friends of St Francis" are concerned the answer is definitely yes. They have just started a new course book and numbers are increasing. There is much enthusiasm there. We have just had one of our great social events of the year, our Caribbean Evening, and this was once again a great success. We also had a very successful All Souls Party at the end of October. A lot of work goes into these special events and all who help and support must be thanked.

Our Mum and Toddler Group – Little Stars – still thrives and is popular.

We have fun days in the offing and our All Age Services continue. At a recent one concerning

Harvest we raised quite a lot of money towards 'Water Aid', definitely a move in the right directions.

We have been also looking at the spiritual seasons in our lives and how they affect us. Skye continues in her mission to encourage young families to join our congregation.

We still need to get more people to involve themselves in the Prayers and reading the lessons. We are grateful to our Flower Arrangers who go about their work so quickly and efficiently, and to Joel, Jane and Shirley for their work with the juniors in the Sunday Club. Our pastoral group work continues.

John Shreeve



## BOOKS OF THE MONTH

The Family of Man by Steinberg

This was published some years ago and sadly is out of print now.

It is a unique portrayal of the human experience in all its facets in photographs. It shows how all nations and all peoples experience the same things throughout their lives whatever their background, and gives us a very wide picture of the human experience. From a Christian point of view it shows how all peoples coming along in life are open to God's loving care, so it widens up our horizons considerably. A brilliant look at humanity.

John Shreeve

John Henry Brookes

The Man Who Inspired a University

By Bryan Brown

Published by Oxford Brookes University

This book ties up with the article on Churches in our Deanery because John Henry Brookes, the man who did so much for education in Oxford, was a very talented man in many ways and carved the stone-work over the portico at St Albans Church in East Oxford.

I attended a talk given the author (a man very inspired by John Brookes), and his book sets out in detail the life of this inspirational man. Probably many of us do not realise the influence John Brookes had over many aspects of life in Oxford, so if you have the chance to hear Bryan Brown's interesting talk, I hope you will be impressed by his enthusiasm and will want to read this book.

Sally Hemsworth

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## WHAT A JOY

An autumn day in October, an exciting day for Gemma and Richard after a long time together their wedding day had arrived, and they had chosen St James to make their marriage vows.

Throughout the wedding ceremony they were joined by their young son which was very touching.

The gathering of family and friends with page boys and bridesmaids all looked very resplendent a mixture of grey, red, black and white. The bride's dress was very pretty in cream and she carried a small bouquet of red flowers.

The over whelming feeling in the church was of love and warmth, along with the lovely autumn flowers, ladies from the choir joined the congregation, so together with organist Brian and Reverend Geoff taking the wedding ceremony it was a heart-warming affair, a fitting end to our weddings in St James this year.

It has been my pleasure to help out at these joyful occasions and also with all the other special services during 2016.

Pat Chambers  
Verger



# Christmas at St James Church, Beauchamp Lane (OX4 3LF) and St Francis, Hollow Way (OX3 7JF)



Saturday 10th to Sunday 18th December *see separate card for opening times & events* Cowley festival of Christmas trees St James

Saturday 10th	Get in the Picture Decorate a tree	Templars Square	10am to 4pm
Sunday 11th December	Christingle service	St Francis	10.30am
	Get in the Picture Christingle service	Templars Square St James	12pm to 3pm 4 pm
Saturday 17th December	Messy Church Christmas	St James Centre	10.30am to 12pm
Sunday 18th December	Carols by Candlelight	St James	4pm
	Carols by Candlelight	St Francis	6pm
Christmas Eve	Pop up Crib service (Come dressed as a part of the Christmas Story!)	St James	4pm
	Carols in the Pub	<i>watch for posters</i>	4pm
	Anglican Asian Living Church Crib Service	St James	6pm
December 24th	Midnight Mass	St Francis	11pm
	Midnight Mass	St James	11pm
Christmas Day	Family Christmas Communion	St James	10am
	Christmas morning service	St Francis	10.30am
December 25th	Anglican Asian Living Church	St James	1.45pm

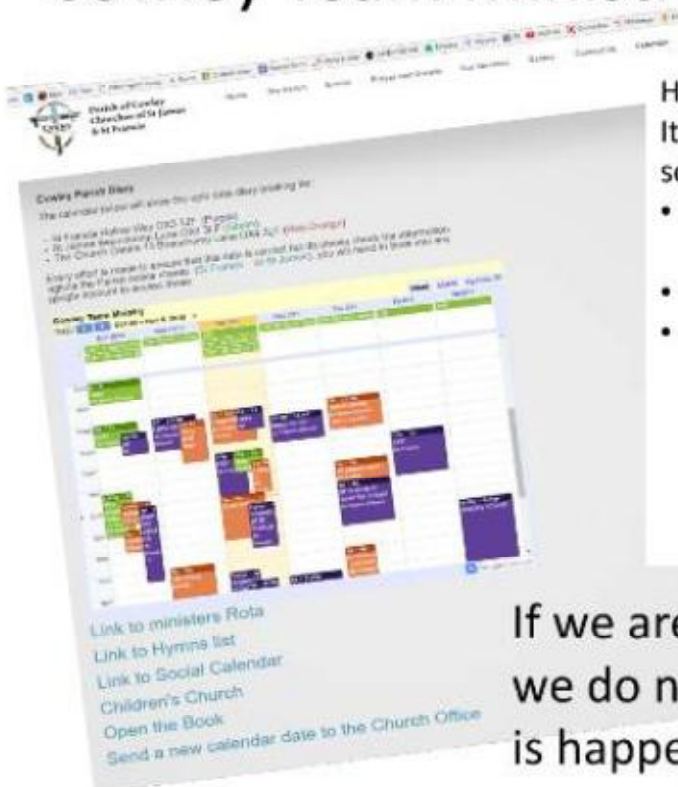


[www.cowleyteamministry.co.uk](http://www.cowleyteamministry.co.uk)

01865 747 680

**Come and join the celebrations**

## Cowley Team Ministry: Calendar Page



Have you seen this page?

It is a new addition to our Website and holds some interesting stuff:

- A calendar of Church activities for St James, St Francis, and the Church Centre.
- A draft of the service plans etc.
- If you are planning a meeting do please let us know when and where it will be. There is a click on link that will take you to a form you can submit. We will try to keep the diary up to date with events you let us know about.

If we are going to keep it up to date we do need you to let us know what is happening. We need to know times, places and descriptions. Thank you for your help.

## A CYCLE RIDE

It's pretty amazing how the experience of taking Church life seriously can change a person. Especially in terms of ones reaction to and understanding of The Church as a body of people and as an organisation.

As summer drew to a close, I took my bike out on a nice dry and bright early evening for a ride. I do this from time to time, just to see the countryside and to un-focus my mind away from the work that I do. As I did so, I couldn't help but think as I passed so many neatly kept front gardens and clean front doors of what might be happening behind those closed doors. People struggling to make ends meet, dealing with health issues or problem people in their community. It was strange. I was cycling around some really rather nice and special countryside and through little villages that looked lovely and I couldn't but help feel some emotional negativity about all the things that happen under the surface in society, under the thin veneer of civilisation. Naturally this probably says more about me than it does about society. But I carried on in this train of thought as I pedalled, shifted gears and made turns on the road in the golden sunlight.

Then something strange happened. I came across a Church. It was a nice old building not too far away, set in what might have been the centre of village life in the old days. But I saw it in a different way. Now when I was young, a church was a place to visit, to admire the architecture and the history maybe. It wasn't something more meaningful than that. But now I "saw" it differently.

This was a place where people could go to not only escape the stresses that they were dealing with in life but to be nourished and to give them

hope. It was a place of healing. An Island in the middle of a community of people struggling to get by.

I could appreciate the importance of the Church to the people, each person seeing it in different ways, getting different things from it and going through the process of dealing with life problems one at a time with the strength of the Church itself.

It was a strange reaction for me as I have had a mixed history with the Church and have experienced many things that weren't all that good in the company of people who said that they were believers. But now The Church had become a ray of light and hope. Something that could transform lives.

I then thought about all the people who don't have a faith based community and I felt sorry for them and thought that no matter what, faith has to be preserved as I would love to be able to give away what I had found in Church. But I also believed that so many people were not able to receive faith as a result of the way that they saw the world and the way that they felt about things. But was I right or wrong?

People have the capacity to change. The Bible is full of stories of people who have gone through much transformation to become what God wanted them to be and to defeat bad things in its many forms. The Church can help people find what they are looking for.

I turned round on my bike and headed home for a healthy dinner feeling full of hope and uplifted.

Nick Dewey

# Olympics or Mission



“Why go to Brazil for the Olympic games when you can wait a couple of months and be there for a major celebration of Christian mission?” What a choice! I would have loved to be here in Brazil (from where I write this article) for the Olympic Games a few months ago but instead I find myself in Sao Paulo, the capital of Brazil, for an equally exciting event.

Yesterday I was in church with just over 2,000 others, a choir of around a hundred, a big brass band and hats to outdo even the best Easter offerings in Cowley Parish! I am here to join one of our Faith2Share mission agencies, Antioch Mission, as they celebrate their 40th Anniversary. In addition to the hundreds of people attending the three day conference and celebration there is also a parallel youth conference taking place in a neighbouring building full of energetic young people exploring how God can use them in the years to come.

Antioch Mission, Missao Antioquia in Portuguese, was established by Brazilian Christians 40 years

ago to help churches from across the country to send their members as missionaries to the remotest parts of the world. The very first person to be sent was a single lady who managed to enter Albania when it was still a very closed country under the communists – she is still there today, in her 80s! Today Antioch Mission has missionaries serving in places as far apart as Poland, Mozambique, Spain, West Africa, Bolivia and Ireland – over 60 of them. The challenge we heard in the service yesterday was to increase this to over 100 this year and from the number of young people who came forward to respond this looks very possible.

One hundred years ago most international missionaries came from Europe and North America. Today more than half come from Latin America, Africa and Asia. That’s a big change in quite a short time. Perhaps we should be inviting a Brazilian missionary to come and work with us in Cowley?

I have had many interesting conversations with individuals here. Some are engaged in sports ministry with young people, many are working with refugees in southern Europe, and others are planting new churches in Poland and, more secretly, in the Middle East. Please do pray for the leaders of Antioch Mission, Silas and Marcia Tostes, and for all those who, this weekend, have offered their lives for mission service.

Mark Oxbrow (in Brazil)



## BEING A FILM EXTRA – Travelling with Thermal Vests

One of the perks of being a Film Extra is you get to travel all over the world without actually leaving these shores. No suitcase packing, no travel sickness, no airport cancellations. New York, Paris, Dublin, New Zealand, Australia, the world has been my oyster. Just popping up the road to a studio set is much less stressful. It even means some occasional time travel i.e. Edwardian Paris in Phantom of the Opera, 1940's Captain America in the U.S. of A. and even Vienna before they built the canals and lived in huts.

The only downside is pretending you are in a hot climate when, in truth, you are freezing/wet and downright miserable in the depths of a British winter.

I was fortunate to be "picked" to do a Visit Britain TV advert with Julie Walters, playing one of two

ladies who ran a tea-shop. We filmed in a little village in the Cotswolds, in the middle of winter, with snow on the ground and trees, kept warm only by a cotton apron and a smile. The crew swept the snow off the grass and the camera man made sure the trees weren't in shot and Julie Walters walked down a lovely, quaint street waving at us, waving back, with summer dressed patrons behind us, enjoying their jam and scones. Of course, the camera man used his special filter to create high summer. The blue of our lips didn't show up, and his hazy lens disguised our shivering. It was eventually shown on the cinema but unfortunately, when I went to see it, I popped off to the kiosk to buy a cup of hot chocolate and missed the last showing ever of my big moment!

Then last year "The Great Fire of London" was shown. Obviously, the night shoots were really

warm on set with flames shooting sky high and the baker's shop in Pudding Lane exploding. Yep! I can confirm historically how it caught fire as I was actually there. The history books are wrong. We filmed in a field near Henley-on-Thames so the flames must have spread from there!

Finally, still on the subject of extreme weather, I filmed a night shoot of "The Flood". No, not the Biblical Flood but the fictional "breaking-of-the-Thames Barriers-in-London". A large screen was



set up behind us, hence known as a green screen where they stick scenarios behind you, and traffic cones were put up and down the road to indicate where they would later insert exploding drain covers. Action was shouted and we ran screaming (pretending a great wave was about to engulf us) up

and down the street over and over again. Our attempt to get extra pay for what is called in the business "wet money" was fruitless, but worth a try.

Not to disillusion the general public with the "tricks of the trade" I still smile when I recall a conversation between two hairdressers when I was having my hair Victorian styled when one of the ladies said that she had been working on the set of Gladiator with Russell Crowe. "Ooh", you lucky thing replied the other "where did you film that?" With bated breath we waited for the exotic location to be disclosed. "In a field off the A34" was the reply.

Aah well! (see paragraph one for perks of the trade).

Sue Hallett