

Harvest Services St James Church: 11 am Sunday 25th Sept St Francis Church: 11 am Sunday 18th Sept

Alpha: with the Colwey Team Ministry

Alpha creates a space, where people can gather to have a conversation about faith, life and God.

Alpha @ Refresh

Wednesday Sept 21st
9:30-11 am St James Centre OX4 3LF



Tuesday Sept 19th
7:00 pm St James Centre
St James Centre OX4 3LF

Alpha in the
evening

www.colweyteamministry.co.uk Revd Geoff 01865 778596

The Bible Course



Starting
Monday
Sept 19th

7:00 pm Ranklin Room
St James Centre OX4 3LF

Join us on an
adventure: An eight-
session course
helping you explore
the BIG story of the
Bible

www.cowleyteamministry.co.uk Revd Geoff 01865 778596

From the Editors

Sally Hemsworth and Nicki Stevens

It is amazing how quickly the last two months have gone. The spells of such hot weather made it a memorable summer – but perhaps one which is going to be repeated more often.

Now we are planning Harvest Celebrations. Dates are planned for services at both churches in September – see Dates to Remember. Contributions of goods will go to the Community Emergency Food Bank (CEF) and financial contributions to WaterAid

The news that Joan Coleman is moving to Bristol very soon has shown what a large and valuable contribution she has made to the Parish over many years. She will be very much missed, not only for what she does, but for the lovely person she is. So many jobs she covered under the heading Treasurer and, on top of that, she took a very active part in Open the Book and also arranged a very successful annual plant sale over a number of years, growing a vast number of the plants which were for sale. You will see that she has arranged an At Home/Grab Some Pots at 95 Crescent Road on Saturday, 10 September 2022, 9.30 -1 pm as she very much hopes the Plant Sale will continue with new “leaders”.

Uncle Ben has the right idea – poppy seeds to plant or scatter are attached to this month’s Chronicle. He would love to hear how you got on – just send comments to the Chronicle “staff” and we will pass them on.

We have quite a full Chronicle this month so have not included a recipe – but we would like this to continue with your help. Please send us your favourite recipes for us to include. We also welcome ideas for articles and, indeed, articles themselves – just email them or drop paper copies into the Parish Office at St James Church Centre.

Most people have renewed their subscription for The Chronicle – but can you encourage anyone else to take it? Please ask around and see if we can increase our numbers – this would be very much appreciated. Additional order forms are available in the churches and church centre. It would be lovely to have more people on our list.

We do hope you enjoy the September edition of the Chronicle. Comments always welcome.

Enjoy the rest of the summer.

Nicki and Sally



Shaun Guard

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An Anglican Evangelism, Sexuality & Discipleship Sandwich

For the past 15 years or so I have worked with the Anglican Communion Office in London (the office which serves Anglican Churches around the world). My role has been particularly to lead work on Discipleship, helping dioceses to plan ways in which all of us can live “Jesus-Shaped” lives every day. As part of this work I have been privileged to travel to remote places to do training with bishops and their key leaders – the most recent visits (before the pandemic) being to South Sudan and Malaysia.

Early last month I was very privileged to be asked to speak at the Lambeth Conference when around 800 Anglican bishops and their spouses (yes, husbands as well now that we have women bishops!) gathered in Canterbury. The Lambeth Conference was held in 2008 so for three-quarters of the bishops present this was their first time to be present in such a global gathering of Anglican bishops. It was a special answer to prayer to see five bishops arrive from Myanmar where the military government still brings great suffering, together with bishops from South Sudan, Polynesia, Hong Kong and Jamaica, all with their own particular concerns. For me it was a great occasion to catch up with old friends – Archbishop Howard who I have worked with in Jamaica, Bishop Donald and his wife from East Malaysia and so many more.

After a retreat focused on 1 Peter, the conference came together around seven main themes beginning with Mission and Evangelism and ending with Discipleship, a thick ‘sandwich’ filled with a rich mixture of environmental responsibility, Christian unity and inter-faith relations, reconciliation and of course human sexuality. The last of these remains painful for both those who do or do not accept homosexual relationships in the church and the divisions are real (bishops from at least three African countries stayed away because of this) but in a sandwich which majored on Mission, Evangelism, Church Planting and Discipleship it was almost digestible.

The need for training and research within the Anglican Communion is huge and conversations over breakfast, lunch and dinner often turned to what we might be able to offer to Anglican leaders through equipping theological teachers, offering leadership in research, and developing networks of mutual enrichment. Many bishops are expected to wrestle with complex pastoral, leadership and theological issues equipped with little more than a very basic college education. One breakfast time I found myself in an animated conversation with three Tanzanian bishops struggling to know what to do with Muslim converts to Christianity who bring with them their three wives and wish to continue adding more wives as women in their community find themselves widowed and destitute. Not an issue we often come across in parish life in Cowley!

The bishops and their spouses have now all returned to their home countries – do please pray for them with all the challenges they face. The picture is of my friend Bishop David Nyi Nyi Niang from Myanmar conducting a baptism – but not in a font!



A word from the Rectory

Extract from the Baptism service: The Commission

The response repeatedly is : With the help of God, I will.

Those who are baptized are called to worship and serve God.

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?

Will you seek and serve Christ in all people, loving your neighbour as yourself?

Will you acknowledge Christ's authority over human society, by prayer for the world and its leaders, by defending the weak, and by seeking peace and justice?

Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth?

May Christ dwell in your heart(s) through faith, that you may be rooted and grounded in love and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.

Amen.

There are no passengers in the Kingdom of God.

"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvellous light"; 1 Peter 2:9

September is a great time to take stock. This last summer I have been joyfully involved in several baptisms. Indeed, we will be welcoming 'George Felix Whale' into the family of God on Sunday 18th!

Towards the end of the service is 'The Commission', where the nature of our calling as Sons and Daughters of God is described, "Those who are baptized are called to worship and serve God." It is a working out of Peter's description of us as 'Priests'. The panel to the left lays out seven areas of priestly activity.

1. Continuing in the apostles' teaching and fellowship.
2. Persevering in resisting evil, repenting and returning to the Lord.
3. Proclaim by word and example the good news.
4. Seek to serve Christ in all people.
5. Acknowledging Christ's authority over human society, by prayer.
6. Defending the weak, and by seeking peace and justice.
7. Striving to safeguard the integrity of creation.

It is in many ways a generic job description for us. We come to Jesus through faith, but the faith shows up in the way we strive to live our lives. Nobody is just a passenger in the kingdom of God. Each of us contributes in a unique way.

Paul uses a wonderful illustration. He uses a picture of a body. Our bodies have many different parts. Each part is specialised, and each part has a role to fulfil. If a part of the body is not functioning well, the whole body is affected. There is a personal challenge. It is to discover our own calling and help others to discover theirs.

Whilst on holiday, I came across four useful words. They describe different aspects of our life together: Come, Join, Serve, Give.

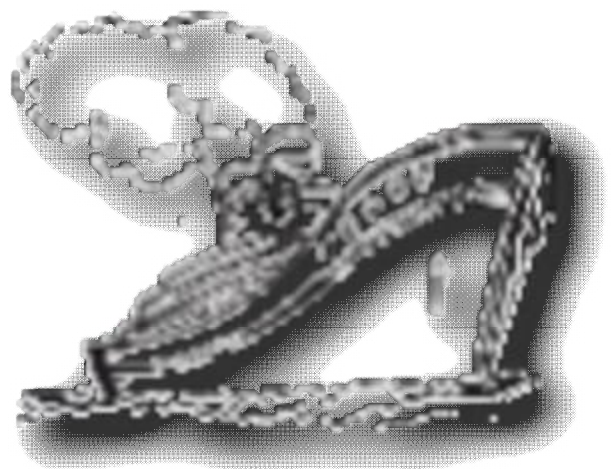
As we first encounter the family of God we simply COME. We physically put ourselves in the same place as other Christians. Later we JOIN, this is more than just coming along. It involves joining in with what is happening, not just by attending but getting involved. As we get more and more involved, we discover ourselves serving (SERVE). We start to do things that benefit others. We stop being consumers. It is no longer just about what can I get out of it. It also becomes what can I enable others to get out of it.

Eventually we find ourselves investing in what we are doing. Giving (GIVE) of ourselves: Time, Energy, Finance, Emotion. All of this shows in the way we are a 'family'.

As you think on those four words (Come, Join, Serve, and Give), I wonder how you see your faith in Jesus expressed. May God bless you each and every day!



Benson Cottage



FAIRTRADE - where are we with it as a Church and Parish?

The PCC has now agreed unanimously to confirm our determination to work harder at Fairtrade Parish Status, as we declare we are living by the Kingdom principles of caring for those who produce, process and transport our food. So we have now rebooted our fairtrade commitment!

We confirm that we will stock the kitchen only with those fairtrade products which are readily available in the shops so *all such donations to kitchen supplies should be Fairtrade, please*



Any non-Fairtrade donated items of goods which are readily available in the shops will be graciously received but passed on to the Community Emergency Foodbank

CHILDREN'S CORNER

I've got a bit of a surprise for you all this month, and that includes the older children especially. And it can involve Mums and Dads if they are daring to read this special section of the magazine!

But first, a question. What is the smallest thing that you know? I'm sure you have lots of small objects that you carry around with you and many of them are very useful. We used to play a game when I was young, and you can play it when you grow up too. Pack as many items as you can into a match box. Of course, nowadays the problem today is first find a matchbox!

Well, think about it. They can be useful but you don't usually eat them. You can get hundreds onto a teaspoon, and they are mostly black. Now have you got it? Well the answer is contained in the small envelope attached to this month's magazine. Seeds. Poppy seeds to be precise. I have collected some orange poppy seeds from my garden and you can plant them, or rather scatter them almost anywhere and hopefully some bright orange (double) poppies will show themselves. (They are slightly different to the poppies that are worn on Remembrance Day). I thought mine were weeds at first, but the stems kept growing and eventually a lovely flower emerged. Sadly, they only last a few days but if you are lucky, more stems will appear after a few days and the flowers appear again so that you have two or three small plants flowering throughout the summer. I did not plant them. They must

have arrived when the birds stopped on the washing line. And the bees love them.

When you are out for a walk, drop the seeds in some patch near a gate post or by a pond or the river. It will brighten up what is now a bare patch. DON'T eat the seeds or plant them in Daddies best flower bed, although there might be an opportunity to brighten up the ground at the side of his shed. But you will need patience. If you scatter them this autumn, they won't grow until next year, but they could be a nice surprise.

Yes, you too might be a nice surprise. Who knows what you might become. We must have patience and allow time to grow. No one can slow down time, or speed it up, but if we are patient, no matter what we do or where we grow up, we can still surprise everyone and shine brightly, and even surprise some people how brightly we shine, if only for a short time. Go carefully and give someone a nice surprise.

Uncle Ben

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MOTHERS' UNION NEWS

Our summer tea-party in July was planned to take place in the Rectory Garden. However, that particular day turned out to be the hottest day in 2022 so far. With temperatures pushing 40 °C it was decided that the coolest, shady place was our lovely old parish church – and so it was!

A full group of members shared a fine tea with savouries, cakes, strawberries and cream and a trifle which will linger long in the memory! Each member was asked to bring along a treasured possession and share its story. From a confirmation Bible and much-loved jewellery to a stunning piece of glassware, the stories came thick and fast.

The highlight, however, was an exquisite christening gown of over one hundred years old, all handsewn and in beautiful condition. We were told that every baby born into the family for over a century had been baptised in it. We were amazed.

Plans were made for our popular *wine, cheese and poetry evening*. The date for this is Friday 23rd September. As ever, everyone is invited to join us – friends, neighbours, family and more, so please put the date in your diary for a fun evening.

Rosanne Butler

SUPPORT PHONE NUMBERS

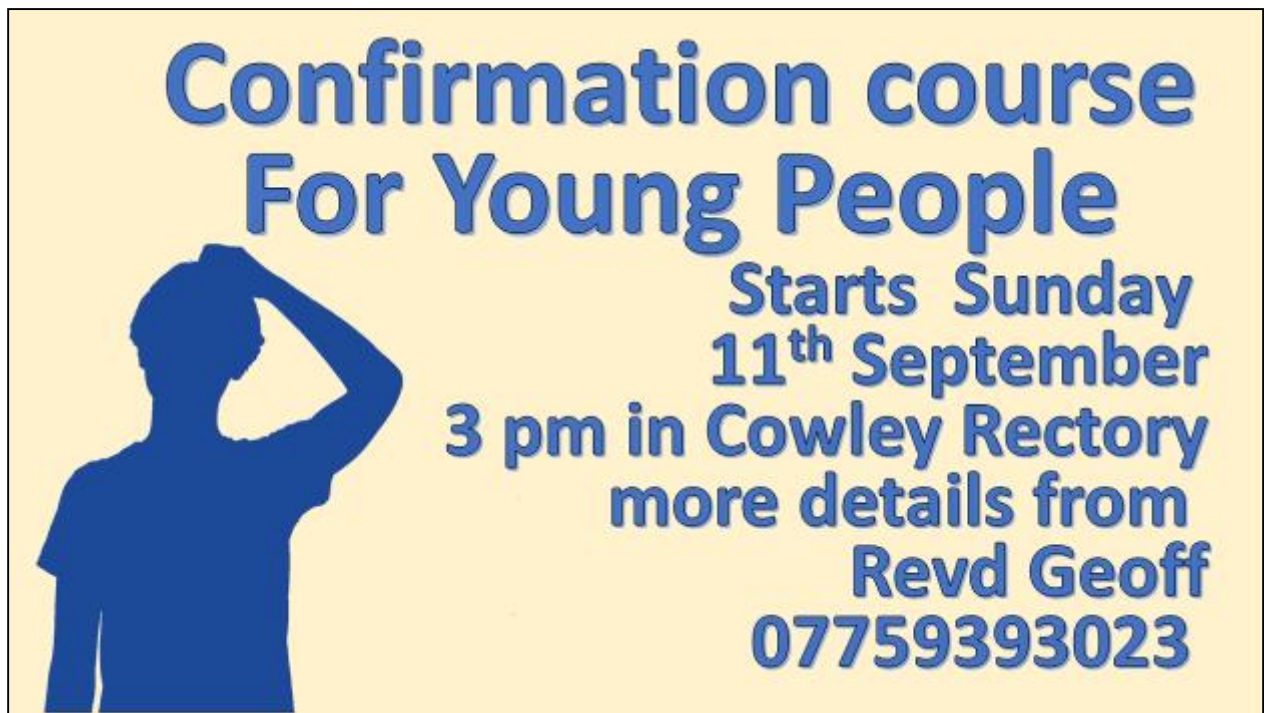
NEEDING ADVICE OR HELP? or just want to talk?

SOME USEFUL LOCAL NUMBERS:

Citizens Advice:	08082 787 909
Oxford City Council:	01865 249 811
Oxfordshire Mind:	01865 247788
Red Cross <i>coronavirus support line</i> :	08081 963 651
Samaritans <i>available 24/7</i> :	116 123
The Archway Foundation:	01865 790 552
Mental Health helpline <i>available 24/7</i> - NHS Oxford Health:	
Adults:	01865 904 997
Children/young people:	01865 904 988
Age UK—new telephone service for older people	01865 411288

Have you been receiving a lot of scam calls on your phone, some of them quite scary? If you are concerned about them, you can obtain help by:

- phoning 03450 700 707 – that's a special department set up by the police *OR*
- Silver Lines, open 24 hrs for assistance on 08004 708 090 - this is a charity set up by Esther Rantzen, primarily to assist those elderly people in need of assistance and who live alone and are in fear of being abused.

A poster for a confirmation course for young people. It features a blue silhouette of a person on the left, with their hand on their head. The text is in blue and yellow. The main title is 'Confirmation course For Young People'. Below that, it says 'Starts Sunday 11th September 3 pm in Cowley Rectory more details from Revd Geoff 07759393023'.

**Confirmation course
For Young People**

**Starts Sunday
11th September
3 pm in Cowley Rectory
more details from
Revd Geoff
07759393023**

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

URGENT RECRUITMENT for the Open the Book team!

Our teams are depleted! You will read elsewhere that Joan Coleman, a core team member, who with Lesley Williams has been a story-teller in all three schools and also crucially been creator and coordinator of our costumes and props, is leaving Oxford very soon. Chris Lee, now living in Witney, is also unable to participate at the moment. We thank them both for their involvement.

So, while we are delighted that curate Liam Cartwright is joining us when he can, more team members are urgently needed in each school NOW – and someone who is keen on sourcing, creating and storing props.

Our commitment is for alternate weeks in each school but you can do as little or as much as you wish – only Lesley Williams is now in all three teams; all others are in just one. The roles are assigned a fortnight ahead; we meet at the school half an hour before the assembly to rehearse, usually with some children taking some of the parts. It's fun and much appreciated by the schools and the children.

- alternate Mondays at 8:45 – arriving at 8:20 – 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 – Jill Ling

Is it the final goodbye?

As I write it seems that Autumn is already with us. I have seen leaves falling and whole dead branches on trees on my travels recently around the country. I am sure that, if you too have a garden, the grass is brown and the borders are as dry as dust just as mine is. Our nearest horse chestnut tree is already dropping conkers though the brown of its leaves is due to the twin scourges of leaf blight and attacks by the larvae of the leaf miner moth as well as drought.

At least I have not had potato/tomato blight this year. My tomatoes are cropping well in the greenhouse as are chillies. The two cucumber plants have been keeping us, family and neighbours very well supplied.

After 5 years our peach tree came good and we enjoyed so many juicy peaches that I had to make jam of some of them. Most of them were on branches that stretched over the walkway beyond our fence so a trek was required to retrieve them! We are happy to have lots of Victoria plums too, though the Other Half hates them!

We have been having a good supply of runner beans and courgettes on the allotment and the sweet corn is now cropping. The OH has been digging up our maincrop potatoes as the tops have completely died down and he doesn't want slugs to get to them. Some tubers were even starting to sprout.

It definitely will be the last year on the plot for us as we are moving away to Bristol to be closer to family. The house is on the market. I will not be buying seeds this month. The

catalogues are already at Elder Stubbs. It means also that I will not be preparing for the Plant Sale next May. I do hope that one will go ahead. It is such a high point on the local calendar and raises much-needed cash for the parish.

So..... I have two pleas:

1. Those that want to grow for the Plant Sale in 2023, you are invited to the garden at 95 Crescent Road on Saturday 10th September 9.30 to 1pm. As well as partaking of coffee, tea and cakes, please come with bags to take away as many pots/ trays etc as you wish. Later on the leavings will have to be binned. Phone me on 07935 963634 if you want to come at any other time.
2. For the last 15 years I have been acting as Treasurer for the parish. We desperately need people to fill the several roles that this entails. Talk to me and Geoff if you feel you would like to investigate this further. **THE PARISH NEEDS YOU!**

I hope this will not be the final homely piece for me to add to the Chronicle, but house sales can go very quickly and it will soon be 'bon voyage' from the Colemans.

I have loved the 51 years of living in Oxford, coming straight from university to teach in Oxford schools, to meet my Other Half and to raise my children, but tomorrow is another day and a new adventure!

Joan Coleman

A WARTIME CHILDHOOD

(Part 22)

During World War II, harvest was a vital time for the country but for we children it was a fun time too!

I have already mentioned the potato harvest when we were given a week off school to go potato picking for the local farmers, but the grain harvest was a *very* exciting time.

Our little cottage stood on the corner of a big cornfield and as a little girl I would watch the wheat grow, develop into ears and then turn a beautiful golden ripeness ready for the binder to reap. Fuel for the tractor's use was virtually unobtainable, so the lovely old carthorse '*Jubilee*', would be harnessed up to pull the binder round and round the standing corn.

The rabbits that lived in the field would either rush out into the hedgerows, panicking as the binder approached, or turn inward to the safety of the still-standing corn in the middle of the field. At the final cut, there would be lots of them dashing away. Armed with big sticks, my little friend Margaret and I would promise our mums that we would 'whack a rabbit' and bring it home for the stew pot. But honestly – I could no more have killed a dear little bunny than fly to the moon!

The corn, as it was cut, was bundled into sheaves, tied with twine and tossed out onto the stubble. They were then 'stoked up' in rows to dry, ready for the horse and cart to collect and take back to the rickyard. Stoking up is where we children came in. A stook comprised of six or eight sheaves, three or four on either side to form a kind of tent. There was quite a skill to it because they simply *must not* tip over, but we got quite good at it. *And*, of course, there was a little

gap between the sheaves where small children could play hide-and-seek. A great treat was getting to ride back to the farm on top of the sheaves.

After the fields were fully harvested, it was time to go 'leasing'. (It took me quite a while to realise that Ruth and her mother-in-law in the Bible were leasing, because their word for it was 'gleaning'). Now, in Oxfordshire you don't go leasing, you go gleaning. What does that mean? Well, when you are using a binder some of the stalks of corn get missed, so armed with a basket, you dash out into the field to gather up the 'missed' or leftover stalks. These make wonderful treats for your chickens to peck at. By the way, stubble left behind after the harvest was just the right height to scratch a little girl's ankles above her ankle-socks. Oh! those sore patches – I remember them still!

Soon after the ricks had been built the threshing machines made their journeys round all the local farms. Steam driven, their approach could be heard for several miles and their arrival was quite a sensation. Whereas the harvest took place during our school summer holidays, the threshing machines came as the new September term began.

The rickyard opposite our playground would be a hive of activity and playtimes were spent watching it all. The women (some of them mothers of the children in school) standing on the top of the thresher, cutting the twine on the sheaves which had been pitched up to them on pitchforks, the men at the bottom collecting the golden grain in sacks and the rush of the leftover straw all cascading down. This, together with the unique smell of the

great steam engine – all held we children spellbound.

After, of course, came Harvest Festival time. The six o'clock evensong was when the church was packed. On the windowsills were rows of apples, ripe onions, well-scrubbed potatoes, parsnips, beetroot and so much more. Huge marrows were arranged by the lectern and always one of the golden sheaves saved to prop against the altar rail. We sang our hearts out. We had seen the field ploughed and the '*good seed*' scattered on the land around us, we

were '*thankful people*' who had come to '*raise the song of harvest home*'. All the lovely produce, including a basket of freshly-laid eggs placed on the font, was taken to the Radcliffe Infirmary in Oxford.

As a small girl I was so glad to hear that, because that hospital had looked after my dear granny until she died. I should think that those patients were fed on vegetable soup for weeks from the produce of our harvest!

Rosanne Butler

THE YOUNG ANGLER

I 'spect you wonder where I've been
With my little jar and net
I've been along the river
To see what I could get.

I only went for tiddlers
And what a lot I've got,
My mum she won't believe me
Cause I've dropped the blinkin lot.

I've had a smashin day though,
I'll tell you if you like.
I left at nine this morning
And I went there on me bike

I sat down by the river
With me net a-dangling in,
I slipped into the water
And got soaked right to the skin.

I took off all my clothes
And laid them out to dry,
My feet were really filthy
I had mud all in my eye.

My mum she shouted as I went out
'Bring a frog home if you dare'.
I put one in the pastry bowl
I didn't think she'd care.

Its like when I had some maggots
And put them in the jug,
My mum she didn't notice
And put them in Dad's mug.

You should have seen his face
When he took a great big swallow,
I sneaked out of the door
But he began to follow.

He gave me such a hiding
One I won't forget,
I don't know what he'll say
When he knows I'm soaking wet.

Our Mum will spoil my day now
She'll say "Come on have a bath".
The thing I dislike the most is that
She'll say it with a laugh.

She'll get me in the tub
And she'll scrub my neck so clean,
Oh, when I think about it
I'll wish I hadn't been.

Maida Simmons (from May 2015)

Connections, Connections!

Stories from 'August Quest'

Bunting, bubble tube and busyness were the buzz words every Tuesday and Thursday afternoons during August as our church building was open for 'August Quest'! Follow a trail of 12 questions around the church and for every answer open the treasure box and choose a treasure to pop into your treasure bag, then join a crafting table and create artwork to take home. All for free!

A total of 122 visits were made altogether, some returning again (and again!). A substantial number of the adults coming in were 'just passing by' as they walked through the church yard, but the majority came because of their connections with us as a church family. It's really thought provoking to reflect on how even fleeting, chance encounters bring connection with people and how our faithful, continuing service to the community with our weekday groups, Little Stars, Seashells and ReFresh build connections which become relationships. I'd like to share a few stories to encourage us!

- A young man burst in through the door, a little agitated – it turned out that he had been in before, several years ago for the funeral of a friend's young son, killed in a traffic accident. He hadn't been to church since then but, walking past, saw it was open and forced himself to go in. We chatted with him for a short time and he looked around the church before leaving in a more peaceful state.
- Someone we have connections with through the weekly groups shared the sad news that her husband had left her.
- Another weekly group participant hovered at the church door in tears as memories of a past funeral plus a recent family death made her reluctant to enter. She did come in eventually and after several conversations with compassionate listeners she left in a much better state of mind.
- One 'Seashells' mum brought another friend along – she says she will come to 'Seashells'!
- The treasure collected by the children signified various Biblical ideas. A 7-year-old loved it all so much once she was home she repeatedly relayed it all to her mum and even took a completed treasure bag on holiday to give to her cousin visiting from Belgium.
- Another 'Seashells' person has never shown any interest in church but brought her grandchildren and completed the treasure trail with them – she said she had learnt a lot!
- Two different individuals passing by both with mobile babies were both impressed that we have a crèche area in church! They might come on a Sunday and one is definitely interested in John and Chris' Art workshops.

Please pray that all connections made this summer will be steps towards knowing Jesus for each individual.

JOHN SHREEVE'S ARTICLES FROM PAST CHRONICLES

THE FIRST CHRISTIANS

September 2010

It was at Antioch that the Jewish followers of Christ first became known as Christians. They had moved away from Jerusalem partly to escape persecution, and also to spread the Good News of the Gospel which they had been commanded to do.

Antioch was a fine city by any standards in the ancient world, and it was not far from Jerusalem. Furthermore, Jewish merchants had strong links with trade in the city and had visited it regularly. So it was a natural choice as a starting point of the movement of Christianity into the Eastern Roman Empire. At that time, it was under Roman Governance though it had previous Hellenistic Syrian Roots. After Olympia in Greece, Antioch had the most famous Games in the world and its Chariot Races were legendary. It had a two-mile long main street, the first in the world to be paved with marble. A great market ran along that street covered with pillared arcades and backed by great merchant houses and city temples. Excavations in the City suburbs have revealed the finest mosaics of the Ancient World. In short, on the face of it there were all the trappings of a great civilization, but there was a darker side too, partly connected with their ancient Gods. There was cruelty and immorality and a lot of people lived in a climate of fear and uncertainty.

It was this sort of thing that the first Christians had to contend with. In some

ways it worked in their favour with their message of love and peace and certainty. At first, they had great success with their converts both amongst the Jews and the Pagans. Then came the backlash driven by jealousy and hatred. The final break came when the Jews would no longer accept their message, and they were forced to leave the synagogues. It must have been very traumatic for them after their long tradition of corporate close-knit worship throughout the centuries. They had no other ready-made places to worship in, and so they had to make do with whatever they could find – in private homes, in caves and wherever there was some shelter from the weather. Yet Christianity prospered and expanded throughout the ancient world, eventually reaching even Rome itself. After a period of intense persecution during which many Christians lost their lives, the Emperor Constantine finally embraced Christianity and became a convert.

We owe a great debt to those first Christians who faced adversity with great faith and courage.

John Shreeve

Christmas Music

'He who sings prays twice...' So stated St Augustine, allegedly!

Live music is a vital aspect of our worship, and we would love to see more people involved in contributing to it, especially over the Christmas period, when we will welcome so many people through our doors to hear the story of Jesus' birth. So this year, we'll be organising a scratch choir to enhance our worship during the festive season. All will be welcome - whether experienced singers or complete novices - we will be delighted to see you!

We would also love to hear from any instrumentalists who might like to use their gifts to contribute to our Christmas worship. If you think you might like to come, join, serve and give to our musical efforts this Christmastime, please have a chat to Liam, and watch this space for further details!

Come and sing:

Informal singing for anybody who wishes to join us!
[Hymns and song of worship]

**12 noon Tuesday
in St James Church
Restarts Tuesday
September 6th**

**For more details phone:
07759393023**

PERSONALLY SPEAKING

It is with great sadness that we report the deaths of Sheila Collett and Stella Atkinson.

Sheila's funeral is at Oxford Crematorium on Wednesday, 14 September 2022, at 3 pm.

Stella's funeral is at St Mary and St John Church on Friday, 23 September 2022, at 11.30 pm.

But our love and congratulations to the Kiffner family, Jenny, Martin, Elisa and Anna on the birth of baby Toby on the 15 July 2022.



Florence Park Community Centre

Cornwallis Rd, OX4 3NL

Horticultural Show



Sunday September 11th 12noon - 3pm

Fruit & Vegetables, Arts & Home Produce, Cakes & Flowers

Vegetables

- ◆ Beans/Pods - x6
- ◆ Carrots, Parsnips, Beetroot - x3
- ◆ Cabbage - x1
- ◆ Potato - x3
- ◆ Funniest Veg - x1

Fruits

- ◆ Courgette, Pumpkin, Squash - x1
- ◆ Tomato- x5
- ◆ Berries (x6) Apple, Plum, Pear -x3

Flowers

- ◆ Stem (3+ x blooms)
- ◆ Formal arrangement

Arts

- ◆ Drawing, Painting, Nature Photo

Cooking

- ◆ Jam, Curd, Honey, Chutney
- ◆ Cake, Tart, Biscuits (x4)
- ◆ Small Loaf

Kids

- ◆ Bake or Cake

Rules : All entries £1 per category

We will not be adhering to the strict rules of national horticulture - where categories require more than 1 item, judges will be looking for uniformity.

Please present your entries on a plate.

Each category will receive a 1st & 2nd place certificate.

We will have a Best in show prize.

Exhibitors can enter & set up from 11am - 1pm. Judging will take place from 1.30pm

Drinks & Cake Available & Bar Open 12pm - 3pm

florenceparkcommunitycentre@gmail.com

Prayer Space

We rejoice, O Lord, that you have made
the earth so rich in natural resources;
and we pray that we may learn to
use them more responsibly:

Not wasting what we do not need,
Not polluting the air, the soil, the sea,
Not wantonly destroying the life of animals and plants but taking care to hand on to others on earth fit for the life of man to the honour of your name.

Almighty God, you are the source of truth
and your spirit leads us into the truth:
may all who teach and all who learn
in our schools, colleges and universities
be set free from everything that might
hinder their search for truth;
and finding truth, may they learn to use it
for the good of humankind
and for your greater glory.

Loving God,
I thank you that in the turmoil of life
you are always with me -
your love reaching out,
your hand supporting me.
and your grace giving me strength.
Help me truly to believe that,
not just in my mind but also in my heart, to put my trust wholly in you, confident that you will never fail me.
Help me to let go of the fears and anxieties that weigh me down, that destroy my confidence and undermine my happiness, that alienate me from others and prevent me living life to the full.
Help me to receive the freedom you offer, which comes from knowing that you hold all things in your hands and that nothing can finally separate me from your love.
In the name of Christ I ask it.

Amen