

Kneeling

Moments of great calm,
Kneeling before an altar
Of wood in a stone church
In summer, waiting for the God
To speak; the air a staircase
For silence; the sun's light
Ringing me, as though I acted
A great role. And the audiences
Still; all that close throned
Of spirits waiting, as I,
For the message.

Prompt me, God;

But not yet. When I speak,
Though it be you who speak
Through me, something is lost.
The meaning is in the waiting

R S Thomas

ELECTORAL ROLL

The completion of the Electoral Roll and the APCM for 2020 were both postponed in the spring, during lockdown. We are still not sure what will happen about the latter but it is now time to declare the revision of the Electoral Roll complete. Your final chance to submit a registration form to be added to the roll for 2020 – our Parish membership list – is Sunday 20 September. The full draft list will then be displayed for checking at church on 27 September and 4 October.

Contact Lesley Williams – Electoral Roll Officer

01865 779 562 / 07982 439 828 / lesleyjwilliams@btinternet.com

BIBLE SOCIETY 'MORE THAN A BOOK' REGISTRATION

Are you looking for something inspirational to read to see you through the rest of this strange time? If you order anything on line or by phone from the Bible Society, please use the unique Parish reference number 12044 or select the

'Parish of Cowley' from the drop down menu when placing the order and we will benefit from the 'More than a book' cash back scheme. It's that easy! We earn some from our 'Open the Book' resources orders – not a huge amount but useful! Some personal shopping would be useful.



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

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

NOTABLE PEOPLE & CHARACTERS OF COWLEY

Mr Jethro Harris

December 1960

I wonder how many people know that as well as cars, refrigerators and excavators, works of art are exported from Cowley from a tiny studio at the rear of a house in White Road, to almost every English-speaking country.

When I visited Mr. Jethro Harris one afternoon recently, I was struck by his quiet dignity and modesty. Peace pervaded his workshop – no machinery, no telephone, just an array of carver's tools, his workbench and carving posts. One felt transported to a quieter age.

Four angels with widespread wings were just finished for an American church, and a carved fish, (the handle of a font), was in the making.

Mr. Harris told me that at the age of 14 he won a scholarship to the Cheltenham Art School and afterwards went for six years to R. L. Boulton's Studios at Cheltenham to learn carving.

In 1931 he came to Oxford and worked at Mowbrays. In 1938, after a serious illness, he started on his own, and in 1953 went into partnership with Mr. Leo Moulder, their joinery workshops being in Crescent Road.

Our own three churches have quite exquisite specimens of his craft - St. James in the Parish Church, St. Winifred in St. Luke's, and St. Francis and St. Clare in St. Francis'.

His work, too, is to be found in St. George's Chapel, Windsor, seven cathedrals, three abbeys, and churches in Scotland, India, Africa, (a large figure of St. Michael in Bloemfontein Cathedral), Guernsey, Australia, New Zealand (a lovely low relief for a Seaman's Mission of Our Lord on the Shore of the Sea of Galilee with the Fishermen), Canada and the United States.

One lovely Madonna and Child has become known as "The Tideswell Madonna" and is in what is known locally as the "Church of the Peaks" in Derbyshire.

The decorative pattern on Our Lady's gown and that of the child Christ depicts the wild flowers of the Peak District, and imagine Mr. & Mrs. Harris' surprise one day when a coachload of parishioners arrived at their home to see who had carved it!

Asked if he had any advice for young people contemplating taking up a craft, Mr. Harris said "Be sure it is what you want. Be prepared to give of your best and you will be happy."

I. M. B.

WHAT TO DO DURING LOCKDOWN

Oxford as you have never seen it:

Photos by Peter Upham – shown during meeting of Framing Oxford – A Zoom Meeting arranged by Age UK



Do you shop on-line with Amazon? If you do you may be able to help us raise a bit of money towards the toilet in St James Church.

Smile.amazon.co.uk is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on Smile.amazon.co.uk, the Smile.amazon.co.uk Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice.

We are listed as the charity: The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Cowley, Oxford or you can search by our charity number: 1153602





Protect Yourself from Courier Fraud

From: Michelle Beahan (Police, NHW & Community Messaging Co-ordinator, Oxford LPA)

We have seen a recent increase in reports of attempted “courier fraud” offences in Oxford, with elderly or otherwise vulnerable people the most common targets. Criminals typically carry out courier fraud by cold calling the victim, purporting to be a police officer or bank official to gain their trust. The fraudsters will then claim there’s an issue with the victim’s bank account or request their assistance with an ongoing bank or police investigation. The ultimate aim of this call is to trick them into handing over money or their bank details.

Common techniques used by the fraudsters include telling the victim to withdraw large sums of cash from the bank and not to discuss this with anyone, including the bank or the police. In all cases, a “courier” will then come and pick up the cash and bank card, on behalf of the police or bank. They will often come to the victim’s home address.

PROTECT YOURSELF

Behind all of the clever tricks and ever-changing narratives, there are a few basic recurring elements that are common across many frauds, including courier fraud.

Here’s what you need to remember:

Your bank or the police will never:

- Call and ask you for your full PIN or full banking password.

- Ask you to withdraw money to hand over to them

- Ask you to transfer money out of your account.

It pays to stop and think any time you receive a request for personal or financial information.

Remember, if you feel uncomfortable or unsure about what you’re being asked to do, never hesitate to contact your bank or financial service provider directly, using a number you trust, such as the one listed on your bank statements or on the back of your card. Alternatively, discuss the incident with a trusted friend or family member and get their advice on whether you should go through with any action relating to your finances.

Find out more on our website: <https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/fa/fraud/personal-fraud/banking-payment-card-investment-pension-fraud/>



Organise fuel bills, suppliers before winter – Citizens Advice tip

Did you know that Citizens Advice has advisers who can help you sign up with a new fuel or electricity company, or switch to a better tariff?

There's no charge for our time and you won't be steered towards one particular supplier because we're impartial, having no links with any of them. We offer one-on-one sessions (by telephone at present) and we'll take a close look at your individual situation.

Now is the time to sort it out before winter closes in with cold autumn gales.

We can help you understand energy bills and various kinds of tariffs, supporting you if you want to switch and calculating the savings you might make. If you've fallen behind on bill payments, we can advise you on ways to reduce your debt by budgeting or trying a new payment scheme, for example.

We can also tell you about energy efficiency measures around the house, like draught-proofing windows and doors and installing LED light bulbs. Grants may be available to pay for thermal insulation.

We can check your benefit entitlements and help you to claim them if you're eligible. There are several helpful schemes like the Priority Services Register and the Warm Home Discount.

And if you have any complaints against your current supplier, we can help you resolve them.

You can find the relevant information on our website at www.citizensadvice.org.uk/energy or phone our Adviceline on 0300 330 9042

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SAFEGUARDING IN COWLEY PARISH

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

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

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

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

We follow statute, guidance and recognised good practice in all our safeguarding procedures and check that all users of our premises agree to do so too.

Our practice is focused by a new requirement to complete a 'Promoting a safer church' action plan. We find we must clarify some of our procedures and systems. There is the danger that we *think everyone knows what they should do* but we haven't checked on that.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility – *please be sure to report anything you observe whilst at church or one of our events that causes you concern for someone's safety or wellbeing.*

It is just as important during this strange time when we are all on our own in our homes; the situation throws up its own safeguarding and welfare issues. Please remain aware.

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

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PERSONALLY SPEAKING

Catherine Hartley (younger daughter of Stephen and Sharon and sister to William) and Cosimo Trinca will be married at St James on Saturday 5 September, the ceremony having been postponed earlier in the year and still of course with limited guests. We wish the couple every blessing for their life together, currently in Cheltenham,

CHRONICLE

Editorial Team- Sally Hemsworth, Nicki Stevens

Deadline for the next edition: Monday 21 September 2020

If possible, please send entries by email to Sally at chronicle@cowleyteamministry.co.uk.

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

The Editorial Committee in no way accepts responsibility for goods or services supplied by our advertisers, errors and omissions excepted.

Bric-a-brac Sale

In aid of church funds

In the front garden of
Cowley Rectory 11 Beauchamp Lane
(Weather permitting)

On Sat. 12th Sept.
10-12 noon



Link to online giving!



We have put a new button on our web site! Our supporters can now make one off payment online. It will take you to the 'give a little' web site where you can decide how much you would like to give. You can also scan this image and go straight there!

<https://givealittle.co/campaigns/49eef694-09d1-4ee3-8810-6ac86d972e6c>





This sign was painted by our resident artist, photographer, dinosaur-builder and gardener, Andy. One of many of his quirky comments on his allotment on Elder Stubbs. The sentiment is echoed by many of us continuing to work on our plots during the lockdown for our exercise and to enhance our mental health. Now, we are seeing the end of the summer and getting our crops picked.

Our onions are drying under cover at home, runner beans, chard and courgettes keep coming and the sweetcorn is ready for the pot.

Masses of raspberries continue to be picked and, today, I have made 10 jars of raspberry jam!

The bare ground left after onions and peas have been cleared has been sown with green manure seeds. Because of the warm soil and frequent showers, these seeds have germinated quickly and will cover the ground over the winter to be cut down and dug in in the spring. Hopefully, we will be able to get a load of the real stuff to dig in the rest of the plot. We usually get a load every other year but with heavy rain and sodden ground last autumn, it meant that we missed our delivery.

Sadly, the Elder Stubbs Festival was cancelled 8

this year due to Covid, so I won't be entering a pumpkin in the veg show. I only planted one plant but it has wound its way through the sweetcorn and has produced two orange not-so-heavyweights.

Les Hemsworth has given me a memory stick with contributions mainly by me to the Cowley Chronicle. A lot of the contents were the gardening articles starting in March 2009 and written by Diana Pope, a lively and imaginative writer. For the April 2012 issue, I began contributing. I can't believe it has been that long a time and I apologise for repeating myself many times in the last eight years! Diana mentioned the Plant Sale in 2009, which must have been our first one as I had just retired the previous Christmas and thought that a Plant Sale would be a good idea. Now it is a fixture that I thoroughly enjoy preparing for. Sadly the community spirit that the day gives in St James Centre could not happen this year. I had already started my growing season and had a mini sale at home instead. That so many people came showed how much enthusiasm there is locally for gardening.

My sisters and I have been whatsapp-ing each other as we comment on the content of Gardener's World each Friday. There is a general moan about "teaching your grannie to suck eggs" elementary stuff and repeats. However, Monty Don did sow some seeds of Cup and Saucer plant (*Cobea scandens*) which made me do the same. I have grown them before. This year they have been a great success clambering all over with their sticky tendrils to produce the purple bell-shaped flowers. They each only last a day but they are gorgeous. Again, only lasting a day, are the blue morning glory flowers which are just beginning. I have these trained on string around the shed window and door and keep a count of how many there are each day. Barmy eh!!!

Joan Coleman

Adverts from the Archives

Starting this month, I thought that the adverts from years ago which were published in the Chronicle would be of interest to some of you. I therefore will show a few of them per month, for a period. There is a vast archive I have gleaned, both local and national.

Les Hemsworth.

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July 1933

REPORT FROM THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

A ZOOM PCC was held in June to discuss the plans for the provision of a toilet at St James, the Bishop's Mission Order (BMO) for Grace Church, and the advice from the Diocesan on Covid-19 and reopening of church buildings.

The PCC unanimously agreed to apply for a Faculty in relation to the toilet, it discussed the draft BMO and recommendations were made to the Bishop and it was agreed that the church should open for private prayer on Wednesday and Sunday afternoons – as you will know things have moved on from there and services have restarted.

Outside of the PCC meeting, I am pleased to report the current position on the following:

1. The installation of the Ox & Bucks Light Infantry Memorial, St James Church: The necessary consultation has taken place on this and we are awaiting a response from the Registrar about the Faculty.
2. Installation of a Toilet, St James Church:
3. Provision of Digital Projection, St James Church
Applications have been made to the DAC for Faculties for these two projects. They have asked that the necessary consultation be undertaken (so, as required, notices will be put up in St James Church and at the door.) It was very reassuring how quickly the DAC dealt with these two applications.

The APCM was postponed from April. Consideration is now being given to holding this important meeting, possibly in October. It will, of course, depend on national and Diocese advice, but notices will be posted once we are sure we can hold the meeting.

Sally Hemsworth

PCC Secretary



CAMINO DE SANTIAGO PILGRIMAGE TREK

20-27 March 2021

for the Traidcraft Exchange

Another challenge for Lesley Williams who has signed up with Global Adventure Challenges to fulfil a long held wish to visit Santiago de Compostela and has committed to raising £1,330 sponsorship for Fairtrade Exchange, on top of a considerable amount to cover expenses which she's paying herself. So once the Ride and Stride and hopefully the Christian Aid abseil are out of the way, she will have to put her mind to serious fundraising and you will be hearing about events and opportunities to help with that.

The trek is the final 116km/72 miles, 5 days of the full pilgrimage route, starting from Sarria, with a grading of tough and challenging! The group has met with staff from Global Adventure Challenges and Traidcraft Exchange on a Zoom session when we learned a lot about what to expect, how to train, ideas for fundraising... and Traidcraft's work.

In its simplest form, trade should of course be beneficial for everyone involved: goods and money are exchanged and everyone is better off. But global trade sadly does not work this way – instead it feeds the rich and exploits the poor. It traps people in poverty.

Imagine if no matter how hard you worked today, you could not afford to put food on the table. For millions of people around the world, that is the reality they face. A fair income gives you freedom, security and hope for the future. It allows you to feed your family and educate your children. That is the power of trade done well. But unfair trade amplifies poverty. It makes the rich richer and leaves the poor behind.

Traidcraft Exchange exists to do two things:

- to support people to harness the benefits of trade
- to fight against injustice in global trade

It's a simple mission, but it is changing lives all over the world.

Traidcraft's goal is to achieve a future where everyone gets a fair income for their work, no matter what country they live in. In a time when the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic are being felt by the world's poorest, your support is more important than ever as we build a recovery with fairer trade at its heart.

A WARTIME CHILDHOOD

To a little three-year-old girl those first few months of World War Two seemed to be much the same as ever. Nothing much changed. I still went to my weekly tap-and-ballet classes (how I loved my little red tap shoes), I was still taken down to the local park to feed the ducks and mummy and I went off pretty frequently to the shops. Of course we did not own a refrigerator (hardly anyone did) so a trip to the shops happened every two or three days.

I understand that initially the government closed all cinemas and theatres for safety reasons but soon realised that the entertainment they provided was a great boost to morale. So luckily for this little girl I was taken by my mummy and daddy to see the first full-length Disney film of "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs". I was absolutely enchanted until the transformation scene when the wicked queen turned into the ugly old witch. At that point I cried so much that I had to be taken out of the cinema. Mummy insisted that she wanted to stay to the end, so my lovely dad took me out to the park to play on the swings and wait for mummy.

At Christmas 1939 I was also taken to the pantomime in Kingston-on-Thames. It was Dick Whittington, the story of which I already knew quite well. However, I was swept along by the glamour of it all and to crown my delight the community song that we all joined in was "a tisket, a tasket a green and yellow basket" and guess what (?) I already knew that song because I had a basket just like that in which I took bread crusts to feed the ducks!

Things did begin to happen at home though. Mr Price next door went off to join the RAF leaving his little son Freddie, my best playmate, very upset. Mr Miller (next door on the other side) became an air-raid warden and went out at night fire watching though I really had no idea what sort of fires he had been watching. My dad, being a carpenter and joiner, was deemed to have a reserved occupation so he joined the Home Guard and also went fire-watching leaving mummy and me to sleep in the air-raid shelter.

I enjoyed sleeping in the shelter because my daddy had made me a little bunk-bed across the end with a shelf where I could put my magic painting books, paint brushes and even a little hole to fit a paste pot for the water. Tucked up with my teddy it did not seem to matter that huge searchlights were sweeping across the night sky outside.

As a member of the local Home Guard my dad was required to turn up for drill and parades. I don't remember which day of the week (I guess Saturday, may be) but mummy and I went down, I in my pushchair, to watch the marching practise. Poor dad he did get teased at home with no uniform, only an armband and a broom handle to use as a rifle. He did, of course, get fully equipped eventually but, being quite a short man he was issued with a great-coat that swept the floor (more teasing).

Early in 1940 things changed radically for me and I quickly learnt what being "at war" meant.

The memory of what happened that day is still one of the most vivid of my childhood.

It was a cold wintery day and I was tucked up warm in my pushchair as mummy and I were returning home after one of our shopping trips. We were almost home when I looked up and above mummy's head coming towards us at some speed was an aeroplane. As it got nearer I could hear some bangs (I know now that the pilot was shooting). Suddenly two strong arms grabbed my mum and me, still in the pushchair, and threw us under a coal lorry. The coalman had been delivering to the local houses and had realised what was happening. "Don't you realise he's shooting at you?" he screamed at mum as we crouched under his lorry. The noise of the plane swooping low over the houses lives with me still.

A friend of mummy's whose house was very nearby came out to help and took us indoors to make mum a cup of tea. She also bathed mum's knee where she had scraped it under the lorry and torn one of her decent stockings. We were lucky but there is a sad ending to the incident. A lady whom we knew who used to take her little twin boys to the baby clinic we attended had been walking with her little ones across the park. This same aeroplane was swooping down so she threw her twins under a bush and threw herself across them as protection. Apparently someone heard the babies crying and went to find them. They were safe but their mother's body was riddled with bullets.

The extraordinary thing for me was to hear my dad's reaction to all this. "Perhaps" he told mummy, "that pilot's wife and child had been killed tragically and he had felt the need for revenge". What a lovely man my father was.

Rosanne Butler



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CHURCHES OPENING FOR WORSHIP from 5 July

Holy Communion in one kind only

8.00am St James

9.30am St Francis, St James

11.00am St Francis, St James

PRIVATE PRAYER IN OUR CHURCHES THIS WEEK

Sunday 2.00—4.00 St James

Wednesday 2.00—4.00 St James

Chats in the churchyard both days

**ALL OTHER ACTIVITIES
SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER
NOTICE—FACEBOOK DAILY
PRAYER TAKES PLACE
MONDAY—SATURDAY 12
NOON,**

SUNDAY SERVICES

ST JAMES CHURCH, BEAUCHAMP LANE

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

ST FRANCIS CHURCH, HOLLOW WAY

10.30am Parish Eucharist

1st Sunday All Age bring n/share lunch

MID-WEEK SERVICES & MEETINGS

Morning Prayer	8.00am	Tue, Thu, Sat at St James; Mon at St Francis
Monday	10.00-11.30am	Little Stars Playgroup— St Francis
	2.30pm	Parish Mothers' Union— St James (3rd Monday)
Tuesday	10.00am	Seashells Toddler Group— St James
	12.00pm	Eucharist—Ranklin Room, St James Church Centre
	12.30pm	Tuesday Lunch Club— St James
Thursday	7.30pm	Local House of Prayer, St James

HOME GROUPS

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

The Parish Office in St James Church Centre is staffed by volunteers and is not covered continually.

Please leave a message and someone will get back to you.

Contact details: Tel: 01865 747680

Email: office@cowleyteamministry.co.uk

Out of hours tel: 01865 778596

Website: www.cowleyteamministry.co.uk

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Revd Richard Chand

01865 701948

Email: richardwchand@outlook.com

Revd Canon Mark Oxbrow

01865 461953

Email: markoxbrow@aol.com

Churchwardens:

Christine Woodman Tel: 778078

St Francis : Nick Dewey

Tel: 07952 524664

St James Church Centre Manager:

Chris Woodman Tel: 778078

Hall Bookings:

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

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Sally Hemsworth, Nicki Stevens

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chronicle@cowleyteamministry.co.uk

Paper contributions to the Parish Office.