

Dear Friends...

Happy Easter! So what does Easter mean for you? The coming of Spring flowers, Easter Eggs, a holiday? Or does it mean more than that? I think so! In those words which we shall say this Easter "Christ is Risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!"

For Jesus' disciples his death and burial meant the end of their hopes. They were probably ready to pack up and return home. But then something happened that changed that. Meeting the risen Christ for them made all the difference. Whether it was Mary Magdalene meeting him in the garden and initially mistaking him for the gardener; Cleopas and his companion walking with him on the Emmaus Road and eventually recognising him; the disciples meeting him in the upper room; doubting Thomas invited by Jesus to touch him; or even later Paul encountering him on the Damascus Road. Meeting the risen Christ made all the difference for them, as it still does for us today.

Christ's resurrection means that what he was then, he is for us now and we can find him today as they found him then. We are invited to think of him, talk with him, adore, desire, be anxious or sorry, be grateful and praise, to look at him, as he looks at us. This is what it is for us as Easter People!

But to switch now to something different. On the back page of this

Chronicle, you will see a list of clergy in the Parish. Four of us are described as Self Supporting Ministers(SSMs). So what are SSMs, or Non Stipendiary Ministers as we used to be called? They are clergy who are not paid for their ministry. But although they are unpaid for their parochial ministry, unlike stipendiary clergy, they are selected, trained and ordained in the same ways as the stipendiary clergy. Rather like the apostle Paul, a tentmaker, they have (or have had) other areas of work from which they earn their living. Although worker priests have been around for many years, it was only in the 1970s that the Diocese of Oxford launched its ministry training scheme, and I was one of the first group of ordinands ordained in 1975, (which means that this year I celebrate the 40th anniversary of my own ordination)! At that time, SSMs were few and far between, but now many parishes have them, both women and men. In fact I see that in recent years about half of all new ordinands in the Church of England are SSMs. So at this rate, in a few years' time half of all the Church of England's priests could be Self Supporting Ministers. Perhaps treasurers will find this a welcome easing of pressures on church finances!

SSM's employment extends to many fields of life. I recall that those who trained with me included a dentist, an engineer, schoolteachers, a boiler inspector, and all saw their secular jobs

Chronicle

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2015

as an important area of their ministry. It also opened the ordained ministry to people who did not feel called to abandon their other (secular) areas of work (in my case public transport management), which they regarded as just as much a vocation as more traditional priestly roles. It is also reflected in their ministry within a parish. I always enjoy how in Mark Oxbrow's sermons he takes us outside the narrow confines of Cowley and Oxford to the wider world, with the experiences of Christians in many other countries and churches worldwide.

If you would like to know more about this form of ministry, the Diocese of Oxford has published a

free booklet entitled "The Gift of Self-Supporting Ordained Ministry" and there are some copies of it on the table at the back of St James church. It contains the fascinating stories of eight Oxford SSMs. Do take a copy and think and pray about whether this might be a form of ministry for you or others to explore. But as this parish moves forward with the process of the appointment of a new Team Rector, I would want to say that I see Self Supporting Ministry as an "as well as" form of ministry, not an "instead of" form of ministry, so I look forward to the arrival of a new Team Rector, just as much as everyone else!

Tony Beetham

A letter to the Editor

In the February Chronicle in the dates from the past there was an error about the founding of scouts and Guides. Robert Baden-Powell founded the scouts and intended it as a boy's organisation. However the girls had a different view and before long they were clamouring to join. They did join by turning up armed with whistles, first aid kits, frying pans and all sorts of other useful accoutrements. In desperation Robert organised the Guide Movement and asked his sister to be the Chief guide and in effect to take the girls off his hands. Later when he married Olave she took over the Guides and became the Chief Guide. Together they ran the two organisations. Robert was older than Olave and she carried on with her Guide connections until she died. By coincidence they had the same birthday. That day, February 22 is the Guide Thinking Day when we remember Guides in other countries and cultures and especially places where Scouts and Guides were forbidden. The Scouts keep St George's Day as their special day.

Una Dean



line!
full house!
bingo!

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BINGO				
17	31	49	71	
3	35	52	69	
13	26	58	63	
2	25	38	66	
14	16	44	57	

tea
raffle
laughter
friendship

Editor's Letter

Dear Readers

A very happy Easter to you all" I do not know about you but it seems to me that the Easter period is taking on more and more significance across this area and I do not mean lots more chocolate. We have had our lovely Easter Experience to engage many of our young children before they broke up for their holidays. It was still in situ in our beautiful parish church through until Good Friday so I hope most of you took the opportunity to share the experience.

Next we have had our full-on Easter Fun Day at St Francis with masses of exciting things to do. Then the Palm Sunday Walk with a real live donkey to say nothing of Fair Trade Easter Eggs and hot-cross buns at every turn! Of course the crowning glory will be today with our churches full of flowers and our alleluias ringing out loud and clear.

When I first went on a visit to Norway with a group of pupils from Donnington Middle School (where I worked) I noticed something strange on the branches of the trees – lichen. I knew this strange plant grew on gravestones and old buildings but on trees? Not in my experience. I was told that it was due to the purity of the air and that was most certainly evident in Scandinavia. I also found it in abundance in the crystal clear air in Canada and got excited when Frank and I saw it in the Lake District – but Cowley? Mmm ... Well, I have just discovered lichen growing on branches of trees opposite Templar Square and, lo and behold, in the Rectory garden - proof positive that the air quality here in Cowley is much purer than for many years. Isn't that brilliant news?

I hope you enjoy the article I have written about Temple Cowley Library but one thing I forgot to mention was that there was no kitchen to provide food for the men billeted there during the war. One elderly gentleman who lived

nearby recalled the NAAFI truck calling in the evening to bring them snacks, but it is most probable that they had their main meal of the day at the Municipal Restaurant situated at The Marsh. I wonder if any of my readers have memories of the old "Municipal" and the kind of meals they served. If so do let us know and we will put them in another issue of The Chronicle.

If you did not catch a chance to see Church Cowley St James' production of "Joseph and his Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" a couple of weeks ago you missed a treat. It is a long show with 22 catchy songs and the children were word perfect. The best part of the show for me was the obvious enjoyment written all over their faces. Congratulations to all concerned.

I would like to thank Sheila Tree for her excellent review of Florence Park Community's pantomime. I realise the Christmas period seems long gone but it was good to hear what a big success their production was. A couple of activities from the Community's newsletter caught my eye namely their Book Group and their Florence Park Festival. The Book Group in April are sharing favourite poems and the Festival on 20th June promises to be a big occasion. Their web site for more information is www.florenceparkcommunitycentre.org.uk.

I am still on the hunt for talented artists and crafts folk to exhibit their work at our Flower and Art Festival in June. I already have thirteen exhibitors but would love to hear from you if you would like to take part. Do not be shy – every single creative work is valuable.

I hope you enjoy this month's Chronicle and look forward to news of our new rector in the next issue. Please pray for those who will make the big decision for who to choose.

God Bless
Rosanne

NEWS FROM ST FRANCIS

Like our friends at the other end of the parish we are gearing up for the Festival of Easter. Plans for our services are already in place, and a schedule has been drawn up and printed on cards which are already being distributed in our area. Part of our agenda will, of course, be a joint effort in conjunction with our sister church of St James. One new event, the Palm Sunday walk, is a combined venture with churches of other denominations in Cowley. A chance to share our faith and fellowship with other committed Christians. This was very well supported. Indeed, we pray that all of our services will draw people in, and that we will see some fresh faces in our congregations.

There is a tendency nowadays for people to want to attend the celebrations on Easter

Sunday, but do not want the pain of Good Friday. Yet our faith teaches us that true joy often comes in spite of suffering.

We all pray for our clergy at this time as they seek to reach out to the troubled world around us. We think especially of Skye who has extra responsibilities while we await our new Team Rector.

We wish all in our parish all the Blessings of Eastertide.

John Shreeve



JOKES

MARRIAGE (written by kids)

5. WHAT DO MOST PEOPLE DO ON A DATE?

Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say if you listen long enough (Lynnette, aged 8 – isn't she a treasure)
On the first date, they just tell each other lies and that usually gets them interested enough to go for a second date (Martin, age 10).

6. WHEN IS IT OKAY TO KISS SOMEONE?

When they're rich (Pam, aged 7)
The law says you have to be eighteen, so I wouldn't want to mess with that (Curt, age 7)
The rule goes like this: If you kiss someone, then you should marry them and have kids with them. It's the right thing to do (Howard, age 8)

7. IS IT BETTER TO BE SINGLE OR MARRIED?

It's better for girls to be single but not for boys. Boys need someone to clean up after them (Anita, age 9 – bless you child)

8. HOW WOULD THE WORLD BE DIFFERENT IF PEOPLE DIDN'T GET MARRIED?

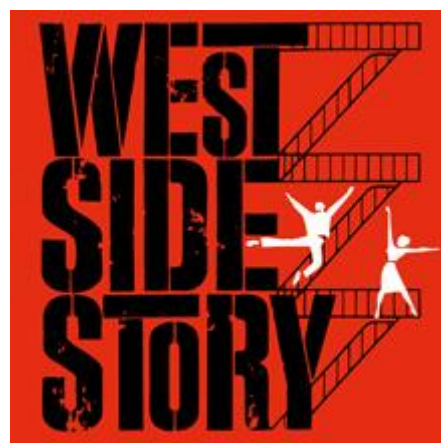
There sure would be a lot of kids to explain, wouldn't there? (Kelvin, age 8)

Film Club at the Centre

The club evening in March had its largest audience yet which is certain proof that it is growing in popularity. We welcomed a new member but still have a couple of spaces on our list for anyone who would like to join. The film "Ladies in Lavender" which featured two of our finest British actresses, Maggie Smith and Judi Dench, was very much enjoyed. Our profit, thanks to generous donations from members, topped £100 for the first time.

This month, on 10th April, we are showing that amazing and dynamic musical "West Side Story". This film has been recommended by several club members and is in complete contrast to the one shown last month! It is our policy to vary our programme as much as possible to keep it fresh and interesting.

In May we have chosen "The Magnificent Seven", again by members' request, so if you like the theme music, enjoy a good Western, or love a story with a happy ending do come and join us. All members are entitled to welcome a guest so we are pleased to see visitors. A list of all the films scheduled right up to Christmas is available.



MOTHERS' UNION NEWS

It has become something of a tradition that each year our March branch meeting is devoted to a meditative afternoon for Lent. This year our meeting was led by Skye and it was a very moving experience for our members. She set up four tables in the Church Centre with a theme to each one. The first challenged us to create a "stained glass window" from black card and coloured tissue paper to portray a "picture" of our personality. The second was a challenge to make us face up to our fears. The third invited us to meditate on the cross and the fourth offered us a tiny wooden cross to use in our prayer time. Each challenge was preceded by a poem, a Bible reading and a prayer.

Although we are a small group we have been able to support various good causes during the past year. Donations from members have supported the diocesan "Away From it All" scheme which funds seaside holidays for needy families who would otherwise never get away. We have also sent a considerable sum to the Mothers' Union Outreach Scheme for families abroad. This provides such items as mosquito nets, vaccines and medical care for mothers and children in remote areas of Africa. Reports on the donations made to the Mothers' Union Wheels Appeal and "Make a Mother's Day" have appeared in other issues of The Chronicle.

Our April meeting will begin at 12.30 pm in time for our St George's Day lunch at 12.45 pm. The Mothers' Union Wave of prayer coincides with the date so we shall celebrate this after lunch. Members are asked to bring their latest copy of Focus along on that day.

Camellias and Onions

I have been gadding about again! We went to London to the exhibition of Wedding Dresses at the Victoria and Albert Museum. We just managed to see it a couple of days before it closed. It was great and I really felt for those Victorian society brides that had their bodies realigned by corsets so that they could have a tiny waist!

Anyway, we then went on to Chiswick House to see the Camellia display. They are beautiful flowers and there was a fantastic display of them in the huge glasshouse. There were many in bloom out in the garden too which were equally wonderful but you cannot rely on great blossoms, as often rain and frost damage them. They were selling young plants but I held back as I have not anywhere, yet, to put one. We have limey soil though I often see them growing around and about Oxford so some gardeners can coax them on. I have a mind to visit Chiswick House again to see the house itself and there is, apparently, a rather good walled kitchen garden that is open but a few times a year.

On our un-walled allotment, the spring digging is going well, with my other half digging in the manure we got in the autumn. We could only just get on the plot in the last 2-3 weeks because of the rain and I have begun to set out the garlic, shallots and onions. The garlic, bought at Moreton-in-Marsh Show last September from an Isle of Wight grower, had been growing slowly over the winter as I had set the cloves into modules and kept them in the greenhouse. They have masses of roots and should romp away now they are in the open ground. Similarly, I put the shallots and onion sets into modules a few weeks back so they had a good start to the year instead of drying up in the packets waiting for good planting weather.

Our back garden is a mess at the moment. We have taken out some shrubbery that had expanded over the years and tried to remove all the ivy covering the fence that divides us from next door. The fence is in a very poor state and we are awaiting its replacement. Consequently, the borders alongside and the area

covered by the shrubbery are waiting for a make-over. I need to get someone in to grind out the stumps left and I would like some paving laid so we can have a sitting/dining area. I also have grandiose ideas of a pergola with climbing roses and clematis but all this will have to wait for the fence. I did want to have a camellia too.....

Joan Coleman

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HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR CHURCHES

This month you will see a picture of the lovely Reredos Screen behind the high altar at St James Church.



This is particularly fine, containing examples of every known colour of marble. It was erected in honour of Dr John Randolph (1749-1813).



The inscription on the top right-hand-side of the reredos reads as follows:

To the honour of God and in memory of John Randolph, D.D. Formerly Incumbent of this Parish, and afterwards Bishop of Oxford, Bangor and London successively. This Reredos is erected jointly by his sons and by Herbert Randolph, his only nephew.



ROLE DESCRIPTIONS OF VOLUNTEERS

This month we consider duties at St Francis Church and describe the roles of the Deputy Church Warden, a post held by John Shreeve, and the Sacristan, the duties being covered by a number of volunteers.

Deputy Church Warden, St Francis:

Sunday duties – arrive early and:

- Switch on lights throughout the church including special spotlights in sanctuary and the kitchen
- Open both vestries
- Make sure collection plates are at the back of church
- Light candles around church (not the altar) including all votive candles around church
- Switch on the power for the organ and hearing aid loop and check batteries in microphone(s)
- Make sure hymn books, links and order of services are out on the table for the welcomers
- Check rota to see who is down to do church duties and contact them as they arrive – let the church warden and vicar know if not
- Unlock the front doors (not too early)
- Look out for arrival of Organist and make sure he/she has everything they need
- Check hymn boards, although servers might have done this
- Check kitchen to see that cups are in place, tea and coffee out and kettles are filled with water
- Check tables are up and sufficient tables are available (remember that there is Lunch at the All Age service)
- Make sure welcomers are in place and that guest priest/parish priest has everything they need
- If needed be ready to assist with those with disabilities and those who need gluten free wafers – let the priest know.
- Consider everything and ensure everything is ready for the service.

Sacristan

Duties before the service in preparing Mass

- Make sure the communion tray is in place and set up with the following:
 - ◆ Chalice, paten, pall, corporal, purificator, and (chalice veil – during festivals)
 - ◆ Finger towel and bowl for washing
 - ◆ 2 large wafers

- Vessels to be presented during communion are set up at the back – ciborium (carrying two gluten free wafers) flaxen with wine and another with water
- Candles around altar are cleaned and lit. This includes pascal light when used, and candles by the lectern.
- Vestments and linen cloths for the altar (with church warden) are washed and in place – let the vicar know if more are needed.
- Responsibility for the rota for cleaning altar cloths
- Change the vestments (with vicar) around the altar to reflect the seasonal cycle, for example purple during Lent, red during Holy Week and White on Easter Sunday.
- To help train and guide Altar Servers before and during Mass

STEPHEN HARTLEY'S RETIREMENT

It has come to my ears that our former parish rector, Stephen Hartley, is retiring from his position as a parish priest in Coventry around the middle of this month. Many of us will remember him as an excellent leader of our parish team and I know will want to wish him well in his retirement.

Our parish has much to thank him for in no small measure for the tireless work he did in providing us with our brilliant Church Centre. Stephen, ably supported and assisted by his church warden, Gwen Ranklin (to whom the Ranklin Room is dedicated) had the dream of turning what was an ancient stable block into a modern working centre for the parish. As was his style he set about making that dream reality with energy and enthusiasm. First the old Parish hall was sold and then architects, builders and landscapers were commissioned to produce the great asset we all enjoy today. It was Stephen together with his wife Sharon who presented to

the PCC the colour scheme of pleasant greens for the interior decoration. It was he who chose the fabric for the curtains and the toning colours for the crockery. Best of all though was the excellent kitchen so well equipped as it is.

He also commissioned the building of the rostrum over the chancel steps in St James Church and carpeted and furnished the chapel of St Luke. He knew what was functional and attractive as well.

He and Sharon are moving to Leicestershire where their eldest daughter, Lizzie, now lives and works. Of course, we know that their other daughter, Catherine, and their son, William, and his wife are now members of St James congregation. However, I am writing this as I thought that some of us who remember his ministry amongst us might like to send cards to wish him well in his retirement. The address is: St Peter's Rectory, Charles Street, Coventry, CV1 5NP.

ST JAMES OLD SCHOOL - COMMUNITY DAY, SATURDAY, 18 APRIL

Church Cowley St James School has started its gardening project in the playground of St James Old School. The school Site Manager has built an attractive shelter. The children are designing and building planters at school; these will be installed in the playground and then planted up with flowers and vegetables and small trees.

The school is very keen to involve members of the parish and the wider community in the setting up and the gardening – to help physically or just to give advice and encouragement. This is a special invitation to a community working and information day on Saturday 18 April, from 10.00-3.00 pm. Everyone will be well fed and watered with a barbeque and food /drink! If you can help, please bring tools - hand saw, electric drill, shovels, gardening hand tools, wheel barrows. The task will be to assemble the planters/raised beds and fill them with soil, ready for the children to plant up. But you are also welcome just to come and see the space and discuss the plans and meet the school staff involved, especially the project leader, Laura Collins.

More pallets and planks are needed: if you have any spares stowed at home or know of a source, please let Laura know LCol2086@church-cowley-st-james.oxon.sch.uk, or leave a message at the school office 01865 778484.

Work on the mural to install on that horrible ugly end wall where the extension has been removed will also happen soon.

Meanwhile the Old School Steering Group will also meet that morning, prior to joining the workforce, to review progress on the possibilities for developing a social enterprise hub, offering office space to small start-up enterprises – and on funding for the short and long term. Membership of that group is open.

Lesley Williams

Shaun Guard
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FROM THE ARCHIVES

From the Cowley Chronicle, October 1951

ST. LUKE'S CLOCK TOWER

We are most grateful to Mr. Cox for his constant attention to St. Luke's Church clocks, but power "cuts" have got the better of us and I think it will be best for the clocks to remain stopped while these are likely to occur. Every time there is a complete cut the clocks can only be started by a laborious climb into the tower, and at the best of times they are 5, 10, or even 15 minutes slow, so it seems useless to have a clock in such a prominent position which records the right time only about 6.a.m.



PARISH REGISTER

(Amendment to that included in February Chronicle)

Funerals

1 January 2014	Jacqueline Porter
2 January 2014	Phyllis Mary Matterson
22 January 2014	Anthony Arthur John Joliffe
31 January 2014	Suzanne Withell
3 February 2014	Sydney Fenton
5 February 2014	Sylvia Guy
27 February 2014	Robert Henry Allen
5 March 2014	Jayden James Nash
13 March 2014	Stanley Giles
2 April 2014	Vera Joyce Hughes
4 June 2014	Mr Aubrey Maasz
6 June 2014	Margaret Giles
5 July 2014	Arthur Robert Fisher
7 July 2014	Margaret Helen Lipscombe
11 July 2014	Cyril Room
23 June 2014	David Hayden Cooper
13 August 2014	Bibi Susan Masih
2 October 2014	Albert Roy Dark
31 October 2014	Eva Emily Morris
3 December 2014	Rev Wazir Chand
23 December 2014	Myrtle Pike

PARISH OF COWLEY - ELECTORAL ROLL AND ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

The revised electoral roll is now on display in both churches for checking of the personal details held. Corrections can be made but no further addition of members is permitted until after the annual Parish meeting on Sunday 19 April. All on the Electoral Roll are invited to attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, for the receipt of reports about Parish life in 2014 and the election of Church Wardens, PCC and other officers. There will be a proposal to increase the period of office of PCC members from 1 year to 3, with a rolling arrangement for those who stand down.

Rosanne interviews Catherine Hartley

It is not often that when I ask an interviewee what they thought of Cowley when they first arrived I am told "I didn't like it much!" But, you see, Catherine was only eight years old, had to move into a new school half-way through the year when all the other girls in her class had established their friendships and had left behind her own best friend. She had to move here, of course, because her father had just been installed as the new Rector of our parish.

Catherine was born in the City of Coventry and spent her first few years in the sheltered environment of her father's vicarage. It was so sheltered, in fact, that she and her elder sister, Lizzie, had the church car-park just outside the back door where they learnt to ride their bikes. On the other side of this same car-park was the nursery school and playgroup in the Church Hall. Her best friend lived next door and it was her mum who ran the playgroup. What a lovely safe place for two small girls to begin to grow up! Roller skating was another favourite pastime and once younger brother, William, was old enough to join them he was

soon trying out stunts on his skates and bike often with disastrous results!

All this changed soon after Catherine started school due to her father, Stephen, moving to a new parish in Tilehurst, near Reading. Their time there only amounted to eighteen months before God called him to Cowley. At eight years of age the little girl was moved to another school, Church Cowley St James, until she joined Lizzie at boarding school when she was nine. Everything about school was a delight to Catherine. She loved books (and still does). She remembers that she delighted in getting her set work done quickly so that she could help other children with theirs. This sometimes got her into trouble but undeterred she would work away at her story writing, using coloured pens to emphasise particular words, and with her vivid imagination her teachers gave her much encouragement. Coming to Cowley was quite a change - there was not quite so much freedom. However, although she was only at Church Cowley School for two terms she made new friends. She also loved the regular

Tuesday ice-skating trips.

Her boarding school was at Ramsgate in Kent. Her father, Stephen, would drive her and Lizzie down at the beginning of each half-term but they would travel back to Oxford unescorted for holidays. When she got there she had a struggle at first as the other girls had already begun lessons in French and Latin but she did not mind as she loved to learn and anyway she knew all her multiplication tables and could beat anyone at spelling! The worst part of her time there was the expectation for the girls to enjoy sports which she hated (yes, she said "hated"). Netball was her worst nightmare, athletics were almost as bad and at hockey she would just make up the numbers. She did not care because in her academic work she shone.

Travelling to and from school as she grew older sometimes had its adventures. Catherine told me of one incident which she will never forget. She was about 16 at the time and was with friends in one of those old "slam-door" compartments on a train when the door flew open and a suitcase on the

floor was sucked out into the pitch, black night. She pulled the emergency chain, the railway staff came to investigate after the train had stopped and the conductor walked back along the track to search for the missing suitcase. It was not found and the girls travelled on back to school. Two or three days later the bag arrived. The girl to whom it belonged had put her holiday homework books in the side pocket and when the bag was discovered in a rather gooey cowpat in a field beside the track you can imagine what sort of a state those books were in, can't you? The teenage girls thought the whole thing was a complete hoot.

After her GCSE exams Catherine went on to take A levels in geography, French and Religious Studies. She was lucky enough to visit France three times whilst in the senior school. She also recalls the fun of acting and directing in school productions, singing in the chapel choir and playing her flute in the school orchestra. She had a special friend all through boarding school and recently was one of her bridesmaids when she was married in the chapel of the Tower of London. Catherine slept in Anne Boleyn's room at the Tower and was quick to say

that she did not see any ghosts.

At Birmingham University she studied theology. She loved the multi-cultural ethos there and met many exciting fellow students. Having graduated she had no idea what the next step in her life might be. By this time her parents had left Cowley and had moved back to Coventry. She lived at home and thought that a nursing career might be right. No, it was not. She needed something more academic. She needed a job and Oxford seemed to be "calling". She applied for a post in the medical library at the John Radcliffe Hospital (where Joan Coleman worked before her retirement) and was appointed. She modestly puts her success down to turning up for interview on a day when Oxford was covered in heavy snow. She worked there for five years and loved both the day-to-day responsibilities and the colleagues with whom she worked. She also had the opportunity, whilst there, to study for a Masters' Degree.

From there she is now working at St Anne's College, part of Oxford University, in the more senior role of Reader Services Librarian. The College has the biggest student library in the University with, of course, computer capacity as well as printed matter. Soon after

coming to Oxford she found herself a very convenient place to live. The Old Mission Hall in St Clements, next to St Andrew's Bookshop, is owned by St Clements' Church. It has been converted into flats and she is settled there very comfortably.

So what brought Catherine back to St James Church where she used to come as a little girl? Well, William, her brother and his wife, Caroline, are now regular worshippers and they also joined Josh and Claire's home group. It did not take much persuasion to get Catherine involved. Even more to her liking is her involvement with Children's Church. Being a lady who loves her craft work she very much enjoys all the practical activities that she and her fellow Children's Church organisers use to pass on simple gospel teaching to our youngsters. She made one remark which in particular resonated with me. She told me she is amazed at the things that children know – me too, Catherine.

As a "crafty" lady she told me that lots of her spare time is taken up with making greetings cards, jewellery, cross-stitch embroidery and crochet. So watch out for some of her work in the forthcoming craft and flower festival this summer.

How would you describe yourself as a young child?
Very imaginative, making up all kinds of situations like turning my dolls into refugees! I am the quietest one of the family.

Do you have any memorable childhood recollections?
After church Lizzie would usher William and me into the play-room and have a mini service. We had to sing "Morning has Broken" and we would have rich tea biscuits and blackcurrant juice for communion. One of my dolls or Williams' teddies would be "baptized".

Has there been anyone who has had a strong influence in your life?

At boarding school I had a very good friend, Sarah, who was a strong Christian and all the way through school we did CU (Christian Union) together. We went to summer camp called Soul Survivor. It was good to have a Christian friend my age.

We would regularly pray together.

Has your faith been with you since childhood?

Yes

Do you have a treasured possession?
(Here Catherine reached into her handbag) These designer prayer beads. Lizzie made them in California for my 21st birthday. They are very special.

What is your opinion of the modern world?

I always feel that the media focuses too much on the bad in the world but I want to focus on the good things in society. I think there is a lot of good in the world.

If you could change something in a big way what would you do?

I think I would like to make people more empathetic. If people could see the true humanity in others there would be more justice and love the

way Jesus commanded.

Which period of your adult life has given you the most satisfaction?

I loved university. I could follow my love of learning. I pushed myself, had brilliant friends and had a really good time.

How do you like to spend your spare time?

I like going to the theatres, musicals are my favourite. I hated Shakespeare at school but recently a friend has got me interested so now I am keen. I have just come to terms with my sewing machine so I want to learn quilting. I go to craft fairs with my friends, I crochet, do cross-stich, make jewellery and cards. I read biographies and good novels. My favourite book is "Les Miserables".

What plans do you have for the future?

No plans – just live out life as it comes.

THE COLOURS OF THE CHURCH

This month there will be no change in the colours of the Altar frontals and hangings in church. The gold at St James and white with the "all seasons" frontal at St Francis, in celebration of the great festival of Easter, will remain until Pentecost which this year is on May 24th.

Margaret Martin

FAMOUS HYMNS AND THEIR STORIES

And can it be that I should gain – Charles Wesley

This powerful hymn by Charles Wesley has much the same personal message as Newton’s Amazing Grace. Both are about the conversion of an individual soul to faith in the atoning death of Christ. But there is also a sense of mystery in this great hymn which lifts it above the mainstream of ‘born again’ Christian experience.

Charles Wesley has been rightly described as ‘the Prince of English hymn writers’. Born at Epworth in Lincolnshire, Charles was the eighteenth child in the family. Educated at Westminster School, Charles went on to Christ Church, Oxford, where in 1729 he became a tutor. He was ordained in 1735 and did religious work in Georgia. Returning to England shortly after, he came under the influence of a Moravian missionary, and underwent a conversion to the ‘vital religion’ of Evangelism.

For the rest of his life he was an itinerant preacher in Britain. His total output amounted to 8,989 religious poems, of which over 6,000 can properly be classified as hymns. All of them were written after his conversion in 1738. “And can it be that I should gain” was one of the first. It was first published in 1739.

For many years this hymn has been sung to Thomas Campbell’s soaring tune Sagina. In spite of its age it still remains a popular hymn in our modern times. The last verse is full of confidence:

“No condemnation now I dread
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine
Alive in Him, my living Head
And clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach the eternal throne
And claim the crown, through Christ my own

John Shreeve

CHILDREN’S SOCIETY CHRISTINGLE COLLECTION

Thank you for an excellent, generous response to our first charity collection of the year

Here are the final results:

St James Church:	£295.75
Church Cowley St James School:	£103.08
St Francis School:	£ 39.01
St Francis Church:	<u>£ 29.05</u>
	£466.89

Lesley Williams

Prayers from the Ark

By Carmen Bernos de Gasztold

Translated from the French and with a Foreword and Epilogue by Rumer Godden

THE PRAYER OF THE GOLDFISH

O God,
forever I turn in this hard crystal
so transparent, yet I can find no way out Lord
deliver me from the cramp of the water
and these terrifying things I see through it.
Put me back in the play of your torrents,
in Your limpid springs.
Let me no longer be a little goldfish
in its prison of glass,
but a living spark
in the gentleness of your reeds
AMEN

TIME TO CELEBRATE

In an earlier issue of The Chronicle we promised that the 70th anniversary of VE Day (Victory in Europe) at the end of the Second World War would definitely not go by un-noticed.

Britain is most certainly geared up to mark the occasion in all sorts of ways. A chain of beacons will be lit across the country. Spitfire and Lancaster bomber plans will take to the skies. In London a star-studded concert will take place. Three days of festivities are being planned across the UK to mark the anniversary on May 8th. A national two-minute silence will be held at The Cenotaph at 3 pm on that day and later 100 beacons will be lit across the country.

As 8th May will be a Friday we, here in Cowley, are planning our celebration for Saturday, 9th May. Those of you who were children in 1945 will probably remember the street or village parties which were, spontaneously, put together on this exciting day so we thought a similar tea-party (all bring-and-share) with anything that each of us could share would be a lovely to recall the great feeling of relief. You may also remember the songs we sang at that time and even those of you who are too young will be able to re-enact the occasion.

At 4 pm on 9th May tables will be set out in the Church Centre, pots of tea and orange squash on hand and someone to play songs for us to sing round the piano. We thought games like Ludo and Snakes-and-Ladder will keep the youngsters amused and we plan to wind things up about 6.30 pm. Absolutely everyone is invited so do bring friends and family along. Someone said we must not glorify the victory over our enemies. No, definitely not. However, it is because of VE that we can have happy occasions such as this, isn't it.

A married couple were entertaining friends to dinner. The conversation turned to marriage counselling. "We'll never need that" said the wife, "Bob and I have a great relationship. It's all down to education". "What do you mean?" asked one of their guests. "Well" she replied "at college Bob did a course in communication and I studied drama. So he can communicate brilliantly and I act as though I'm listening".



St James Café
St James Church Centre
Beauchamp Lane
10:00 am to 1:00 pm
Saturday
25th April
For more information and to
book a table contact
Vicky Hall on
07901 895 825
Come along for a tea or coffee and a
slice of homemade cake
AND NOW bacon butties!
also : jams, cards, bric a brac,
books and more

FLOWER OF THE MONTH—JAPONICA

Japonica seems to be a plant which throughout the centuries has been sadly misunderstood. It has been given the title of “pear”, “quince” and even “camellia” though as its name suggests its origins lie in Japan. It is a delightful plant which makes an excellent hedge due to the thorny prickles which grow on its stems. It is not the prickles which are the delight but the beautiful coral-red flowers which arrive in early spring followed by shiny green leaves. In autumn it produces small, round fruits which do actually look a little like quinces or pears. Hence the confusion when giving it a botanical name.

Incidentally the fruit does provide the makings of a delicious jelly. The first jelly I ever made was using japonica fruit and I received quite a few compliments about it. (Maybe I’ll include the recipe in the September issue of The Chronicle).

Anyway back to the story of our flower. A Swedish botanist named Carl Peter Thunberg, a pupil of Linneus, whose name crops up constantly in the world of plants, first gave japonica its name. He worked as a chief surgeon for the Dutch East India Company in the late eighteenth century. There was an artificial island in Nagasaki Harbour which belonged to the Company and only Dutch people were allowed on there save for a few Japanese servants and interpreters. Those on the



island were not supposed to sail to the mainland. However Thunberg ingeniously bypassed this regulation by sifting through the hay brought for the livestock and gathering enough botanical material to discover, in 1784, what he called *Pyrus japonica*, Japanese pear.

Once the japonica had reached Britain it turned up first in the port of Bristol. A nurseryman in the town began to cultivate it. His name was Maule and he named it *Pyrus Maulei* or Maule’s pear.

Another name it acquired was Cretan quince when people believed it originated on the Greek island of Crete. Finally the Japanese plant sent to Britain by Thunberg became known as *Chaenomeles* which means gaping apple – quite a merry-go-round of misnomers. Be that as it may the pretty spring flower which can be seen in many gardens in Cowley is certainly a harbinger of warmer days and therefore a very welcome one no matter what botanists centuries ago decided to call it.

COWLEY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

21 April 2015
Commencing at 8.00 pm

TALK:

Children at War
(Experiences of World War II)

**An illustrated Talk
by Liz Woolley**

At United Reformed Church,
Temple Road, Cowley
Annual Membership fee £18 (OAP £16)
Visitors welcome £3 per meeting

DIARY DATES TO REMEMBER

Mothers' Union

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

St James Church Centre

Women's Institute

Monthly Meeting on 3rd Wednesday of month
from 2 – 4.30 pm

St James Church Centre

St James Café at St James Church Centre

10am—1pm

The last Saturday of each month

Next open on Saturday 25 April 2015

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)

Film Club

Friday, 10 April 2015 - "West Side Story"

St James Church Centre,

commencing at 6.30pm with coffee and cake

Sunday Lunch

Sunday, 12 April at 12.30pm

St. James Church Centre

Come and enjoy a full cooked Sunday lunch with
other members of the parish for a very reasonable
price. Open to all but PLEASE BOOK IN ADVANCE
(by Wednesday 8 April) by calling the Parish Office
(01865) 747 680

Old School Steering Group

Saturday, 18 April 2015 at 9.30 am

St James Church Centre

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday, 19th April 2015, at 12.15 pm at St James
Church Centre

Following a Christian Aid Super Soup Lunch

Cowley Local History Society

8pm at United Reformed Church, Temple Road

Tuesday, 21 April 2015

Talk: Children at War (Experiences of World War II)

An illustrated Talk By Liz Woolley

St Francis Church Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, 3rd May 2015, at 12.15 pm

Time to Celebrate – 70th Anniversary of VE Day

Saturday, 9 May 2015, at 4 pm

Bring-and-share tea party

St James Church Centre

St James Church Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, 10th May 2015 at St James Church Centre

PCC Meeting

Sunday, 22nd March 2015, at 12.15 pm at St James
Church Centre

Christian Aid Week

10 – 16 May 2015

Plant Sale

Saturday, 16th May 2015, at St James Church Centre

Cowley Festival of Christmas Trees 2015 - First

planning meeting

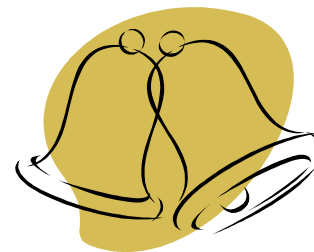
Friday, 22 May 2015, 09.45 am in the Ranklin Room,
St James Church Centre

*Please note Additional Dates throughout
the year:*

To help raise funds for essential repairs to St.
James' Church a home-made cakes and puds
stall is planned. These will take place on the 3rd
Tuesday of the month to carry over into
Wednesday and will be held in the Church
Centre.

If you enjoy baking and would like to help by
baking a cake 2 or 3 times a year on a rota basis
Chris Woodman or Margaret Weller would be
pleased to hear from you.

News from the Bell Tower



With spring beginning to show its face between the gale force winds, bell ringers at towers all over Oxford are beginning to plan for the summer wedding season. There seems to be a trend for weddings on a Friday at many churches, and this limits the ringers who are available considerably. By working together however, we can usually find enough ringers for all the Oxford couples who want the bells to ring out to celebrate their big day.

Sadly we won't have enough ringers to ring for the Easter service this year, but we continue to ring on as many Sundays as possible. Two of us will be making up the numbers for the evening Easter service at St Nicholas in Marston, where we will be attempting to ring a quarter peal. We have also had the opportunity to ring at many other towers to hone our skills. There was a well-attended ringing up and down course at Islip which four of us attended, and a days outing to Hampshire, where we rang at Kingsclere, Burghclere, Highclere and Hannington.

Last month I was invited to be one of a group of six who went over to Cuddesdon. These bells have not been rung for many years due to safety concerns over the frame. The villagers have raised some funds and the Whitechapel Bell Foundry experts came to do an inspection. They requested that six ringers come along to ring while they looked at the frame to see how it moved. Needless to say I was very nervous and had visions of needing a hard hat. The Whitechapel people had spent the day doing some remedial work, and when we turned up to ring at 6.30, they were fairly confident all would be well. They were right – the bells were lovely to ring, and Whitechapel declared them safe. The villagers who had been involved came along and listened to the ringing and someone recorded the ringing. Now all they need is a band of ringers to start learning, but in the meantime, many of us from Oxford towers will be helping out with weddings and special services when we can.

Our normal practices will be resuming from Thursday 9th April, and we are always happy to see visitors. If you want to find out more about what we do please do come and see us between 7.30 and 9pm on a Thursday, or give me a ring on Oxford 777486.

Lindsay Powell

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SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS AND STILL GOING STRONG



I have it on good authority that the Art-Deco period in art and design began around 1920 and ended at the beginning of the Second World War. So a building which was designed and built right at the end of the 1930s just about qualifies. I have always looked at it with

its tall curved walls and windows and its iconic entrance, and told myself that it was indicative of its period. It was opened to much acclaim, by the Oxford Mail, on 19th April 1940 and so has reached its seventy-fifth anniversary this month. I am, of course, speaking of Temple Cowley Library.

I was lucky enough to be given an interesting insight into its history and its present day running by the assistant librarian and discovered some fascinating facts and secrets which I want to pass on to you. When the column in the local paper described the building – “three main rooms with their “cheery atmosphere and airiness” – and told of the stock of 10,000 books for borrowers it did not mention, with the war raging in Europe and further afield, the fact that the building had a basement, almost completely below ground, and billeted there was a section of Royal Artillery soldiers. Why so?

Oxford was encircled by anti-aircraft gun-emplacements through the war. There was one on the Cowley Marsh and one near the factory complex. These needed expertise to man them, though they were ably reinforced by personnel from the local Home Guard, and these Royal Artillery men needed accommodation. I was offered the chance to go and see the basement which was amazing. The very steep stairs take you down to a corridor below ground, which feels like a bunker. Through an old wooden door you pass into a huge, long narrow (and cold) basement. Down the middle of the space are cast-iron storage racks exactly shaped with round supports, to store large ammunition shells. Of course the library uses the basement now for storage. One shelf caught my eye with an annual diary for every year since the opening in 1940 – fascinating.

Of course, in those early days the whole ethos was one of books and more books, on shelves. The lending system was all with library cards and a limit of three books per person. The rule was silence! Even children were expected to hold their tongues until they left through the double doors to chat about their books.

How things have changed! Those same double doors are still in place, though now they are opened automatically. The original, beautifully crafted book cases are there and the war-time utility tables and chairs for study are still going strong. However now you are allowed to borrow up to 20 books at a time if you wish. The silence rule has been changed to what the staff call “happy chatter”. The scope

of the library has broadened enormously. Although funding cuts have had their effect on staffing there are now computerised self-service machines for borrowers, audio books on disc, or E books to download, DVDs and access to the internet are all free. On line references such as a host of foreign language programmes, family history search facilities and even the driving theory test can all be accessed. I was assured that all information on the computers is totally secure and that there is always a friendly member of staff on hand to help.



And what about the children? The facilities for them are excellent. Twice a week they can attend story and rhyme sessions where they sit on lovely squashy cushions. These sessions are enhanced with puppets and musical instruments. School holiday activities are organised with a host of creative things to do. This Easter, among other things, they are making “sheep” bookmarks from real lambs’ wool and being offered the chance to enter a sunflower growing challenge. They, too, can borrow up to 20 books and judging by the gorgeous picture books on offer, how could they resist?

The ideas to make our library a lively forward-looking place came at me thick and fast but I think I will leave it to you to go and see. One idea which I do want to commend to you is their home library service. This depends on volunteers to help. Housebound people who would love some books may ring through, chat to staff and order what they would like. However because of staff shortages, they then need a “book buddy” to call in and collect (and return) their orders. I guess there may be several of my readers who might like to offer to do this for someone they know.

Seventy-five years have passed, the library is still there and going stronger than ever. What an asset it is to our area.

Rosanne Butler

CHRONICLE

Editorial Team- Rosanne Butler, Sally Hemsworth, May Morgan, Nicki Stevens

Deadline for the next edition:

Wednesday 22 April 2015

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

The Editorial Committee in no way accepts responsibility for goods or services supplied by our advertisers.

GOOD BOOKS

Good books are friendly things to own.
If you are busy they will wait.

They will not call you on the phone
Or wake you if the hour is late.

They stand together row by row,
Upon the low shelf or the high.

But if you're lonesome this you know.
You have a friend or two nearby.

The fellowship of books is real.
They're never noisy when you're still.
They won't disturb you at your meal.
They'll comfort you when you are ill.
The lonesome hours they'll always share.

When slighted they will not complain.
And though for them you've ceased
to care

Your constant friends they will remain.

Good books your faults will never see
Or tell about them round the town.

If you would have their company
You merely have to take them down.
They'll help you pass the time away,
They'll counsel give if that you need.
He has true friends for night and day
Who has a few good books to read.

Edgar Guest

COWLEY IS A FAIRTRADE PARISH :
we will serve and use as many fairly
traded items as possible in our cater-
ing and cleaning



RECIPES

We thought we would try something completely different this month and hit on the idea of a couple of game recipes. Go on, be brave and give them a try. By the way venison is very low in cholesterol.



Venison with sour cream and horseradish sauce (serves 4)

4 venison chops
Salt and ground black pepper to season
2 cloves of garlic, halved
2 fl ozs vegetable oil
6 fl ozs sour cream
2 teaspoons horseradish sauce

For the marinade

4 fl ozs dry white wine
2 fl ozs olive oil
1 onion, peeled and thinly sliced
1 clove garlic crushed
12 black peppercorns
1 teaspoon dried thyme

First make the marinade. Combine all the marinade ingredients in a large shallow dish. Stir well. Add the venison and leave at room temperature for 24 hours. Remove chops, pat them dry with paper towels.

Rub in the seasoning and garlic halves. Discard the garlic. Heat the oil in a large frying pan. Add the chops and fry in hot oil for 5 minutes on each side.

Pour in the reserved marinade. Reduce the heat, cover the pan and simmer for 20 minutes turning the chops occasionally. When tender remove pan from heat.

Leave to cool in the marinade for ANOTHER 24 hours.

Next day reheat the pan with the chops and marinade. Bring to the boil, then reduce heat and simmer for 15 minutes.

With a slotted spoon set chops on a warmed serving dish. Strain the contents of the pan into a small saucepan. Bring the liquid to the boil, reduce the heat and stir in the sour cream and horseradish. Cook gently for about 2 minutes.

Pour the sauce over the chops and serve immediately with new potatoes and peas.

A garnish of watercress also adds to the attractiveness of this dish.

Partridge Pot Roast (serves 4)
(This would also work with pigeons or pheasants)

2 ozs butter (plus 1 oz for thickening)
2 medium sized onions, chopped
2 medium sized carrots, scraped and chopped
6 slices streaky bacon cut into small strips
4 ozs button mushrooms, washed
4 partridges (2 pheasants cut into halves as an alternative)
Salt and pepper to season
A bouquet garni (4 sprigs parsley, 1 of thyme, 1 bay leaf tied together)
1 ½ pints of beef stock
4 fl ozs red wine
Chopped fresh parsley

In large frying pan melt 2 ozs butter. When foam subsides, fry onions and carrots till onion is golden. With slotted spoon, transfer to large ovenproof casserole. Fry the bacon and mushrooms until bacon is just crisp and transfer them to the casserole. Some of the bacon fat will be left in the pan. Fry the partridges turning them till brown all over. Place them in the casserole. Add bouquet garni and season. Pour over the stock and wine. Cover casserole and cook in oven 180° for 1 ½ to 2 hours.

Cut up the birds into neat pieces and place on a serving dish along with the vegetables. Keep them warm.

Discard the bouquet garni.

Pour the liquid into a small saucepan and boil until it has reduced by about one-third. Turn the heat down low, stir in the extra butter a small piece at a time to thicken the sauce.

Return the whole lot to the casserole and place in a moderate oven for a few minutes to become piping hot. Stir in the chopped parsley.

Serve with mashed potatoes and green vegetables.



SIGNIFICANT DATES IN APRIL

.On 1st April 1924 Adolf Hitler was sentenced to five years in prison for high treason after a failed attempt to start a fascist revolution in Germany. In the end he served only eight months of his sentence.

In 1964 the first trial of driverless automatic trains took place on 5th April. The trains were then a possibility for the London Underground.

April 11th in 1713 was the date on which Britain took Gibraltar as a protectorate. The French gave it to Britain along with the Hudson Bay and both Nova Scotia and Newfoundland in Canada – quite a gift!

On the same date but in 1983 the magnificent film “Gandhi”, produced and directed by Sir Richard Attenborough was awarded no less than eight Oscars.

15th April 1912 is a famous date in history since it was at 2.20 am on that day that the “Titanic” sank in the North Atlantic. The loss of life numbered over 1,500. The lifeboats were only able to offer space for 1,200 people and there were 2,200 passengers on board.

The last sitting of the independent Scottish Parliament took place on 22nd April 1707. After this date England and Scotland were politically united.

25th April is St Mark’s day. Mark is one of the Gospel writers. He had a Greek nickname – ho kolobodaktulos – which means “stumpy fingers” or “mutilated in the finger(s)”.

It was on 28th April 1967 that Muhammad Ali refused induction into the US Army because of his Muslim faith. He was stripped of his world boxing title.

CHRISTIAN AID once a month for this Spring/Summer

March OVER THE EDGE
April SUPER SOUP LUNCH
May CHRISTIAN AID WEEK
June QUIZ AID

Saturday 7 March Lesley Williams' abseil was hugely successful on at least two fronts: two most enjoyable descents and, with a starter target of just £250, it has raised £600, including gift aid, towards our annual Parish Christian Aid total! Thank you to all donors. The fundraising page www.justgiving.com/Lelsey-Williams70 remains open.

APRIL: our next Christian Aid event will be the Super Soup (and fruit) lunch immediately prior to the APCM on Sunday 19 April – there's a sign-up sheet for that in church now. You are welcome to the lunch even if unable to stay for the meeting. A £5 minimum donation is requested; all ingredients will also be donated.

MAY: and then there is Christian Aid Week, May 10-16 when we will be collecting door to door as usual: please mark it in your diary and, if you are able to join the team, also try to come to a short planning gathering, with nibbles, at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 14 April.

JUNE: make sure the Quiz Aid evening on Friday 26 June is also in your diary.



JOKES

You know you've left middle-age behind when:

Before throwing away the local paper you look through the property section

If you do go to a club you leave before the end to beat the rush

You always have enough milk in

Before going out anywhere you ask if there is a place to park

Pop music all starts to sound the same

A night on the tiles means a long game of Scrabble

You start doing jigsaw puzzles again

When sitting outside a pub you start admiring their hanging baskets

You have a party and the neighbours don't realise

Your back goes out more than you do

You buy T-shirts without anything written on them

You find yourself saying "Is it cold in here or is it just me?"

DEANERY SYNOD

A Deanery Synod meeting was held on Monday, 2 March 2015 at St Francis Church. The following points were discussed:

Finance: There was a presentation of the accounts

Mission Action Plans: These were becoming more common in the C of E. An audit of the deanery was to come and that could include a uniting of the missions in the following areas:

1. Poverty
2. R.E. Inspired (Religious Education through schools)
3. Environment
4. Isolation, loneliness and Mental Health
5. Welcome to the Immigrant (also interfaith issues)

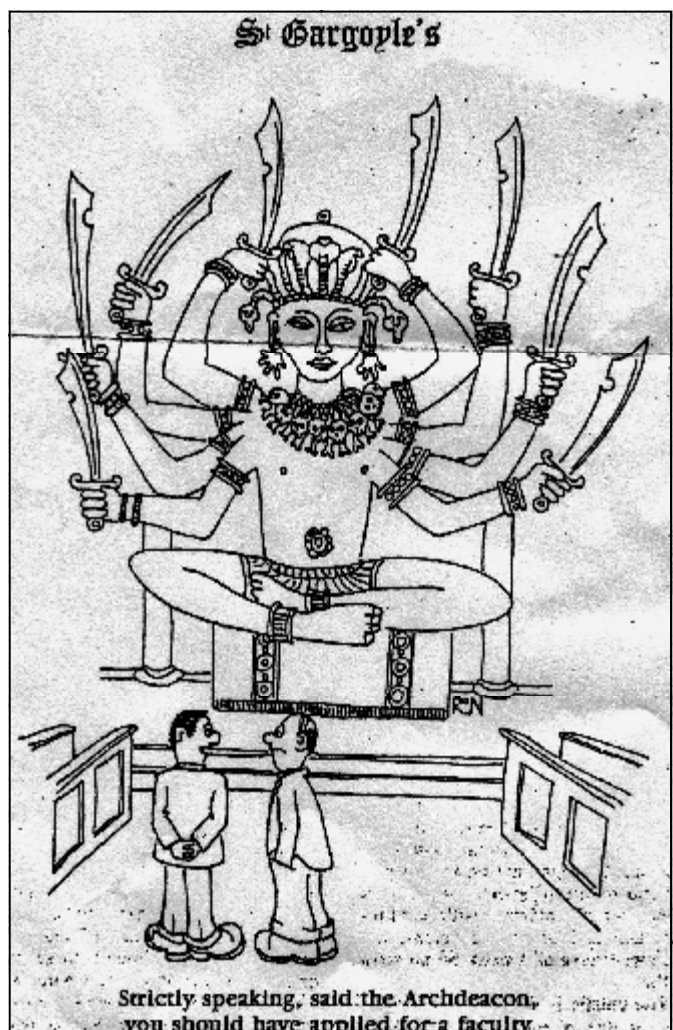
Discussion on Poverty: Tim Stead then introduced the "Better Housing Better Health" leaflet that is part of our mission. The meeting broke down into groups and did a "pub quiz format" to help us think more about poverty in the UK and to test our general knowledge of the situation of poverty in the UK as opposed to other EU nations. Following this they split into groups of two and discussed some key bible passages that all pointed to the need for action on poverty.

This was followed by further discussion on economic issues and their impacts on different groups in society. The "Closing the Gap" campaign was introduced to us, a church campaign to reduce the gap between rich and poor. The meeting was informed that although the "Top 1%" pays 30% of the tax revenue that the nation receives, the lowest paid groups pay 39% of everything they earn in tax.

Discussion from the floor helped us as Christians to find the undiscovered causes of poverty and that we should have united action amongst all Christians (no matter of whatever denomination) so that this would not be just a C of E action campaign.

It was reiterated throughout the meeting that we should all visit the "Church Action on Poverty" website.

Nick Dewey



REPORT ON WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The service in our area for Women's World Day of Prayer 2015 was held at Rose Hill Methodist Church on March 6th. All the churches in Cowley, Littlemore, Iffley and Blackbird Leys were invited to attend and from these representatives were chosen to take part in presenting the service, the format of which had been compiled by the women of The Bahamas.

The theme of the worship was taken from the words which Our Lord spoke to St Peter as He washed his feet before the Last Supper, "Do you know what I have done for you?". The readings and prayers emphasised Christian acts of service.

Two readers from St James took part in the service which had been beautifully prepared by the women of the Rose Hill Church. The altar and its surroundings were decorated with the blue, gold and black flags of The Bahamas, fabric which glistened like the waves of the Caribbean sea was adorned with shells, baskets of tropical fruit and a vase of deep pink lilies reflected the warm climate and fertility of the islands. Those of us who attended enjoyed the excellent tea party which followed along with the fellowship shared with people from neighbouring churches.

One happy coincidence which happened was that Clivia Philbin, one of St James congregation and whose family home is in Trinidad and Tobago was introduced to a lady from the same area who worships at Rose Hill. "Where do you actually come from?" asked Clivia. When the other lady told her Clivia's face lit up, "That was the village where I grew up!" I will leave you to imagine the delightful conversation which followed.

Rosanne Butler.

REPORT FROM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

A PCC meeting was held on the 22 March 2015 when the inspected accounts 2014 Accounts were accepted and referred to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

The PCC also discussed Mission Giving and agreed to recommend to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting that 5% of planned giving, amounting to £2,440 be allocated to Mission Giving.

PCC members are currently appointed on an annual basis, although from 2004 a new standard length of service for elected PCC members was introduced which allowed for them to be elected for three years, with one-third retiring and being elected each year. The PCC agreed that the Annual Parochial Church Committee should consider adopting the new standard length of service, and therefore this will be discussed at the APCM on the 19 April 2015.

Quotations were accepted for the refurbishment of the vestry at St James and the kitchen at St Francis – so the formal applications for Faculties can be made. Archdeacon approval to disposal of redundant front of church rail at St Francis has been obtained, and it is hoped to sell this to raise money for the refurbishment of the kitchen. Work continues on the Faculty for the disposal of the unused bell at St Francis Church.

I am continuing to collect role description for volunteers – all contributions gratefully received.

Happy Easter to you all

Sally Hemsworth

SAINT OF THE MONTH—SAINT BERNADETTE

Lourdes is a very famous place in France where Christians go from all over the world to seek consolation and even cures for their long-term illnesses. Pilgrims flock to this important venue all because of a young peasant girl who in the mid-nineteenth century had a series of unshakeable visions of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Bernadette was the oldest daughter of a family of six. Her father was a miller and lived in acute poverty with his wife and family in Lourdes. Bernadette was born in 1844 and was a fragile child who suffered from severe asthma. She was described as undersized, ailing and not very bright. At the age of fourteen whilst walking near a rock called Massabielle she experienced a vision of Mary who ordered her to build a church there. She returned to the rock frequently and in the space of six months had eighteen further visions.

Because of her background and simplicity she was not believed. Like Joan of Arc many years before she had to undergo rigorous questioning (though she was not imprisoned). The interrogations were carried out by senior clergy and state officials and witnesses described her as stupid but Bernadette held on to her stories of the Virgin Mary and the message with which she had been entrusted. She also told of how Mary had instructed her to drink from the spring at the Massabielle rock. It is extra-ordinary to note that that very spring has never dried up and to this day provides 27,000 gallons of water a week.

Mainly to escape from publicity and the curiosity of the world she joined the Sisters of Notre Dame of Nevers and became a nun. She did not ever hear how Lourdes became a place of pilgrimage and was consecrated as such due to her solid belief in her visions. She continued to experience ill-health all through her life and died at the early age of thirty-five in the care of the Sisters. Her body was taken to Lourdes and the church, which was indeed built there, became a basilica. The consecration took place in 1876.

She was canonized in 1933 not because of her visions and trances “but because of her total commitment, integrity and trust” (to quote the Oxford Dictionary of Saints). And besides the request of the Virgin Mary to build a church what else was she required to do? To tell the world of the need for prayer and penance, something which she followed for the rest of her short and holy life.

Her feast day is celebrated on 16th April.



Dance Based Keep Fit Class with Barbara

St Francis of Assisi Church
Hollow Way, Cowley, Oxford OX3 7JP
Wednesdays 10.30 – 11.45 am

Improve your energy levels, muscle tone and flexibility
Come and enjoy the friendly, fun atmosphere

This class most suited to active 50+
Please bring a mat/towel **First class ½ price**

Dance Based Fitness Class, Lean Machine, Cowley – Tuesdays 7.30-8.45pm

For further details of both classes phone Barbara
07752626642
KFA Fitness through movement, dance and exercise
www.keepfit.org.uk

SUNDAY SERVICES

ST JAMES CHURCH, BEAUCHAMP LANE

8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Sung Eucharist
Sunday Sunday Lunch – the date varies so watch for notices

ST FRANCIS CHURCH, HOLLOW WAY

10.30am Parish Eucharist
2nd Sunday All Age bring n/share lunch

MID-WEEK SERVICES & MEETINGS

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—St James
	12.30pm	Tuesday Lunch Club— St James
Thursday	2-4pm	Prayer Space—St Francis
	7.00pm	Cowley Parish Healing Service St Francis (1st Thursday)
Friday	2.00pm	Bingo—St James

HOME GROUPS

Leader	Time/Venue
Connie Uren	Alternate Tuesday afternoons at 2.30pm St James Church Centre, Ranklin Room
Friends of St Francis (John Shreeve/	2nd & 4th Tuesday afternoons at 2.30pm St Francis Church
Mark Oxbrow	Alternate Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm Mark's home
Rosanne Butler	Alternate Thursday mornings at 10.00am St James Church Centre, Ranklin Room
Josh & Claire Hordern	Thursdays at 8.00pm, often at 55 Glanville Rd joshuahordern@hotmail.com
Joel Denno	Thursday at 7.45pm at The Vicarage, Don Bosco
Helen Beetham	Alternate Friday mornings at 10am

The Parish Office in St James Church
Centre is open:

Tuesday, 2—5pm
Wednesday, 10—1pm
Friday, 9—2pm

The Parish Office is currently staffed by
volunteers and members of the ministry
team.

Contact details: Tel: 01865 747680
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Website: www.cowleyteamministry.co.uk

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Vacancy

Team Vicar:

Revd Skye Denno
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Email: skye@cowleyteamministry.co.uk
Skye has Wednesday as her day off.

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St Francis Church/St James Church:
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