

THE DAFFODILS

This is the time of year when these brave little flowers pop up everywhere, in our gardens, in parks, by the roadside and even in the centre of our cities. I can never look at them without remembering the poet Wordsworth's immortal words:

"I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high over vales and hills.
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host of golden daffodils.
Besides the lake, beneath the trees
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze".

What Wordsworth had seen were of course wild daffodils which in his day grew in abundance in the Lake District where he had his cottage in Grasmere. They were smaller than our modern varieties and were known as 'Lenten Lilies' by the locals for obvious reasons. Blooming as they do quite early in the year they are subject to adverse and quite rough weather at times. And we can only marvel at their ability to cope with this. Their bright yellow faces bring us so much joy during dark inclement days.

They are the national flower of Wales and on St David's Day all the Welsh people try to wear one in their button holes.

The famous writers Derek and Jeannie Tangye both gave up prestigious and well paid jobs in London to try their hands at farming at Minack in a remote and primitive cottage just near Penzance. They tried first with flower farming which they knew nothing about. Theoretically, daffodils seemed an obvious choice, given the milder climate there. If they could get them up to Covent Garden early enough to beat the competition there was money to be made. However they had to reckon with nature that caused surprises. Daffodils were not easy they found.

John Shreeve



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CHRISTIAN AID:

- (1) OVER THE EDGE
- (2) SUPER SOUP LUNCH
- (3) CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

If you have been in either church since 12 March, you will have seen the photo of Lesley Williams having fun going 'OVER THE EDGE' of the tower of St Mary Magdalen Church, Magdalen Street. This year, it is not just another 'look, no hands' picture with feet firmly against the tower wall (the one used for Christian Aid's event advertising for 2016) but an exciting 'push off and bounce away from the wall, with no hands' which was such a thrill! And Lesley was again allowed two descents, perfecting the bounce, to much acclaim, on the second!

Generous sponsorship has reached £530 + lots of lovely Gift Aid so nearing £600! THANK YOU SO MUCH on behalf of Christian Aid.

You could still add to the total on the paper form or on line:

www.justgiving.com/LesleyJWilliams-Oxford but quickly - .all will be paid over on 8 April.



(2) There will as usual be a SUPER SOUP LUNCH immediately prior to the APCM on Sunday 17 April. That a simple lunch of soup, bread and cheese, with fresh fruit, for which we ask for a donation of £5. We hope all those coming to the Annual Meeting will join us but you are also welcome to enjoy the lunch, even if you are not staying for the meeting.

There will be a couple of other opportunities to part with small change for Christian Aid, and maybe win a prize!

(3) And then there will be CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 15 – 21 May with a focus on Morsheda, a young mother of four, living in Bangladesh. She has no land, few assets and no savings.

For Morsheda's family living on low-lying islands in the Brahmaputra River, floods are a terrifying part of everyday life. Morsheda cannot even count on having a safe place to call home: the single-room, corrugated-iron house she shares with her children has been flooded four times. More about her and Christian Aid's efforts to help next month.



We will again be inviting you to join us collecting door to door in some local streets – watch for the list to sign up for that.

But we also hope to experiment with Christian Aid's new promotion of a CAW BIG BREKKIE, to attract the general public. I love the slogans: fight poverty with porridge – save a life with a sausage sarnie – change the world with croissants. Who would like to be involved in that?

Lesley Williams

COULD YOU HELP?

We have on our prayer list for the sick at St James Church a lady named Rachel Lindenbaum. Sometimes prayers are all we can offer to these dear friends but, you see, Rachel is different. For many years now she has been suffering with a severe kidney complaint. At one time she believed that she would never be able to share her life with anyone. However, Rachel fell in love. She has a loving partner and they now have a little baby girl.

All through this, the kidney problem has escalated and is now at a crucial point. Unless someone can donate a kidney to this young woman she will not live to see her little girl grow up. In other words Rachel is dying.

She knows that a kidney donation is a huge thing to give but she has made a desperate plea to the parish in the hope that you or someone you know could possibly make a donation. The person's blood group would need to be "O". She writes "If you are interested in making a living donation you can either contact the Living Donor Team at the Churchill Hospital, Oxford (01865 228675) or email me at: akidneyforbella@gmail.com. Thank you. You could save my life."

WHAT'S ON AT THE CATHEDRAL

Wednesday, 4th May, 3.30 pm: Coral Evensong will be broadcast on BBC Radio 3.

This service is open to the public and no tickets are needed. Entry is between 3.05 and 3.15 pm only. All are welcome.

Saturday, 7th May (after evensong): A representative from Christian Aid will talk about the charity's work with partners in Haiti.

28th May – 23 June 2016: A video installation in the Cathedral's North Transept entitled "Liquid Gold is in the Air". Filmed in the "Cathedral of Trees" in Milton Keynes, a magical arboretum planned over 40 years ago, this is a three-screen video featuring colour, movement and sound as clusters of dancers appear and disappear amongst a backdrop of trees.

ELECTORAL ROLL 2016

The Parish Electoral Roll has been revised and is available for checking, 27 March – 10 April, prior to formal 'publication'. It can be corrected but no new names added now, until after the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) on 17 April. If you really meant to be added, but failed to action it, please still do submit a form NOW, ready for the 'new year', starting 18 April.

It would be so good if all those registered as electors came and used their vote at the APCM when we elect Church Wardens and Parochial Church Councillors, the leadership team of the Parish.

Lesley Williams

Parish of Cowley - Electoral Roll Officer

RECIPES

We thought it would be good to do a series of regional recipes from the British Isles. So here is the first one, a simple, cheap and tasty supper dish.



Wiltshire Ham in Crispy Baked Potatoes (serves 4)

8 medium-sized potatoes
2 tablespoons of vegetable oil
2oz butter
6 eggs, well beaten
6ozs Wiltshire ham, finely chopped
4ozs Cheddar cheese, grated
2 medium-sized tomatoes, blanched, peeled and chopped
Salt and black pepper to season
1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley

Preheat the oven to very hot, gas mark 8, 230° C.

Put the potatoes on a baking sheet and bake in the oven for 25 minutes. Remove from oven. Soak kitchen paper towel with the oil and rub the skin of each potato. Return the potatoes to the oven for about 20 minutes until the skins are crisp.

Remove from oven and set aside.

Reduce the temperature of the oven to gas mark 4, 180°C.

Once the potatoes are cooler, cut off a thin slice from their sides, lengthwise. With a teaspoon scoop out the inside of the potatoes, saving about half of it. The rest can be used for another recipe).

In a bowl mix the potato, butter, eggs, ham,

cheese, tomatoes and seasoning. Beat the mixture using a wooden spoon.

Spoon the mixture into each potato skin and put them in a baking dish. Bake in the oven for 15 minutes until the top is nicely brown.

Sprinkle the tops with chopped parsley.

Now for mini cheesecakes from Yorkshire:

Yorkshire Cheesecakes (makes 24)

2 teaspoons butter
12ozs shortcrust pastry
1lb fresh cottage cheese
8oz sugar
2oz chopped candied peel
½ teaspoon mixed spice
2 tablespoons currants
2 eggs lightly beaten
2oz melted butter

Preheat the oven to gas mark 4/180°C.

Grease 24 patty pans with the 2 teaspoons butter.

Flour a pastry board and roll out pastry to a thickness of about 1/8th inch, with 3 inch pastry cutter cut out 24 circles to line the patty pans.

Put the cheese, sugar, candied peel, spice and currants into a bowl and mix well.

Add the eggs and melted butter and stir thoroughly.

Divide the mixture between the pastry bases.

Bake for 15 to 20 minutes.

Gently remove the little cheesecakes from their tins and cool on a wire rack.

Rosanne interviews Delphine Loverage

It seems a very long time ago since Delphine and her husband Ernie were the parents of a lively nine-year-old boy who was one of my pupils at Donnington School. And of course it was. That same lad, Douglas, is now manager of one of our local council departments with his own office and a team of employees. It is also some time since I interviewed Douglas himself when he was a junior council employee working in Florence Park. I wonder how many of my readers remember that? But, anyway, it is not her son but Delphine herself who is the subject of this month's article.

As you read about this I think you will realise that she is one of those hard working people who make up the fabric of our area. She has no pretensions and makes light of the many hours of her life which have been spent in caring for a host of people.

She was born in Ilminster (Somerset) and to her regret was the only child of a couple who themselves knew all about work ethics. She described her father as a real gentleman who obviously expected his daughter to "toe the line". Her mother had a younger sister, Anita, who became something of a sister to Delphine. Her first school was the local village school. Then at the age of eleven she attended a strict convent school in Chard. She was just beginning to make good progress when, at thirteen

she was rushed into hospital with severe meningitis. Her recovery was slow, taking almost a year. This of course interrupted her education and she left her secondary school at fifteen. Her parents, relieved and delighted to have their daughter safe and well again, would take regular gift parcels to the children's ward where she had spent so much time, as tokens of their gratitude.

Her first job on leaving school was in her uncle's office. He was her mum's brother and ran a building business so he employed his young niece and kept an eye on her.

Delphine had a friend, Pam, who worked in a factory in Chard. Soon she joined her friend there and the two teenagers became inseparable. Another auntie, Thelma, would often entertain the girls at her house on a Saturday evening where they would play all the latest records and try out dances, make-up and all sorts of things. Aged about sixteen Delphine and Pam came up to Oxfordshire to another aunt and uncle's home in Dorchester for a holiday. Uncle Ron managed the "Dorchester Castle" pub. At her cousin's wedding, at which she was a bridesmaid, Delphine met Ernie. She discovered that he was often a customer at her uncle's pub. Soon she and Ernie, together with Pam and Ernie's friend would be taking trips into the Oxfordshire countryside and

in very little time at all it became clear that an engagement and then a marriage was on the cards.

Yet another auntie (are you keeping up?) worked at Sandford paper mill and Delphine, aged eighteen, joined her there just before she married Ernie in Dorchester Abbey.

The bakery in Somerset where her father worked closed down and so he and Delphine's mum came up to Oxford. Her father worked in the Junior Common Room at Christ Church College and her mother was a chef at Nuffield House in Mill Street, Oxford.

Ernie and Delphine's first married home was a mobile home in Garsington. While they were there her eldest son, Douglas, was born. After five years they were then able to move into a small house in Sydney Street in East Oxford. Another baby, Mark, came along and Delphine was a stay-at-home mum during the day. She would leave her little boys in Ernie's care in the evening though and help out in the JCR at Christ Church with her dad. She occasionally worked alongside her mum too. Never a person to take it easy, once her boys had both started school she began serving breakfasts and lunches for Nuffield students.

By this time she and her family had moved to a house in Church

Cowley Road where they have lived for twenty-nine years. Fully conversant with college affairs Delphine became a college scout, first at Balliol and then Lincoln where she worked for twenty years. She loved her job and finally retired at sixty.

When the children were young their holidays were always at the seaside and she has lots of happy memories of motoring off to Great Yarmouth, Skegness and Blackpool. Even more importantly for her were visits to Anita, the young auntie who shared her childhood and still lives down in Somerset.

Her first visit to St James Church was not the happiest one. For some reason she felt a bit intimidated and not awfully welcome. However, as a staunch Christian, she stood outside on her second attempt and told herself "This is the house of God and I'm going in". She had to admit that through a tenacious personality she persevered and now is fully established as a member of the congregation and feels very much at home. In fact she cannot praise the friendly atmosphere in church and the Church Centre enough.

Both her sons and her three grandchildren are at one with Ernie in his enthusiasm for football. They wanted to buy a ticket for her to go up to Wembley to support Oxford United in their cup game. But, no, she says she'll be happier waiting at home to find out the

result. She is a really proud mother and grandmother and a devoted wife and I promise you that once Delphine has become your friend it is a friendship for life!

How would you describe yourself as a young child?

Shy, I used to like reading and amusing myself in my room.

Have you any childhood memories you look back on with affection?

Our best times were when my dad borrowed a car and we'd go down to Seaton in Devon. We had lovely days on the beach (it always seemed to be sunny).

Has there been someone in your life who has had a strong influence on you?

Yes, my friend Avril. I met her at Percy Street play school when our children were young and we have been very close, like sisters, ever since.

Has your faith been with you since you were young?

Oh yes, I've always had a crucifix by my bed since I was a little girl.

Have you got a treasured possession?

My husband!

What is your opinion of present day society?

I think things are getting worse. My heart goes out to the homeless. Not everyone is lazy and not prepared to work. Sometimes things just turn out badly for them.

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

I want everyone to get on with everyone else thenPEACE.

Which periods of your adult life have given you the most satisfaction>

Christmases and family holidays with all of us together.

How do you like to spend your spare time?

Reading (I read anything that's going). I like listening to country music and the songs of the fifties and sixties. Douglas plays his guitar on gigs and we often go to listen to him.

Have you any plans for the future?

I'd like to go on living in Cowley but I'd like to downsize where I live.

Delphine did point out her close friendship with both Iris Webb and Pat Carr. These two ladies also worship at St James and like all her other friends our interviewee values the close ties she has with them.

CHURCHES WITHIN OUR DEANERY

St Thomas of Canterbury, Elsfield, Oxford



The church of St Thomas of Canterbury in Elsfield was built in 1122 on a site which probably had an earlier church. The earliest parts still surviving are the chancel arch (1170 – 80), and the Norman font (Before 1200).

Major rebuilding work was carried out early in the 13th century and again restored in 1849 and 1859. There is a mosaic behind the altar which depicts the Last Supper and was made by Salviati, a Venetian, in 1860.

The Archdeacon of Oxford inaugurated the new Benefice of Marston with Elsfield in June 1995, and today the church houses a Village Room which is at the rear end of the building, the west end of the nave being divested of the pews, and a handsome wooden screen with glass panels being erected in 2002.

The idea for this room came from the retired Dean of Christ Church, Eric Heaton, who suggested that the church could be used as a community resource for the whole village, and the room now has an extension where part of the old north aisle had been, which provides facilities for a kitchen, toilet and an area for storage.

Les Hemsworth

SAINT OF THE MONTH— ST ZITA

Down a tiny country lane in the Oxfordshire Cotswolds you will find a little village with a long name. This little village is Shorthampton. It has an early Norman church with a number of medieval wall paintings one of which, behind the pulpit, depicts an early saint carrying a shopping bag. Her name is Saint Zita.

Now you don't often see paintings of young female saints especially with shopping bags so I was intrigued to find out more about this girl. The first thing I discovered was that she is the patron saint of housewives. Being a housewife myself I felt connected to her but having heard her story and having actually seen her in real life (honestly) she has to be our April Saint of the Month.

Zita lived in thirteenth century Italy. She was born in 1218 in Monsagrati to poor parents. As a peasant girl she entered the service of a rich family, the Fatinelli household, at the age of twelve. She continued to work as a housemaid all her life until she died at the age of fifty four. She had a deep religious faith and when she was praised for the excellence of her bread she declared that she was not responsible as she would put herself in the hands of God's angels to help her. The house in which she served was situated in the city of Lucca.

During that period there was extreme poverty amongst the peasants many of them dying in the streets from hunger. As she went about the city doing her shopping she would sometimes smuggle out food to give to the beggars in the street, particularly the children. One day she was found out and followed. She was about to be challenged as to why her bag was full of bread rolls. She fell to her knees in prayer asking God to save her.

When the authorities caught up with her demanding that she opened her bag it was full of roses.

Now, how can it be that we can still see this dear little saint even in the twenty-first century? Well, in the city of Lucca in a church there is her shrine. In a vacuum sealed glass case lies St Zita herself. Her body has been preserved though her face is covered with a lace cloth and she has gloves on her hands. She is dressed in a pale blue silk gown and is lying on a couch. And as if to reinforce the legend of her charity to the poor of the city she is surrounded by dozens of pink silk roses. She has only one little finger missing.

In early Britain her name was often changed to St Sitha and she is depicted in several early churches though none have been dedicated to her. And what of that missing little finger? The town of Eagle in Lincolnshire claims to own it and fostered pilgrimages to their church in medieval times.

St Zita's feast day is celebrated on 27th April.

CHRONICLE

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

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

William Hartley

On the 18th July 2010 I 'reaffirmed my baptismal vows' and was presented with two Bibles by my parents. One of these was a small, travel size NIV edition. The other was a Greek New Testament with the strange words 'pistos ho kalon' on the inside cover. I had just started learning Biblical Greek with a couple of friends from church, but I had yet to understand what these carefully chosen words meant. Although I was baptized as a child, for various reasons I wanted to reaffirm my faith publicly and what better way than by full immersion (in a birthing pool!) as a number of adults and young people were baptized one evening at our previous church of St Paul's in Hammersmith, London. Following the tradition of our church (and in fact, quite an ancient tradition) I was plunged under the water while wearing dark coloured clothes, then changed afterwards into white/light coloured clothes to symbolise dying to my old self and rising out of the waters to a new life in Christ.

One of the reasons I chose to reaffirm my baptismal vows was to mark something of a milestone in my journey of faith so far, it then being almost 25 years since I was baptized as a 3 month old baby. To rewind a little, two years earlier, in 2008, I had moved back to London (where I first studied biochemistry at university) in order to begin a teacher training course, to ultimately become a science teacher. While previously studying in London I had come to the conclusion that teaching was the right career for me, and several months of voluntary teaching assistance and observation only confirmed that. However, having spent the previous year living just outside Newbury and getting quite involved with my church

there (I was in the worship group playing guitar and helped with the youth work) I started having doubts about whether or not teaching was really my vocation. There was something about serving people of all ages in the church (not just young people) that excited me, but with my applications and interviews now behind me and the funding for my teacher training now in place, I thought I had better not waste the opportunity – maybe these small doubts were just the common feelings of uncertainty we can all often experience before a new change of direction? I therefore put these doubts to the back of my head and was determined to carry on the path I had set myself.

Within just a few weeks, however, I started to get a horrible feeling that I was in the wrong place, going down the wrong path. The sort of feeling you get when you're sure you must have taken a wrong turning and are moving further and further away from the path you should be on. Not knowing whether or not I should quit the course (and suffer the inevitable shame of dropping out) I asked God for guidance and noticed I had brought with me to London an old Bible, with gilt edged pages and calf skin cover, that my godfather gave to me at my baptism in 1986. Since I never actually read from this particular Bible, I was surprised to rediscover that my godfather had written a message in it quoting John 15:16, "You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last". I remember God speaking to me quite clearly through this passage. It was as though God was reminding me that ultimately he had created me for a specific purpose, and it was for me to discern and respond to that specific call (vocation literally means 'calling', after all) rather

than follow my own plans stubbornly to the end. To cut a long story short, within a couple of days I became convinced that this was where my path led – away in a new direction – and that God's call was not in teaching after all, as I first assumed. I quit the course I was on and left university, moving in with friends I had in Fulham, confident that God would open up new doors to me – perhaps to eventually work in the church?

The timing couldn't have been worse, however! I was now unemployed just as the recession was starting to dry up the job market, and I couldn't find work for several months – not until all my savings had been spent on rent. During this time I felt quite lonely and my faith was certainly challenged. If it was really God calling me to follow him in a new direction, why did I now feel lost – forsaken even – and unprovided for? I wondered if perhaps I misheard God's call, or maybe I wasn't praying hard enough? At this time another verse of Scripture struck a chord in me – Proverbs 16:9, "The human mind plans the way, but the Lord directs the steps". I stopped thinking and planning too far ahead (as we're so often expected to do with our lives, and from an increasingly young age) and made a new commitment to trust that God would guide me in the little decisions, one step at a time.

Eventually I found a job working with people with learning disabilities – something I had never before considered. I ended up staying in this job for nearly four years, and found the work a real insight into how different members of our communities live and what a full life means to them. These were people that I would never ordinarily have crossed paths with. I also felt a prompting to study more about the Bible and the Christian faith, and discovered a series of Saturday morning theology talks hosted by St Paul's Theological

Centre, based at Holy Trinity Brompton. The only problem was the cost (around £240 for the first year's teaching). I had ended up having to claim housing benefit for a couple of months before I eventually found employment again, having used up all my savings and gone into an overdraft just to pay my rent. £240 was out of the question! And yet I felt a strong pull to take up the opportunity to deepen my faith through studying, and so I signed up for the course, trusting that it was the right decision to make. Only a few days later a cheque came through the post from Hammersmith & Fulham Council apologising for a miscalculation in the housing benefit I had been paid. Apparently I was owed a little over £240! I found the course so exciting and enriching that I signed up again and again, eventually completing all three years of teaching they had to offer. By 2012 I decided to make a more serious commitment to studying theology, and so started a five year part-time degree which I'm currently still studying (and still very much enjoying, despite some very late nights and general lack of free time!)

The third major door that opened for me around this time was meeting Caroline, my wonderful and supportive wife! We had both just moved to the same church in Hammersmith for different reasons. For my own part, I thought that it made sense to go to the same church as my friends I now lived with so we could encourage each other better in our faith. For Caroline, it was now her local church having just moved to London for the first time, and so after searching online for local churches St Paul's Hammersmith came top of the list, and so our paths crossed. In a little more than a year after meeting, and less than seven days after reaffirming my baptismal vows, we were engaged!

Although 2008-2010 were a difficult and challenging couple of years I found doors slowly opened and God proven to be faithful in his calling me away from my own career plans and onto a new path. Although I first found it difficult to live with the consequences of leaving what would have been a stable and valued career in teaching, and questioned whether or not I had made the right decision, I found encouragement from Jesus' disciples, some of whom 'left their nets and followed him', leaving their stable source of income as fishermen to follow and learn from Jesus. Here was an example I could follow and learn from. As I emerged from the baptism waters, soaked through and to the sound of friends and family clapping for joy, I had a few moments to reflect on my journey of faith so far – not only the previous couple of years, but since my baptism at 3 months old. Although at times I felt lost and lonely, and

without much sense of direction, I did of course have my friends and family praying for me and encouraging me along the way. And despite at times feeling like God had called me along a certain path, only to leave me without a sense of purpose and direction, I came to realise that at these times it was as though God had gone ahead to open doors for me or to clear a path for me.

Finally, I was able not only to understand now, but to fully believe with confidence the strange Greek words in my Bible from 1 Thessalonians 5:24: 'pistos ho kalon' – 'faithful is the one who calls'. In a few days' time it will be my 30th baptism anniversary, and while I might reflect again on my journey of faith so far, I will also be looking ahead to where God is calling me next, whatever the cost might be, confident that he is faithful and will provide.

NEWS FROM ST FRANCIS

As I write this, our Lent Courses are behind us, and Easter is imminent, and we can only hope and pray that the mix of services and events that we have planned will draw people in to our little church of St Francis.

The world has never been in greater need of the message of salvation, with its wars and strifes, terrorism, refugees, hunger and thirst. Yet the good news of the gospels seems beyond their comprehension, as Christ said it would be.

Even our own church members struggle at times with the Easter story in all its starkness and cruelty. Yet it is all we have in God's scheme of things, and so we have to stick with it. The day of resurrection is still to come, with its glorious

message of the triumph of love over hate and hope for the future.

To get down to more mundane things our Family Fun Day went well and a goodly number attended.

Our newly refurbished kitchen is looking fine and is already proving very useful. As we look towards our Annual General Meetings, we are thankful for all the people both clergy and laity who give of their services to keep our churches up and running. Their practical Christianity is of immense value.

John Shreeve



“What should our church be like in 20 years time?”

“What steps do we need to take to get there?”

“What should be the first steps?”



A vision morning

Saturday June 18th More

details to follow please keep the date free

THE JESUS BOAT

Some years ago after a long period of drought the water level in the Sea of Galilee dropped considerably – so much so that whole muddy tracts were exposed that had never been seen before. In one of these areas the skeleton of an old boat was revealed. It was carefully extracted from the mud and given a brief clean up and then handed over to forensic and archaeological experts for their analysis. To everyone's surprise their consensus of opinion was that it was very ancient indeed, so much so that it could well have been around during the lifetime of Christ. So it was quickly dubbed the Jesus Boat. A small museum was built to contain it and visitors were welcomed. This is at Ginosar, North of Tiberias.

To pilgrims interested in our Lord's association with the fishing community in Galilee this is just one of the leads to follow. It is possible to visit

the lakeside town of Capernaum, there St Peter's house can be seen, also the local synagogue.

A replica fishing boat is available for trips on the water along with local characters dressed in period costume, complete with nets to cast out.

You can eat a meal of St Peter's fish, a variety which has been around for many centuries. It is possible to stay in a hotel located right beside the lake and view the waters at close hand. It is known that Zebedee, the father of James and John, in addition to owning a couple of boats also ran quite a prosperous business in cured or dried fish. This was located in Jerusalem and the rough area is still known though no buildings remain.

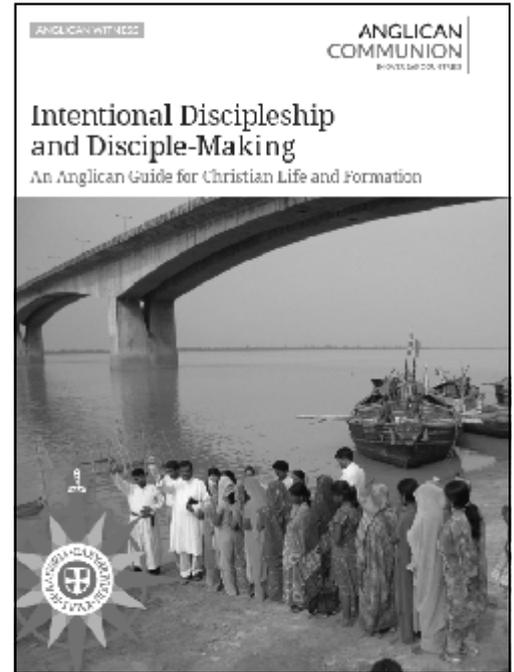
So if you are keen, get fishing!

John Shreeve

Anglicans follow Jesus: ACC16

As you read this article Anglican archbishops, bishops, clergy and lay people from hundreds of countries will be heading for Lusaka, the capital of Zambia, for ACC16. What, I hear you ask, is ACC16? Well it stands for the 16th meeting of the “Anglican Consultative Council” which is the worldwide gathering of Anglican Christians from over 165 different countries. The first gathering of the ACC was held in Kenya in 1971 and from 8-19 April this year our leaders, led by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, will gather again in Zambia. Please do pray for them.

The main theme for ACC16 is “Intentional discipleship in a world of differences” and I have had the honour of being one of four people who have spent the last year working on the source book for the meeting – see a picture here of its cover. It has been a difficult task but also very interesting to work with theologians and church leaders from Africa, Europe, Asia and the Americas to pull together our thinking on what it means to be a follower of Jesus today. In the book we have explored how Christians followed the ways of Jesus in the first few hundred years after the resurrection, how Catholic and Orthodox Christians do this today and what resources our own churches have to help us effectively make new disciples. Having now completed the book I am excited to see how the leaders, gathered in Zambia this month, will use and develop the material it contains.



In his introduction to the book the Archbishop of South East Asia, my great friend and colleague, Archbishop Moon Hing Ng writes, “our reconciliation with God ... can never be complete until we are at peace with ourselves, in vital communion with the whole Body of Christ, in a renewed relationship with the whole human family and discovering a new harmony with creation as a whole. Wrestling with environmental issues, with peace-building and peace-keeping, with the complexities of human relationships, with truth, justice and loving, and with the care of our family and ourselves – these are all key concerns for those who accept the invitation of Jesus to ‘follow’.” Those words apply as much to us here in Cow-

ley as they do to the Christians the archbishop leads in Malaysia and Singapore.

Please remember to pray for these Anglican leaders as they meet from 8-19 April and especially on Tuesday 12 April when the main discussions about “Intentional Discipleship” will start.

Mark Oxbrow

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Being a Film Extra – Pomp and Credence

Being a film extra isn't all rags and blacked out teeth, occasionally I get called upon for tiara and ermine, and you get to see some wonderful iconic buildings free! This time I was called for a coronation scene in St. Alban's Cathedral in the film Johnny English. My friend and I were decked out in a wonderful outfit comprising evening gown, a loooooong red ermine cloak, tiara's and various "Order of the Whatever" stars and sashes. We really did look the part.

During a tea break while the others went off for a refreshing cup of tea we decided to take the opportunity of looking round the Cathedral. It was during this tour we became aware of an audience - a family of Japanese tourists with big smiles and numerous cameras. With the help of a phrase book and much bowing from them we agreed to have out photos taken which turned out not to be just one but each family member took turns plus a large family group. It wasn't until they took their leave and backed away bowing and we distinctly heard the word ma'am that a sneaky feeling came across us that we may have been mistaken for members of the Royal family. So if anyone visits Japan and sees a much treasured photo of our Royal family on the wall, a closer inspection may be needed.

On a completely different day and an entirely different scenario I was booked to do a Corporate Training Video for St. John's Ambulance. No treks to Greenwich Park in the early, early hours of the morning, this was in the depths of Didcot Town Centre.

The "plot" was to demonstrate how basically ignorant (a bit of a harsh word) members of the public are in a medical emergency which would

be tacked onto a "hands on" training procedure. We, as onlooker members of the supposed public, had to either hurry past the patient on the pavement or to just stand watching, depending on how we wanted to play it. For authenticity the director set his camera up the other side of the main Didcot road (The Broadway). "Action" he shouted, the actor fell to the floor clutching his chest, we walked by, others stood and stared, and a complete stranger dropped his shopping and rushed up to the actor to begin resuscitation. "Cut" shouted the director and the crew thanked the man and explained why they were there. "Action" shouted the director yet again, and a passing mini screeched to a halt, the door was flung open and a nurse jumped out and attempted to put him in the recovery position. When it was explained to her, she was very relieved. Apparently, she was new to the job and hadn't tried out the procedure before. On two more occasions members of the public rushed over to help squashing the whole theme of members of the public unwilling/untrained to help but it did restore faith in human nature.

Sue Hallett



FROM THE ARCHIVES

COWLEY

CHURCH & HOME MAGAZINE

April 1893

Welsh Suspensory Bill Now Before The House Of Commons

This Bill is to stop practically one side of the Church's work; it is really an instalment to Disestablish and Disendow the English Church. Although it is not likely to become law this Session of Parliament, it is well to see what those in power will do if they have the opportunity. They say they are in the power of the majority, Mr. Gladstone himself says this. Every Baptized person ought to try and realize what this proposed Bill means. It aims at taking away as much of the Endowment in the four Dioceses of Wales as Parliament will assent to. In many parishes in these four Dioceses if this Bill becomes law there would be the greatest difficulty in securing for the poor, regular religious services and regular pastoral works. Most of my readers will in this age realize the fact that Dissent cannot supply these two things. It thrives where the people have money, and has really very little to do with the poor.

This Bill is an iniquitous measure, and I cannot believe that any person who supports it is activated by those motives which are evident to the readers of the lives of the early Christians.

Set your faces as flint against it, and consider measures of this kind when its friends produce some religious organization in this country to take the place of the Church. Some of its advocates in the House are perfectly insincere, and a good many of them are moved with the lowest political motives, and have been rightly described as mere "political jotters."

The Vicar has issued the following letter for the proposed New School which the government demand:-

Cowley Vicarage,
Oxford.

Sir,

Lent

May I call your attention to the very difficult position our Parish Schools are in at the present moment? Seven years ago we built an Infant School at Temple Cowley, for 102 children, and during the past two years this school has been full. After calling my attention to this fact last year, the Education Department have now stated that they will not renew the grant, as the average has reached 130, unless further provision is at once made for these children.

Plans have been approved by the Education Department for an additional room 40 by 20 feet. The cost for this room, additional offices, and extending the playground, will be £600. For the information of those who are not resident in this parish, I may mention that during the past ten years we have spent £1,800 in building new schools. These are free of debt.

During the last fifteen years the staff in our schools has gone from one teacher at £25 yearly to nine at a cost of nearly £420 in salaries. Our Girls' School for years has earned 20s. 6d. per child from the Education Department, and our infants 17 shillings. We have been able to secure for some years nearly £150 a year for current expenses from those who have property, and others in this parish. Last year this amount was subscribed by 98 persons, and I have reason to believe that my people will support the Schools if we can secure the necessary buildings.

May I ask you to give us a donation to enable us to provide accommodation for the children of those artisans in my parish, who desire to send their children to a School where they can have a good secular education combined with religious knowledge?

I am,

Your obedient servant,

GEORGE MOORE

Researched by Les Hemsworth

A man and wife drove up to a motorway service station. While he filled up with petrol she went off to the ladies toilet. Absent-mindedly he drove off leaving her behind. A few miles down the road he was stopped by the police. "Excuse me, sir" said the policeman, "but did you realise you left your wife behind at the service station?" "Oh, thank goodness for that" the man exclaimed, "I thought I'd gone deaf".

***In Celebration of the Queen's
90th Birthday***

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with the

**OXFORD WELSH MALE
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***Roz Ware (singer) &
Emily Jensenius (violin)***

at

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OX4 3LF

11th June, 2016

7.00 pm for 7.30pm

*Funds raised will go towards maintaining our
beautiful historic 12th century church*

Tickets: £10

From: Margaret Weller (Tel: 01865 775150)

Christine Woodman (Tel: 01865 778078)

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
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, 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
Catherine / William Hartley	Thursdays at 8.00pm, Catherine Hartley 07792 104448 William Hartley 07751 939092
Joel Denno	Thursday at 7.45pm at The Vicarage, Don Bosco Close
Helen Beetham	Alternate Friday mornings at 10am St James Church Centre, Ranklin Room

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
Email: office@cowleyteamministry.co.uk
Out of hours tel: 07501 908378
Website: www.cowleyteamministry.co.uk

Team Rector:

The Revd Canon Geoffrey Bayliss
Tel: 01865 747680 (o) 01865 778596 (h)
Email: rector@cowleyteamministry.co.uk

Team Vicar:

Revd Skye Denno
Tel: 01865 434160 Mobile: 07720 768684
Email: skye@cowleyteamministry.co.uk
Skye has Wednesday as her day off.

Self-supporting Ministers

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01865 701948
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Revd Canon Mark Oxbrow
01865 461953
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Revd Tony Beetham
Tel: 01865 770923
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Churchwardens:

David Stanley Tel: 776602
Norah Shallow Tel: 765199

Deputy Wardens
Margaret Martin Tel: 718532
John Shreeve Tel: 717987

St James Church Centre Manager:

Chris Woodman Tel: 778078

Hall Bookings:

Church Centre: Pat Sansom Tel: 778516
St Francis Church/St James Church:
through Parish Office

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