

Alpha Bytes

Wednesdays
10.00 - 11.30am
6th June - 11th July
St James Church
Centre OX4 3LF



Speak to Mary or Jill

Missing out on evening Alpha Course?

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Alpha is a series of interactive sessions that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith. No pressure. No follow up. No charge.

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QUIZ AID

Friday 29 June
7:00 pm



St James Centre
Beauchamp Lane

tickets on the door **£5**

includes soft drinks & nibbles



raffle

information from Chris Knevett

01865 778 754



Monday
June 4th 7 pm
Cowley Rectory

Food at 7 followed by a video and discussion



Chronicle

June 2018

From the Editors

Sally Hemsworth and Nicki Stevens

In June and July you are asked to consider whether you wish to renew your subscription for The Chronicle, and you will find a form in this month's Chronicle setting out the details for renewal. The cost remains the same as last year – an annual fee of £4 to cover 10 issues for A5 copy, and £5 for A4 copy.

You can return the form, with your subscription to Chris Knevett at St James Church, Norah Shallow at St Francis Church, or to Sally Hemsworth at the Parish Office.

We continue to try to include a variety of articles – but we need your help to achieve this. Ideas, articles, poems, cartoons, etc. are all welcome. Our next edition – July/August – covers two months and we like to have an extra big edition to cover this longer period – but we need your help to achieve this.

The Parish Walks continue on a fortnightly basis. On the 21 May we met early at The Plough at Wolvercote and enjoyed lunch before setting off for Oxford. Luckily someone from the area joined us and led us across Port Meadow to the river and then we followed the towpath to Botley Road. The weather was delightful, the views exceptional and everyone enjoyed the walk. We are off again on the 4th June, meeting again at The Plough at Wolvercote at 12.15 ish and walking back to Oxford along the canal.

This time last year we were thinking about a Group Holiday – and we do not have long to wait as on Monday, 10 September 2018, a group of us will be off to Eastbourne.

We are very grateful to Chloe Clark for setting up the Chronicle this month whilst Nicki is on holiday.

A word from the Rectory



This month we have a lot to celebrate.

Revd Gemma Beesley joins us on the very last day of the month. Crockfords, the clerical directory, records our last curate, Revd Beth Spence, leaving in 2008. This makes it 10 years since we have served as a training parish. Gemma and her family are a real Gift from God. Do please give them a very warm welcome and draw them into the life of both St James and St Francis. If you can get to the cathedral on June 30th - she would love you to join with others of the diocese who are being ordained.

On this page you will find an extract from the service for the ordination of Deacons. As you read it you will see that their work is set in community. None of us minister alone. Even our study of the Bible, the Word of God, is to be done with others. It is never an academic process, but one that changes our own lives and those of the community in which we live and serve.

Why have we been trusted with the training of a new minister? The diocese sees us as having something special to offer. We offer ourselves, and the community we serve, as a place where a newly ordained minister can grow gifts and skills that will, in themselves, grow the Kingdom of God. It is us together, not me the rector, who will shape Gemma's understanding of what it means to be a Deacon, later a Priest, in the Church of England. Perhaps, one of the greatest gifts each of us has, is to share our journey with those who themselves are growing gifts that will bless others. So in the coming years please give generously of yourselves as we share this journey with both Gemma and our apprentice Vicar David. As we pilgrim together may we see the Kingdom of God grow around us!

A deacons calling:

“Deacons are called to work with the Bishop and the priests with whom they serve as heralds of Christ’s kingdom. They are to proclaim the gospel in word and deed, as agents of God’s purposes of love. They are to serve the community in which they are set, bringing to the Church the needs and hopes of all the people. They are to work with their fellow members in searching out the poor and weak, the sick and lonely and those who are oppressed and powerless, reaching into the forgotten corners of the world, that the love of God may be made visible.

Deacons share in the pastoral ministry of the Church and in leading God’s people in worship. They preach the word and bring the needs of the world before the Church in intercession. They accompany those searching for faith and bring them to baptism. They assist in administering the sacraments; they distribute communion and minister to the sick and house-bound.

Deacons are to seek nourishment from the Scriptures; they are to study them with God’s people, that the whole Church may be equipped to live out the gospel in the world. They are to be faithful in prayer, expectant and watchful for the signs of God’s presence, as he reveals his kingdom among us.”



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Revd Geoff Bayliss will be off duty for a few days.

For business linked with the church buildings please contact out Church Wardens.

For issues linked with weddings , funerals, baptisms or other things spiritual please speak to my colleagues Revd Richard Chand.
email richardwchand@outlook.com

Geoff will get to his emails when he is on duty again.

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Blooming Marvellous!



That is what many of us were feeling after our successful Plant Sale on May 12th. Many, many thanks to those who helped to make it such a great occasion. We had very few plants left after a bumper crowd came and left with new plants to add to their gardens, ate bacon butties and bought cakes, marmalades, books and bric-a-brac. At the latest count, we had raised £1259.43 for parish funds. Wonderful!

Because of an early deadline I am writing this in the middle of May. The time of year that nature is blooming marvellous! Yesterday my other half and I had a day off and went on a bus pass trip. Leaving our house, where the pale pink wisteria round the front door is at its scented best, we caught a bus to Banbury where we saw many more examples, particularly of the more usual blue colours, as we were taken through Oxfordshire villages. Tackley had some fine examples. Along the roadsides cow parsley was a mass of frothy white flowers, while many hedges were white with may blossom on the hawthorns and "candles" on the horse chestnuts. Fields of bright yellow, and pungent, rape were many and pastures were full of yellow buttercups. Cereal crops are now growing well to clothe the land deep green.

From Banbury we hopped on a 488 to Chipping Norton. A really great trip through the hills of North Oxfordshire where the underlying geology is shown as the brown ironstone used as a building material gradually changes to the golden Cotswold limestone. There were a couple of times that the bus had to squeeze through narrow bends in the villages such as Hook Norton and Great Rollright. There are some great churches on this trip including Bloxham church which has stained glass of Morris and Burne-Jones. Must go to see sometime.

In Chippy we were refreshed by a sandwich and a pot of tea and then back to Oxford on an S3. On this lovely trip back via Woodstock, there were two instances of field corners that were a mass of deep pink red champions. Sadly, we didn't manage to see bluebells. Must go to the Arboretum soon! We are so lucky to be able to spread our horizons with our bus passes. It must be a saviour of mental health issues for those that use them. We met a group of ladies who got off at Thrupp to visit the tea room there and a couple who alighted at Tackley to walk back to Oxford. I used to love walking in the countryside, but sadly, cannot go very far these days.

I do keep active gardening and, back to earth, by the end of the month annuals will be planted out in the garden. We have had a great show of blue forget-me-nots and, on taking these out, gaps will appear where we can plant. We shall be looking forward to strawberries as well as raspberries from the allotment this year as we have set up a new bed. It has been spread with manure and covered over with black weed-suppressing fabric. Then, I have cut holes where my strawberry plants were set. They were bought mail order and potted on first.

So, bring on summer! Spuds, peas and beans are all up and all we have to do is wait for the harvest but be ready with the watering can if it gets dry.

Joan Coleman

GARDENING PARTY - WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Please come along and boost the numbers looking after the area around St. James Church and St. James Church Centre.

We gather on the last Saturday of each month (except for December), 9:30am onwards at St. James Church Centre.

Come and have some fun, fresh air and exercise as we prepare the St. James Church Centre garden for another beautiful spring and summer showing. If possible bring your own tools but some will be available. Both heavy and light work available plus coffee and cake.



A VILLAGE SCHOOL IN 1941

A small two-room building with a fold-back screen between the rooms was where I first went to school. At the age of four, little evacuee as I was, I had no idea what "school" meant but a few days after we had settled into our tiny cottage in the small Oxfordshire village where we took refuge, my mum suggested that I might like to start going to school.

So on a cold March afternoon we walked down our puddly lane across the little stream, along the village street, into the gravel playground and through the door which led straight into the infants' classroom. Warmed by a cosy fire, surrounded by a big fireguard, it felt so welcoming and when we were greeted with a warm smile by a plumpish friendly lady I was falling in love already. My mum told the head teacher all about us while I looked around and saw dear little tables and chairs, nice pictures on the walls and a big book case. Lovely!

"Well, yes, I'm sure we can fit you in", the head teacher smiled, "when would you like to start?" "Now!" I replied which made her and my mum laugh. "As it's nearly going home-time, Rosanne, perhaps you could come back tomorrow?" "Oh, yes please" I said, and so I did.

It was one of the loveliest parts of my life. Of course, I didn't know it and only discovered much later what it meant, but Mrs Rolinson, the Head, had been Froebel trained before the war. That training involved putting the child (not the subject) at the centre of learning – a very modern idea in those days. I flourished because I was so happy.

The facilities were most primitive especially the toilets. There was a high brick wall surrounding the boys' loos so I never did know what they were like but we girls had a dear little shed round the back of the main building with two seats with holes in them over a couple of buckets. There was a higher seat with a big bucket for the older girls and a little low seat and a little bucket for the little ones. We had to go out of the door and round the outside of the building to get there no matter the weather conditions (imagine snowy days!)

The cloakroom, or lobby as we called it, had rows of pegs for our coats and even after all these years I can still remember which one was mine. At the end of the lobby was a scrubbed whitewood table on which stood a white enamel bowl and a jug of cold water which the Head filled up each day. That was the only washing facility as the school had no other water and the teacher's house next door only had a pump.

The playground was covered in gravel and, wow, if you fell over out there little stones would get into your graze. The Head would bathe your knee in cold water with Dettol in it using a wad of cotton-wool and then rub Germolene on to it. She was so kind.

At the end of the playground was a big conker tree which gave us lovely shade in the summer. Of course in the autumn the conkers were much in demand and you had to get to school early in the morning to “bag” those that had fallen over night. Getting to school early was always my watch-word and I’ll never forget arriving so early before anyone else and finding a dear little pipistrelle bat dead at the foot of the tree. I picked it up and brushed its soft fur with my thumb and was sad all day about its sweet little corpse.

I could write pages more about my lovely school days. Maybe I will sometime but I will end by saying that by the time I was six, two years later, I had decided that the only future for me was as a teacher. I wrote an “essay” about it which Mrs Rolinson kept for years. My fate was sealed and I never deviated from it.

Rosanne Butler

Cowley Women’s Institute

In early May we went to Thame and had a lovely time catching up on news and deepening our friendships whilst enjoying a delicious cream tea.

At our May WI meeting we had a fun session exercising together and learning the benefits of regular movement. A few of us found muscles we hadn’t used for a while!

In early June we plan to visit St Mary’s Church, Chalgrove to view the medieval wall paintings. This outing would not be complete without a spot of lunch and a chat at the local pub. Our June speaker is Anne Ambler who is going to tell us about Osteoporosis on the afternoon of the 20th. At the end of the month we have squeezed in another outing. We enjoyed ceramic painting so much earlier in the year that we thought why not repeat it.

We would love to have more members in our WI. If you would like to find out more, please come and have an enjoyable afternoon making new friends. We meet from 2pm – roughly 4:15 pm in St James Church Centre the third Wednesday of each month (except August).

Sarah Lawrence, Secretary to Cowley WI
wicowleyoxford@yahoo.com

Claire Ewers

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A Poem from the book "Seven Days – Dips into the well of Truth" by Gertrude Wood

WHAT ARE YOU WORTH?

Whatever I may think I'm worth,
My body is but water
With elements from Mother Earth
Mixed by the Master Potter.

But in my head He puts a brain,
That holds all my potential.
To do my best with what is there
Must be my life's essential.

For what I may accomplish while
I dwell upon this Earth,
Along with why and how 'tis done,
Is really all I'm worth.

PRAYER SPACE

Lord Jesus, I give you
My hands to do your work,
My feet to go your way,
My eyes to see as you do,
My tongue to speak your words,
My mind that you may think in me,
My spirit that you may pray in me.
Above all, I give you my heart
That you may love in me
Your Father and all humankind.
I give you my whole self
That you may grow in me
So that it is you, Lord Jesus,
Who live and work and pray in me.

Lancelot Andrewes

Give me time to think, Lord,
Give me time to pray.
Give me time to know that
You are with me day by day.
Give me time to listen
To that small voice within
And by your Holy Spirit's power,
Keep me free from sin.

Give me time to love you, Lord
For this is your command.
And through the love you've given me
Others will understand.

Give me time to praise you, Lord,
For all the things you've done.
For all the things you've given me
For all the battles won.

Give me time to worship you,
With all my heart and soul
For nothing else befits a King
Who has made me whole.

Published in the Mothers' Union book of prayers and poems entitled "Dear Lord"

FILM CLUB AT THE CENTRE

The club evening in May was very well attended and members enjoyed "Mrs Henderson Presents" in which Dame Judi Dench played an outstanding part. In fact, one member remarked as she was leaving that it was the best film she had seen in a long time. Donations for parish funds reached almost £70.

This month's film is an adaptation of the remarkable novel "The Book Thief". Set in Germany during the Second World War it tells the story of a young girl who is taken into the care of a couple who teach her to read. They also take in a young German Jew for his protection and a friendship develops between the young people through their love of books. It is a poignant story which should make for another pleasant evening for our members and their guests. Oscar winners Geoffrey Rush and Emily Watson star in the film and a charming newcomer Sophie Nélisse plays the part of the young "book thief".

Rosanne Butler

MAY MORNING 2018

May morning is a 500 year-old tradition in Oxford when choristers sing from the top of Magdalen College tower at 6 am on May 1st.

As a Friend of the Botanic Garden I had already bought a ticket for the event which means you can watch the proceedings from the Garden without the crush of thousands of revellers round you!

I was up at 4.30 am, there was a bright full moon and the morning chorus of birds was amazing. It was not too cold as I cycled down to the Plain, then walked over Magdalen Bridge and into the Botanic Garden via Rose Lane. We had to be there between 5 am and 5.30 am. On arrival you could have a hot drink, then later a croissant and more hot drinks. Morris Dancers provided entertainment from 5.15 for half an hour.

As 6 o'clock approached there was a hushed expectancy; we had been watching the choristers arrive at the top of the tower, and as soon as 6 o'clock struck, the singing began. It was enchanting to hear the heavenly sound of the Magdalen choristers followed by peals of bells from Magdalen Tower to welcome in the Spring.

It is so beautiful and peaceful in the Botanic Garden – one of Oxford's treasures which celebrates its 400th anniversary next year. I would definitely recommend it as the nicest place to see in May Morning, and if anyone wants a guest ticket next year let me know!

Ruth Goodwin

One Small Step



Jenny's Story

It started with Christian Aid collecting ...

"One small step can lead to all sorts of exciting possibilities – don't be afraid to give something a go, you never know what might happen!"

"Over 40 years ago as a young mum living in a Nottinghamshire village I agreed to collect Christian Aid envelopes from the houses in the road where I lived – probably about 25 houses in total. When we moved to Somerset in 1980 and joined our local church in Banwell, I was again asked to collect Christian Aid envelopes as part of the village's house to house collection."

What difference has the step made in your life?

"Within a couple of years I became the local organiser for Christian Aid Week, a role shared with someone from the local Methodist Church. This in turn led to getting to know people in the Bristol Christian Aid Office and attending talks and events in the area.

"Probably the most significant next step was being inspired by Christian Aid to get involved with the Jubilee 2000 Campaign for Debt Relief for Heavily Indebted Poor Countries. I organised a coach load of people from both churches and the wider community to travel to the Human Chain around the G8 in Birmingham in 1998."

Has it led you to make any other changes?

"Around the same time I trained to become a Reader, gaining a wider awareness of global issues from both a practical and a theological perspective. In 1998 I was appointed as the World Mission Adviser in the Diocese of Bath & Wells. The role involved working closely with Christian Aid at local and national levels, along with other mission and development agencies.

"The Diocese has a long-standing Companion Link with the Anglican Church in Zambia in Central Africa, and part of the role was to facilitate this link. Over the years I made several visits around the 5 Dioceses in Zambia, and was made an Honorary Canon of the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Lusaka, the capital of Zambia, in September 2015, a few months before I retired from the World Mission Adviser role."

How has the change affected your spiritual life or Christian witness?

It has made a huge impression on it over the years, in many different ways. A deeper understanding of how God is at work in the world, and a realisation that ordinary lay people can do amazing things and don't necessarily have to rely on the "powers that be" in the church to lead the way – they are sometimes the ones that need leading!

How have others reacted to the step(s) you have taken?

My late husband was always very supportive, and as an architect was able to contribute his own expertise as part of the Link relationship with the Zambian Church, liaising with them on building projects. He also contributed greatly to providing hospitality to countless Zambian visitors over the years, as did my daughters and their families. I made a lot of good friends in both the UK and Zambia over the 17 years I was World Mission Adviser and am still in contact with many of them.

Story with kind permission of Jenny Humphreys, Reader, St Andrew's Church, Banwell, North Somerset.

CCOW's 'One Small Step' series shares stories of change -- the small steps individuals have taken to live more in keeping with their faith – to help inspire and encourage all of us on our journeys. We hope you've been inspired by this story. Please do get in touch and share yours with us!

RECIPES



Cod with tomato bean stew (serves two)

Ingredients:

Olive oil
4 small shallots, halved and sliced
1 clove garlic, sliced
200g cherry tomatoes
1 tbsp baby capers
100ml chicken stock
400g tin cannellini beans, rinsed and drained
2 thick, skinless pieces, cod loin
Plain flour for dusting, seasoned
1 tbsp of shredded basil

Method

1. Heat 2 tbsp of olive oil in a pan. Cook the shallots for about 5-7 minutes until really soft.
2. Add the garlic and cook for a couple of minutes, then stir in the tomatoes and baby capers.
3. Add the stock and beans and simmer for 5-7 minutes, until the tomatoes start to burst.
4. Meanwhile, dust the cod in seasoned flour.
5. Heat a non-stick frying pan with a little more oil, then fry for 3 minutes on each side until cooked through and golden.
6. Stir the basil into the beans, season, then serve in shallow bowls topped with the cod.

The following is (from *Cakes, Bakes, Puddings and Prayers* by Susan Over).

TEA AND SYMPATHY CAKE

INGREDIENTS:

350g (12oz) mixed dried fruit
110g (4oz) light soft brown sugar
110g (4oz) margarine or butter
150ml (quarter pint/5 fl oz) water
1 large egg, beaten
225g (8oz) self-raising flour

METHOD:

1. Preheat oven to gas mark 2/150°C/300°F. Grease a 15 cm (6 in) round cake tin.
2. Put fruit, sugar margarine and water in saucepan. Bring to the boil and simmer gently for about 20 minutes to plump up the fruit.
3. Allow to cool a little, then add the egg, mix well and stir in the flour.
4. Turn into greased tin, smooth over the top and bake for about 1 ½ hours until a skewer inserted in the middle of the cake comes out clean.
5. Cool on wire rack

Makes 8-10 slices.

Extract from the Little Book of Big Scams Metropolitan Police in partnership with Barclays

WHAT TO DO IF YOU GET SCAMMED

GET HELP AND REPORT A SCAM

If you think you have uncovered a scam, have been targeted by a scam or fallen victim, there are many authorities you can contact for advice or to make a report.

Reporting crime, including fraud, is important. If you don't tell the authorities, how do they know it has happened and how can they do anything about it? Remember that if you are a victim of a scam or an attempted scam, however minor, there may be hundreds or thousands of others in a similar position. Your information may form part of one big jigsaw and may be vital to completing the picture.

Reporting fraud

As of April 2013 all fraud should be reported directly to Action Fraud either by calling 0300 123 2040 * or online at www.actionfraud.police.uk. If a fraudster has taken money from your bank account or used your debit or credit card, you should report this immediately to your bank.

Action Fraud

Reporting online: www.actionfraud.org.uk

Telephone reporting: 0300 123 2040*

Unless

A crime is in progress or about to be committed.

The suspect is known or can be easily identified

The crime involves a vulnerable victim.

If this is the case you should contact police directly either by dialing 999 or an emergency, dialing 101 in a non-emergency or visiting your local police station.

If you have any information on any crime and you would prefer not to speak to police, you can call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111* or visit www.crimestoppers-uk.org.

Crimestoppers is an independent charity.

MOTHERS UNION NEWS

For our May branch meeting we were so lucky to have Jill Ling as our speaker. As many of The Chronicle readers know, Jill, who worships at St James, leads the regular Thursday evening slot "Praying with Bells". This is the time of the week when she, with a small group of people, pray for our Parish with its complexity of groups, families, businesses and shops, care homes and hospitals, factories, schools and colleges. Jill also told us about the wonderful retreat centre in Pembrokeshire that she has visited on several occasions as part of her prayer journey. She is also our Pastoral Link Coordinator and touched on this and its importance in our parish life.

The main business of the meeting involved planning for several forthcoming events this summer. 2018 marks the 130th anniversary of the Mothers' Union in our Diocese and each branch has been encouraged to celebrate this in a special way. We are going on a "pilgrimage/picnic" in June to Bartlemas Chapel in East Oxford. Geoff is organising the transport, a minibus from the Church Centre leaving at 2.15 pm on the 18 June. He is also providing cups of tea and members are asked to bring a contribution to the tea party. Now we have to hope for fine weather!

On 14 July the big Diocesan celebration is going to be held in Dorchester Abbey. We are taking part as stewards, tea servers and parading our lovely old banner. About 15 members are planning to take part in this important service of celebration.

We have also been encouraged to make a pilgrimage to our lovely Christ Church Cathedral in 2018 so we have chosen 11 October to do just that. It will be a parish visit so we are hoping that some of our readers will be interested and sign up for this and join us.

Rosanne Butler



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