

MEMORIES OF VE DAY AND THE 2ND WORLD WAR

STREET PARTY FOR
CLEVELAND DRIVE, ST OMER ROAD AND GERARD PLACE
MAY 1945

This street party was typical of the parties held throughout the country on the announcement of the end of the 2nd World War in Europe. You may spot one of your editors in the pictures (but she has little memory of the occasion!).



More memories on page 7

From the Editors

Sally Hemsworth and Nicki Stevens

Again, this month's Chronicle will be going on the website as we are still in lock-down.

We do hope you enjoy the articles we have obtained – already we have a few articles for the June Chronicle, but more are always welcome. Look forward to hearing from you.

The knitting pattern for the baby's blanket quoted in our last "From the Editors" has been amended, although it does not matter if you have been preparing blankets at the size quoted. It should be: Use double knit wool, with size 8 needles. Cast on 130 stitches, and the final size should be 24" by 24" (but check your tension to ensure correct size).

The recipe for the scones is highly recommended – if you watch Father Brown it will remind you of Mrs McCarthy's "Award Winning Strawberry Scones"!

There is a lot of information on church activities taking place on www.cowleyteamministry.co.uk. It is a learning curve for many of us with modern technology but Zoom and Facebook are ways to see and speak to others. People are so inventive in keeping in touch.

All our best wishes to you all.

Sally and Nicki

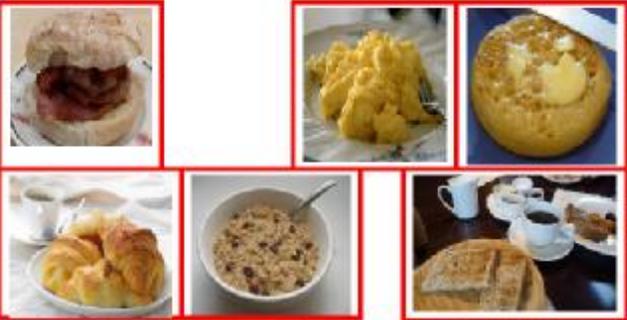
You are invited
to our **Christian Aid Week**

christian aid **big brekkie**

Sunday 10 May 2020
9.00 – 9.40

porridge - bacon butties - scrambled egg - toast - crumpets - croissants
fruit - tea - coffee - good company ?

in your own home via Zoom



all donations for Christian Aid



"What is a garden but a mute gospel"
Corona is keeping us apart but kindness brings us together".

A word from the Rectory

It hardly seems possible that this is my second 'Rectors letter' for an electronic Cowley Chronicle. For some the time seems to have rushed passed. For others the time has dragged. All of us are suffering under the pressures of this unseen enemy. An enemy that we are resisting will all our might through a peaceful protest. Stubbornly refusing to give the virus opportunity to pass from one host to another. Holding firm, as we protect each other and our most vulnerable. May God give each of us strength as we persist.

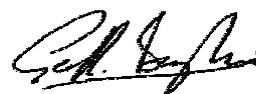
Our Easter story and the readings on the book of Acts, tell of God's people moving from the formality of worship in the ancient temple of Jerusalem, into their own homes. The change in its pattern was driven by an aggressive and murderous political system.

In the past weeks the driving force changing our behaviour has been a call to be a community; to act for the good of others at the expense of our own freedom and movement. I cannot claim it has been easy for anybody. I cannot claim that the coming weeks will be any easier. BUT I do encounter so much good. Amidst all the brokenness we are rediscovering a

sense of community. Neighbours are being 'truly' neighbourly. There is an openness to both offer and receive help that has perhaps been missing in the past decades. In a dark place light shines. As a community of faith, we know the source of such light. "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." Jesus our Lord and saviour is the source of the light and He shines out through his people. Let us commit to continuing to be a community that cares for each other.

At the centre of our faith lies a simple truth, we were created in the image of God. Each and every occupant of this planet. Indeed, each and every part of the planet carries his mark. As with any Father, God longs to hear from his children. So day by day lift your voices in prayer and praise. Give thanks for all that is still good and pray for those who are struggling. Pick up the phone and make somebody smile!

May you see the hand of God in simple things each day. May you know his blessing




Benson Cottage

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Have you sown any seeds? I have. But it is no use just looking at them and hoping that things will happen overnight, although there will be action during the night as well as during the daytime. You need to do several other things as well. Nothing difficult, but you should follow some rules, wear plastic or rubber gloves and always wash your hands afterwards.

I think seeds are marvellous. One day they are like hard pieces of dust in a packet. Then you put them together with soil or compost or a mix of both of them, add a little water from time to time, and in two or three weeks time small plants appear. Sometimes you get other small plants, from somewhere or other that seem to grow faster and larger than your plants. They are most probably weeds. Where they come from, you'll probably never find out, but listen to your mum or dad, or grandma/grandpa, and they will show you which are weeds and should be removed to allow your small plants, now called seedlings, to grow stronger. Try to remember to put some labels on your plant trays to remind you what you have planted, and it is a good idea to put the date on the label to give the date that the seeds were sowed.

The important part that needs your help is to make sure that the soil is kept moist with a little water. Too much water and the poor plants will fall over and drown. Too little, or even forgetting to give the plants a drink, will

allow the seedlings to die. The water helps the plant to use the other food that is in the soil or compost and together, after a full growing time of several weeks, you will have a flower, or some fruit or a vegetable, grown by you, but with a lot of help from.....the soil, the seed,.....and water. How marvellous! And after the harvest of the fruit, vegetables or the flowers, there will be seeds for next year. Life goes on for another year. We are like that. Too much of a good thing won't help you. But if you are sensible, life can be GREAT!

We heard about water and Christian Aid in last month's 'Chronicle' and how we can help to provide clean water to help villagers in areas where it is difficult to get clean water. We only have to turn a tap to get safe clean water. Imagine having to walk to Cowley Centre before we could make a cup of tea. That would change our lives a lot and take so much time. And if we wanted to grow our seeds and plants, it would take even longer, and be hard work! Like the seeds and plants, we need water to drink, help us to live, wash, and keep cool. Like so many things today, we take it for granted and that goes for so many things that we call the 'river of life'. May we use them wisely and be grateful for our good fortune.

Take care

Uncle Ben

Citizens Advice needs IT volunteers



Last year, our 160 volunteers in Citizens Advice Oxfordshire South and Vale helped 11,209 people to resolve their problems.

Effective IT is absolutely essential to our service.

We need more volunteers to help with IT support in Abingdon and Didcot (and remotely during lockdown).

What you will do

You will help staff and volunteers to sort out their IT problems.

You will also help with system performance and manage upgrades, hardware, and software installations.

What you will get out of it

You will join a friendly team, develop your knowledge and skills and make a real difference to people's lives.

Ideally we are looking for volunteers to commit to eight hours per week over one or two days. But we can be flexible.

If you are looking for a satisfying and stimulating volunteer role, please contact us at www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale/volunteer

A pensioner drove his brand-new Mercedes to 140km/h, looking in his rear-view mirror, he saw a police car behind him. He floored it to 145, then 150, ... then 155, ... Suddenly he thought, "I'm too old for this!" So he pulled over to the side of the road and waited for the police car to catch up with him.

The officer walked up to him, looked at his watch and said, "Sir, my shift ends in ten minutes. Today is Friday and I'm taking off for the weekend with my family. If you can give me a good reason that I've never heard before, why you were speeding... I'll let you go."

The Man looked very seriously at the policeman, and replied:- "Years ago, my wife ran off with a policeman, I thought you were bringing her back." !!!

The Cop left saying, "Have a good day, Sir"

**UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE
THE DAYS OF THE WEEK
ARE NOW CALLED:
THISDAY, THATDAY, OTHERDAY,
SOMEDAY, YESTERDAY,
TODAY and NEXTDAY!**

Coronavirus: Get help if you can't pay household bills



The arrival of coronavirus in the UK and the threat of infection has emptied streets, confined us in our houses, closed shops and offices and filled hospitals with thousands of patients. So far so bad, but the financial issues have widened the scale of the problem: many of those fortunate enough to remain healthy have suffered a loss of income so drastic that even the paying of essential household bills has become questionable.

However, there are definite steps you can take to tackle these bills. Many banks and utility companies, being keenly aware of people's predicaments, have already reached out to their customers with offers of help. So don't ignore your bills but get in touch with the companies to whom you owe money, or expect to owe money. They might be able to help by redistributing your debts, letting you pay in smaller amounts, over a longer time period, or on a deferred basis.

If you are repaying a mortgage, contact your provider. The government has mooted the idea of a three-month mortgage payment holiday and you might be eligible for it.

If you pay rent, contact your landlord to discuss the situation. If you are at risk of being evicted, remember that since 26 March 2020 the law on evictions has temporarily changed and, for many types of tenancy, eviction notices have to last a minimum of three months.

You might be able to claim benefits, or enhanced benefits if you already receive them. The Citizens Advice website has details: <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk>

As for Council Tax, if your income has dropped or you are on benefits, you might qualify for reductions. Contact your local district council, using the details on your latest bill.

Get in touch with your gas or electricity supplier, as well as telephone/broadband company. Their help line phone numbers should be on your latest bill. They can tell you whether a special payment plan can be set up.

If you owe income tax, HMRC has a free help line you can ring: [0800 015 9559](tel:08000159559) (Mon-Fri 8 to 4).

For further information, Citizens Advice Adviceline is always there to help you: [0300 330 9042](tel:03003309042).

Citizens Advice Oxfordshire South and Vale

We are still here to help.

We are no longer able to offer face to face appointments from our Advice Centres.

But you will be able to talk to our advisers on the telephone.

Advice Line: 0300 330 9042

Monday to Friday 9.00 am - 5.00 pm

For general advice please visit our website Citizensadvice.org.uk



MEMORIES OF VE DAY AND THE 2ND WORLD WAR

8 MAY 1945 – AT NORTHMOOR

Oh yes! I remember VE Day as if it were yesterday. It was one of the most exciting days of my childhood in so many ways.

I remember on the night of May 7th my daddy coming up to my bedroom in our tiny cottage to tell me that he had just heard on the BBC nine o'clock news that the war was really over and that tomorrow was going to be a holiday for everyone and so there'd be no school. (Mind you, I did love school but it sounded very exciting anyway).

The next morning dawned bright and sunny so after breakfast I decided to sit out on the doorstep and sew some new clothes for my favourite doll. I had only been there for a short while when a crowd of village children and young people, my friends, came up the lane towards our cottage guiding the farmer's lovely old carthorse, Jubilee, pulling a farm cart. They stopped at the end of our path and one of the older boys ran up to ask if I would like to go with them to collect wood for the bonfire. Of course I would! So, having checked with my mum and dad off I went up the lane to the field where there had been some serious hedge trimming. Mr Florey, the farmer, had given us permission to fill up the cart and deliver it to the men who, on the village green, were building the bonfire.

Now this, of course, was exciting as during the war bonfires were banned because they might act as evidence of habitation to enemy aircraft. When we reached the green I could hardly believe the size of the mound of wood with all kinds of scrap material as well and when our cartload of hedge cuttings was added to it, to a little girl it seemed to reach to the sky.

After lunch (which in those days, was called dinner) I discovered something else exciting was going to happen my mum and dad (and I, of course) were going down to the village pub, The Red Lion, to celebrate.

Now, I have to explain why this would be so special for me. You see I had for a long time longed to join the village children outside the pub on a Sunday evening, playing in the garden with a bottle of pop and a bag of crisps while their parents sat inside drinking and sometimes listening to someone playing the piano. But, no, after evensong on Sunday evening mum and dad would insist that they were not having their little daughter outside a pub and anyway it would soon be suppertime and school in the morning. But tonight was going to be different and, my goodness, wasn't it just?!

At about eight o'clock it was getting dark and off we went, me in my new summer sandals and best dress, and when we reached the village the place was humming. All the cottages had lighted windows, the blackout was over, the pub windows were wide open and a crowd of my friends were outside. Mum and dad went in and brought me out a bottle of pop and a packet of crisps – heaven! One of the bigger boys in the village let me sit on the crossbar of

his bike so that I could see in through the window and there was everyone drinking, singing, laughing and joking even my lovely mum and dad.

I guess it must have been about nine o'clock when it was decided to light the bonfire. The village green was only a step away so off we all trooped to watch. For me it was the closest thing to perfection. It roared up into the night sky. People began to dance around it singing "Roll out the barrel" and "Knees up Mother Brown". Mrs Brain, the pub's licensee, came out with a big enamel jug full of beer to top up people's glasses and the singing got louder and they got more and more legless. It was the first time I had ever seen anyone the worse for drink! It got late, the bonfire began to die down and my parents decided it was time for bed.

I walked between them up the lane to our little cottage. Once home by candlelight I was tucked into bed and just as mum blew out the candle I heard the church clock strike twelve – midnight! The latest I had ever been to bed!! And I think I was the happiest little eight-year-old in the whole-wide-world.

Rosanne Butler

A few of my Memories of 2nd World war. I put in an appearance on 3rd August 1939, exactly four weeks before England was told it was at war with Germany. For much of the war years I was a baby and small child.

One of my earliest memories is of my mother's settee up in the air (as I called it) as it was on top the Morrison shelter in my family's front sitting room. I remember lying inside this and using the roof of the inside as a chalk board.

Later as I grew older and could ride a bicycle it became apparent to me that I had a job to do. My father kept homing pigeons. These were important birds in the war effort as they carried messages in a small container strapped to one of their legs. My Mother had at a certain time to coax the bird into the loft (my father being at work) and remove the container. It was then my job to cycle to the J Sainsbury grocery store, on Carfax next to Lloyd's Bank in High Street Oxford. I had to go into the store to the bacon counter, where Mr Antingham worked, to deliver the container - it had to be only given to him. Imagine being a small child riding a bicycle through the traffic to the centre of Oxford today.

Then at last the war came to an end. Certain things began to appear for sale, among them were bananas. My Mother put one in my hand and I asked what is it? You eat it she said, so I went to bite it. No, no you have to peel it first where upon she showed me how to unzip a banana.

So to Ice Cream. We were not allowed to have any as my mother said she did not know what was in it as it was too yellow. She had never seen it like that, so we had to wait until it looked a better colour.

Of course we all recall ration books. There were D coupons which were worth 2oz and E coupons worth 4oz. If I behaved I could have D on Tuesdays and Fridays, if indeed there *were* any sweets in the sweet shop. I always chose Rowntree's Fruit Gums - 2 rolls of these for my D, the

Orange flavour were the ones I liked best. A little later all the sweets disappeared for quite a long time.

Just a few of my memories.

Pat Chambers

I don't have any special recollections from the end of the war in Europe but have vivid recollections of the end of the war in the Pacific because I was on the school Harvest Camp out at William Morris' (the artist) farm at Kelmscott, so keep that in mind. My preoccupation in May 1945 was cramming for School Certificate examination. At the Boys High School we did the course in 4 years not 5, which we always thought reflected the high standard of teaching with limited resources, and staff limitations due to war service. If you passed the examination, you had the opportunity of a year in the sixth form bossing the young ones around or preparing for Higher School Certificate if you were a likely candidate for university. If I remember correctly, it was VERY hot in the exam rooms that year! I did pass my exams and spent a luxurious year in the sixth form, doing my own thing programme of Arts and Science, a mix of subjects not approved, but tolerated because I would not be doing the higher level exams. I was also allowed to use the front door to the school with the staff. Boys were not allowed this privilege and had to use the side door from the playground.

Some of the youth at Temple Cowley young people's youth group did go up to London to celebrate, but in those days I was unattached and a very quiet young man. I don't think it was considered 'safe' for me to go. In those days I lived a very sheltered life. But we got by. There was a street party in most roads around Cowley. My father put large portraits of the world leaders in the bedroom windows and we made the best of it. Simple happiness with everybody joining in. And with everyone baking at home in those days, we had a real party.

My mum and dad were relieved because none of their relatives serving in the forces had sustained any injuries that we knew of at the time, and were certainly still alive, so it was really one of relief because my father had lost his elder brother in the first World War. On the other hand we still retained rationing in various forms for some years to come. And the world as we had known it changed, and politics started to take over from the 'team' spirit of the country.

One of the things that changed following the end of the war was the withdrawal of the 'aerograph'. Letters were written on one side of an A4 size form and addressed as normal to your correspondent. This was then photographed on microfilm and canisters flown to regional destinations in foreign countries, restored to an A5 photo print, and sent on through the post to the addressee. Similarly the soldier in a foreign country did the same.

In this way thousands of 'letters' could be transported quickly using very little space. My sister still has one or two from an uncle who was in Burma, and he always sent a cartoon picture as part of his letter to a young niece who was 7 or 8 at the time.

David Cook

From the Archives

FEBRUARY 2011

TEMPLE COWLEY SWIMMING POOL

The fight to save Temple Cowley Pools continues. Oxford City's Executive Board has decided to spend £200,000 on a feasibility study to explore the possibility of relocating pools to Blackbird Leys. It could be that the £200,000 could be put towards rebuilding Temple Cowley and Blackbird Leys Pools if the link with a financial partner does not materialise.



The above images of the flats built on the swimming pool site were taken in March 2020 LEH

FEBRUARY 2011

OXFORDSHIRE RECORD OFFICE, ST LUKES

The Oxfordshire Record Office is closed to the public until May 2011 while it is converted to take in Oxfordshire Studies and the Oxfordshire Health Archives, creating a single history centre for the county.

Researched by Les Hemsworth

Spring 2020

It is amazing to see flowers, trees and wild-life going about their normal business, as we lock down and wait.

Brian and I watched from the kitchen a pair of Magpies building their nest only for it to be almost blown away in the strong March winds; they were not to be defeated as they set about the rebuild and are now installed with their family in their new Des Res.

On Easter Sunday we also saw a Blue Tit sitting in one of our flower tubs pecking at a tennis ball that had been left there by one of the great grandchildren many months ago. He was filling his beak with material from the ball before flying off to make his nest nice and cosy. So beautiful to see.

It seems to me that this year nature is doing its very best to be more beautiful than ever. Brian has a tree fern that has many more lovely fronds uncurling that he had had before, we watch them every day, it's really wonderful to be able to see all this.

Are we all being given more time to see the wonders of our wonderful world, I think so.

NOTABLE PEOPLE & CHARACTERS OF COWLEY

TONY & BARBARA WILIAMSON

AUGUST 1970

MRS. BARBARA WILLIAMSON NOW J.P

Mrs. Barbara Williamson, of 33, The Grates, Cowley, has been appointed a Justice of the Peace, and at 36 is one of the youngest magistrates on the City Bench. Apart from two years in London, Mrs. Williamson has lived in Oxford since 1952; she is a graduate of Somerville College, where she read Philosophy, Politics and Economics. She worked as a research assistant in economics and statistics before and after marrying Tony Williamson in 1959.

A member of the Parochial Church Council and for three years of the Diocesan Conference, Barbara's first contact with the church in Cowley was through helping Thelma Telling with a youth group in the Parish Hall in 1955.

With four children, aged three to nine, Mrs. Williamson has been secretary of the Oxford Association for the Advancement of State Education for three years and is a manager of Blackbird Leys Primary Schools and a governor of Temple Cowley School.

On the bench Barbara joins a number of J.P.s from the Cowley area: the two longest serving are Mr. Jack Thomas, of St. Omer Road, a J.P. since 1943; and Mr. C.J. Howse, of Clive Road, a J.P. since 1952.

MAY 1982

CHRISTIAN PROFILE

Father Tony Williamson - by Gwen Ranklin

As I set out for my first big assignment for Cowley Chronicle I did not feel apprehensive about interviewing a well-known personality and his wife, because I was going to meet Barbara and Tony, who first and foremost are friends not only of my family but of many other people in Cowley.

In May, the Reverend Tony Williamson who has lived and worked among us in Cowley becomes the Lord Mayor of Oxford and his wife, Barbara, the Lady Mayoress.

University and Ordination

Barbara and Tony came to Oxford University, Barbara an undergraduate at Somerville and Tony at Trinity. Although their paths did cross at University, it was at St. Luke's Church in Cowley that they met again at a conference organised by the Reverend John Betton, then curate of St. Luke's. Both had previously been involved with St. Luke's in different ways and at different times - Barbara with the Youth group and Tony with a Mission. They were married in Leicester, Barbara's home - town on October 10th, 1959, just four months after John Betton's conference.

Whilst at Trinity, Tony made his decision to enter the ministry and after graduating went to Cuddesdon Theological College. Desiring to gain knowledge and experience of the industrial world, Tony decided to work at Pressed Steel following his time at Cuddesdon and this was organised by John Betton whose own attempt at being an industrial chaplain at the same factory had been rejected by Pressed Steel management.

After a year of working on the shop floor, Tony expressed a desire to remain alongside his fellow

workers and with the support of the then Bishop of Oxford, (The Right Reverend Harry Carpenter) and the agreement of Pressed Steel management, he was allowed to do so, despite the fact that management felt that he should become a "white collar" worker. Tony declined this suggestion as he told me "I felt I should stay on the shop floor as there was a constant feel of nearness to everyday man.

Move into Cowley

After marriage Tony and Barbara lived in rooms on the Iffley Road while they looked for a house in Cowley. They moved into Dodgson Road on New Years Day 1960. That June, Tony was ordained and three months later their first child (Ruth) was born.

Media Attention

At this time, interest was being shown by the outside world at this new combination – a priest working as a fork-lift driver in a Cowley factory. Press and television coverage followed. Dodgson Road residents were amused when ITV cameras filmed Tony cycling home from work. As the camera crew needed several re-takes, Tony made several attempts to get home for tea that day!

Work and Politics

On New Year's Eve, the same year Tony found that along with other workers he had been made redundant at the factory, so he found a job driving a laundry van until he could return to Pressed Steel when things improved in April. The following month he stood as a Labour candidate on Oxford City Council and was successful at the first attempt. His ordination to the Priesthood followed the next month and the relationship between Church and socialism has been a constant theme in his life ever since. When I asked him how he linked the two he replied, "I have never seen any demarcation line because they are both concerned with people's well-being". He explained that bad politics is promising things that cannot be carried out and he thinks that matters dealt with by local Councils are very important, so Christians should be in the thick of it and try to work out the best possible solutions. Tony sees himself as always being a representative of people in whichever role he is in at the time.

JULY 1987

30 YEARS IN THE CAR FACTORY

By Revd Tony Williamson

I left Austin Rover on Friday 12th June 1987 after having been a manual worker-priest there for almost 30 years. I started at Pressed Steel in April 1958 as a trucker unloading press shop panels, and then had a year driving a press shop tractor. I was ordained Deacon in the Church of England in June 1960. At the end of 1960 I was among 1500 made redundant and spent three months driving a laundry van round the villages of Oxfordshire.

Recalled in April 1961 I had 9 years driving a fork-lift in, and close to, the press shop. In May 1961 I was elected to the Oxford City Council and in June I was ordained Priest.

In 1971 I was elected chairman of the 6000 - member Pressed Steel Branch of the Transport and General Workers Union and became a full-time factory deputy senior shop steward, with particular responsibility for indirect workers. I continued in this role until I had a year's paid

leave to be Lord Mayor of Oxford in 1982-83. During the period 1961-83 housing was my main interest on the City Council and for ten of those years I was Chairman of the City's Housing Committee. Since 1983 my major responsibility has been as Leader of the Labour Group on the County Council – for two years as Leader of the Opposition and then since 1985 as one of the three Party Leaders on the hung County Council. This meant spending less time in the factory, where I did some Fork - lift driving, some stores work and most recently production work sticking masking tape on bumpers for the Rover 800, while continuing to assist the Chief Shop Steward. I have also been Chairman of the City Council Committee responsible for the large housing and industrial development south of Blackbird Leys. This arrangement became untenable with recent internal changes at Cowley, and so I left of my own accord – neither sacked nor redundant.

I hope to do something different for the twelve years before I reach 65. At present my major role is Education spokesman for the Labour Group on the County Council. I have also taken on the part-time job of Clerk to the Blackbird Leys Neighbourhood Council. Throughout I have felt a unity of purpose between my priestly, local government, factory and trade union roles – as they are all part of “loving God with all one's heart, mind, soul and strength, and loving one's neighbour as oneself.”

In recent years my more obvious priestly role has involved celebrating The Holy Communion at St. Luke's Church at 8.00am every Sunday and 6.40am every Wednesday and taking services and preaching at other times and places as the need arises; I have also been called upon to take baptisms, weddings and particularly funerals, often for those who have no other contact with any church.

It will be strange not being in the factory at 7.15am, as I have been for the last 30 years, and I will miss the people that I have worked with over those years. There have been enormous changes in the car factories in the last 30 years; Pressed Steel amalgamated with BMC in 1965 and Leyland in 1968; since then there have been major changes of senior management and/or Company strategy every 2 or 3 years. The responsibility on the Trade Union for its individual members and the pressure from management, Governments and economic circumstances meant that there were never any slack periods. As the car industry is so important to the livelihood of so many people in this area, I will continue to have a close interest in its people, needs and fortunes.

I now look forward to working from a different base, with fresh challenges. I certainly hope to continue to live in Cowley, as my wife, Barbara, works as a careers adviser in the University and we have so many friends here. Our four children who were brought up in Cowley and went to local schools, have now left home – Ruth teaching in Coventry, Paul doing research on sport for the Labour Party in London, Hugh doing Trade Union research in London and Ian at Manchester University.

Researched by Les Hemsworth

Hugh Williamson

Europe and Central Asia Director, Human Rights Watch

Hugh is the second son of the Revd Tony and Barbara Williamson who for many years lived and worked in our Parish. Hugh grew up in the family home in The Grates and attended St James C of E Primary School (next door to our Parish Church). It will be interesting for many of our readers to see what an influential young man in the world of human rights Hugh has become. This article is by courtesy of The Church Times.

Hugh Williamson talking to Terence Handley MacMath (www.hrw.org)

I've always felt drawn to being part of social movements. My first jobs after university were for non-governmental organisations standing up for the rights of workers: the first one in the UK, the second for an NGO in Hong Kong that supports labour movements across Asia.

Later, I felt I needed a profession. I'd started doing freelance journalism and worked for Germany's international radio, *Deutsche Welle*. Then I had 11 enjoyable years writing for *The Financial Times*, mostly as a foreign correspondent.

I worked for the FT in the Philippines when there was a coup and kidnappings of Western tourists by Islamist rebels. Then I was in Berlin for seven years and interviewed Chancellor Merkel during her first years in power. I started my final stint, in the FT's London headquarters, in the week Lehman Brothers collapsed, at the start of the 2008 financial crash.

When I was in my mid-forties, I knew I wanted to go back to NGO work. I'd long admired Human Rights Watch (HRW), and was lucky to get my current job.

My parents and my upbringing helped

prepare me for this job. I've always been inquisitive about other cultures. That's why I've lived most of my adult life abroad. I now live with my family in Berlin. Working with people from different backgrounds gives you an understanding of how different cultures work.

Also, working as a foreign correspondent, handling fast-changing, sometimes uncertain situations gave me skills and experience, as did managing the FT's European correspondents and its global news coverage. My team at Human Rights Watch are based in the former Soviet Union, Turkey, the Balkans, and Europe, and often work in difficult and potentially dangerous situations.

Leaders such as Donald Trump and Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orbán have been successful at getting votes by undermining human rights. It's a relatively new phenomenon. We need to show the awful impact of their policies on ordinary people and also try to understand why people vote for such leaders. These are new challenges.

I live in Berlin and travel a lot, for instance to Central Asia. Countries such as Uzbekistan are rarely in our news headlines, but severe human rights abuses, such as torture and arbitrary detention, are sadly common there. But there are also very courageous people. One of them is Erkin Musaev. He used to be a senior Uzbek government official, then was accused wrongly of spying, and was jailed for 11 years. He was severely tortured. I met him in Tashkent in 2017, a few weeks after he'd been released. I was so impressed by how optimistic and engaged he was, despite still being harassed by the government. He was already lobbying the government to

make Uzbek prisons more humane.

Others face much tougher challenges than I do to get through life. I'm privileged, as a white middle-class man living in a rich country. What can take courage is standing up for things when your own well-being is on the line. I admire this in people every day

IT TAKES COURAGE TO STAND UP FOR
THINGS WHEN YOUR OWN WELL-BEING
IS ON THE LINE

If I had just a little bit of Erkin Musaev's courage, I'd be happy.

My team's commitment and spirit keep me going but their safety is a constant concern. They're often monitoring protests or interviewing survivors of human-rights abuses in risky situations, or travelling to remote regions, or refugee camps.

To be continued

Cowley Women's Institute

Like all other clubs and organisations our WI had to suspend its meetings in early March due to Covid-19. Some of our members on account of age and/or health conditions have to be particularly careful and are self-isolating, the rest are socially distancing.

I had wondered how we would cope being cooped up in our houses. However, not that this should surprise anyone that knows our group, we have risen to the challenge and are tackling things head on! We are finding many ways to occupy our time. Not that I can say this, but many of our members have neater gardens and cleaner houses as they cannot ignore those jobs close to home without the normal distractions of life! Others have rekindled passions by taking up hobbies of old and some have embraced new crafts and interests. It has forced some of us to get to grips with technology so that we can see our families and friends on our iPad or computers.

With the slowing down in pace of life we have been able to appreciate the environment around us so much more. The blossoms and spring flowers have been so colourful and beautiful. They have certainly given us pleasure, as has hearing the wonderful birdsong much of which was drowned out by traffic and the general hubbub of normal life.

It has been lovely to hear of the support that has been offered to those members not able to go out. Cowley has come up trumps. I know our members are so grateful to those giving this vital help.

We do not know when we will be able to meet up again, but one thing we do know is that we will be celebrating this event.

Sarah Lawrence
Cowley WI secretary

RECIPES

Classic Cream Scones (Highly recommended)

(Extract from the Saga Magazine from a recipe book by Genevieve Knights (Makes 12)



The secret to light, fluffy scones is the cream scone recipe. Cream replaces butter and milk, and while you think this might make the cooked scone heavier, it does not. The dough is easy to roll out and form into shapes, then cooks into light, airy and simply superb scones.

Ingredients:

200g self-raising flour
¼ teaspoon salt
50g caster sugar
200 – 250mls double cream

Method:

- Heat the oven to 220 °C.
- Sift the flour and salt together into a medium-sized mixing bowl. Add the sugar and 200mls cream then work in with a fork until you have even-sized looking clumps. If the mix is too dry, add the remaining 50mls cream and mix through.
- Place on a floured workbench and knead a couple of times. Dust with flour and roll the mix flat with a rolling pin to 1cm thick.
- Cut out 5cm circles with a crimped circle cutter and place on a lightly floured baking tray.
- Knead the offcuts gently back together and repeat the rolling and cutting process.
- Bake for 6-8 minutes until they have risen nicely and browned around the edges. Serve with red fruit jam and clotted cream.

THE OX4 FREE FOOD CREW is a brand new partnership between Ark-T, Waste2Taste, Flo's – The Place in the Park, SOFEA and Oxford Hub, which has been set up to alleviate food poverty for people affected by COVID-19 in Cowley and East Oxford.

On Wednesdays and Saturdays Flo's is providing cooked meals from 12pm-2pm from Flo's -The Place in the Park, Rymers Lane, OX4 3JZ.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays Waste 2 Taste is providing cooked meals between 12pm-2pm from The Venue on Barnes Road.

This links with Cowley Community Larder which is looking to deliver boxes of perishables and non-perishables to those who are in self-isolation. The Cowley Community Larder is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11am to 2pm.

Oxford Hub is organising distribution through their networks to the people who need it most at this time - those who are vulnerable or self-isolating.

If you know someone in need of a cooked meal please phone 07957105129 or use the [online referral link](#).

<https://www.flosoxford.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/OX4-Free-Food-Crew-final-draft-.pdf>



Easter 2020

And where is Jesus, this strange Easter day?
 Not lost in our locked churches, anymore
 Than he was sealed in that dark sepulchre.
 The locks are loosed; the stone is rolled away,
 And he is up and risen, long before,
 Alive, at large, and making his strong way
 Into the world he gave his life to save,
 No need to seek him in his empty grave.

He might have been a wafer in the hands
 Of priests this day, or music from the lips
 Of red-robed choristers, instead he slips
 Away from church, shakes off our linen bands
 To don his apron with a nurse: he grips
 And lifts a stretcher, soothes with gentle hands
 The frail flesh of the dying, gives them hope,
 Breathes with the breathless, lends them
 strength to cope.

On Thursday we applauded, for he came
 And served us in a thousand names and faces
 Mopping our sickroom floors and catching
 traces

Of that virus which was death to him:
 Good Friday happened in a thousand places
 Where Jesus held the helpless, died with them
 That they might share his Easter in their need,
 Now they are risen with him, risen indeed.

Malcolm Guite

New monthly budget. Anyone else?

- Petrol 🚗 £0
- Clothes 👜 £0
- Entertainment 📺 £0
- Self care 🧴 £0
- Nights out 🍷 £0
- Food 🍞 £2,576.89

christian aid Suggested donation £1 (or more)

Quiz

TV Programmes

Can you identify these TV programmes from the cryptic clues?

- In and out (4,3,4) _____
- Stir cereal (8) _____
- A wee bit chilly (1,5,2,5) _____
- What you can't teach Old Sheep (3,6) _____
- Explosive idea (3,3,4,6) _____
- Codename (5) _____
- Attic and basement (8,10) _____
- Orphan's view (8) _____
- Fabulous fair ride (3,5,10) _____
- Yellow family (3,8) _____
- Off to bed, pet (5,10) _____
- Let's eat at my place (4,4,4,2) _____
- Unknown documents (3,1,5) _____
- Just cons and nags (4,5,3,6) _____
- Can't see what's on the calendar (5,4) _____
- Short survey before the light goes (7) _____

christian aid Suggested donation £1 (or more)

Quiz

TV Programmes

- Negotiate search (7,4) _____
- Stare invitation to boogie (8,4,7) _____
- Saturday's big wedding (5,2,3,3) _____
- Designer clothes (3,4) _____
- Tamper with the World Health Organization (6,3) _____
- Overhear a few words (11) _____
- Our place in the universe (5,4,4,3,3) _____
- Endure seasonal drink (4,2,3,6,4) _____
- Questioning identity (3,2,3,5,3,3) _____
- Where the Queen might be treated (1,1) _____
- Built to impress (3,7) _____
- What people play on their loas (4,2,7) _____
- Geep at cube (9) _____
- Those close to us (7) _____

Thank you for supporting Christian Aid using our fundraising quiz. Answers will be published online on 31 May 2020 at caweeek.org/quizzesanswers if you need the answers for your event, please email CAW@christian-aid.org. If you're taking part in this quiz as part of a local competition where a prize is up for grabs, please ask your local Christian Aid contact about how to submit your quiz entry.

ELECTORAL ROLL 2020

The annual revision period technically closed on Sunday 29 March but that is obviously now somewhat meaningless; the church was closed. We do hope that eventually we will receive some new registrations but in the meantime, the 2019 roll will stand until the rearranged Annual Meetings, probably in October.

For those who have newly joined the life of the Parish during the past year, or who have been with us for a while but never previously got round to it, forms of application for enrolment are still available from Lesley Williams, Electoral Roll Officer. Please contact her with your address or e-address and she will post/deliver one to you with a stamped addressed envelope for its return.

It's free! It's your way of saying 'I belong here'. Please consider whether that applies to you!

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SAFEGUARDING IN COWLEY PARISH

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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PRAYER SPACE

Prayer, at some point of each day, following the season of Easter

Preparation

God, make speed to save us. O Lord, make haste to help us.

Gladden the soul of your servant, for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

Psalm 86.4

Praise

Blessed are you, the God of our ancestors,
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.

Blessed is your holy and glorious name,
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.

Blessed are you, in your holy and glorious temple,
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.

Blessed are you who look into the depths,
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.

Blessed are you, enthroned on the cherubim,
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.

Blessed are you on the throne of your kingdom,
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.

Blessed are you in the heights of heaven,
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.



The Song of the Three 29-34

The Word of God

Read a small piece of scripture each day

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Prayers

Prayers may include these concerns:

Those on the front-line taking risks for us (NHS, care home workers, Key workers etc)

God's royal priesthood of all believers, the Church, that it may be empowered by the Spirit

Those who wait on God, that they may find renewal

All people, that they may acknowledge the kingdom of the ascended Christ

The earth, for productivity and for fruitful harvests,

All who are struggling with broken relationships

A prayer about the Coronavirus outbreak

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress.

Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

King enthroned on high, Comforter and Spirit of truth, you that are in all places and fill all things, the treasury of blessings and the giver of life, come and dwell with us, cleanse us from every stain, and save our souls, O gracious one. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

The Conclusion

May the grace of the Holy Spirit enlighten our²⁰ hearts and minds. Alleluia. Amen.

A gardening life in lockdown

It is mid-April and, walking onto the allotment site, there is a sight that gives lots of joy. There are masses of cowslips and daisies near the hedges, inside borders, around the dinosaur statuary but nowhere near where people tread. They don't like trampling.

The maple hedges are now in leaf and there are white frothy flowers on the cow parsley. In the woodland there are bluebells, sadly, the sturdy Spanish sort not our beautiful natives. There are drifts of greater stitchwort under the trees. They have star-like white flowers on delicate stems. Near us the horse chestnuts are a show of white "candles". It is a great time of year.

My other half (OH) has just finished digging our plot over and we have already planted potatoes, onion and shallot sets and two rows of peas. Rows of veg seed have been sown with more to follow in succession. It has never looked as good as we have been taking our "daily exercise" there. We have prepared a trench for the runner beans filled with chopped up remains of last year's crops, grass cuttings and newspaper all to keep the beans' roots in damp conditions. If the last month has been devoid of rain, it may be that the summer will be too.

We are now into week 5 of lockdown and, yes, we have had some rain! Enough to refill our water butts. We have four and I was just about to resort to the hose but I can delay that now. Back to glorious sunshine and Spring is really here.

Another thing for rejoicing is that our Charles Ross apple tree is covered in blossom. Planted over 3 years ago, it has been a disappointment to OH so far. We had a

Charles Ross in our first house and it produced large, rosy-cheeked apples that were great to eat from the tree or to cook with. So we are hoping that some of these lovely flowers will be visited by lots of pollinators.

I continue to nurture delicate seedlings and the greenhouse is full to capacity. I am also using the shed and the surfaces in our lean-to conservatory-cum-utility. The shed gets lots of light as I made sure we had windows facing both east and west so I could see the "dreaming spires" when I am in there.

Still hoping to be able to sell my plants in May with a table in the drive as the Plant Sale is cancelled. I hope so - 135 potted up tomato seedlings hope so too!

Now into the last few days of April, I think I should be ready to start my daily selling of plants towards the end of next week. Phone for up to date information Ox 770865. I have the card reader for contactless payments and will accept cash, though I won't be giving change to maintain social distancing. 100% of the proceeds are going to the Flush Fund. Plants available include tomatoes, geraniums (red), begonias, busy lizzies New Guinea hybrids, petunias, cosmos, bishop's children dahlias (single flowers – great for insects), statice (everlasting flowers), 4 o'clock plants, morning glories, asters, sunflowers, French lavender, chillies, French beans, runner beans, greyhound cabbage, red cabbage, basil, parsley.....

So if you are exercising my way in Crescent Road. Please pop by. I am thinking mornings 10 -12 and please bring your own bags/ boxes.

Joan Coleman

BEING A FILM EXTRA – HELP NEEDED

Goodnight Mr. Tom, as everyone knows was a lovely little film set in and at the end of WW11.

We filmed in Turville, near Aylesbury, a valley village where the sun shone all morning, and poured of rain all afternoon. It was such a raintrap that we had tractors pulling us out of the field where we parked, but once on the M40 the sun was shining and washing on the line at home was dry!

Our costumes were really comfortable, in fact the only complaint was that we weren't allowed any make-up, but older readers will know that war or no war, rich or poor, in those days ladies never went out without a bit of lippy!

For some reason unbeknown to us, the filming schedule arranged for all the inside scenes to be filmed in the lovely morning sun and the outside scenes filmed in the afternoon rain showers. This is why the village seems deserted because there was a short supply of umbrellas (out of shot of course) and so only the odd Film Extra was shown walking from broolly to broolly. The rain does not show on film unless it's a monsoon and the camera filters lighten the scene to supposedly sunshine. The rest of us sheltered on an old vintage coach with the rain coming down on the inside of the windows.

Anyway, during one of these torrential down-pours, a group of us popped into what was called "The Post Office" to shelter when in came an

elderly gentleman with heavy yellow water-proofs over his arm. He managed to put the jacket and souwester on but had trouble with the trousers. My lovely friend Janet took over, she positioned the trousers down on the floor and instructed him to step into them. She being a very petite small lady and the gentleman quite the opposite. Then she pulled them up to his knees and shouted "JUMP", which he did. As he jumped she yanked them up as far as she could to under his armpits. Thanking her, he left, leaving us open mouthed with amazement at the scene that had unfolded before us.

The gentleman was the late great Hollywood Film Director, Jack Gold. Looking at our faces, she asked us why we were staring. When we told her she was mortified and insisted on chasing after him and apologising but he was so sweet and thanked her again for coming to his rescue.

That was a little ray of sunshine shining through the clouds!

Sue Hallett



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FLO'S - THE PLACE IN THE PARK

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FLO'S CAFE is now open for takeaways!

FLO'S CAFE is now offering hot meals to pre-order, and take away, four days a week.

Are you home-schooling, as well as trying to work from home? Or just fed up with your own cooking?

They are serving a weekly changing take-away menu, featuring warm and nourishing hot meals, as well as delicious baked goods, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

Changing weekly menu : <https://www.flosoxford.org.uk/cafe/>

How it works :

Place your order by phone between 9:30am and 11:30am by ringing 07922 148 496

When ordering you will be able to select a collection time

Pay using your bank card. **note, no cash payments – a system to enable phone/online payments is being developed*

4. collect your order 12:00pm-4:00pm from Flo's at your allocated time, observing social distancing

THE REFILL SHOP is also still opening Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 12:30-6:00 (times may vary – check the website) selling dry basics and washing/cleaning detergents

Only one customer will be allowed in at a time, so please wait outside at a safe distance from each other; staff will wash their hands between serving each customer; stay safe and well.

Shop local and plastic free for unpackaged staple foods from [Infinity Foods](#) and [SESI refill detergent](#). All products are sold by weight or volume, which means you can buy exactly what you want, take your own containers and or borrow and take back provided ones!

What is usually in stock?

pasta, muesli, brown rice, oats, raisins, red split lentils, brown lentils, sunflower seeds, pumpkin seeds, walnuts, almonds, cashew nuts, bicarbonate of soda, vinegar, coconut shampoo & conditioner, aloe vera shampoo and conditioner, olive oil soap, fig hand soap, washing up liquid, laundry liquid, fabric conditioner, all surface cleaner, toilet cleaner

Current stock is listed on the website - <https://www.flosoxford.org.uk/flos-refill-shop/>

CHRONICLE

Editorial Team- Sally Hemsworth, Nicki Stevens

Deadline for the next edition: Monday 25 May 2020

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

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

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

CHRISTIAN AID

With every gift, we stop this climate crisis



The OXFORD ABSEIL has obviously been deferred from Saturday 9 May but there's a new date to look forward to: Saturday 17 October, 10.00-4.00 St Mary Magdalen Church (Mary Mags) tower, central Oxford, opposite the Randolph hotel.

Lesley Williams remains registered (£20) for her latest abseiling 'fix' and is now ready to seek sponsorship but would also still welcome co-abseilers.

Register on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/christian-aid-oxford-abseil-tickets-81309646341>

There will eventually, when we are back worshipping in person, be a paper sponsor form but there is already a Just Giving on-line page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/lesley-williams-abseil-oxford-2020>

However, the priority this month is CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2020

Sunday 10 – Saturday 16 May

Love never fails. Coronavirus impacts all of us. But love unites us all.

Now is the time to reach out to our neighbours near and far.

Poor communities are hit hardest by Covid-19 both in the UK and round the world. It's especially affecting families living in overcrowded refugee camps, and many other vulnerable people worldwide who have no access to water to clean their hands.

With your support, we can limit the impact of the virus, with life-saving soap and water.

Because of Covid-19, there will sadly be no CAW face to face fundraising events – so no Big Brekkie or coffee morning or school cake sales – or door to door or Templars Square collections.

But the week WILL go ahead as a virtual one, generally on-line. This is of course difficult for those without internet access but we hope to make something possible for them even if it's later in the year, because, as Chronicle and Link are only being issued electronically, we're not sure how to reach all the non-on-line people.

As there are no paper envelopes or buckets or collecting boxes this year, you can donate on-line in a couple of ways: (1) directly on the Christian Aid website <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week>

Through a Parish of Cowley Facebook giving page:

(2) <https://www.facebook.com/donate/237479224156294/> Cowley Parish fundraiser for Christian Aid Week

(3) You can also involve your family and friends by sending them an e-envelope to encourage them to donate and save lives.

It's a really clever system: go to <https://envelope.christianaid.org.uk/> and follow the very simple instructions – you can add one of the provided photos and the banner to go at the

bottom, edit the provided message if you wish and then e-mail or share it on social media with all your contacts without leaving your home!

This is what mine says: *Hello family and friends*

As Covid-19 spreads across the world, love rises up in response. I expect most of us have donated in support of our NHS and other front line services workers, as well as to hard pressed charities but now please join me this Christian Aid Week in reaching out to protect our neighbours around the world.

Please think about donating and then share the e-envelope with your friends.

Many thanks in anticipation

Those who receive the e-envelope can then donate directly from the message

DURING CHRISTIAN AID WEEK – NATIONAL

It's more important than ever that we come together as a community to worship and to share fun and fellowship. That's why during Christian Aid Week there will be live-streaming worship each day, and a fun daily quiz to join and raise funds.

Sunday 10 May, 1.00pm: Live-streamed Christian Aid Week service with Dr Rowan Williams

Monday 11 - Saturday 16 May, 11.00am: Live daily reflections from our staff and partners overseas

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/christian-aid-week/daily-prayer-reflection>

Saturday 2 May, 7.30pm: Hosted by some of our exciting famous friends, put your thinking caps on for our live-streamed quiz.

Sunday 10 - Saturday 16 May, 7.30pm: Daily fun quizzes for the whole family throughout Christian Aid Week

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/christian-aid-week/daily-quiz>

DURING CHRISTIAN AID WEEK – LOCAL

Of course we will have our usual Parish Zoom coffee mornings on Tuesday 12 and Saturday 16 May, 11.00am – I must learn how to display a CAW banner.

AND we can't go without a Big Brekkie..... so please bring your breakfast to your computer screen for a Zoom BB on Sunday 10 May, 9.00am – the link will be on the Parish website.

AND there's a TV programmes quiz sheet attached with your Chronicle. You have until 16 May to work on it: e-mail your answers to link@cowleyteamministry.co.uk.

Christian Aid's global response to Covid-19:

Christian Aid and its partners already have experience of limiting the spread of infection during the Ebola crisis, and they will build on this experience to continue to stand together with communities living in poverty during this period. If infection rates start to develop as they have in Europe, then people in poorer countries will be hit even harder. Many are already living with reduced health resilience because of extreme poverty, or in overcrowded humanitarian camps and in countries which do not have the healthcare infrastructures needed to combat widespread disease. They will be working on the ground to help prepare

communities to limit the impact of Covid-19. Please pray for them in this vital work, and support them where you can by making an online donation.

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/about-us/christian-aid-week/coronavirus-guidance>

A prayer for times of isolation

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come... will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.' (Romans 8:38-39)

God of heaven and earth,
in these times of isolation,
apart from loved ones
distant from friends
away from neighbours,
thank you that there is nothing in all of creation,
not even this novel coronavirus,
that is able to separate us from your love.
And may your love that never fails
continue to be shared
through the kindness of strangers looking out for each other,
for neighbours near and far all recognising our shared vulnerability,
each of us grateful for every breath,
and willing everyone to know the gift of a full and healthy life.
Keep us all in your care. AMEN

A prayer for a global pandemic

'Love...bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.' (1 Corinthians 13:7-8)

Loving God,
strengthen our innermost being
with your love that bears all things,
even the weight of this global pandemic,
even the endurance of watching for symptoms,
of patiently waiting for this to pass,
watching while we pray,
keeping our gaze fixed on you,
and looking out for our neighbours
near and far.

Instil in our shaken souls
the belief and hope that all things
are possible with your creative love,
for strangers to become friends,
for science to source solutions,
for resources to be generously shared

so everyone, everywhere, may have what they need.
May your perfect love that knows no borders
cast out any fear and selfishness that divides.
May your love that never ends
be our comfort, strength and guide
for the wellbeing of all and
the glory of God AMEN

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

This is a time of reflection, changing society and changing perceptions. You may have been asked to volunteer for various help already but can I ask you to consider volunteering to the UK's largest voluntary organisation for crime prevention, the Neighbourhood Watch Network. We are not 'curtain twitchers' but engaged residents in the community that care about our elderly and vulnerable, building our communities and to keep our local areas safe. This is more relevant now than at any other time and YOU can make a difference.

I would like to ask you to consider registering as a Coordinator for Neighbourhood Watch. The Coordinator runs their scheme how they wish and anyone can sign up as a Coordinator. It really does not take much time and you can make a difference.

The most effective way for a Watch to work is to establish roads with Coordinators. Members can share more local information, visible road signs and window stickers which have been proved to have a reduction in crime. This can help reassure residents and reduce the fear of crime.

Please can I ask at this challenging time that you consider registering as a Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator - you can register through <http://www.ourwatch.org.uk> or you can sign the attached form (obtainable from me). Please do have a look at the website as this gives information. If you have any queries, please do ask.

Crime prevention and community safety is more important than ever. I hope you can help but, if not, please can you forward to residents or organisations that may be interested.

Stay safe

Maggie Lewis

(NWN, Multi Scheme Administrator, Oxford Local Policing Area)

Email: Maggie Lewis maggiejlewis@yahoo.co.uk

PERSONALLY SPEAKING

Two pieces of good news this month. Congratulations to:

Alice, David, Amelia and Isabella Benskin on the safe arrival of Jasmine-Ilaria Hope Valerie, born 27 April, weighing 8lb 8oz.

Geoff Bayliss, who has been appointed as the next Chair of the House of Clergy at the Oxford Diocesan Synod. He takes over from the Revd Sue Booy, the Rector of Dorchester Abbey.

**ALL CHURCH SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES
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PLACE MONDAY—SATURDAY 12 NOON,
CHURCH SERVICES ON SUNDAY:
DIOCESAN WITH EUCHARIST AT 10.00
AND COWLEY AT 11.00**

SUNDAY SERVICES

ST JAMES CHURCH, BEAUCHAMP LANE

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

ST FRANCIS CHURCH, HOLLOW WAY

10.30am Parish Eucharist
1st Sunday All Age bring n/share lunch

MID-WEEK SERVICES & MEETINGS

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

HOME GROUPS

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

The Parish Office in St James Church Centre is staffed by volunteers and is not covered continually. Please leave a message and someone will get back to you.

Contact details: Tel: 01865 747680
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Churchwardens:

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St Francis : Nick Dewey
Tel: 07952 524664

St James Church Centre Manager:

Chris Woodman Tel: 778078

Hall Bookings:

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

Cowley Chronicle—Editorial Team:

Sally Hemsworth, Nicki Stevens
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Paper contributions to the Parish Office.