

# Chronicle

June 2021

**Come and join us:  
Drop in or stay all day**

**A day of prayer**  
for Cowley, East Oxford  
and the growth of the  
Kingdom of God

July 3<sup>rd</sup>  
9 am to 9 pm

**St Francis  
Church  
Holloway**

If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.  
John 15: 7

[www.cowleyteamministry.co.uk](http://www.cowleyteamministry.co.uk)  
More details@ call 01865 778596  
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**christian aid** ?

**QUIZ AID**

Friday 25 June ?  
7:00 pm

? St James Centre  
Beauchamp Lane  
*COVID-19 restrictions permitting*

tickets on the door **£5**  
*includes soft drinks & nibbles*

? ? ? raffle

*information from Lesley Williams 07982 439 828*

## A word from the Rectory

I want to break free! Words from a Queen single released 1984, the year before I married. I guess the sentiment is one that is in all our hearts as we head towards the 21<sup>st</sup>

June and the possibility of further release from Covid restrictions. For many there is a desire to break free from the confines that Covid has placed on us. Yet, such changes bring with them fears and concerns. Indeed

many have developed patterns of life that seem sustainable. As I write, at the very beginning of the month, details are still sketchy as to how things will develop, but I will try to lay out some sort of road map for the coming weeks!

What things do we know?

June 13<sup>th</sup>: Revd Gemma will be leaving us soon. Her last service will be held at 10 am,

at St Francis on Sunday June 13<sup>th</sup>. We do hope you will be able to join us. We will have a farewell in the garden of the Rectory at 4 pm on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June. We hope Revd Richard Chand and our brother Brian Tidy, will be able to join us. Revd David Benskin, will sadly not be

there as he will be preparing for his

ordination as Priest the next day. If you would like to contribute to a gift for Gemma do please get it to Joan Coleman, Chris Woodman, Maureen or myself!

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.  
Proverbs 3:5-6

Sunday June 20<sup>th</sup>: The relaunch of 'Every Sunday' main morning services at both St James and St Francis. This is a big step towards getting back to being a 'Gathered Church'. We are called to meet together. Covid has made 'meeting' very

difficult. Indeed, it has for a season been right that we keep each other safe by being a church worshipping together at home. With progress of the vaccination programme, and falling numbers of those who are hospitalised, we can again safely meet. Life has ever been full of risk. It will never be 100% safe to step out of our houses. But all indications are that it is again safe for us to gather, in a controlled way, for fellowship and

Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people.

Acts 2:46

worship. We will work with the agreed guidance, and we will encourage people to respect individual needs for a bit more space than we had prior to Covid. Where we will be with singing after 21<sup>st</sup> June we do not know. Watch out for updates!

# From the Editors

*Sally Hemsworth and Nicki Stevens*

We are now in June and, after a lot of rain during May, everything is growing in the garden – especially plants bought at the Plant Sale. What a marvellous result for Joan and the other people who grow the plants – many congratulations.

It is also good to learn that the provision of the toilet at St James Church is going ahead and that St Francis is to have a new notice board.

The last few months we have been reproducing the recipes on the 2021 calendar from SeeSaw, the charity which gives grief support for children and young people in Oxfordshire and which we support through the Christmas Tree Festival. Copies of the calendar are still available – just let Lesley Williams know if you would like one.

We hope you enjoy this edition of the Chronicle. The next edition covers July and August – so articles please to make this a special issue.

Sally and Nicki

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The new pattern of services will be:

- 8 am St James
- 9:30 am St Francis
- 11:00 am St James

Lay leadership of liturgy: We have been developing this for some time. With Revd Gemma moving on it will become more visible over the coming weeks. So, look out for it. If anybody else is feeling the 'call' do have word with me, or one of the other ministers.

27<sup>th</sup> June St James: Revd Max Dias Butron will be formally licensed to the team ministry at 8 am by the Venerable Jonathan Chaffy, Archdeacon of Oxford. Do come along and join us! Max will be involved mainly with the

8 am service. He is a Self-Supporting Minister who works in the hospitality industry. Having assisted with the 8 am service he goes off to work in the local restaurants of Oxford.

A replacement for Revd Gemma? Curate's posts run for 4 years! We have requested a Curate for 2022. That is the earliest possible date. The demand is great, but the availability low. Do please hold this in your prayers. But also ask who else have we who might be being called to ministry?

May God's blessing be on each of you!



## CHILDREN'S CORNER

I want to tell you a story today about two people and let you into a secret! Yes, another one. But this one will help you in so many ways and for a LONG time, probably for the rest of your life. YOU might be able to help others too when you finish reading this story.

When I went to school, a long time ago, I was very lucky. Like you, I had some lovely teachers who helped me to understand a lot of things that my parents weren't able to teach me, like learning to read and write.

And I was always asking questions, so I did a lot of talking, even in those days!! Everyone does it and of course it is so important that you also learn how to speak the words properly. Sometimes I had difficulty reading my own writing, but that's another story.

Children have gone to school for a long time now, but in early schools there were very few books. Remember them? Books. Yes, they are still important, and so is the need to be able to speak correctly. A hundred years ago, it was sufficient that you learned your three 'R's'. (Reading, writing and arithmetic). Now it is important that you communicate, and that sometimes means speaking to real people. But the simplest message can be misunderstood. Let me explain.

We used to play a team game where you need to pass a message down the line of your team and the winner is the team that still had the same message. Some came out

in a very unusual way. This was a method used a hundred years ago during the first world war, to pass messages from one soldier to another along the battlefield, because they didn't have mobile phones then. It might be in code so an unusual message didn't seem odd. There is a story that one message was... 'Send reinforcements (more soldiers), the colonel's going to advance...'. When the last man received the message he thought it was very odd. The message given to him, with a lot of changes due to men mumbling and not speaking clearly came out as 'send three and fourpence, the colonel's going to a dance...'. Easily done. Try it sometime with your friends or at home. It could be even worse if you need to translate it.

Another 'secret' that the teachers taught us was to exercise the mouth before doing any reading or speaking. This is still done by professional singers and speakers. Don't mumble when you speak. If it's worth saying open your mouth to speak slowly and clearly. The exercise is to repeat the five vowels *very* clearly. A. E. I. O. U. several times. You may feel odd but it does help. No-one needs to be in that much of a hurry that you need to rush what you have to say and people will listen to you especially if you smile occasionally and take a breath from time to time, so that they can think about what you have said, otherwise it becomes a jumble of

words. You seldom need to rush speaking or reading and take a good breath before you start. Of course, you may make a mistake, but if there are some difficult words, have a go, or better still get some advice before you read out loud. I am sure you will probably say them correctly anyway. So when am I going to tell you about the other person? Right now.

This chap had been in conversation with me for some time when he asked me if I had noticed that he was looking at my mouth and not my eyes when he spoke to me. I didn't think this was odd but it is usual for you to look at people when you speak to them as well as being polite to show some interest, and normally look at their eyes. (I hadn't noticed this before he mentioned it).

Apparently this gentleman was extremely deaf but he had learned to 'lip-read'. That is not unusual for some deaf people and can be very useful to them. Yes, he said, I have been reading your lips, and I am so pleased that you speak properly. I was a bit embarrassed, but very pleased. Although he had a difficulty to hear me properly, he was able to 'hear me' through my lips, because I was 'speaking proper like what I had been taught'. Yes, we learned a lot at St.Christopher's School in Temple Road. Thank you all for being able to have a lifetime of learning and being taught to 'speak proper'. *(Yes, I know that my last words are not in my best English !)*

Uncle Ben

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## Sunflowers

I hope that yours are growing as fast as mine, although one has not appeared yet from its winter sleep. If you are growing them in small pots they should now be planted in the garden and while you will not have needed to water them during May, don't allow the soil to become hard and dry. Water them about twice a week.

Later this month and during July the plants will grow very fast and you may need to give them some support with sticks. When they have stopped growing and have lovely flowers, take a photograph before the flower dies and measure the height of the plant. Results and the prize for the tallest will not be announced until September Chronicle but by then you will have had a lot of fun and enjoyment from the lovely blooms.

Good luck

Nonny Muss

## RECIPES

### Mrs B's Fabulous Chocolate Fudge

Extract from the SeeSaw Calendar for 2021

Grief support for children and young people in Oxfordshire



- Lightly grease a 20 cm square cake tin with butter
- Break 500g of plain chocolate into a saucepan
- Add 75g of unsalted butter and 400g of condensed milk
- Heat gently, constantly stirring the mixture until its nice and smooth
- Remove from the heat and beat in ½ tsp of vanilla essence, keep beating until it goes thick
- Pour the mixture into the tin and make it level
- Chill in the fridge for an hour until firm then its ready to cut into small squares

You could sprinkle edible flower petals for a fragrant taste or decorate with whatever you fancy ... or just go plain - either way they are delicious.

I love a hot drink with these as the fudge just melts on your tongue. Yummy

**Shaun Guard**

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## COURIER FRAUDS

Over the past few months there has been an increase in Courier frauds

What is Courier Fraud?

A courier fraud is where a fraudster telephones a potential victim, claiming to be from their bank, the police or another law enforcement authority. They then trick the person into revealing their PIN and agreeing to hand over their debit or credit card or ask the person to withdraw money from their account.

What should I look for?

Calls where someone claims to be from your bank or the police. They may say that a fraudulent payment has been spotted on your card, or that someone has been arrested using your details and cards.

They may then ask you to ring back using the phone number on the back of your card. This is to make you believe that the call is genuine. But the fraudster keeps the line open at their end, so you are actually connected straight back to them or an accomplice. They will ask for your PIN, or sometimes ask you to key it into your phone's handset. The scammer then sends a courier or taxi to pick up your card from your home. It is possible the driver does not know they are being used as part of the scam. Once they have your card and PIN, the scammer can spend your money and will withdraw large amounts from your account.

Key Facts

- Your bank will never send a courier to your home

- Your bank and the police will never collect your bank card

- Your bank and the police will never ask for your PIN

- The police will never call you to inform you of being a victim of a fraud

- If you receive one of these calls, end it immediately by firmly replacing the receiver on a landline or pressing the end-call button on a mobile.

If you think you have been scammed or you have found something which looks like a fraud or a scam contact Action Fraud online or call 0300 123 2040 or call Thames Valley Police on 101.

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## SHARE YOUR LIFE, CHANGE A LIFE

Could you give someone the opportunity to live the fullest life they can live? Help them grow in confidence? Encourage them to become more independent and do things they never thought they would be able to do?

The Shared Lives scheme matches people who need additional support to be independent, with carers and their families. The opportunity to share a family's life, as part of their household, gives them a valuable alternative to staying in residential care or being looked after by a team of support workers.

Becoming a Shared Lives Carer for Oxfordshire County Council will make a big difference to someone's life. If you love people, and are looking for something that is rewarding, paid and home-based – share your life, change a life – [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/sharedlives](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/sharedlives).



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## Sunday Church : moving back to being a 'gathered' people of God!

Dear Friends,

One of the few advantages of a church with many mature members is a high rate of double vaccination! Most of our regular congregation have had their 2 shots and can be fairly confident that they can move around with a high level of protection. This means we can move from a message to 'Stay home and stay safe' to 'Gather again and be cautious'. Yes, we are still wearing masks in church!

Sunday services in church in Cowley have continued to run over most of the COVID period. Until now, we have been encouraging people to join us online or via DVDs. Now we are encouraging people to come back and join us in Church. Our buildings and furniture have been set out to keep people distanced and safe. The new guidance encourages us to be cautious BUT gives a little more scope. This means we can safely accommodate more people. There are still 1 metre plus gaps, but 'informal bubbles' can sit closer to each other. We simply need to be aware that people need a bit more space than before the pandemic. If gaps are less than a metre plus, we need to check that people are comfortable with us using seats near them. There are plenty of chairs well-spaced out, in 1s and 2s, so you can choose to use those and keep a bigger distance from others.

In both buildings we are setting out simple family spaces: a carpeted area for youngsters; tables for young people. Whilst some simple things are provided, you can bring along your own activities: books, colouring, quiet toys, etc. We are not yet sure where we will be with

young peoples' teaching provision, but we are committed to being a church where all ages can come together for praise, worship and fellowship.

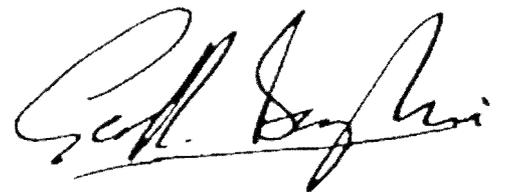
We are being very careful handling the bread and wine at Communion. There is lots of hand cleaning and face covering by the clergy. Bread and wine are covered until just before distribution. Both are offered but wafers are dipped into the wine by the Priest who places the wafer in the flat of the recipient's hand - all this is designed to keep us safe. And yes, you can come along and worship and not take either, if you prefer.

Music is pre-recorded with local singers providing the voices. Currently we are not singing indoors; only when we are out in the churchyard, but this does not stop us worshipping with body, mind and spirit.

If you want to come and look around without committing to staying for a service, please do. If you would just like to chat, do please give us a buzz. If things have changed and we need to consider bringing you communion at home, let us know.

So, gather around, the table is spread.

May God be with you. Come and eat!



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## COWLEY FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS TREES 2021

Our first planning meeting in May established the 2021 festival title of 'SHINE A LIGHT' – instantly naming lightbulb moments, lanterns, torches, candles, stars, shadow puppets, the Light of the World, a torchlight procession, school prayer spaces making light themed window decorations to take home; Get in the Picture at Templars Square on Saturday 4 December to involve advent candles.

Please put Friday 10 December – the opening reception – through to Sunday 19 December in your diary now.

And do send us further ideas for activities during the festival. AND, as ever, how we can reach and involve other groups, businesses, schools etc, in the community. AND if you are confident and have time to be our social media person.

Our next planning meeting is on Thursday 10 June, 9.00 – still sadly, but very efficiently, on Zoom. Ask Lesley Williams for the Zoom Link if you are able to join in.

# ST CHRISTOPHER'S SCHOOL

A selection of the Easter stories written by pupils from St Christopher's School when they came to St James Church:

## JERUSALEM TIMES

### Jesus Is Back



"I couldn't believe my eyes, I thought I was dreaming, the tomb was empty!" said Mary.

The disciples were told by Mary and the other women, who ran faster than a lightning bolt to the disciples.

Jesus' followers (AKA the disciples) have claimed today that Jesus, who was executed on Friday by crucifixion in Jerusalem has come back to life.

Mary Magdalene was the first person to see the empty tomb.

The empty tomb was first seen by Mary Magdalene.

"I thought I was hallucinating!" Peter said. "I could not believe it!" said James.

On receiving the news, Peter, James and John made their way directly to the tomb which was in fact empty.

in the days following, Jesus had appeared several times.

of Jesus? Some people said Barabbas others said Jesus.

Decidedly unimpressed, afterwards the man washed his hands (aka Pontius Pilate).

Almost unbelievably, they made Jesus carry his own cross to Golgotha Hill preparing for his death.

After Jesus got put on his cross they made fun of Jesus.

He died on the cross the ladies took him down gently.

Some people are claiming that Jesus is back alive others think it's a joke.

crepe egg



Support crepe egg

## THE HOLY DAYS

### GOOD FRIDAY



The disciples were told by Mary and the other women, who ran vigorously quick.

Peter James and John ran into the tomb.

They were shocked about their mind.

Jesus' followers (AKA the disciples) have claimed today that Jesus who was executed on Friday by crucifixion in Jerusalem has come back to life.

The empty tomb was first seen by Mary Magdalene.

Mary was shocked by the tomb, "said Mary.

They couldn't believe what they have seen.

The disciples had had a difficult three days they had witnessed their leader (AKA the Messiah) crucified in Jerusalem on Golgotha Hill.

The Roman Governor, Pontius Pilate asked Barabbas dead.

The disciples had a difficult three days: they had witnessed their leader (AKA the Messiah) crucified in Jerusalem on Golgotha Hill.

Jesus was put on trial because they accused him of saying things against God.

"I declare that Jesus be beaten," Pilate claimed. He further ordered Jesus to be executed.

Guardians lined the street laughing as Jesus walked to his place of crucifixion wearing a crown made of thorns.

Despite this awful execution, some claim that Jesus returned from the dead to continue his teaching; others to day are not so believing. To day a pale cross symbolises the day Jesus fell into Jerusalem.



# 'Goodbye'

When preparing my final sermon and school assembly here in Cowley, I have been looking at the different meanings in various languages for the word 'Goodbye'. I wonder if you know how to say goodbye in a different language, and what it actually means?

Here are a few examples.

- French: Au Revoir- until I see you again
- Greek: γειά σας (yia sas)- health to you
- German: Auf wiederseh'n- until I see you again
- Hebrew: שלום Shalom- peace, harmony, wholeness, completeness, prosperity, welfare and tranquility
- Hindi: namaste- I bow to you
- Welsh: Hwyl fawr- big fun! Also a stirring sensation, fervour, emotion, motivation and enthusiasm
- And of course our English word, Goodbye, which is actually a shortened version of 'God be with you'.

Saying goodbye is not always easy, but how lovely it is to wish to see each other again, and want peace, fun, love, respect, good health and the presence of God for the people we are saying goodbye to!

When we read at the end of Matthew's gospel (chapter 28 from verse 16) we hear of Jesus saying his goodbye to his friends just before he was taken back up to heaven. The Storyteller Bible by Bob Hartman puts it like this:

*'I've got to go now,' Jesus said, 'and there is something I want you to do. Tell my story to the world. Start in Jerusalem, and don't stop until everybody has had the chance to follow me. And, if you ever feel scared or alone, don't worry. Just talk to me, and I'll be with you. I promise.'*

2000 years later, we are Jesus' friends, and we are still sharing his story.

Jesus taught people how to love one another in the very best way. Think back to all those meanings of the words for Goodbye- saying we want to see each other again, we want God to be with us, and wishing each other good health, peace, respect, richness, fun... Jesus taught us how to live like that.

And imagine if you truly wanted every person who you say goodbye to- health, peace, respect, richness and fun, I think you'd be the kindest person in the world.

So as I say goodbye to you, I pray for all these things for you, and I encourage you that whatever else you do today, tomorrow and forever, always try to be kind. This is one of the best ways we can continue to tell the world about Jesus.

Goodbye, Gemma

# A WARTIME CHILDHOOD

(Part 10)

Right in the middle of the village, opposite the church, stood the village hut. It was the hub of almost every activity throughout the war years (and for several years beyond) and featured very strongly in my childhood days. The Mothers' Union, the Women's Institute, and the Home Guard all met there. It was the venue for jumble sales, auctions, village dances, concerts, parties and, even towards the end of the war, film shows.

It was a long wooden building with one narrow door at the front and an even narrower one at the back (no consideration of fire safety!) It had small windows down each side and a wooden floor with lumpy knots in it. At the far end was what was affectionately known as the kitchen. That was a tiny extension with a cupboard and a Calor gas stove on which to boil kettles and I think there was an old table with some tin trays. As there was no water supply to anywhere in the village, an old chap named Jim Pimm would keep the kitchen supplied with water drawn from his well in galvanised buckets. Out the back, near the kitchen, was a single bucket-toilet. (Never mind too much about hygiene!) There was a hedge into which could be thrown used tea dregs and dirty washing-up water. However, as a community centre it was invaluable.

The Mothers' Union met there regularly in the afternoons and their meetings would continue for about 45 minutes after the school day had ended at 3.45pm. My mum joined the M.U. very soon after we moved into the village, so after school I would run down the road over the little bridge and into

the hut where mummy and a group of ladies would be well into their meeting. No one seemed to mind a little girl sitting quietly while they ended their sessions. Alongside the regular prayer session and Bible readings the ladies worked tirelessly at knitting and sewing garments sent to refugee and evacuee centres, especially for those families in the bombed-out areas of London. Small garments were knitted for the children from unravelled woollen sweaters. The sewing group, I seem to remember, were making dear little pairs of knickers from worn-out sheets and pillow cases. My Mum was especially adept at making these little garments, as she always made mine.

One day at school when we five-year-olds were stripped off to do P.E. my teacher remarked on my nice knickers. "Oh, yes" I told her, "They're made from bits of aeroplanes." The truth being that the "Gypsy Moth" aeroplanes that my dad built in Witney had beautiful linen fabric stretched over their wooden frames. Rather than throw the off-cuts into the bin, dad would bring them home in his pocket. Mummy would then wash them several times until they were lovely and soft and then make them into knickers for me.

At the very beginning of World War II my father had joined the Civil Defence Volunteers – later called The Home Guard – in our home town in Surrey. So as soon as we were settled in Oxfordshire, he transferred to the Northmoor and Standlake unit. Their regular meeting place was the village hut. These parades took place on Sunday mornings, so as

we came out of church after the service, we would see the local men, including my daddy, being dismissed from their meetings. The lads would then head for "The Red Lion" for a couple of pints before Sunday dinner. Dad always bought me a bottle of my favourite 'pop' (cherryade) to have with my dinner. Lovely.

Northmoor Women's Institute was a force to be reckoned with. It met each month in the village hut and I would say that most of the ladies in the village were members. My mum joined, was soon elected on to the committee and was given the role as secretary, a position she held for many years. On W.I. nights, if my dad was working overtime at the factory, I would accompany mum to W.I. and I loved it! The business was done very formally and with a speaker, competition and tea and biscuits (only one biscuit each). I enjoyed the whole thing. I was even allowed to hand round the biscuits. Needless to say, I learnt the words to "Jerusalem" by the time I was six years old and loved the idea of God sending me a "chariot of fire".

More stories about the village hut next month.

Rosanne Butler



## Prayer Space

O God, you are the one to whom I reach out, mystery beyond human thinking, love beyond our comprehending.

Yet because you are love, you have reached out to me, joined me to Christ, taken me into the very heart of your divine life, come close to me as father and brother.

And even more. You yourself have come to dwell in me, so it is your life within me reaching out to your love beyond me.

O God beyond me, God beside me, God within me!

Richard Harries

You are holy, God the Creator, giving us richly all things to enjoy.

You are holy, Christ the saviour of the world, made flesh to set us free.

You are holy, Spirit of truth and love, willing to swell in us.

You are holy and blessed, O God, eternal Trinity, and we worship you.

The United Reformed Church

**The sermon this morning:**

**Jesus Walks on Water.**

**The sermon tonight:**

**Searching for Jesus.**

## 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.

It is now 3 years since we introduced the Diocesan training programme for all those Parish volunteer roles requiring it - and that training must now be refreshed. We hope many of you will be able to follow the courses individually at home on line but, when C-19 regulations allow later in the year, we will again be offering group training at St James Centre both for the Basic Awareness course, which I can deliver, and Foundation, which requires a Diocesan trainer.

The 'Basic awareness' course (formerly called C0) has been revised and is much more accessible. It is required for all volunteers with person facing roles in our churches but is also open to anyone who thinks they should understand more about what we mean by 'safeguarding' in the church context.

Those involved in any of our children's work and pastoral care must take the 'Safeguarding Foundations' (formerly C1) – also available as an individual online course but which we will later offer in a group session.

All those who require the refreshment should have received an email and attached letter from me with details of how to access the on-line courses; those without e-mail access should have had the letter delivered. I am about to start nudging those who have not yet told me how they will undertake the training.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility – *please be sure to report anything you observe that worries you about someone's safety or wellbeing whilst at church or on-line.*

*It is just as important during this strange part virtual, part reality time; the situation throws up its own safeguarding and welfare issues. Please remain vigilant.*

Lesley Williams 01865 779 562 07982 439 828 [safeguarding@cowleyteamministry.co.uk](mailto:safeguarding@cowleyteamministry.co.uk)

## There's some buzzing going on!

I wait for it every year and these last few days with a bit of the heat from the very welcome sunshine, they were there. The sound of busy bees foraging on the flowers on the cotoneaster tree just outside the living room window. We just stand and listen and marvel.

Finally, it looks like our wet and cold spring, has turned a corner! Growth and spring flowering were about three weeks behind last year and May brought quite a few frosts. I think that I won't be having any peaches this year as the blossom was out when we had cold days and nights so, even if the flowers dodged the frost, I am sure not many foraging insects were about to pollinate them.

But enough of moaning about the cold! Lots of people came and made the Plant Sale buzzing to stock their gardens, pots and window boxes.

The weather on the previous day was chilly and very windy but, apart from a very early quick shower, we had very little wind and the morning continued dry.

For the first time, we elected to be outdoors in St. James' Centre car park. Using a one-way system. We aimed to be Covid aware and it seemed to work very well. Having two people totting up folks' purchases before coming round to pay, was a brilliant idea and our card readers were used quite a lot. We ended up with very few plants. Most had been sold. Thank you to all those who made contributions to our stock to sell and to Ruth for her marmalade! We have added just over £1,000 to the "Flush Fund". Thank you, everyone!

The raffle did surprisingly well considering that it was in the entrance to the Centre and table service for refreshments went well but it was with frustration that we could not be as hospitable as we usually are.

The sun looks as though it is going to be with us now for a while. The soil has dried and we can get going in earnest on the allotment. Growth has done its bounce after the cold and wet May. We have been hoeing and weeding and generally tidying up and awaiting this summer's crops. The tender things like sweet corn, French and runner beans, courgettes and pumpkins have all been planted out and the raspberries are starting to look promising.

In the garden, there has been a wonderful show of blue forget-me-nots against the tulips and I am now going through the borders pulling the forget-me-nots out to leave room for annuals and other plants I have in pots ready to go in.

Tomatoes have been potted up into large pots for the season and, I kid you not, they have doubled in height in a week! I have a problem in that I have run out of Coolglass. It is sprayed or painted on the outside of the glass to give shade to the plants inside. It appears to be unobtainable. I am trying to find an alternative. Whitewash was used in the past but was washed away by the rain. Not good in our climate. I would be repainting on a regular basis!

Joan Coleman

# Una's Corner

Rosanne – You were Lucky On Ascension Day

I lived in Ridgefield Road, off Magdalen Road and I attended SS Mary and John Infant and Junior Schools. I lived about 18 houses down the road on the left. Almost opposite our road, off Magdalen Road, was the Churchyard entrance to SS Mary and John Church, it was slightly to the right. A pathway went through the churchyard to the church. The SS Mary and John Schools were along Magdalen Road to the left, the Infants were in Hertford Street and so was the boys' Junior School. The girls' Junior School was in Essex Street, which came first. One building – girls upstairs and boys downstairs with separate playgrounds. The Infants had a separate building. Mr. Gibbons' bakery shop was opposite the school in Hertford Street and there was a lovely smell of baking bread.

On Ascension Day I walked with friends up Ridgefield Road, round the left corner and along Magdalen Road to the school. We had the register called and walked in our crocodile formation to the churchyard gates, almost opposite Ridgefield Road. We then walked round to the church. The Infants had to sit on hassocks on the floor in front of the pews, which was very cold and uncomfortable. The Juniors sat in the pews. We were all strictly segregated – boys one side of the aisle and girls the other.

We didn't attend this church as a family, we went to Cowley churches. I was told that in SS Mary and John the Sunday Services were segregated, men one side of the aisle, women on the other. Married couples *never* sat together!

After the service we walked back to the gates, crossed Magdalen Road and I could see my house just across the road. We walked to school for our milk and then my friends and I walked back to Ridgefield Road. Our classrooms had big black stoves with pipes to the ceiling and a fence of metal strips to keep us out of reach of the stoves. Milk could be heated for those who wished. I always had mine cold. I still like food or drink either hot or cold but not tepid. The milk cost tuppence ha'penny per week. Old money, of course. We didn't take any flavourings. Children from poor families had free milk, they had different ration tickets.

When I went to Milham Ford School, we used to have our milk in the hall. The school maid used to come from the kitchen with a huge pan full of warm milk. We all took a mid-morning snack and could take flavourings for the milk if we wished.

Years later, as an adult, I discovered that Guide camps were entitled to a 1/3 pint bottle of milk per school day.

The Junior School became a mixed school, whilst Milham Ford is no longer a school and what were our playing fields are now mostly built over.

It all seems a long, long time ago.....

# THOUGHTS

## The Lessons of Life

I've learned.....

That the best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person.

That when you're in love, it shows.

That just one person saying to me, 'You've made my day!' makes my day.

That having a child fall asleep in your arms, is one of the most peaceful times in the world.

That being kind is more important than being right.

That you should never say 'No!' to a gift from a child.

That we can always pray for others, if we don't have the strength to help in some other way.

That sometimes all a person needs is a hand to hold and a heart to understand.

That life is like a roll of toilet paper, the closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes.

That we should be glad that God doesn't give us all we ask for, and if he has, watch out!

That money doesn't buy class.

That its those small daily happenings which makes life so spectacular.

That under everyone's hard shell is someone who wants to be appreciated and loved.

That to ignore the facts does not change the facts.

That if you plan to get even with someone, you're letting that person continue to hurt you.

That love, not time, heals all wounds.

That everyone you meets deserves to be greeted with a smile.

That life is tough, but I am tougher.

That opportunities are never lost, someone will take the ones you miss.

That when you harbour bitterness, happiness will dock elsewhere.

That I wish I could have told my dad I loved him, before he passed away.

That a smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks.

That I can't choose how I feel, but I can choose what I do about it.

That when a newly born child holds your little finger in his fist, you're hooked for life.

That everyone wants to live on top of the mountain, but happiness occurs climbing it.

That the less time I have to work with, the more I get done.

That one should keep his words soft and tender, because tomorrow he might have to eat them.

# REPORT FROM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AND ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING, 15 MAY 2021

At the Annual Parish Meeting two Church Wardens were appointed:

Maureen Stone

Christine Woodman

At the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, which followed immediately after the Annual Parish Meeting, there was the election of Parochial Representatives. There were six vacancies and two nominations – Joan Coleman and Andrew Swallow. Both were appointed. PCC members are appointed for three years and the following Parochial Church Councillors are in post:

Joan Coleman (to 2024)

Sheila Collett (to 2022)

Sally Hemsworth (to 2022)

Marie Paterson (to 2023)

Norah Shallow (to 2023)

Andrew Swallow (to 2024)

Margaret Weller (to 2023)

Lesley Williams (to 2022)

The Annual Report on the proceedings of the PCC and the Activities of the Parish Generally was circulated to those in attendance – copies will be made available in the Parish. Despite the problems since the pandemic it was good to see how many activities had continued in a different form, and the reports received were very inspiring.

The Financial Accounts for 2020 were received by the meeting. These will be circulated with the Annual Report.

## PAROCHIAL CHURCH COMMITTEE, 2 JUNE 2021

The meeting was held on ZOOM, different from “normal” meetings but something we have got used to over the last year or so.

At PCC meetings there is always a detailed financial report given by Joan Coleman. It is amazing how we have managed over the last year as a lot of the bills remain (Parish Share, insurance, inspection of fire equipment, music licences, increased amount of cleaning), but people have continued their contributions to the Parish and, with the help of Government grants, there has been sufficient money to pay the bills and give a small balance after expenditure.

The Rector gave a detailed report covering the roadmap out of lockdown and advice to users

during the pandemic, and service times. The emphasis was on the reduction in ordained Ministers following the departure of Gemma Beesley. The Service Times (set out in various articles and on the back page of The Chronicle) are to be adjusted, an application has been made for a curate in 2022 (but there is a lot of competition for the limited posts available and it is not at all sure if Cowley Parish will get a post), and the training of people for Lay Ministry. The Parish has always had the support of Self-Supporting Ministers such as Mark Oxbrow, and Max Diaz Butron will be licenced to the Parish at the 8 am service on Sunday, 27 June 2021.

There is also a very exciting piece of news - PCC agreed that the provision of the WC at St James Church should go ahead, a tender has been agreed and the architect has been asked to proceed. The Parish does not have all the funding it requires as yet – applications have been made to various bodies for grants and a Gift Day is going to be held during July. Once the toilet has been provided we will still need to continue fund raising to provide the digital projection scheme at St James.

The PCC also agreed to have a new notice board at St Francis Church – and the order has been put in for this.

Reports were received on Safeguarding, Pastoral Network, the Parish Mission and Social Programme, Christian Aid Week and the Deanery Synod meeting on the 1 June 2021.

Sally Hemsworth  
Secretary to the PCC

## **CHRONICLE**

Editorial Team- Sally Hemsworth, Nicki Stevens

Deadline for the next edition: Monday 21 June 2021

If possible, please send entries by email to Sally at [chronicle@cowleyteamministry.co.uk](mailto: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.

**A little primary school girl was drawing a picture and her teacher asked her what it was meant to be. “God,” was the reply. “But no one knows what God looks like,” said the teacher. “They will in a minute.” The girl answered.**

# JOHN SHREEVE'S ARTICLES

Faith

September 2007

Amidst all our wetness this summer, it is hard to believe that there are many parts of the world suffering from extreme drought, absolutely desperate for rain. I like this simple story about just such a situation.

The fields were parched and brown from lack of rain, and the crops lay wilting from thirst. People were anxious and irritable as they searched the sky for any sign of relief. Days turned into arid weeks. No rain came. The ministers of the local church called for an hour of prayer in the town's square the following Saturday. They requested that everyone bring an object of faith for inspiration. At high noon on the appointed Saturday, the townspeople turned out en-masse, filling the square with anxious faces and hopeful hearts. The ministers were touched to see the variety of objects clutched in prayerful hands: holy books, crosses, rosaries.

When the hour ended, as if on magical command, a soft rain began to fall. Cheers swept the crowd as they held their treasured objects high in gratitude and praise. From the middle of the crowd, one faith symbol seemed to overshadow all the others, a small child had brought an umbrella!

## Choosing a Good Minister

Some of our church community were recently involved in the process of choosing a new Team Rector.

As a result of this selection, we now rejoice in the arrival of Howard and his family, now living amongst us. So we thought this description of the wrong way to approach things might be of interest.

One of the toughest tasks that the church faces is choosing a good minister. A member of an official board undergoing this difficult process finally lost patience. He had just witnessed the pastoral relations committee reject applicant after applicant for some minor fault – real or imagined. So he stood up and read this letter, purporting to be from an applicant.

“Gentlemen: understanding that your pulpit is vacant, I should like to apply for the position. I have been a preacher with much success and have also had some success as a writer. Some say that I am a good organiser, and I have been a leader in most places I have been.

I'm over 50 years of age and have never preached in one place for more than three years. In some cases I have left town after my work has caused riots and disturbances. I must admit that I have been in prison three or four times – but not because of any real wrongdoing.

My health is not too good, though I still accomplish a great deal. The churches I have preached in have been small, though located in several large cities.

I have not got on well with some of the religious leaders in the towns where I have preached. In fact, some have threatened me and even attacked me physically. I am not too good at keeping records – and I have been known to forget who I have baptised.

However, if you can use me, I promise to do my best for you”.

The board member turned to the committee and said “Well, what do you think? Shall we call him in?” The good church folk were appalled! Consider a sickly, trouble-making, absent-minded jail bird? Was the board member crazy? Who signed this application? Who had such colossal nerve? The board member eyed them all keenly, before he replied:

It’s signed the Apostle Paul!!

---

## SUPPORT PHONE NUMBERS

NEEDING ADVICE OR HELP? or just want to talk?

SOME USEFUL LOCAL NUMBERS:

Citizens Advice:	08082 787 909
Oxford City Council:	01865 249 811
Oxfordshire Mind:	01865 247788
Red Cross <i>coronavirus support line</i> :	08081 963 651
Samaritans <i>available 24/7</i> :	116 123
The Archway Foundation:	01865 790 552
Mental Health helpline <i>available 24/7</i> - NHS Oxford Health:	
Adults:	01865 904 997
Children/young people:	01865 904 988
Age UK—new telephone service for older people	01865 411288

Have you been receiving a lot of scam calls on your phone, some of them quite scary? If you are concerned about them, you can obtain help by:

- phoning 03450 700 707 – that’s a special department set up by the police *OR*
- Silver Lines, open 24 hrs for assistance on 08004 708 090 - this is a charity set up by Esther Rantzen, primarily to assist those elderly people in need of assistance and who live alone and are in fear of being abused.

# From the Archives

NOVEMBER 1957

## COWLEY - 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> CENTURIES

The Oxfordshire Record Society published three years ago the answers of the Clergy of the Archdeaconry to Bishop Wilberforce's Visitation Articles of 1854, and have now followed this up by publishing a volume referring to the Visitation of Bishop Secker in 1738. That was the first year when such a method of enquiry was used in this Diocese, and knowing the deep-rooted objection of the clergy to filling up forms, it is not surprising that the Rector of Broughton Poggs, for instance, should have answered 9 out of the 12 questions 'Yes' or 'No'. But some of the other replies give an interesting picture of Church life in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, compared with the much-needed reforms which took place 100 years later under the energetic Bishop Wilberforce.

One is naturally inclined to look at the records of one's own parish, and I give a condensed form of what was said about Cowley at the two Visitations. In 1738 we learn that the parish consisted of 60 houses (and remember that it went right down to St. Clements). The Curate-in-charge was Nathaniel Sandford, and he reports that there were in his parish 'No Papists, dissenters or Quakers.' When asked if any of his parishioners absent themselves from church he replied 'Some persons of low Rank who seldom attend ye services.' He had a 'Public Service' twice on Sundays, and on 'Solomn Festivals,' i.e. Morning and Evening Prayer, Prayers in Lent, and Holy Communion on Solomn Festivals and 3 or 4 times a year besides. There were between 30 and 50 communicants. There seemed to be no free school in the parish at that time.

When we come to 1854 the picture is a different one. The Vicar is the saintly Father Benson, and he had made his answers to the questions sent to him with great care and thoroughness. He had been Vicar only 4 years, and it was before the old church was enlarged and restored, yet he was extremely diligent about his pastoral duties, and showed that same devoted spirituality which later was to draw him to the founding of the Cowley Fathers.

There are two services on Sundays, at 11.00am and 3.30pm, at both of which he preached, also two on all Red-letter Saints' Days and on Wednesdays and Fridays, with sermons. Holy Communion was celebrated on the first Sunday of each month, and also on Advent Sunday, Christmas Day, Easter Day and Whitsunday, and on all Red-letter days. (Later, as I know from

the records which he kept, Father Benson had a celebration every Sunday). He had 30 communicants on festivals, 20 on other Sundays, and only 3 or 4 on weekdays. His average congregation on Sundays, morning and evening was 250 – remember, this was before the enlargement of the church! His reasons for not bearing comparison with the population, by then probably about 600 (still down to St. Clements) he states as being indifference, lack of space in church, and the distance many people live from the church. In 1854 there were 110 in both day school and Sunday school, besides 20 infants. As regards Dissenters, there were only Methodists (i.e. Rose Hill Methodist), and there were ‘Probably not 20 dissenters in the parish.’

To the question, ‘What do you consider to be the chief impediments to Church progress?’ Father Benson has a long and detailed answer, which I quote in full:

1. Want of *heartiness* in *any* religious purpose, in many cases amounting to positive infidelity.
2. Strongly rooted prejudices in the better class of Church people.
3. Unusual *ignorance* pervading all classes.
4. *Pride* and dress in the upper class.
5. *Lawlessness* and self-willed *idleness* in the lower.
6. Selfishness in all and niggardliness especially in the upper.
7. Loose habits produced by the University *cricket grounds*, etc.
8. Immorality connected with the *University*.
9. Immorality arising from *want of proper cottage room*.
10. Low loitering *sports* arising from ignorance.

A rural policy is greatly needed.

Times may change, cricket may no longer be looked down on, we may be less pessimistic in our outlook, but who can say that human nature has changed much in the past 200 years?

Revd. A. G. Whye



# Introduction for St. James and St. Francis, Cowley

Hi all,

I am Erik Heemskerk and I hope to get to you know all a bit better over the coming five weeks. Over the past two years I have been training for ordination in the Church of England at Wycliffe Hall. I am from the Netherlands where I became part of the Anglican Church as a student. I live with my wife Rosemarie and my twin girls Nora and Sophie (born last November) in Cuttleslowe, which is perfect cycling distance to Cowley! Some of my hobbies include watching sports (especially football – I might wear orange at my placement when The Netherlands is playing at the Euros!), playing a game of table tennis in the park (though far too little since we had our twins) and having a pint and a conversation at a pub.



My main reason for coming to St. James and St. Francis is that I want to learn what an English parish looks like. Because the Anglican Church in the Netherlands is an English-speaking church it has a number of British people, expats and Dutch people who (like me) feel themselves attracted to the Anglican Church, but it is also much less connected to the neighbourhood it is in. I am looking forward to learning about this side of the Church of England and being involved in all the things that are going on in Cowley, including social activities, (hospital) visits, baptisms, weddings and funerals, sessions at the Food Bank and also in the regular services by leading, praying and preaching.

I am looking forward very much to getting to know and learning from all of you at St. James



## CHRISTIAN AID

EMERGENCY FUND FOR INDIA: the bucket collection for the C-19 crisis in India raised £610 and has been paid to Christian Aid. If you missed it, you can give direct <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/emergencies/coronavirus-emergency-appeal>

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 10-16 May - Together we STOP this climate crisis

Thank you to those who joined me in delivering envelopes locally, labelled for return to their home or to St James Centre: Ruth Goodwin, Jo Duckles, Josie Rignall, Margaret McTaggart, Sally Hemsworth.

The donations from those received, plus from the Parish; plus from the soup, bread & cheese lunch and Zoom puddings and poetry have raised, as at 20 May, very nearly £450. We haven't yet transferred it to Christian Aid so you can still help top it up to £500!

### CHRISTIAN AID LUNCH Saturday 15 May

Following the APCM, those of us who had attended the meeting in reality at St James Centre enjoyed homemade soup with a four cheese 'ploughpersons' lunch, seated socially distanced in the Centre back garden.

### PUDDINGS AND POETRY

That evening, seven of us met again for an online Zoom puddings and poetry session. We showed and then ate our puddings, whilst listening to each other's poetry readings. Puddings included rhubarb crumble with ice cream and another with custard; mixed berries and yoghurt, strawberries and cream and rassomalai, an Asian milk-based one.

The poems we shared were :

Henry King, who chewed bits of string - Hilaire Belloc

Vicars – John Betjeman

In church – R S Thomas

Waiting, waiting, waiting for the party – James Greaves

Our Wall – William Walker on the Battle of Britain memorial

I know someone who can – Michael Rosen

The tree hotel – Grace Woodman (age 12)

Blackbird – John Drinkwater

Scissors – Allan Ahlberg

It was a great way to use Zoom – and make a further contribution to Christian Aid

### SONG OF THE PROPHETS Wednesday 9 June 7.00-8.00 pm

Join virtually to witness the debut performance of a new orchestral work Song of the Prophets: A Requiem for the Climate. There will be an address from Dr Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury, and a panel discussion with climate campaigners.

Christian Aid has collaborated with the Chineke! Orchestra - Europe's first majority-BME orchestra - and St Paul's Institute, on the performance of a new piece of music based on Christian Aid's climate change work.

Sign up on-line – free – donations

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week/virtual-events>

## QUIZ AID

If all goes well and 21 June really is the day we are anticipating for full release from C-19 restrictions, then Quiz Aid on Friday 25 June at 7.00 pm may be our first Parish "Back to Reality" public event! Rosanne Butler has assembled the questions in expectation! £5 per person – come with a team or we will create them on the evening. Soft drinks and nibbles provided; bring your own if you'd enjoy something stronger.

Watch Link and the website for confirmation.

AND THEN as soon as possible, there will be a BIG BREKKIE! Hopefully to welcome us all back



together in September.

*Lesley Williams 01865 779 562 07982 439 828 [lesleyjwilliams@btinternet.com](mailto:lesleyjwilliams@btinternet.com)*

CAMINO DE SANTIAGO - for Traidcraft Exchange <https://traidcraftexchange.org/what-we-do>

As previously announced each month, so everyone should now know, I'm signed up to join a group of 20 walking the final 115km of the full 772 km Camino, just from Sarria to Santiago de Compostela in north-west Spain, over 5 days, hopefully in the first week of October.

April was our first training with the challenge to walk 100 km during the month. If you've been following in Link, you know that I set my target much higher and completed 252.5 miles, walking at least 4.5 miles each day, with the final day's 16.01 on The Ridgeway being the furthest. The average was 8.42 miles; all but 3 days was from and back to my front door; a bus was involved just twice – once back from Abingdon and the other up the Cowley Road! As the question was asked in church, I have totalled the time that all took – 71 hours! with thanks to the Strava app for the information. I also cycled 166.51 miles during the month!

My initial £500 fundraising target was raised to £1,000 – then to £1,250. As at the end of May, when the facebook fundraising page closes, I have raised £1,375 with lots of lovely gift aid increasing that by 25% - and with UK Aid doubling it, without the gift aid element. Many thanks to the 57 people from Cowley, around the UK, Cyprus and USA who have sponsored me, directly on line or with cash which I have added to the facebook giving page. I feel very blessed for the support.

The specific Traidcraft project this '100 km in April' supported was the 'Regenerators Appeal' which is working with farmers struggling on the front line in the fight against climate change.

<https://traidcraftexchange.org/regenerators>

I will be continuing to fundraise in other ways over the summer, anticipating some coffee and cake mornings when we are allowed to meet that way safely, to make up for all those we have missed over the last year.

TRAIDCRAFT EXCHANGE brings people together to fight injustice in trade and help protect the world's poorest communities from the impact of climate change. It's their mission to use the power of trade, rather than aid, to create lasting solutions to poverty. They are the partner charity of Traidcraft, the fair trade company.

Climate change is happening right now, and it's hitting the most vulnerable people of the world the hardest. Regenerators tackle the climate crisis face on and help build a better, greener world for everyone, despite all the obstacles.

By investing in climate smart technology, like solar panels and irrigation systems, alongside planting trees and developing new crops which can face the new conditions, those on the frontline of the climate crisis can protect their homes and income.

[lesleyjwilliams@btinternet.com](mailto:lesleyjwilliams@btinternet.com) 07982 439 828 01865 779 562



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# Why do some translations seem to miss out some verses?

I have at least 12 different translations of the Bible sitting on my bookshelves. Then the web site 'Bible Gateway' probably has over 300 English translations. But why so many? Here a few of the reasons:

First, the English versions of the Bible are all translations. The Old Testament was originally written in Hebrew and the New Testament in Greek. Whenever you change the language of any piece of writing some 'interpretation of meaning takes place'. This means one interpreter will produce one sentence and a second will produce something slightly different. The only way to avoid this is to read the original text in the language it was written. Unfortunately, few of us are able to do that. I get round it by using a variety of versions and try to gain extra insight. Each translation is made for a particular purpose. The Good News Bible (GNB) was written so that the language was simple. It was written so that people who use English as a second language would not encounter too many words that they were not familiar with. The New King James Version (NKJV) was based on the Old King James version but there were some changes made where it was thought the English language had changed and made the meaning difficult to follow. The New International Version (NIV) and the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) were written with different intentions. The NIV came first and tried to make a readable, yet true translation of the more reliable older texts. The NRSV wanted to make a more accurate translation even if that made it clunky to read. Why do we have so many translations? Because people are so different, we need to communicate the truth about Jesus and God in a way that is suited to them. What is most important to begin with is

## New International Version

NIV watchword is 'balance'. The most widely used of any modern Bible version, the New International Version marries meaning-for-meaning principles with word-for-word renderings. It is an all-round translation, suitable for a wide range of purposes, and has proven especially popular amongst evangelicals. Its straightforward, contemporary language is both clear and dignified in style.

## King James Version

The King James Version is the world's most widely known Bible translation, using early seventeenth-century English. Its powerful, majestic style has made it a literary classic, with many of its phrases and expressions embedded in our language. Earlier generations were 'brought up' with this translation and learnt many of its verses by heart.

## New Revised Standard Version

The New Revised Standard Version is a thorough revision of the original RSV by an ecumenical team of scholars. It is growing in popularity, particularly in churches, schools and academia. The translators made full use of contemporary biblical manuscripts, resulting in a clearer understanding of many obscure passages. It uses gender-inclusive language (making it clear where the original texts include both males and females).

## New Living Translation

The New Living Translation was translated from the ancient texts by 90 leading Bible scholars. It employs clear and natural English. It often makes implicit information explicit (e.g. 'disreputable sinners and corrupt tax collectors'.) The NLT's motto is 'the Truth made clear'.

## Good News Bible

Good News Bible can be traced to requests made by people in Africa and the Far East for a version of the Bible that was easier to read. The meaning of the Hebrew and Greek would be expressed in a translation "thought for thought" rather than "word for word".

that you find a version that you can read - a version that makes sense to you. As time passes, you may discover changing versions helpful.

Secondly, different translations were made at different times. The King James Version (Authorised Version, AV) was published in 1611. It was based on the Latin Vulgate Bible which itself was published in 1592. The current New International UK version has a copyright date of 2011. The 400 years in between has hosted the discovery of a wealth of old Biblical texts. Perhaps the most famous is the 'Dead Sea Scrolls'. These were discovered in 1947 and contained copies of texts from the Old Testament (OT) that were 1000 years older than any previously discovered. The only OT book that was not at least partially found, in these 12 caves, was the book of Ester. In places, these older texts do not contain passages that appear in more modern versions. This is equally true of a few passages in the New Testament. Perhaps the most striking of these is in the Gospel of Mark, the final chapter, 16. My Grandmothers King James version (AV), contains 20 verses. Remember this version was based on material available in 1611! The New International Version (NIV) of 1980, which I was presented with at my Confirmation in 1987, has a note that verse 9 to 20 do not appear in the older texts (discovered since 1611). There is a possibility that they were added a later date. The New Revised Standard Version (NRSV), which I bought when I started to train to be a Vicar in 1996, has two shorter endings. The NRSV contains a note: 'The most ancient authorities bring the book to a close at verse 8'.

Linked with this, one of our 'sharp-eyed' church members spotted several, what appear to be, missing verses in the NIV and NRVS. It is great to know that some of you are taking care to study the word of God so closely. If you look carefully, you will usually find them referred to in the foot notes at the bottom of the page. In the more modern translation, they have been left out because they do not appear in all the older texts. You might like to look some of them up? Mathew 17:21, Mathew 18:11, Mathew 23:14, Mark 7:16, Mark 9:44, Mark 9:46, Mark 11:26.

So why do we have so many translations? First, the context we use scripture in, is important. People need to be able to understand what is written. Secondly, discoveries are always happening, whilst the word of God never changes. Our interpretational skills, and therefore our translation, may change.

Geoff

### The special prayer (Collect) for Bible Sunday

Blessed Lord,  
who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning:  
help us so to hear them,  
to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them  
that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word,  
we may embrace and for ever hold fast  
the hope of everlasting life,  
which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen

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## DESIDERATA

Go placidly amid the noise and haste and remember what peace there may be in silence. As far as possible without surrender be on good terms with all persons. Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even the dull and ignorant; they too have their story. Avoid loud and aggressive persons, they are vexations to the spirit. If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain and bitter; for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself. Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans. Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time. Exercise caution in your business affairs; for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals; especially do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment it is perennial as the grass. Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth. Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness. Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself. You are a child of the universe, no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here. And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should. Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be, and whatever your labours and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life keep peace with your soul. With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be careful. Strive to be happy.

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## SUNDAY SERVICES (from 20 June)

**ST JAMES CHURCH, BEAUCHAMP LANE**

**ST FRANCIS CHURCH, HOLLOW WAY**

8.00am	St James
9.30am	St Francis
11.00am	St James

## MID-WEEK SERVICES & MEETINGS

Monday	10.00-11.30am	Little Stars Playgroup— St Francis
Tuesday	10.00am	Seashells Toddler Group— St James Church Centre
	12.30pm	Tuesday Lunch Club, St James Church Centre (numbers limited—booking essential. If interested con- tact Chris Woodman)

## HOME GROUPS

Home Groups have not yet started but the following is run on ZOOM.

Leader	Time/Venue
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

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

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

Contact details: Tel: 01865 747680

Email:

[office@cowleyteamministry.co.uk](mailto:office@cowleyteamministry.co.uk)

Out of hours tel: 01865 778596

Website:

[www.cowleyteamministry.co.uk](http://www.cowleyteamministry.co.uk)

### Team Rector:

The Revd Canon Dr Geoffrey Bayliss

Tel: 01865 747680 (o) 01865 778596  
(h)

Email:

[rector@cowleyteamministry.co.uk](mailto:rector@cowleyteamministry.co.uk)

### Self-supporting Minister

Revd Canon Mark Oxbrow

01865 461953

Email: [markoxbrow@aol.com](mailto:markoxbrow@aol.com)

### Churchwardens:

Christine Woodman      Tel:  
778078

Maureen Stone      Tel 747950

### 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

Articles to be emailed to:

[chronicle@cowleyteamministry.co.uk](mailto:chronicle@cowleyteamministry.co.uk)

Paper contributions to the Parish Office.