



You are invited to come and
join Messy Church

Armour of God

toys, crafts, story, songs, snacks & fun

all ages are welcome

St James Church Centre, Beauchamp Lane
OX4 3LF

Tuesday 22nd February
10.00am – 11.30am

for more details contact: Mary Bayliss 01865 778 596
m.bayliss41@btinternet.com
or the Cowley Parish Church Office 01865 747 680



You are invited to a

**Family Valentine's
puddings and**

QUIZ!

Saturday 12th February
3pm-5pm

St James Church Centre
Beauchamp Lane OX4 3LF

donations please!



Chronicle

February 2022

From the Editors

Sally Hemsworth and Nicki Stevens

We do hope you enjoy the February Chronicle. It has a lot of information on the events which have taken place and those that are planned. Details of coming events are given in The Chronicle and around the churches and church centre.

Snowdrop Saturday has been held on Saturday, 5 February 2022, before this Chronicle was issued – but hopefully you will have a chance to look at the snowdrops in St James' churchyard before they are over (even if tea and cakes will not be available in the church).

It is disappointing that the Parish Holiday is not going ahead in 2022 – but hopefully the idea of day trips will get a good response. Such a lot of work goes into the arrangements of this and, indeed, other events in the Parish.

If you don't fancy a coach trip, why not join the Parish Walking party! The next walk on Monday, 7 February 2022 and is catering for those who like a long walk, a medium walk or a short walk – details are set out in the Link.

Les Hemsworth had an interesting experience when sorting out the old advertisements. He contacted Stevco with a copy of the advertisement and this led to a conversation with an elderly gentleman whose relatives originally owned the company (which started up in the late 1800s). The gentleman had not seen the 1933 advertisement before and was even unaware that the company was involved in coaching and travel! He plans to frame the copy for future generations to see.

We welcome articles, ideas, recipes – we would love to hear from you as a variety of articles make a more interesting read.

Nicki and Sally

GARDENING PARTY



HELP REQUIRED – COME AND BOOST THE NUMBERS
LOOKING AFTER THE AREA AROUND ST JAMES CHURCH
AND ST JAMES CHURCH CENTRE.

LAST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH (EXCEPT DECEMBER) –
9.30 AM ONWARDS AT ST. JAMES CHURCH CENTRE.

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

A word from the Rectory

The return from exile

Candlemas has come and gone. It represents a turning point of the Church year. Our eyes leave behind the seasonal celebration of Emmanuel, God with us. They turn to look towards the cross, and the power of resurrection. And don't we need it in these challenging times? In many ways we are all praying for a return to life as it was before COVID arrived.

As a young man in the late 1970's I have fond memories of discos, dancing and bands such as Boney M, singing classics like 'By the rivers of Babylon'. That song tells the story of a people longing to return to a land they once knew. Longing to return to a way of life they once had. At this moment so many of us are not in the World as we knew it. We long for return.

The Israelites had been taken captive and led away from the life they knew. Living in a world that was, simply, different!

Where was encouragement? For the people of Israel there were prophets. They brought encouragement, and promise of return.



"Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed",
Isaiah 40

In the time of Nehemiah, God called them home to rebuild. To again be the 'gathered people of God'. Gathered in the place where he was worshipped.

Such words of comfort are also for us today. Our God, in Christ, is the great healer and restorer. As we move into spring, the challenges of COVID remain but are at a lesser level. As a society we are learning to live with this 'beast'. as we live with other diseases, flu, cancer, winter vomiting virus, etc. Life goes on and we are called to continue to be the people of God. A people not in exile but gathered.

In the time of Nehemiah, the people of Israel set out from Babylon to Jerusalem with many unknowns. There will have been fears, but these were tempered by the knowledge of Emmanuel; God continued to be with them. As they arrived in Jerusalem there was massive rebuilding to do. And they recognised the hostile

environment around them.

Today, much of our anxiety arises from our knowledge that COVID is still about. Thankfully the wonders of the people of the NHS and vaccinations have reduced the risks.

Yes, occasionally we are going to find cases of COVID around us. Our challenge is no less than the Israelites faced. It is just different. Like them, we are called, again to be the gathered people of God.

In the 1st century the writer to the Hebrews penned these words:

“Don’t stop meeting together with other believers, which some people have gotten into the habit of doing. Instead, encourage each other, especially as you see the day drawing near.”

Hebrews 10:25

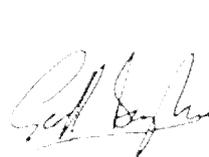
Such words are written as much for us today as for the persecuted Christians of the time.

Today we are called to do the same things we have always been called to do:

- * To gather in praise and worship, thanksgiving and intercession, study and fellowship.
- * To gather around The Lord’s table.
To break bread together.
- * To invite each other into our homes and offer hospitality.
- * To encourage each other, and challenge each other, to live lives that are worthy of Christ.
- * To be kingdom builder in every corner of our lives.

Perhaps more than any year, as we head towards the great resurrection celebration of Easter, we need to ask what we can do to bring restoration to our own lives, to the Church we love, and those we love.

May God bless you all.



Benson Cottage

Link to online giving!



We have put a new button on our web site! Our supporters can now make one off payment online. It will take you to the ‘give a little’ web site where you can decide how much you would like to give. You can also scan this image and go straight there!



<https://givealittle.co/campaigns/49eef694-09d1-4ee3-8810-6ac86d972e6c>

CHILDREN'S CORNER

I am sure that you find grown-ups talk in riddles sometimes and it is difficult to understand exactly what they mean. They might say that you are as 'strong as an ox' meaning you are *very* strong or 'there may be light at the end of the tunnel'. What tunnel? Really, they mean that although the job you are doing may seem endless, there will be an end and that it will be clear when that happens. We have been having some of those difficult times recently and I hope that this New Year will help you to do more of the things you like together.

Similarly, when a difficult task has to be completed they talk about a 'good solid foundation' that is 'rock solid'. What on earth are they talking about? We all know that rocks are solid but how can they be related to ideas? What is all this talk about 'a good foundation'. Long word for me.....and you. Get the dictionary out !.....Now we know !

In the Bible we learn that it is not a good idea to build a house upon sand because it can be washed away, and that when one is built upon a rock it will stay for a longer time despite bad weather. Yes, our lives are like that and sometimes we have to consider building real things in the same way because some jobs in life are not always easy or built on something solid. How can we do it, because many people have met these challenges and overcome them? We can learn from the past. That is why we study history. It can guide us now and in the future. Let me tell you some true stories.

When they were building the Highland railway in Scotland they had to cross a very exposed bleak moor that had a poor soil, that

was soggy and like a marsh with only a few low bushes. It was also very cold in winter with strong winds and few trees, but they needed to cross this marshland to avoid the hills and mountains. They overcame the soggy land by collecting the bushes and scrub to make a deep mat that was laid on the marsh to build up the land and allow the railway line to be above the marsh. A similar method was used at Spurn Point on the sand bar at the entrance to the River Humber from the North Sea. A light-house needed to be built to allow the many fishing ships to return home safely past sandbanks to the port of Hull. The foundations were finally made from bales of wool that were lowered into a pit dug in the sand. Over time the sand worked its way into the bales making a very stronger foundation. Although the light-house was not built on a rock but sand, locked into bales of wool, it still stands over a hundred years later. Other lighthouses were built on rocks, simply because that was their purpose. To warn ships of the rocky coastline, but it was not easy and they found that the bricks for the tower needed to lock together like a jig-saw so that the tower would not fall down in the storms. All simple solutions to difficult problems. And we can learn from them.

We are like those railways and lighthouses. We all need to have a firm safe foundation. Yes, we also have a purpose for being here, there and everywhere and to link together to provide help for others. We must also try to start from a 'rock solid' beginning and to become a shining light. Go with care in safety, and be a shining light wherever you go this year.

Uncle Ben

MOTHERS' UNION NEWS

The Cowley Mothers' Union is now no longer a branch but a Mother's Union Diocesan members' prayer group. Each member has volunteered to lead a monthly group choosing their own theme and prayers.



The January meeting was led by Patricia Michael who chose 'Thank You' as her theme. She began with the importance of those two small words in our everyday world, followed by examples of times when she has been moved or has appreciated sincere thanks.

She continued her theme with giving thanks to God for all the good things we can appreciate and then talked about the importance of teaching children to say - "Thank you". "'Thanks', or 'Ta' are not enough", she told the group.

Finally in our strong MU tradition, we joined in a session of prayer, giving our thanks to God for our homes and much-loved families.

Then, as ever, the group enjoyed social chat over a cuppa and biscuits. It was also decided at the meeting that our annual puddings and quiz will be on 12th February (a Saturday afternoon) at the Church Centre from 3 – 5 pm.

Rosanne Butler

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.

RECIPES

Chicken & bacon pasta (for two)

Toss chicken and bacon with ribbons of tagliatelle in a deliciously creamy sauce to make this easy pasta dish. Serve with a green salad for an easy supper.



Ingredients

- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1 tbsp butter
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 1 large garlic clove, finely grated
- 200ml double cream
- 100g mascarpone
- 75g parmesan, finely grated
- 1 chicken stock cube
- 2 cooked chicken breasts (about 210g), shredded
- 8 rashers cooked streaky bacon (about 25g), roughly chopped
- 300g tagliatelle
- ¼ small bunch of parsley, finely chopped
- green salad, to serve

Method

STEP 1

Heat the oil and butter in a medium [saucepan](#) over a low heat and fry the onion for 10 mins, or until softened and translucent. Add the garlic and cook for 2 mins more. Add the cream, mascarpone, parmesan and stock cube. Give it a stir and add the cooked chicken and bacon to heat through.

STEP 2

Meanwhile, cook the pasta following pack instructions. Reserve 100ml of the pasta water. Toss the pasta in the creamy sauce and enough of the reserved water to loosen. Season with black pepper. Top with the parsley and serve with a green salad.

Shaun Guard
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Prayer Space

God of our daily lives,
we pray for the people of the cities
of this world working and without work;
homeless or well housed;
fulfilled or frustrated;
confused and cluttered with material
goods
or scraping a living from others leavings;
angrily scrawling on walls,
or reading the writing on the wall;
lonely or living in community;
finding their own space
and respecting the space of others.
We pray for our sisters and brothers,
Mourning and celebrating –
May we share in their sufferings and
hope.

Jan Pickard

Living God,
for your greatness beyond imagining,
your grace beyond deserving,
your goodness beyond measuring,
and your love beyond comparing,
I give you my praise in awe and wonder.

Amen.

Gracious God,
help me to hear again your still small voice,
your word even in the silence, and to
recognise that,
though sometimes I may not see it,
you are always there and always active,
through Jesus Christ my Lord.

Amen.

Taken from Nick Fawcett
Prayerfully Yours

WISE WORDS

- * God gave us memories so that we might have roses in December.
- * *Every person's memory is their private literature.
- * *Setting a good example for children takes all the fun out of middle age.
- * *If you want to find your lost youth, cut off his allowance.
- * *Eyes that see, do not grow old.
- * *Middle age is when you're sitting at home on a Saturday night when the telephone rings and you hope it isn't for you.
- * *An archaeologist is the best husband any woman can have, for the older she gets, the more he's interested in her.

Agatha Christie (whose husband was an archaeologist)

COWLEY FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS TREES 2021

Shine a light

We definitely did shine lights on Cowley and on the world!

There were 57 trees and 745 stars, counted for us by Sally Hemsworth. We all had favourites – mine were St Christopher's School with very clever folded paper candles, red berry lights and star biscuits, two of which may have provided a treat for a visiting dog; Flo's Nature Creators pallet tree and mini forest on the font; and the reused bottle lids tree from Mae, a pupil at St Francis School.



Visitors loved it all – the trees, the welcome and our hospitality - but numbers were down, with schools beset by COVID so not bringing groups for prayer spaces or services. Our two concerts were both cancelled at the last minute, with Rising Voices choir and Jubilee Brass band members both understandably reluctant possibly to mar their own family Christmas through infection.

The opening reception this year was a reality event, albeit without live music. It was a chance for those who had created the trees to meet each other and be the first to admire the festival, with mulled drinks and nibbles – very civilised.

Although the two concerts were cancelled, 15 of us, including the Rector, enjoyed a harmony singing workshop with Emily Marshall on the Wednesday evening – with very satisfactory results.

That and the torchlit churchyard carol service on Sunday 19 December, attended by over 120 people, many of whom visited the trees afterwards, and accompanied by the Salvation Army band were the festival highlights.

An additional feature this year was the distribution on gates, fences and bushes around the area of 50 knitted and crocheted 'stars on the street', attached to one of our invitation cards. Thanks to Jill Ling for that idea.

We are delighted to report that, following some very generous donations, we raised £2,500 to share between ROSY and SeeSaw.

Thank you again to all who decorated a tree, stewarded, visited, donated.

The 2022 festival will be held over the equivalent period with an as yet to be decided theme. The first planning meeting will be on Thursday 5 May, 9.00am. You could get involved!

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

A WARTIME CHILDHOOD

(Part 16)

I expect there are meteorological records which will tell us how cold the winters were during the years of the Second World War. However, in my recollection they were very, very cold. It was so cold, in fact, that the duckpond in Farmer Smith's farmyard would regularly freeze into solid ice and we children would slide across it with great glee. The older boys in their hobnailed boots would start, and with a good run at it would slide right across. We younger ones would only get halfway unless a bigger child told us to squat down and reach out our arms, and with a friend at either side we would be pulled across.

That slide shone like glass and to his great credit, the farmer never complained about most of the village children having the time of their lives on the pond.

We would also make a slide in the school playground, so on frosty days playtime was great fun. Sometimes the trees were covered with hoar frost and became magical. On a bright morning set against a clear blue sky, they enchanted me. Not so enchanting though was waking up on a bitter cold day to find that Jack Frost had, overnight, painted patterns all over the inside of our bedroom window. The bedroom in our cottage was too cold to get dressed in, so I would get my clothes in a bundle and rush downstairs to sit on the peg-rug in front of the kitchen range to dress ready for school. My parents had banked up the fire overnight, so with a bit of

kindling wood they were able to get the fire going well enough to heat a kettle of water. Of course, first they had to break the ice on top of the bucket to fill the kettle!

A warm breakfast (usually porridge) was essential. Then, wrapped up warm and with a spoonful of cod liver oil and malt, I'd be packed off to school where the fires would be burning away in the two grates, our one-third-of-a-pint bottles of milk set inside the fireguards to warm up ready for playtime.

Every winter there was snow, so snowball fights in the playground were much enjoyed, although a handful of snow in the face wasn't so good! Soggy gloves were hung in pairs along the fireguards in our classrooms to dry out ready for home-time when snowballing started all over again.

My dad made me a sledge. Although our village didn't have much in the way of hills for tobogganing, he and I used to take the sledge out around the hedgerows. I sat on whilst he pulled and we would hunt for rotten branches to take home for that essential kindling wood for the fire.

Our toilet was situated in a little house at the bottom of the garden, so to get there on a snowy night often with snowdrifts took some courage and you really had to want to 'go'!

Another memory of those very cold nights was the 'brick-in-the-bed'. Our range had an oven to one side of the fire (which was wonderful for casseroles or rice puddings) and on one of

the shelves my mum would place a couple of bricks. They would get very warm by bedtime, and wrapped in old towels, could be placed between the sheets at the foot of the bed to make a lovely warm place to rest your feet. Hot water bottles, made of rubber, were like gold-dust during the war.

That brings me on to another recollection which many people find it hard to believe. It involves my new wellington boots. You see, we lived up a very muddy lane and on those winter days when the mud was frozen hard, a pair of wellies were essential. However, as a growing child I out-grew my first pair and needed new ones for which you needed a permit (as they were made from rubber). My mum had to go to Witney Council offices to access this permit and she was cross-questioned on why she needed one. "Does she not have wellingtons?" she was asked. "Why can't she wear what she has?" My poor mum almost had to go down on bended knees and explain that the little girl had outgrown

them and desperately needed a larger size. I did get my new wellies in the end. Rubber was a most prized material during the war, in the making of tyres for lorries and aeroplanes. It was also used for waterproofing capes as part of soldier's uniforms – and much more.

As a little girl I was entranced by the wild creatures which lived close-by, so tracks in the snow became a great joy. The tracks of a bunny rabbit were easily identified but I also learnt to distinguish between the footprints of different birds. There were those that walked like crows and magpies and those that hopped, like blackbirds, thrushes and robins. The other things which enchanted me were the big spider's webs which festooned the bushes. On foggy days they were encrusted with droplets of water and shimmered, just like diamonds.

As you see, I was a real country girl and even winter had its magic.

Rosanne Butler

ELECTORAL ROLL – checking and update 2022

This is well ahead of deadlines but is a 'heads up' that the Parish Electoral Roll – the official 'membership list' for our churches - will be reviewed and updated in time for the APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting) later in the spring. Membership allows you to stand for election to one of the Church committees and the PCC.

At this time, we remove any members who have sadly died during the year, moved away or with whom we are no longer in contact. We are happy to add new parishioners who wish to register their commitment to the life of the Parish. It may be that you are newly arrived with us or it's one of those things you haven't got round to. There's a simple form to complete – it will be available in both churches.

FLO'S – THE PLACE IN THE PARK

Rymers Lane, OX4 3JZ

KINDRED COLLECTIVE: INTERGENERATIONAL CARERS GROUP

Welcoming grandparents, foster carers, extended family members and all who have regular caring responsibility for a young child; come with or without your little one to meet neighbours in this relaxed setting.

We often explore nature together in the NaturEscape garden and always have good coffee! Drop in and make friends. Runs weekly, Fridays from 10:30am to 12:00pm.

Book here: <https://www.happity.co.uk/schedules/flo-s-the-place-in-the-park-people-place-and-participation-ltd-oxford-flo-s-the-place-in-the-park-grandparent-s-group>

With thanks to The Nature Effect CIC for partnering with us, and the National Lottery Community Fund for their generosity.

KINDRED COLLECTIVE JOINS THE INTERGENERATIONAL HOPE EXPLORERS GROUP

On the first Friday of each month, Oxford University Museum of Natural History in collaboration with Flo's - the place in the park.

The explorers in the group, both young and old, work together to discover British insects in the garden and park and learn about protecting their habitats

*email Hayleigh to find out more : hayleigh.jutson@glam.ox.ac.uk <https://oumnh.ox.ac.uk/event/grandparent-and-mature-carer-group>
<https://oumnh.ox.ac.uk/events>*



PERSONALLY SPEAKING

CONGRATULATIONS to Betty Mitchell who celebrated her four score years plus ten birthday on 4 February 2022

A Winter's Tale

I received the present of a rain gauge at Christmas 2020 and I have been recording the rainfall on our patch ever since on a daily basis. I now have the full set of figures for 2021 and I have totalled them for each month.

At the time of writing, the monthly totals recorded at the Radcliffe Infirmary site by the University Geography department, are not available for 2021 but they have them for every year since 1767, a feat more or less unique across the globe.

My Cowley readings for 2021 showed that the wettest month was May – and it did rain a little on our Plant Sale on 22nd of that month. The total of 93.3 mm was closely followed by October with 93.1. We had the least rain in November and March. The 2020 figures for Oxford showed a very wet October and the least rain in May. So, a bit different as you would expect with our island's very changeable weather patterns.

I have fired up the propagator and have sown chilli seeds! They always need a long period to get going. My Other Half had ordered five varieties different from those that we have grown before. One is called Bangalore Torpedo and another Rocoto Turbo. It will be interesting to see how they all turn out and, of course, will be on sale at the Plant Sale on Saturday May 21st in the grounds of St James'

Church Centre.

In various places around the garden I have plants from seeds sown last summer and autumn and of pieces of perennials that were potted up from split clumps in the autumn. There is still time in the spring to add to these. I hope some of you will be doing the same to add to our range of plants to sell on the day.

Everything has come to a full stop on the allotment because of the hard frosts we have been having. Not a good idea to try to turn soil over or to trample over it. We are still in two minds about giving up the tenancy but we have this year to look forward to, as we have all the seeds waiting ready to go.

Meanwhile the birds are enjoying the seed feeders outside our living room window. My Other Half continues to regularly warden at RSPB Otmoor and has occasionally gone to twitch a rarity. During this cold weather he is also often watching live web cams of bird feeders across the globe on You Tube.

Interesting to see toucans in the rain forest of Costa Rica to bald eagles in California to colourful grosbeaks on snowy bird tables in Canada. Have a look!

Joan Coleman

JOHN SHREEVE'S ARTICLES FROM THE PAST

CANDLEMAS – A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS FEBRUARY 2009

It is difficult for us to imagine a world where light was not to be had at the touch of a button, or the flicking of a switch. Yet that was the situation without gas or electricity. It was a rural world without heavy industry – a world where survival depended on growing (or catching) your own food. A world without refrigeration or preservatives, no superstores to help you through the lean times.

In the long winter days after Christmas and Epiphany, times could become bleak as resources dwindled. I came across a book of country sayings and practices recently and one of them was, "Sow broad beans on Boxing Day." People couldn't wait to start the growing season again. Ploughing and sowing began early so that more food would be available as soon as possible. It was into such a world that the church introduced the feast of Candlemas, to lighten people's spirits and remind us that Christ came as a light to the dark world and is the source of all growth and regeneration.

We may not rely on candlelight as they did, but we can still benefit from the wonderful service to help us look away from dark and wintry days and even darker news.

John Shreeve

PARISH HOLIDAY - planned for April 2022

We regret that we have heard from our tour organiser and coach driver, that we have lost the hotel rooms being held for us. The hotel was pushing very hard to get some movement and was requiring immediate deposits which we could not supply.

Pat would like to thank all those who supported her with this endeavour and regrets the disappointment after several postponements over the last year.

However Gordon has made the suggestion that a day trip might be more suitable as we may feel more comfortable with that, later in the year. Weymouth is still proposed as it is mostly flat and a sea front drop off is possible. Possible dates and costs will follow: watch out here and in Link.

Pat Chambers

We would like to register our grateful thanks to Pat and Brian for their efforts in organising this holiday – and do hope we can eventually be beside the seaside

UNA'S CORNER

I can no longer get to church due to blindness and physical disability, but Geoff is good and makes sure that I get a memory stick of a service each week, for which I'm very grateful.

I was interested to hear Alison Lockhart in her sermon refer to the painting by Holman Hunt which hangs in the Chapel at Keble College, right here in Oxford. This picture entitled 'The Light of the World' shows Christ, a lantern in one hand, knocking on a wooden door in a solid wall. The door is overgrown with weeds and ivy and has no handle on the outside. "*Behold, I stand at the door and knock*".

Holman Hunt painted a larger replica of his own picture when he was about 70 years old and that copy hangs in Saint Paul's Cathedral, London. I think it is in the crypt.

About 50 or 60 years ago my husband and I took our two children to London for a week to see the sights. We stayed with a cousin my mother knew. When we came to the famous picture, I explained to the children that it was the artist's own copy of his picture which they had previously seen in Keble College, at home in Oxford.

There was a loud snort from behind us and a man said in a loud whisper that the woman in front must be quite wrong if she thought *London* would have a *copy* of a famous painting and *Oxford* have the original!

We moved away and then a voice was heard saying to someone "The lady is right".

"Well, I'll be" the man replied. He then went on to say that Oxford *might* be important, but the original picture *should* be in London – the Capital City.

The above is the absolute truth!

UNA



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REAL EASTER EGGS - the egg that shares the Easter story - on order from the Parish

The theme for the eggs this year is 'let's celebrate'. "The Easter story shows us how the resurrection of Jesus replaced sorrow with joy, despair with hope and death with new life. So let's celebrate and share the Easter story like never before!"

Of the 80 million eggs on sale each year, this from the Meaningful Chocolate Company is the only one to tell the story of Easter.

Twelve years on from the launch in 2010, well over a million eggs have been sold. £320,000 has been donated to charitable causes, development and education projects, with the Fair-trade Premium paid to supplying farmers, allowing them to buy everything from school books and solar panels to providing fresh water.

For Easter 2022, there are again seven types of Real Easter Eggs available, all with new content. Each egg has an edition of the Easter story included. The Original, Dark, Special Edition and our White 2022 eggs are palm oil and plastic free. There are also bars of chocolate with an 'Easter blessings' wrapper – milk and dark.

Milk chocolate original egg:	£4.50
Fun pack (6 midi eggs in an egg box):	£5.00
White chocolate egg:	£5.00
Sharing pack (30 midi eggs):	£30.00
Dark chocolate egg:	£5.50
Easter mug with 3 midi eggs:	£10.80
Special edition:	£9.99
Easter blessings bar:	£ 3.00

All Real Easter Eggs come with an Easter story in the box. The stories range from a simple guide to a beautiful 24-page activity book which includes a prize competition worth £200. The booklets provide an opportunity to share the joy of Easter with friends and family.

None of the supermarkets is stocking these special eggs this year so your only way of buying them is on-line from several charities, in fairtrade shops, or through our Parish of Cowley order.

See the flyer printed in this Chronicle; it will also be included with Links.

There will be an order form on the notice board in both churches and at St James Centre – or contact Lesley Williams direct – the order will be submitted on 1 March. Payment when you collect.

<https://meaningfulchocolate.co.uk/collections/real-easter-egg>

There is the additional opportunity to donate an egg/eggs to a food bank

01865 779 562 lesleyjwilliams@btinternet.com



THE EGG THAT SHARES THE EASTER STORY



Special Edition
(RRP £9.99)

White
(RRP £5.00)

Dark (RRP £5.50)



Fun Pack
(RRP £5.00)

Original
(RRP £4.50)

NOW PLASTIC FREE

Now 24 page Easter story-activity book

Our theme for this Easter is 'Let's Celebrate'. For many, this Easter will be a return to familiar Easter celebrations.

All Real Easter Eggs come with an Easter story in the box. The stories range from simple guides to 24 page activity book versions.

So, buy a Real Easter Egg this spring and encourage others to give one to their loved ones, a school or sponsor a food bank donation.

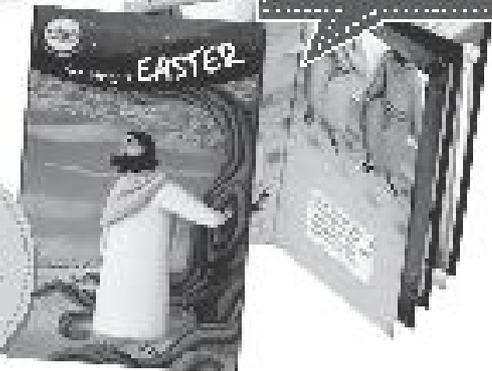
Where to buy

The full range can be ordered at www.realeasteregg.co.uk or by calling 01948 831043.

Supermarkets lose faith

The 2022 Real Easter Egg will not be available in any supermarket. If you are one of the 80,000 people who usually buy at the supermarket then you need to order direct. But be quick as there will not be enough eggs to go round this year.

PALM OIL FREE



Out of the 80 million Easter eggs sold in this part of the world every year, The Real Easter Egg is the only one which has a copy of the Easter story in the box, is made of Fairtrade chocolate and which supports charitable projects.

The Original, White and Dark eggs include a 24 page Easter story-activity book. They are Palm Oil and plastic free, and include a competition. The Dark also contains a simple Easter guide, designed for adults and 3 dark Mini Squares.

The Fun Pack has an Easter story activity poster and 6 milk chocolate eggs.

The Special Edition has a designer Easter card, a simple guide to Easter, an orange milk chocolate bar and a luxury milk chocolate egg.

See the full shop list or order at www.realeasteregg.co.uk

FEBRUARY 2022 EVENTS AT ST JAMES CHURCH CENTRE

Family Valentine's puddings and quiz afternoon

Saturday 12 February, 3.00-5.00 pm

Please, if possible, come with your favourite pudding to share – and a ready-made team or join a team when you arrive.

The 5 quiz rounds from Rosanne Butler, our quizmaster supreme will be : general knowledge, food and drink, nursery rhymes, parliament, famous couples.

There will also be toys for little people and some Valentine's crafts.

contact Mary Bayliss m.bayliss41@btinternet.com 01865 778 596

Messy Church – the Armour of God

Tuesday 22 February, 10.00-11.30 am

JANUARY EVENT REPORTS

CRUMPETS AND GAMES at St Francis on Saturday 15 January 2022

A small but quality group cheered a grey afternoon with much laughter, some cooperation but also a deal of competition. Multiple skills were practiced but actually it was mostly luck.

Top scorers but no prizes

- bagatelle - Dave Lord on board 1, Lesley Williams on board 2, Dave Lord overall
- table skittles – Mary Bayliss
- flowerpot marbles – Lesley Williams
- quoits – Shirley Costar

There was also table tennis, shove ha'penny, giant connect four, skittles

The crumpets were beautifully crispy, buttered and topped with jam or honey or marmite or goats cheese – or a mixture!

Thank you to the St Francis team for organising the afternoon! We'd love to do it again

BIG BRUNCH for Christian Aid at St James Centre on Sunday 9 January 2022

With the long gap between the 8.00 and 11.00 services, we offered the brunch this time in two 'sittings' at 9.15 and 10.00, which therefore allowed a fresh pot of porridge and of scrambled egg to be served!

But we'd really rather have everyone there at the same time.... so our next brunch will be on a Saturday – 14 May, 9.30 to celebrate Christian Aid Week.

Those who came to this first Christian Aid event of the year generously started our 2022 fund-raising with £140 – thank you!

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

We are currently holding Church Committees (St Francis Church Committee, 30 January 2022, and St James Church Committee, 8 February 2022) and these will be reporting back to the PCC on the 20 February 2022.

This is a very important and busy PCC meeting because it is one where we discuss very fully the accounts for 2021 in addition to other business. The agreed accounts are then sent for inspection, and the PCC will be meeting again on the 20 March 2022 to accept the inspected accounts.

It is also the time of year, when the PCC looks at our policies for Safeguarding, Health and Safety, Parish Mission Prayer and Giving Policy and Data Protection – the Cowley Parish Audit Data.

So a busy time at the moment for your representatives and more information on the meetings in the next Chronicle.

We have also fixed a date for the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting – Saturday, 14 May 2022, at 12 noon (after the Big Brunch), at St James Church Centre. It is an opportunity for you to have a brunch and then stay on for the special meeting of the Parish! We look forward to seeing you.

Sally Hemsworth
Secretary to the PCC

BIBLE SOCIETY 'MORE THAN A BOOK' REGISTRATION

If you order anything on-line or by phone from the Bible Society, please use the unique Parish reference number 12044 or select the 'Parish of Cowley' from the drop down menu when placing the order and we will benefit from the 'More than a book' cash back scheme. It's that easy! We earn a little from our 'Open the Book' resources especially for your Easter cards and gifts shopping orders but a top up from some personal shopping would be useful.

Do look at the on-line shop for Bibles, prayer books, cards, stickers, courses, fiction, DVDs etc.

<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/products/>



ADVERTS FROM OLD COWLEY CHRONICLES

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HANDS**

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THANKS

St James celebrated its 2021 Carol Service in the churchyard again this year. It was well attended by many new faces as well as our friends from our congregation and from St Frances. We sang many of our favourite carols and heard readings from Genesis, Isaiah, Luke and John. The evening was a little chilly and on entering Church we were warmed up with a delicious glass of mulled wine.

It was another opportunity to look at the Christmas trees and the evening was such a lovely occasion. Thank you to Lesley for giving us another brilliant Christmas Tree Festival and thank you to all who worked so hard to make it a very memorable time together.

Chris Woodman

SAFEGUARDING IN COWLEY PARISH

This piece is in the Chronicle every monthbecause it is so important and we must keep telling ourselves we will keep everyone safe in our churches and fellowship to ensure their wellbeing. But there is some new information each month so please read it right through!

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 (DBS) Disclosure and Barring Service criminal records checks where applicable. The Church of England has revised its requirements for DBS checks for all those working with children and young people, and in positions of leadership, from every 5 years to every 3 – so we have started the necessary programme of re-checks.

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. Please be sure to report any concern you have for yourself or on behalf of someone else to one of the clergy or to me.

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 also agree to do so.

Our re-training programme is at last about to get underway: the courses are always available to follow at home on-line, for those able to do that, but we will offer group training at St James Centre, for the Basic Awareness course: on Tuesday afternoons, 3.00-4.30 after lunch club and evenings, 7.00-8.30. Proposed dates are: Tuesday 22 February, Tuesday 1 March, Tuesday 8 March

When everyone has completed that, we will book a Foundation course, which requires a face-to-face Diocesan trainer – in April or May, probably on a Saturday morning.

Our new Parish safeguarding group with clergy, church wardens and leaders of all our Parish groups didn't happen in January... it's so difficult to find a date possible for all those people.

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.*

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

Film Club at the Centre

After an enforced break of almost two years, Film Club is up and running again. In January we saw that brilliant musical 'Fiddler on the Roof'. It was a slow start with few people in the audience, but we take the optimistic view that our membership will grow.

Perhaps we need to refresh our memories of how Film Club works. Because it is a private club, we are not allowed to advertise except through the parish magazine or weekly information sheet (The Link). Of course, word-of-mouth is also a great way to tell friends about it. We also are not allowed to charge an entrance fee, so in order to cover the cost of using our lovely Church Centre, we ask for a retiring donation of £3. This also covers the cost of refreshments and the purchase of DVDs. The other restriction is the need to limit the number of members who can register to 50, though each member can bring along a guest.

Whilst that all sounds very serious, I can promise you that our film nights are great fun and very friendly. We open at 6.30pm. on

the second Friday of each month and always plan to start showing the film at 7pm.

We welcome members and guests with a cup of coffee or tea with a slice of cake and, as there is always an interval in the show, there will be further refreshments on hand then.

A full and varied programme of films is planned for 2022 and is available for members on film nights. Some of these films are old favourites whilst others are new productions.

The planned showing for the February evening is 'The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society' - a cracking good story.

We have plenty of spaces left for new members who want to join, so we would be delighted to welcome anyone who enjoys a good film and a sociable evening. Just turn up on any second Friday evening, sign in and give us a try. I'm sure you would find our film club a worthwhile night out.

Rosanne Butler

CHRONICLE

Editorial Team- Sally Hemsworth, Nicki Stevens

Deadline for the next edition: Monday 21 February 2022

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.

OPEN THE BOOK telling scripted Bible stories in assemblies for our three Parish schools – an essential part of our mission to the children of Cowley

It's not too late into the new year to join the Open the Book team!

We have just enough storytellers for our three teams – but not if someone is away, ill or just not available....so more team members are still urgently needed in each school.

The commitment is for alternate weeks in each school but you can do as little or as much as you wish – two of us provide continuity by being in all three teams; the others are in just one.

- alternate Mondays at 8:45am – arriving at 8:20 am – St Christopher's School, Temple Road
- alternate Tuesdays 2:45 pm – arriving at 2:15 pm – Church Cowley St James School, Bartholomew Road
- alternate Thursdays 10:30 am– arriving at 10:00 am– St Francis School, Horspath Road

to learn more about what's involved, talk to Geoff – Lesley Williams – Joan Coleman – Jill Ling



Do you shop on-line with Amazon? If you do you may be able to help us raise a bit of money towards the toilet in St James Church.

Smile.amazon.co.uk is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on Smile.amazon.co.uk, the Smile.amazon.co.uk Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice.

We are listed as the charity: The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Cowley, Oxford

or you can search by our charity number: 1153602



FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

Monday 21 February to Sunday 6 March

For two weeks each year at the end of February and start of March, thousands of individuals, companies and groups across the UK come together to share the stories of the people who grow our food and drinks, mine our gold and who grow the cotton in our clothes, people who are often exploited and underpaid.



In 2022, our on-line Choose the World you Want Festival will return from 21 February to 6 March. Last year's festival saw campaigners, shoppers, students and businesses come together in a show of support for the farmers behind our food on the front line of the climate crisis. From on-line panels to bake-offs and coffee mornings over 50 virtual events took place as part of our virtual festival, with supporters sharing the power of Fairtrade and what needs to happen next to ensure farmers and workers are put front and centre of conversations on how to tackle the climate crisis. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us more than ever how interconnected we are globally. This interconnection is at the very heart of the Fairtrade message and is where your role begins. You are part of the Fairtrade movement, and you have the power to drive long-term change, not only with your shopping choices but with your support in spreading the message.

Since last Fairtrade Fortnight we have seen the G7 and COP26 take place. Over 33,000 campaigners joined 1.8m Fairtrade farmers and workers in backing the Be Fair With Your Climate Promise challenge to world leaders at the UN COP26 summit.

But frustration came as the wealthiest nations failed to recognise the urgent need to invest in farmer expertise by delaying their promised \$100bn annual funding to the most climate vulnerable countries until 2023. That isn't good enough.

"A frustrating conclusion to a summit filled with hope." This was the verdict of Mary Kinyua, Fairtrade's lead COP26 delegate, and a Fairtrade flower farmer representative.

Climate justice was never going to be won or lost at one conference in Glasgow. But where the COP26 agreement fell short, we need to increase the pressure for urgent action.

CHOOSE THE WORLD YOU WANT THIS FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

We need to be louder than ever to make sure politicians turn their promises into action at COP27 in Cairo next year. The failure to deliver enough progress at COP26 makes it even more important that governments get serious next year. We also need businesses to support Fairtrade more than ever.

In Fortnight 2021 we heard about the determined, ambitious work of Fairtrade farmers taking on the climate crisis. The deep frustration is that politicians from the world's wealthiest na-

tions at COP26 failed to match that ambition and determination.

As Fairtrade farmers continue their work, we need our politicians and business leaders to work harder.

COP26 may be over, but we need to make sure climate justice remains a top priority. For politicians, for business leaders, and for all of us.

HOW DOES FAIRTRADE SUPPORT FARMERS IN THE CLIMATE CRISIS?

Fairtrade is about social, economic and environmental justice. These are built into the Fairtrade Foundation standards and drive everything they do. A root cause of the inability to adapt to and mitigate climate change is poverty. More money in the hands of farmers is needed if they are to adapt and survive the climate crisis. Choosing Fairtrade fights for improvements in producers' livelihoods with collective strength through co-ops and their bargaining power, the protection of a Minimum Price and Fairtrade Premiums.

In 2019, Fairtrade also launched an ambitious new living incomes campaign to lead the way to a sustainable future for cocoa farmers. A living income would provide farmers with a decent standard of living – enough to cover all their cocoa farming costs and enough to cover their basic human rights, like a nutritious diet, children's education and healthcare. Only when they have met these basic needs can they start to meet the challenges of our changing climate.

<https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/get-involved/current-campaigns/fairtrade-fortnight/>

<https://traidcraftexchange.org/programmes>

In Cowley Parish, there will be a small pop up fairtrade shop in both churches, a quiz sheet to buy (£1) and a 'find the queen bee' game to play (£1) - both with prizes!



Coffee before/after church on Sunday 27 February will be a 'Big Brew' – with cake!

From the Archives

December 1954

A NOVICE GOES BELLRINGING

By B. J. Jackson)

It surprised me, first, that it was possible to invade a belfry at all. Bell ringers always seemed to be a race apart, living like the bells themselves, somewhat above the heads of the ordinary run of humanity. If a friend had not consented to act as a chaperone, I doubt whether I would ever have been bold enough to venture up the winding stair. But this timidity was unnecessary. Bell ringers are friendly people and, as long as one keeps quiet during ringing (very important this) and not always easy when one is bursting with questions, one is made welcome and can sit, listen and watch what is going on.

Not that I knew what to watch or how to listen. I saw a small company of people of widely differing ages and sizes, apparently just pulling ropes which came out of holes in the ceiling. This to the accompaniment every so often, of strange cries of "Bob!" I knew just enough not to ask who Bob was. The rest was mystery profound.

But what *music!* I don't remember what they rang. I had only just learnt that ringing follows a definite pattern with more than one pattern being possible. Merely listening to the bells at such close quarters was a new and exciting experience.

Bells in the distance have always sounded melancholy to me: I was not prepared for the clamorous joy of their ringing, when heard from so near. They danced and sang; I could feel the tower shake with their movement, and it was hard to realise that all this happy tumult depended on the small circle of ringers, standing sober and shirt-sleeved in the belfry with me.

I remember it was a dark and rather cold, starry night. In the intervals of ringing, we could hear the organist practising Bach and Handel in the dim church below us. I ended the evening in a whirl of bells and organ, church tower and stars and determined that, if ever there was an opportunity for me to learn and take an active part in it all, I would try.

The opportunity arrived in due course, and I had my first lesson. One learns on a 'dumb' bell with the clapper fixed so that the ringing cannot be heard – for obvious reasons; and at once it becomes evident that the rope which others control with such ease is by no means as manageable as it looks.

One begins by learning to hold and pull the rope end, while the instructor pulls alternate strokes on the sally (that tuft of material on the rope that I always called a 'bell-pull' till I learned better).

Later, the learner is promoted to the sally stroke, while the instructor manages the rope end. There is no music, but one can feel the weight and swing of the bell, turning on its wheel almost a full circle at every stroke. One realises why bells are called 'she'. Like ships, they seem to have a life and personality of their own, and one must learn, gradually, to control that exu-

berant swinging which unless checked, brings the bell jarring against her supporting stay with an ominous thud! One pleasure of bell ringing in its early stages is that of hearing and feeling the thuds diminish; but it may take quite a few lessons before even alternative strokes can be pulled with any degree of competence. One's respect grows for the ringers who take all this in their stride and who have control at their fingertips, with energy and concentration to spare for the mysteries of change - ringing besides.

Then comes the day when both strokes are to be pulled by the learner. So far, the bell has really been managed by the instructor, though one has had to learn first to catch the sally, preferably in the right place without looking up to see when it is coming. This is rather like catching a cricket ball without being able to watch the stroke which sends it in the fielder's direction – and next, to let it go at the end of the pull to avoid travelling with it up to the roof – an experiment better not made, (though presumably one would come down with it again?) – no real problems have arisen, for mistakes have been automatically corrected on alternate strokes. But pulling both strokes is a different matter! Released from the guiding hand of the expert, the rope suddenly becomes alive, twisting and coiling like a snake in all directions. One forgets all that one has learnt and there's a moment of blind panic or helpless laughter, perhaps both, according to one's temperament. But the instructor puts out a steadying hand and the rope seems to get shorter and straighter again. The wildly bucketing bell becomes more docile and, almost imperceptibly, one slips into the rhythm, realising later, with a stab of surprise that one has *actually* been ringing a bell, though a dumb one, by oneself.

Perhaps this last statement is not quite accurate. My bell rang me instead of me ringing her, for many more lessons. *She* dictated the moment at which I should pull, and obediently I pulled. Only practice will enable the learner to reverse the roles and give the orders instead of taking them.

The best moment of all is still to come – that of hearing one's bell speak for the first time, when a learner is promoted from a 'dumb' to an 'open' bell, taking a turn at ringing rounds, joining with the other bells in ringing down the scale. It sounds simple but again it is a case of making a new beginning. So far, one has been a soloist, making one's own time and inaudibly at that. Now one must follow the lead given by others, taking the time from them, when all that one does can not only be seen but *heard*, both in the belfry and outside it. I tremble to think what my first rounds sounded like. Everything happened so much faster than I expected. I kept getting left behind except when, in an excess of zeal, I rang too soon. I wanted to stop and listen to my bell – but there was no time. The other ringers swept on, and I was carried headlong with them, wondering how long I would be able to keep it up. I was almost breathless with excitement and exertion, too busy to feel anything, but wildly happy that at last I was part of the music which I had heard and wanted to join, for so long.

Researched by Les Hemsworth

SUNDAY SERVICES

ST JAMES CHURCH, BEAUCHAMP LANE

ST FRANCIS CHURCH, HOLLOW WAY

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

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

Out of hours tel: 01865 778596

Website: www.cowleyteamministry.co.uk

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)

Team Rector:

The Revd Canon Dr Geoffrey Bayliss

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

Email: rector@cowleyteamministry.co.uk

Self-supporting Ministers

Revd Canon Mark Oxbrow

01865 461953

Email: markoxbrow@aol.com

Revd Max Diaz Butron

mazdiazbutron@icloud.com

Churchwardens:

Christine Woodman Tel: 778078

Maureen Stone Tel 747950

St James Church Centre Manager:

Chris Woodman Tel: 778078

HOME GROUPS

Leader	Time/Venue
Friends of St Francis	2nd & 4th Tuesday afternoons at 2.30pm at St Francis Church
Mark Oxbrow	Alternate Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm, Mark's home, 13 Annesley Road (just behind the Rose Hill Coop). Enquiries to Mark at 01865 461953

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

Paper contributions to the Parish Office.

