

**COME AND JOIN OUR
CELEBRATION**

EASTER DAY Sunday 21st April

10:00 am St James

10:30 am St Francis

**He is
Risen**



www.cowleyteamministry.co.uk



Serving God,
Cowley and Headington

From the Editors

Sally Hemsworth and Nicki Stevens

It is difficult to believe that the first quarter of the year has gone and spring is here. It is so lovely to see the trees and hedges starting to produce leaves, and the blossom in the hedgerows is a treat. The magnolias have been lovely everywhere (especially the tree in the churchyard at St James Church). On a few days it is as if summer has arrived, but we are soon brought down to earth with a cold spell!

The following are given on the internet as favourite sayings about spring:

"I glanced out the window at the signs of spring. The sky was almost blue, the trees were almost budding, the sun was almost bright."

— *Millard Kaufman*

"Blossom by blossom the spring begins."

— *Algernon Charles Swinburne*

"Spring is nature's way of saying, 'Let's Party!'"

— *Robin Williams*

Do you have favourite quotes for this time of year?

If your thoughts have turned to holidays please note that Pat Chambers is still looking for people to join the holiday – do have a word with her if you would like more information.

We hope you enjoy the April edition of the Cowley Chronicle – possibly some cartoons and jokes would be a good thing, as many of the articles are very serious. Do you have any which we can print? Favourite recipes would be good as well. Let us have your views on what you would like to see in the Chronicle.

We are really grateful for all those who have contributed this month. We are always pleased to receive articles and comments. We are sure that Uncle Ben would love to hear from you.

Nicki and Sally

CHRONICLE

Editorial Team- Sally Hemsworth, Nicki Stevens

Deadline for the next edition: Monday 22 April 2019

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.

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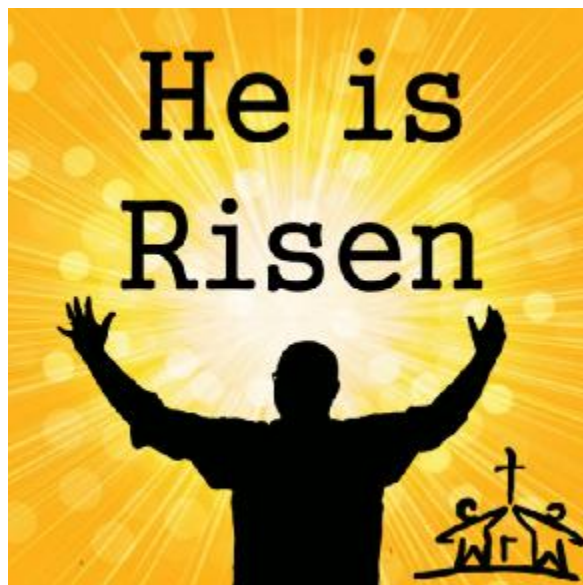
A word from the Rectory

“At the crack of dawn on Sunday, the women came to the tomb carrying the burial spices they had prepared. They found the entrance stone rolled back from the tomb, so they walked in. But once inside, they couldn't find the body of the Master Jesus.

They were puzzled, wondering what to make of this. Then, out of nowhere it seemed, two men, light cascading over them, stood there. The women were awestruck and bowed down in worship. The men said, “Why are you looking for the Living One in a cemetery? He is not here, but raised up.”

Luke 24 1-6a The Message

Some facts are so important they shape history. The events of that First Easter Sunday do exactly that. The uniqueness of Jesus is revealed. Death is defeated. Prophecy is completed. The heart of a desolate woman is transformed from grief to celebration and hope. The world has been turned upside down. We live in the shadow of those transformation events. We are a people of celebration and joy. Even in the darkest moments we discover that we are connected with and empowered by the one who death could not hold. When asked who we are, we can reply that we are the people of resurrection. But what do we mean by such words?



We believe that no situation is so lost that it cannot be turned around and returned to a place that is good. Yes, the journey can be very hard. It can be very long. But, with God, in Jesus, alongside us we have all the energy we need to achieve it. For Jesus is the resurrection and He promises his Spirit to help all those who turn to him. As Jesus walked the earth people flocked to hear him and be with him. As they did so they were drawn into his life changing way. If we wish to experience the resurrection that is the gift he brings then we need to draw near in the same way. He is risen, He is risen indeed Hallelujah!

Benson Cottage

Cowley Women's Institute

A group of us had a very interesting visit to St Mary's Church, High Street, Oxford early in March. As well as there being a fantastic information leaflet to guide us around the Church there was a wonderfully knowledgeable person on hand to field all the questions we had about the Church. We finished our morning in the atmospheric Vault café sampling their great drinks and of course a few cakes. Our next WI outing is to Yarnton Nurseries and shopping Village in early April.

At our Annual Meeting we reflected on the past year and voted in our President, Jenny Booth. We had an Energy Presentation from the Citizens Advice Oxfordshire. This turned out to be very educational. We picked up advice on how to save money and, some tips had the additional benefit of helping the planet.

Our new programme starts in April with our WI Birthday celebrations followed by an Easter inspired card making demonstration by one of our members.

Our WI meets monthly on the third Wednesday of each month. We meet from 2pm – 4:00pm in St James Church Centre. If any woman is interested in joining us, we would love to meet you, so please come to a meeting to find out more.

Sarah Lawrence, Secretary to Cowley WI

cowleywi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk

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 I be available. Both heavy and light work available plus coffee and cake.



Easter bonnet & crafts



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TEA PARTY

St Francis Church
Hollow Way, OX3 7JF

Saturday 13 April

3:30 – 5:00

bring your own hat or cap to
decorate or make one
while enjoying



tea – cakes
hot cross buns
an all age event

Messy Church

Come and join Messy Church
for fun activities to think about

Easter

toys crafts songs
baking story

All ages are welcome

at St James' Church Centre,
Beauchamp Lane, Cowley, OX4 3LF

Good Friday 19th April
10am – 11.30am

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

Moonrakers

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harp - cello - guitar - Irish bouzouk - vocals - percussion - whistles

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St James Church

Beauchamp Lane
Cowley OX4 3LF

Friday
26 April
7:30pm

TICKETS

in advance : adults - £10 students - £3 under 16s - £1
www.eventbrite.co.uk

on the door : adults - £12 students - £5 under 16s - £2

ENQUIRIES : Lesley 01865 779 562 or 07982 439 828

Mothers' Union News

I feel that I must begin our Mothers' Union news this month by speaking of members' sadness at the loss of a long-standing member and much loved friend, Marlene Shreeve. Marlene along with her devoted husband, John, was an enthusiastic member of Mothers' Union and branch meetings will not seem the same without her. She will be sadly missed.

Our March meeting was led by Revd. Gemma Beesley and took the shape of a contemplative afternoon for Lent. Gemma took "Creation" as her theme and we were challenged to look at the whole world in its beauty but also in its fragility and in its future. It was a very inspiring hour. We were also pleased to welcome Marion Webster, a member for many years back into our midst. She has been house-bound for some time but has been promised help and transport by Chris Woodman to re-join our branch. We were pleased, too, to welcome Alice Benskin and her two lovely daughters to our meeting.

On 25 March the new diocesan president Maureen Weston was installed into her post by the Bishop of Reading at Christ Church in Abingdon. Our Cowley branch was asked to

provide stewards for the occasion. This we did and were thanked and congratulated on our efforts. It was a splendid service with about two hundred members from all over the diocese attending.

Our April meeting on Monday, 15th will be popular as our speaker will be Mr Brian Lowe (who has spoken at former meetings) and his subject will be John Wesley in Oxford.

On Good Friday it is hoped that as many members as possible will attend the service of meditation in St James Church as Geoff has promised to incorporate into this the Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer. The script for this is to be found in the current edition of "Focus", our diocesan magazine. Please bring your "Focus" with you to the service on that day.

At our March meeting it was decided that we should once again, this year, support the scheme entitled "Make a Mothers' Day". It was agreed that we should send £46 to support Mothers' Union initiatives in Africa promoting help towards education for young people and numeracy and literacy skills for women in remote areas.

Rosanne Butler

Repair Cafe: Sat 6 April and 1 June

10 am - 12.30 pm

Rose Hill Community Centre

If you need to mend any electrical items, clothes or bikes, bring them along this Saturday! Our fixers will try to repair them for free and you can enjoy a cuppa and cake with your neighbours. Last items accepted at midday. There are simple activities for children - or they might like to learn how to repair things too.

Info: Cathy Gibb: gslowboat@aol.com



Deadline threatens mixed age couples' benefits

Legislation that will come into effect on 15 May 2019 could mean difficult choices for mixed-age couples deciding whether to live together or separately.

The law has changed so that, from that date, a "mixed age couple" (in which one partner is a pensioner and the other is under pension age) will be considered to be a "working age couple" for the purposes of means-tested benefits. This means that if they apply for benefits after that date, they will need to apply for Universal Credit instead of Pension Credit, leaving them much worse off financially. (The standard rate of Pension Credit guarantee is paid at a higher level than the standard rate of Universal Credit.)

From 15 May, both partners in a couple will need to have reached state pension age in order to claim Pension Credit or pension-age Housing Benefit.

Mixed-age couples will face a stark choice between living separately so that one of them can receive Pension Credit, or living together and claiming Universal Credit.

However, the new ruling only applies to NEW claims, so those already receiving pensioner benefits before 15 May will keep those benefits unless their circumstances change.

If you are in a mixed-age relationship and claiming or expecting to claim benefits, Citizens Advice is encouraging you to examine your financial situation before the crucial date of 15 May.

Please bear in mind that claims for Pension Credit can be backdated for up to three months. Therefore, on or before 13 August 2019, claimants can start to receive these benefits if they meet the entitlement conditions on 14 May.

Legislation is changing quickly at time of writing, so those affected are advised to keep up with the latest information by visiting <https://www.gov.uk>

For help and support on this issue or any other, contact Citizens Advice in person or on Adviceline (03 444 111 444). For locations of offices and opening hours see www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale.

Prayer Space

A prayer for Holy Week:

Make me cheerful under every cross,
for love of your Cross.

Take from me all that displeases you
or hinders your love in me
that I may deeply love you.

Melt me with your love, that I may be all love,
and with my whole being love you.

E B Pusey

And a traditional prayer for Easter:

Blessed be the God and Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ!

By his great mercy he has given us
new birth into a living hope, through
the resurrection of Jesus from the dead,
and into an inheritance which cannot

perish or be defiled, nor can it
Ever fade.

So let us rejoice!

PARISH MISSION AND SOCIAL PLANNER

| APRIL | MAY | JUNE |
|--|--|---|
| MON 1st 7:30 <i>M&S meeting</i> (88 Temple Road) | SAT 11th 10:00-12:00 <i>CAW coffee morning</i> (F outside) | SUN 2nd 4:00 <i>Thy Kingdom Come launch</i> (J) |
| SAT 13th 3:30-5:00 <i>Easter bonnet crafty tea party</i> (F) | SUN 12th – SAT 18th <i>Christian Aid Week – stall</i> (TS) | SAT 8th 10:00-3:00 <i>Thy Kingdom Come prayer booth</i> (TS) |
| THU 18th 7:00 <i>Maundy Thursday Fellowship supper + Holy Communion + prayer vigil</i> (J) | SUN 12th 8:45 <i>Big Brekkie</i> (CC) | SUN 9th 12:30 <i>Sunday lunch</i> (CC) |
| FRI 19th 10:00-11:30 <i>Good Friday Messy Church</i> (CC) | SAT 18th 10:00-1:00 <i>Plant sale</i> (CC) | SUN 16th 10:00 <i>Confirmation service</i> (J) bring & share lunch |
| FRI 26th 7:30 <i>Moonrakers concert</i> (J) | SUN 19th 12:30 <i>Sunday lunch</i> (CC) | SAT 22nd 2:00-4:00 <i>Beside the Seaside tea</i> (F) |
| | TUES 28th 10:00-11:30 <i>Messy Church - Thy kingdom come</i> (J) | SUN 23rd 2:00 <i>Gemma's ordination</i> (St Andrew's, Linton Road) |
| | | MON 24th 7:30 <i>M&S meeting</i> (88 Temple Road) |
| | | FRI 28th 7:00 <i>Quiz Aid - for Christian Aid</i> (CC) |
| | | SUN 30th 10:30 <i>Gemma Beesley's first communion + bring & share lunch</i> (F) |

(CC) - St James Church Centre - Beauchamp Lane (J) - St James Church - Beauchamp Lane

(F) - St Francis Church - Hollow Way

(A.A.L.C) - Anglican Asian Living Church (J & CC)

(TS) – Templars Square

(CH) – Corner House pub

CHILDREN'S CORNER

So I wonder how many found out what a 'pole' was in the expression 'poles apart'? Well, it is a surveyor's form of measuring distance and if you say that you are 'poles apart' in discussion, it means that you are not close to agreement. A pole is 16.5 feet or 5.0292 meters.

I find it interesting listening to strangers having a discussion on the bus, or even sitting down sometimes to wonder what people passing by really are like. Are they always in a rush? Have you ever tried to imagine what they might be like at home to live with, or where they lived and what sort of a house they lived in? I know I have and sometimes had a surprise! Things aren't always what they seem to be at first glance.

One summer holiday we were staying in an old farmhouse in Devon on the south coast. The house itself was quite famous and had been used as a court-house in the days of the infamous Judge Jeffreys. When we enquired who really owned the house at the time we were there, we were told that it was part of a farm owned by a certain man who was very proud of his produce, and made it his business to visit all parts of the farm during the week to allow him to manage it properly, and also keep an eye on the employees. "You'll probably find him up on 'long acre at top of hill" said our host. "He'll be there till sunset. You'll recognise him with his cloth cap and old trousers tied up with string". This sounded like an interesting local character.

Living in Oxford and having a young family we didn't see much of the happenings on a

farm so we decided to go for an evening walk to see if we could find this 'character'. And we did. There he was, leaning over the gate to the field watching the binder cutting the corn on the slopes of the Devonshire countryside. We passed the time of day with him and he seemed happy enough with the crop of wheat glowing yellow in the fading sunlight. Nice chap I thought.

Next morning, we told our host of the experience and how we appreciated meeting one of the 'locals'. "Oh, he's more than that" they said "he owns as far as you could see all the way to Torquay and in the other direction, and that's only his local farms! He owns others elsewhere. Must be worth a million!".

So someone who looked like a tramp, was in fact a very rich man, but a happy one who just didn't bother what he looked like. Interesting I thought. And it didn't matter. Sometimes it does, so don't think you shouldn't bother. The important thing to remember is that we should not take a decision solely on what YOU see. Sometimes there is more to explore. Find out more than you see on the surface. Do some research and the full story may be much more interesting than you thought at first glance. No one thought much about Jesus, but He changed the world.....and continues to do that through you and me.

Oh yes. Almost forgot. Who was Judge Jeffreys? Keep looking.

Uncle Ben

PARISH WALKS

The walks continue on a fortnightly basis. On a cold rather uninviting day for a walk we walked to Iffley to see the new frontal at Iffley Church which is well worth a visit. We understand that a robe has also been made with the same pattern.



Last week we again walked to Iffley but then on to Sandford. Much to our surprise, rather than a rutted muddy path, we found a tarmac path. All of us were surprised that the sun was shining, especially in view of the poor weather forecast, and in the end we were walking in tee-shirts with the other layers tied around our waist! We had a well-earned cool drink at The King's Arms before the walk back to St James Church Centre.

On the 15 April 2019 we are meeting at 2 pm at St Francis Church, and walking to Brasenose Wood. If we have judged it right, the bluebells will be out. Why not join us?

Sally Hemsworth

Lesley Weston

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Film Club at the Centre

Despite our March film, "The Big Country", being an exceptionally long film and despite presenting our members with a late Friday bedtime the evening was declared by almost all of them a great success. The background and introductory music has a big contribution to make in helping to create a real movie classic but the over-riding message of belief in quiet, peaceful and neighbourly ways to solve difficulties is very rewarding.

This month's film "Oranges and Sunshine" is based on the life and work of a real person, Margaret Humphrys, played by Emily Watson. She was a social worker from Nottingham who uncovered one of the most significant social scandals of recent times,

the deportation of children in care to Australia in the '40s and 50s. Against all the odds and almost single-handedly she set about bringing authorities to account. This is a very moving and inspiring film which we hope members will enjoy.

We have been very lucky to recruit Sally Hemsworth as our regular projectionist since Dave Stanley is no longer available on a regular basis. We are very grateful to Dave for his years of reliable help. Sally, after some helpful tuition from Geoff, has embraced the technicalities of the system and in her careful and particular way is now showing our films beautifully.

Rosanne Butler

AN EVENING WITH 'MOONRAKERS'

Friday 26 April, 7:30-9:30, St James Church



Bringing live music to Cowley

Oxford's popular and much-toured 4-piece band, Moonrakers (Celtic harp, cello, stringed instruments, whistles, female/male vocals), is coming to us in Cowley! You're in for a real treat!

The band prides itself on having brought traditional and contemporary folk music to new audiences in village halls, churches, arts centres and festivals across the south of England in recent years. With songs and tunes from the English, Irish and Scottish tradition as well as their own compositions, they've been described as "startlingly talented" (*Oxford Times*), with five albums of "exquisite music" (*BBC*) and "truly wonderful" (*Wycombe Festival*) performances.

2018 saw the launch of their latest album 'Tides' which has received glowing reviews in the music press ("The real deal", *The Living Tradition*; "Uplifting, sensitively crafted songs and tunes" *FATEA magazine*).



We gave £135 to Asylum Welcome as part of our Mission Giving for 2018. They write: "As a volunteer-powered organisation, we are able to tackle suffering and isolation among refugees, detainees and asylum-seekers because of supporters like you". Donations "go a long way in supporting a refugee family to feel dignified and welcomed in Oxford".

Examples of the use of donations include: £50 paying for a month's bus fare to college to learn English and £100 pays for a consultation with a solicitor for a refugee hoping to reunify with their children in the UK.

REPORT FROM THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

The 2018 financial accounts were inspected and, as these were signed without any changes, the PCC did not need to meet in March.

However, it has been a busy time with preparation for the three Annual meetings:

St Francis Annual Congregational Meeting, Sunday, 7 April 2019, 12 noon at St Francis Church

St James Annual Congregational Meeting, Sunday, 14 April 2019, 12 noon at St James Church Centre

Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Sunday, 28 April 2019, at 12 noon, at St James Church Centre

Do hope to see you then.

Sally Hemsworth
PCC Secretary

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The advertisement features a background image of a person's feet wearing white sneakers with orange accents, walking on a paved surface. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

RECIPES

Lamb and Pea Pie

Ingredients:

- 1 tbsp sunflower oil
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 1 clove garlic, crushed
- 300g leftover roast lamb, chopped
- 1 tbsp light soy sauce
- 1 tbsp Dijon mustard
- 275ml hot lamb stock made with 1 lamb stock cube
- 225g frozen peas
- 1 tbsp cornflour
- 350g leftover roast potatoes, roughly chopped
- 300g leftover roast parsnips (or parsnips and carrots), chopped
- 5 tbsp British semi-skimmed milk
- ½ x 28g pack fresh mint, leaves picked and roughly chopped
- 150g lighter British mature grated Cheddar

Method:

- ∅ Preheat the oven to 220°C, fan 200°C, gas 7. Heat the oil in a large pan, add the onion and cook for 5 minutes. Add the garlic, lamb, soy sauce, mustard, stock and peas. Stir, then bring to the boil and cook for 8 minutes. Mix the cornflour with 2 tablespoons of water, add to the pan and cook for 1 minute.
- ∅ Meanwhile, put the potatoes, parsnips and milk in another pan and heat gently, covered, for 5 minutes. Crush roughly with a potato masher.
- ∅ Spoon the lamb filling into a 1.25 litre pie dish and scatter over the mint. Top with the potato mixture, scatter over the Cheddar and bake for 10-15 minutes, until the top is golden.



Spring Rhubarb and Custard Tart

Ingredients:

- 200g shortcrust pastry
- 1 large free-range egg, beaten

For The Rhubarb:

- 800g rhubarb, cut into 4cm lengths
- 25g caster sugar

For The Filling:

- 3 large free-range egg yolks
- 2 large free-range eggs
- 175g caster sugar
- 1tbsp cornflour
- 450ml double cream
- 1tsp vanilla extract
- zest and juice ½ lemon

Method

- ∅ Roll out the pastry to the thickness of a £1 coin. then line the 20cm tart tin keeping a little excess over the edges. Press into the sides and base well and prick the base gently with a fork. Set aside in the fridge for 20 minutes or the freezer for 10 minutes. Heat the oven to 190C, gas 5.
- ∅ Place the rhubarb, sugar and a splash of water in a wide saucepan, bring to the boil and simmer gently for 8 minutes or until tender but still holding its shape, drain and set aside to cool.
- ∅ Line the tart case with tin foil and fill with baking beans, cook for 15 minutes, remove the beans and foil, brush the base and lower sides with egg and cook for another 10 minutes. Set aside to cool slightly, then trim the excess pastry from the edges using a sharp knife.
- ∅ Reduce the oven to 160C, gas 3. Using an electric whisk, mix the egg yolks with the sugar until just thick and creamy, mix in the cornflour until combined then mix in the remaining ingredients until smooth.
- ∅ Spread the rhubarb pieces over the base of the tart to create an even layer, pour over the custard filling and bake for 1 hour 15 minutes or until just set with a slight wobble in the middle. Allow to cool and set before serving.

Easter at the Churches of: St James and St Francis

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| Maundy Thursday April 18 th | St James Church | 7:00 pm Light supper followed by a Maundy Thursday service and then 'The Altar of repose' in St Luke's Chapel |
| Good Friday April 19 th | 10:00 am St James Church Centre | Messy Church |
| | 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm St James Church | At the cross: Reflections on the Passion |
| | 3:00 pm Anglican Asian Living Church at St James | Good Friday service |
| | 4:00 pm St Francis Church | Stations of the cross |
| Easter Saturday April 20 th | 8:00 pm St James Church | Service of light with soup and hot dog supper |
| | 8:00 am St James Church | Traditional language Communion service |
| Easter Day April 21 st | 10:00 am St James Church | He Is Risen: Family Easter Day service |
| | 10:30 am St Francis Church | He Is Risen: Family Easter Day service |
| | 1:45 pm Anglican Asian Living Church at St James | Resurrection Day service |



Come and join Messy Church for fun activities to think about

Easter

toys baking story
crafts songs

All ages are welcome

at St James' Church Centre,
Beauchamp Lane, Cowley, OX4 3LF

Good Friday 19th April
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