

# Chronicle

December  
2017 /  
January  
2018

**Carol Singing in the Cowley Centre**

**HEY! COME AND JOIN US!**

**Sat Dec 16<sup>th</sup> 2 pm**

**Templars square**



**Messy Church**

Come and join Messy Church for fun activities to think about

**Christmas**

crafts toys baking songs story

**all ages are welcome**

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

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December**  
10.30am – 12.00 noon

*The songs and story will be in the church amongst all the festival Christmas trees*

For more details contact:  
Mary Bayliss 01865 778 596 [m.bayliss41@btinternet.com](mailto:m.bayliss41@btinternet.com)  
or call the Cowley Parish Office 01865 747 680

**Cowley festival of Christmas trees**

**St James Church**  
Beauchamp Lane OX4 3LF

**8 – 16 December 2017**

choirs - live music  
craft - refreshments

adults : £2.00 children : free

proceeds to : ROSY and SeeSaw  
[www.cowleyteamministry.co.uk](http://www.cowleyteamministry.co.uk)



**Cowley festival of Christmas trees**

**'Journeying'**

**9 – 16 December 2017**

Saturday 9 & 16 10:00 – 4:00  
Sunday 10, Monday 11 - Friday 15 2:00 – 4:00  
Wednesday 13 6:30 – 9:00

*and by arrangement at other times  
live music, craft and refreshments  
Templars Square shops trail and quiz trail to the church*

Saturday 9 2:30 pop-up singing workshop  
7:00 festival concert  
Sunday 10 4:30 Christingle service  
Wednesday 13 7:00 Rising Voices choir  
Saturday 16 10:30 Messy Church - Christmas  
Sunday 17 4:00 carols by candlelight




# From the Editors

*Sally Hemsworth and Nicki Stevens*

As we prepare this edition of The Chronicle, the Christmas Meal is shortly taking place and the Christmas Tree Festival is one week away. We hope the preparation of your trees is going well and look forward to seeing St James in Christmas mood.

It is great to learn that the Christmas Bazaar went so well. Such a lot of work goes into making this a successful event, and Chris Woodman and Margaret Weller do a sterling job leading all the helpers. Congratulations to them both.

January looks to be a quieter month after the rush preparing for the Christmas activities. So if you want some activity why not come for a walk - watch out for the route – or come along to the Games Evening at St Francis – this sounds intriguing.

We hope you like the selection of articles we have put together – a true mixture! If you have any ideas you would like to put forward or articles you wish to include please send them to the Chronicle email address, or deliver to the Parish Office. We will receive them with open arms!

We wish you a Happy Christmas and New Year – look forward to hearing from you in 2018

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## COWLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

An excellent presentation about Leisure and Entertainment in Victorian and Edwardian Oxford was given by local historian Liz Woolley at the November meeting of Cowley Women's Institute.

Changed employment practices and rising wages meant working people had leisure time and spare money to spend on recreation. In an attempt to keep them out of the pubs and to cater for the demand for entertainment, several establishments were set up, including sports, libraries, temperance societies and the YMCA, as well as picture houses, visiting circuses and fairs.

A Christmas Party will be held in December. On Wednesday, 17 January 2018 at 2 pm in the Church Centre, a local doctor will talk on Feel Your Age and Enjoy It, and there will be a Bring and Buy Sale.

A Happy Christmas and a Good New Year to everyone.

Ann Withers

President, Cowley WI

Journeying: 'LET'S LIGHT UP CHRISTMAS!'  
Cowley festival of Christmas trees 2017

# CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

Sunday 10  
December  
4:30 pm  
St James  
Church  
Beauchamp  
Lane  
OX4 3LF

come and join in!

everybody welcome

## Journeying

supporting:




www.cowleyteamministry.co.uk  
tel: 01865 747 680

COWLEY FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS TREES 2017

Oxfordshire Jazz Collective  
with  
Oxfordshire County Youth Choir

# on the road

Saturday 9 December at 7:00pm  
St James Church  
Beauchamp Lane, Cowley, OX4 3LF  
fundraising for




TICKETS £10 (early bird £8) under 14 £5 (£4)  
cheques payable to Cowley (Oxford) PCC

Lesley Williams 07982 439 828  
ctf@cowleyteamministry.co.uk



OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

'Let's light up Christmas'  
COWLEY FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS TREES 2017

with the theme *journeying*

St James Church, Beauchamp Lane, Cowley

# just sing!

## pop up workshop

Saturday 9 December : 2.30-3.30  
with Janet Stansfeld  
of 'Joined up Singing'  
come to sing or just listen

fundraising for

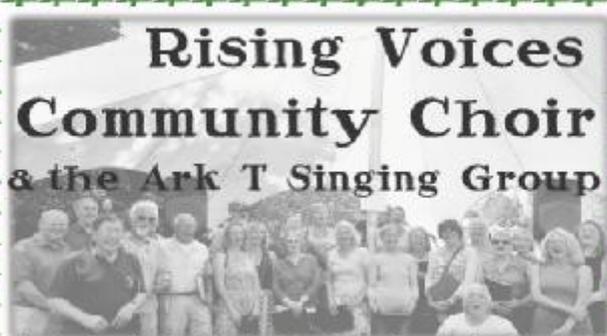



entry £2 adults - children U14 free

Lesley Williams 07982 439 828 ctf@cowleyteamministry.co.uk

Cowley festival of Christmas trees concert 2017

# Rising Voices Community Choir & the Ark T Singing Group



## Sounds of the Season

Wednesday 13th December 7.30pm-9.00pm

St. James Church, Beauchamp Lane, Cowley, OX4 3LF  
£3.00 suggested donation including refreshments




For information about Rising Voices contact Emily at emformusic@outlook.com  
For the tree festival contact Lesley Williams at ctf@cowleyteamministry.co.uk

## *The Journey Of The Magi*

A cold coming we had of it,  
Just the worst time of the year  
For a journey, and such a long journey:  
The ways deep and the weather sharp,  
The very dead of winter.'  
And the camels galled, sorefooted, refractory,  
Lying down in the melting snow.  
There were times we regretted  
The summer palaces on slopes, the terraces,  
And the silken girls bringing sherbet.  
Then the camel men cursing and grumbling  
and running away, and wanting their liquor  
and women,  
And the night-fires going out, and the lack of  
shelters,  
And the cities hostile and the towns unfriendly  
And the villages dirty and charging high prices:  
A hard time we had of it.  
At the end we preferred to travel all night,  
Sleeping in snatches,  
With the voices singing in our ears, saying  
That this was all folly.



Then at dawn we came down to a temperate  
valley,  
Wet, below the snow line, smelling of  
vegetation;  
With a running stream and a water-mill  
beating the darkness,  
And three trees on the low sky,  
And an old white horse galloped away in the  
meadow.  
Then we came to a tavern with vine-leaves  
over the lintel,  
Six hands at an open door dicing for pieces of  
silver,  
And feet kicking the empty wine-skins.  
But there was no information, and so we  
continued  
And arriving at evening, not a moment too  
soon  
Finding the place; it was (you might say)  
satisfactory.

All this was a long time ago, I remember,  
And I would do it again, but set down  
This set down  
This: were we led all that way for  
Birth or Death? There was a Birth, certainly  
We had evidence and no doubt. I had seen  
birth and death,  
But had thought they were different; this Birth  
was  
Hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our  
death.  
We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,  
But no longer at ease here, in the old  
dispensation,  
With an alien people clutching their gods.  
I should be glad of another death

T.S. Elliott

## A word from the Rectory

Christmas and journeys go hand in hand. As thoughts of Christmas grow near, plans are made to gather together. Friends meet with friends, families travelling great distances to be reunited. I wonder when you started planning for, and making arrangements for Christmas 2017?

As we look at the Bible, God's Word, we find so

**For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

**Isaiah 9:6**

many sign posts pointing towards the first Christmas. God's Messiah, Saviour, was on the way. God knew we needed help and so he sent the very help we needed, Jesus.

The journey to the first Christmas was not a short one. Different people see the early days on earth in different ways, but whatever your take on it, the story to the first Christmas was many thousands of years. It is an awesome tale. You can hear some of it in the re-telling at our Carol Services on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December.

As you track the story of humanity through Genesis there are ups and downs. There are moments of glory and moments of despair.

Just as that journey to the first Christmas was a long one, so our own journeys are long. We too have our



moments of glory and moments of despair. The writer of the book of Ecclesiastes picked it up so simply when he said:

There is a time for everything,  
and a season for every activity under the heavens:

a time to be born and a time to die,  
a time to plant and a time to uproot,  
a time to kill and a time to heal,  
a time to tear down and a time to build,  
a time to weep and a time to laugh,  
a time to mourn and a time to dance,  
a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,  
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,  
a time to search and a time to give up,  
a time to keep and a time to throw away,  
a time to tear and a time to mend,  
a time to be silent and a time to speak,  
a time to love and a time to hate,  
a time for war and a time for peace.

What simple truth lies behind all of these times? God loves each one of us. He travels with each of us every step of the way. On your journey he wants to hold your hand and walk with you. Will you let him?

This Christmas know the presence of God is with you. Know the truth of Emmanuel- God with us. Happy Christmas to one and all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rev. Dr. John".



Benson Cottage

# DEMENTIA SERVICES IN OXFORD

New Venue

Risinghurst Community Centre  
Kiln Lane, Risinghurst, Oxford OX3 8HA



## SINGING FOR THE BRAIN®

Singing for the Brain is a social activity for people with dementia and their carers, enabling them to sing along with others who are in a similar situation. The sessions enhance communication and sense of wellbeing and include a wide variety of familiar and new songs.

Second and fourth Thursday of each month at 2.00pm – 3.30pm.

## DEMENTIA CAFÉ

The café provides people with dementia and their carers a platform to talk openly about living with dementia and other services available locally, within a relaxed and informal environment. They also hear from a variety of guest speakers including health and social care professionals and representatives from the local community.

First Tuesday of each month between 10.30am – 12 noon.

## CARERS SUPPORT GROUP

The peer support group gives carers the opportunity to meet with others who understand some of what they are going through. Run by a facilitator, the sessions offer a chance to ask questions, get information and share experiences in a safe and supportive environment.

Third Tuesday of each month between 10.30am and 12 noon.

### If you have any questions please get in touch:

Trish Heron: 07803 115 952 or 01235 531 989 E: [oxford@alzheimers.org.uk](mailto:oxford@alzheimers.org.uk)



Alzheimer's Society operates in England, Wales and Northern Ireland  
Registered charity number 295645.

## CHRISTMAS GIFT AND CRAFT FAIR

This year's Craft Fair was very successful – the best year we have had. Our thanks go out to all our helpers who spent time preparing and being with us on the day. It was a very happy atmosphere and we all enjoyed ourselves. To make a good profit at the end of it was very rewarding – our total so far is £1,186, with a few more items to go. In addition, money from the Christmas wreaths which have been ordered will add to the total.

It is not too late to order a Christmas wreath if you would like one - the deadline for orders is 10 December 2017.

Margaret Weller and Chris Woodman

# Do we have enough space to breathe?

As winter closes in, the antics of the visitors to our bird feeders are always a delight. The best visitors are the small flocks of long-tailed tits that are always on the move but we have had, for the first time, a nuthatch which stayed around for about a week. It is a beautiful little bird and the colours are even better when viewed in close-up with the binoculars.

It is well known that trees, flowers and green spaces, with their attendant wildlife, are important to our health and wellbeing. I certainly am most content out in the countryside, in the garden or on the allotment. I also am happy that, from where I live, I can see the fields and woods that surround our compact city and I am glad that the pressure to build out is opposed by those who want to protect our Green Belt. Even so, there are proposals to create new communities and extend into the countryside. Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) such as the Chilterns, Cotswolds and the North Downs, which should be legally protected from development, are under threat from the pressure of a national requirement to build more homes.

Because Oxford has bounds, new building of essential homes has meant that they come either in blocks of flats or houses that have very limited space, inside or out. Gardens are tiny or mainly given up to house the car. Many gardens of older properties have been built upon or are in the planning stage in my immediate locality. It makes me sad that some of our fellows on this planet are so

constricted for space to breathe, to discover nature and to grow their own.

I suppose we are lucky to have open spaces like Florence Park, the golf course and several recreation grounds in our parish. In Temple Cowley, a school playing field was lost to student accommodation and the school site and the garden of the Salesian College have houses built on them. The Temple Cowley Middle School has been lost more recently to development as have the derelict allotments off Leafield Road.

The final vestige of Morris Motors sports ground, designated in a local plan as green space, is fiercely fenced off and is a mess of rank grass and weeds. To think we used to watch county cricket there as well as there being excellent hockey and football pitches! Several times the now owners of the land have applied for planning permission to build. The latest attempt was a cynical try at providing affordable housing for essential workers. Should our planners allow this and for how long will they be "affordable"?

I am lucky that I have a garden to enjoy and an allotment where my other half and I can indulge our need to keep in tune with the passing seasons. Soon it will be time to begin another growing year and fire up the propagator to begin producing plants for the 2018 Plant Sale on Saturday May 12th. Put it in the diary!

Joan Coleman

# REPORT FROM THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

The PCC met on the 26 November 2017 when the following matters were discussed:

- ∅ Ministry Team and how it is working
- ∅ Service Review/Christmas Services
- ∅ Parish Christmas Meal
- ∅ Delivery of Christmas Service Cards: If, when you read this, you see some cards at the back of St James and St Francis Churches that you can deliver, this would be very much appreciated.
- ∅ Mission Giving: There is a full report elsewhere in The Chronicle on the grants agreed by the PCC.
- ∅ Deanery Synod Meetings: A report from the last meeting has been included in The Chronicle.
- ∅ CEF Food Bank: It was agreed to apply for an extension of the Faculty to allow the portacabin at the rear of St Francis Church to remain for ten years.
- ∅ Painting of Corridor at St Francis: The PCC agreed to the painting of the corridor at a cost of £750 plus cost of material.
- ∅ Purchase of pew bibles for St James Church
- ∅ Changes to car parking at St James Church Centre

There has been discussion on meetings of Church Committees and the PCC being held on Sundays – business meetings being held on Sunday, a day of prayer. It appears that it is not possible to totally overcome this but dates of future meetings are being reviewed.

Sally Hemsworth

PCC Secretary

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## PERSONALLY SPEAKING

A special celebration in the Parish:

William Hartley graduated on 6 October with a BA degree in Theology, Ministry and Mission from Durham University, after studying as an independent student at St Mellitus College in London. This has been particularly rewarding, as he studied for it between 2012 - 2017 while working full-time - a very busy 5 years!

Our regards to those who read the Chronicle but are unable to come to church:

Ruby Archer

Maureen Chatterton

Marion Evans

Thelma Telling

Victor Whitby

# MOTHERS' UNION NEWS

Gayle Williams, the representative from the John Radcliffe Children's Hospital came along to our November branch meeting to collect all the gifts that we had amassed over the last few months for parents and their young children who are patients there. To say that she was overwhelmed would be putting it mildly. There were nine big polythene bags full of exquisitely knitted and crocheted cot blankets, tiny hats and mittens to go to the premature baby unit, lots of crayons, colouring books and activity sets for the older sick children and a wide selection of toiletries for parents to use whilst staying nearby while their youngsters require treatment. Wonderful! She asked me to pass on her personal thanks to members, their families and friends for their incredible generosity.

The meeting was a busy one as we had plans to make for our Festival Christmas Tree, our Christmas party and other forthcoming

events. We also enjoyed a fascinating talk by Mr Brian Lowe about John Henry Newman and his time in Oxford. He included lots of information on Newman's time in Littlemore turning it from a tiny hamlet on the outskirts of Oxford into a flourishing village with a church, a school and a college.

Finally we celebrated the 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of our Queen and Prince Philip. The Queen is patron of the Mothers' Union.

We are looking forward now to our December meeting which, by tradition, will be the annual Christmas party. Carols, readings and Christmas tea are planned for Monday, 18<sup>th</sup>. We would like to invite friends of our branch and people who feel that they might like to become members. So we should have a happy afternoon just one week before Christmas.

Rosanne Butler



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## PARISH WALKING GROUP

Parish Walks will continue in the New Year. The people walking on Monday, 27 November 2017 felt that December should be left for Christmas preparations and celebrations.

So the next walk will take place on Monday, 8 January 2018 – just when people feel they need exercise to recover from Christmas!

One idea is to meet at Wolvercote at 1.30/2pm and walk back along the river towards Oxford, but this will depend on the weather as we will need to determine whether the towpath is walkable. The details of the walk will be announced in The Link.

Please join us – there were eight of us on the last walk, but our record is ten people. Perhaps we will have more walkers in January?

Please contact Sally Hemsworth at the Parish Office (01865 747680) if you want more information. If no reply please leave a message and Sally will get back to you.

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**07725 267 321**

**[Lesleyw70@hotmail.com](mailto:Lesleyw70@hotmail.com)**

**[facebook.com/holisticbodytreatments](https://www.facebook.com/holisticbodytreatments)**

**Home-Based practice in OX4**

## CHRISTMAS QUIZ

Can you identify these carols from the first words of the first verse?

1. S N
2. G K W
3. O L T O B
4. A F T R O G
5. O C A Y F
6. I T B M
7. I S T S
8. W S W
9. S A T W S
10. H W C A - W
11. I C U A M C
12. D D M O H
13. D T H
14. H F I I T B
15. W T K
16. A I A M
17. C A
18. J T T W
19. T F N
20. T V M H A B B

# Cowley Festival of Christmas Trees 2017

## "Journeying"

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December

You will read this in the week before the festival: I will probably be in a flat spin trying to get responses from tree contributors about when they are arriving with the tree and what should be written on the display card: putting up the signs and banners around the area; signing up the wonderful volunteers to steward over the week.....

The theme is Journeying (Mary & Joseph, the Holy Family, the Wise Men, How far is it to Bethlehem, pilgrimage, refugees, personal journeys, the journey of life, footsteps.....)

Opening times :            Saturdays 9 and 16 December - 10.00-4.00  
                                      :            Sunday 10 through to Friday 15 - 2.00-4.00  
                                      :            Wednesday 13 - 6.30-9.00 Rising Voices concert

And also                 :            Saturday 9    2.30 – a pop-up singing worship    *with Janet Stansfeld*  
                                      7.00 – youth jazz and choral concert  
                                      *tickets available from Lesley Williams and on the door*  
                                      *earlybird until Sunday December 3    £8, £4 under 14s*  
                                      *then £10, £5 under 14s*  
                                      Saturday 16 10.30 – Messy Church Christmas - *in St James Centre*

Wednesday 13 December afternoon opening there will also be a concert tea party for invited guests from local residential and care homes – and you are all invited too!

### VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

Door to door delivery across the Parish of the advertising cards for the CTF and the Parish Christmas services and events is underway: for those who are able, please be prepared to get your 'steps' exercise walking the streets and opening gates for a couple of weeks.

With 26 opening hours, there is A LOT of volunteering opportunity for setting up (*see John & Chris Booty*); steward duty in the church (*see Chris Woodman & Margaret Weller*) as well as at 'Get in the Picture' at Templars Square on Saturday 9 & Sunday 10 December (*see Geoff Bayliss*), and also at Messy Church Christmas in St James Centre on Saturday 16 December (*see Mary Bayliss*)

And then please come and visit the festival several times and bring friends!

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

# Mission Giving

The Mission Giving allocation for 2017 is £2,160 which represents 5% of donations to the Parish by planned givers by standing order and the envelope scheme in 2016. Following a public meeting which made suggestions on who should receive grants, the PCC at its meeting in November 2017 approved the following dispersal of this money:

Faith2Share: Headed by Rev Canon Mark Oxbrow, Faith2Share is a network of Christian mission movements across the world. £500

Archway: The local befriending charity helping to relieve the distress caused by loneliness. £200

BeSpace: Working locally, Bespace allows individuals to reflect on who they are and what really matters in their lives and community by creating prayer spaces. £200

Community Emergency Foodbank (CEF): Based at St. Francis' Church, CEF provides emergency food supplies to those in poverty. £200

Crisis Skylight Oxford: The Old Fire Station in Oxford provides a hub to provide support and practical training for the homeless. £200

Gatehouse Oxford: At St Giles' Church in Oxford there is a drop-in café for the homeless that is friendly and accepting. £200

Littlemore Church Project: St. Mary and St. Nicholas Church has plans to develop a more useful and practical space within the building. £200

Oxford Community Soup Kitchen: Provides a hot meal twice a week in a welcoming atmosphere to those in financial hardship. £200

Oxford Winter Night Shelter (OWNS): A group of Churches offering shelter for the night in the coldest months of the year. £120

Hope Africa Hospital Equipment: An appeal by St James' Mission hospital in South Africa promoted by the Archbishop of Cape Town. £50

World Vision Myanmar Refugee Appeal: Towards the relief of those forced out of their country. £50

Christmas Child Boxes: To cover the cost of the colourful boxes being sent out abroad filled with gifts for children who might not receive anything this Christmas. £40

# Film Club at the Centre

Our club continues to break records! The attendance in November was the highest yet and the total donations from members passed £100 for the first time. It is true to say that after the showing of "A Testament of Youth" last month we all went home in a thoughtful and moved frame of mind. It was a beautiful film, skilfully produced and very appropriate for Remembrance weekend.

There is no need to explain the film scheduled for our December meeting. "The Sound of Music" is so well-known that I doubt if any of our members have not already seen it several times. However it has been requested by some of our members and as a club we try to fulfil these requests if we can. Someone asked if it will be alright to

singalong to the familiar songs. Well the answer has to be "of course". So we shall probably be "Edelweissing" away like anything.

Now the film chosen for January is not so well-known so it needs some introduction. Meryl Streep stars in "Florence Foster Jenkins" and it is described as "hilarious and poignant". Hugh Grant co-stars. The film is the true story of a woman who really believed that she could sing – and could not. That sounds rather silly but is in fact a heart-warming tale of love and devotion from her husband and friends. Intrigued? Do come and join us on the second Friday in January and see what it is all about.

Rosanne Butler



**Shaun Guard**  
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# FROM THE ARCHIVES

## COWLEY CHURCH & HOME MAGAZINE

December 1894

### PARISH COUNCILS ACT

A meeting of the inhabitants was held in the Boys' School on Thursday last. The Vicar presided, and there were about 110 men present. Mr. Thomas Mallam explained the Act fully, and an amicable feeling pervaded the meeting.

-----

### BAND OF HOPE

On Monday November 26<sup>th</sup>, at the meeting of the Band of Hope, a gold watch was presented to Miss Robinson. The Vicar in presenting the watch said how useful Miss Robinson had been in various ways in the Parish, apart from her good work in the Schools, where for five years she had earned the highest possible grant from the Education Department, and he hoped that her health would soon improve and that her watch would remind her of our good wishes.

-----

Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, Father Ignatius will preach at the Parish Church, at 7 pm. Alms will be given to New School, as £400 still required. Give what you can to defend our Church Schools against their enemies.

### OPENING OF THE NEW SCHOOLS

On Monday, the New Schools, which have been erected at a cost of £925, were opened. Although the weather was very disagreeable, as rain fell heavily most of the day, upwards of 200 sat down to tea at eleven tables at five pm. provided by the following ladies, who managed, to the delight of the visitors, their own tables:-

Mrs. Moore, Mrs. Lindsay, Mrs. Ward, Mrs Grundy, Mrs. Hitchings, Miss Hurst, Miss Nellie Hurst, Mrs. Polley, Mrs. Pimm, Mrs. Earp, Mrs. Harris, and Mrs. Baker. A concert was given in the evening by Mr. Andrews, one of the masters of St. Kenelm's, in aid of the school building fund, when upwards of £10 was realized. The room was again filled to the utmost of its power, and it was admitted by all who were present that this was the best concert ever given in the parish. At the conclusion of the concert the Vicar, in a short speech, thanked Mr. Andrews for the trouble he had taken in securing the services of those who had enabled them to spend such a pleasant two hours. He also expressed his thanks to the performers themselves, also to the Rev. H. and Mrs. Mare, especially Mrs. Mare, who had contributed a great deal to the success of the evening. The building has cost £925, and a little more than £500 has already been subscribed.

Programme:

Pianoforte	Duet from Faust	Messrs. Stanford and Kirke
Song with Violin Obligato		Miss Baker
Song	"The Postillion"	The Rev. H. Mare
Song		Miss Godwin Parker
Comic Song	"Mat Hannigan's Aunt"	Mr. Hearne
Song	"Whisper and I Shall Hear"	Miss Oliver
Song	"Nita Gitana"	Prince Mirza
Song	"The Little Hero"	Mr. J. O. Andrews
Comic Song	"The Whistling ...."*	Sergeant Patten
Violin Solo	"Selection"	Dr. Stewart
Song	"Dresden China"	Miss P. Mayman
Song	"The Tin Gee-Gee"	Mr. P. A. Rubens
Song with Violin Obligato		
	"The Soul's Awakening"	Miss Godwin Parker
Comic Song	"Dottie on the Ditties"	Sergeant Patten
Song	"The Dandy Coloured ...."*	Mr. P. A. Rubens
Song	"The Last Night"	Miss Oliver
Comic Song	"I went to find Emin"	Mr. Hearne

\*Word omitted

Researched by Les Hemsworth

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# ST JAMES CHILDREN'S CHURCH

After having a wonderful summer of fun and games, we got back to following our Scripture Union programme in Children's Church. The year started with us looking at some of Jesus' miracles recounted by Matthew. These four stories from Matthew's Gospel demonstrate Jesus' power. He was in command in every situation. As our leaders' notes highlighted: 'It is important for our children growing up in a power-obsessed world to see that when Jesus used his power (healing, stopping a storm, feeding a crowd) it was not to draw attention to himself but to help others...This is an important lesson for all his followers to learn – from the youngest to the oldest'.

During October we spent time looking at stories in Exodus, such as how God provided manna and quails to the Israelites in the desert and the 10 Commandments. We learnt about how God cares and provides for us, how He wants to have a relationship with all of us, and how His laws help us to live well.

We moved back to the New Testament in November to explore some of the parables Jesus told like the Sower and the Seed, the Wheat and the Weeds and the Mustard Seed. You may remember seeing some of the growing flower and cress plant crafts we made during these sessions!

Now we're looking forward to Advent and Christmas. As usual, we will be decorating a Children's Church tree for the Christmas Tree Festival. We are also greatly looking forward to our annual Christmas Party!

Thank you to everyone who prays regularly for Children's Church. We greatly appreciate your prayers.

Catherine Hartley



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# St Francis Sunday Club

Sunday club happens on the second and fourth Sunday of the month. There are three leaders, who take it in turns to run the session with a helper. We regularly have four children - happily, sometimes more. The age range is from four years up to eight at the moment. We start by being with everyone in the main church, at the beginning of the service. After the first song, we have a short blessing, and then go to a little side room off the corridor. St Francis Sunday club is extremely fortunate to have a subscription with Roots magazine, which follows the weekly lectionary, so the main teaching will be from the readings for that week. We usually start with a warm up activity (this week the children will be finding plastic sheep and goats, that will have been hidden around the room). We then come together and discuss what we have been doing, and why. Then it is the story. After, we do a craft activity, and during this, chat about the story, and what it means to us. We finish, sitting around a table with our special candle lit, where everyone has the chance to say a prayer if they want to. We go back into the main church to join everyone for communion. Before the service ends, the children are asked to go to the front and share with everyone what they have been doing.

The Children never fail to amaze me with their thoughts and ideas, and bring a vibrancy to our church.

Shirley Costar

## CHRONICLE

Editorial Team- Sally

Hemsworth, Nicki Stevens

Deadline for the next edition:

Monday 22 January 2018

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.

## GROUP HOLIDAY

After Christmas and the New Year many people think of holidays. If you are one of these people please think about the Group Holiday which is being planned to Eastbourne.

The departure day is Monday, 10 September 2018, 4 nights with a maximum of 12 singles on a Dinner, Bed and Breakfast basis. The cost is £339.00 per person based on a minimum of 30. A £50 deposit will be required in March.

PLEASE CONTACT US IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE HOLIDAY OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS FURTHER.

Pat Chambers and Sally Hemsworth

## RECIPE

In December we think about Christmas Dinner and all its fine things. Perhaps this is one to hand out to people who do not like mince pies!!



### THE BEST EVER NO-BAKE CHOCOLATE SLICE!

(Makes 24 squares)

Use the best quality cooking chocolate to give it a finish equal to any French Patisserie

#### Ingredients

110 (4oz) butter or margarine

110 (4oz) granulated sugar

3 rounded dessertspoons cocoa powder

1 medium egg

1 teaspoon vanilla essence

225g (8oz) crushed biscuits, such as Digestive or Nice

75g (3oz) chopped nuts (almonds, hazels, Brazils, walnuts or a combination)

1 tablespoon sherry or brandy (optional)

#### Topping:

50g (2oz) butter

1 teaspoon finely grated lemon zest

350g (12oz) icing sugar

2 dessertspoons traditional custard powder

4 dessertspoons warm water

175g (6oz) plain chocolate

#### Method

1. Place butter, sugar and cocoa powder in a medium saucepan and stir over low heat until well blended. Stir in egg and vanilla essence. Continue to cook, stirring for 1 minute, while the mixture thickens.

2. Remove from heat, stir in biscuit crumbs, nuts and alcohol, if using. Mix thoroughly.
3. Turn into a Swiss roll tin 28cm x 17.5cm (11in x 7in) lined with baking parchment or greaseproof paper, and chill until set.
4. For the topping, cream butter with lemon zest until light and fluffy. Sift in the icing sugar and custard powder alternately with the warm water, and beat well.
5. Spread over the base and chill.
6. Melt the chocolate and quickly spread over the topping.
7. Chill again before cutting into squares. Best stored in fridge.

Bring the choice first produce of the year to the house of your God

*Exodus 23:19 (The message)*

Lord, sometimes I give you my best, sometimes only my second best and sometimes nothing worth having at all. Help me always to aspire to give my very best for you in all circumstances.

*Amen*

### AN IDEA FOR LEFTOVERS

FRUITY TURKEY TAGINE (A spicy Moroccan stew)

Serves 4 – 6

#### Ingredients:

1 tbsp olive oil

1 red onion, thickly sliced

3 carrots – thickly sliced on the diagonal

3 parsnips - - thickly sliced on the diagonal

2 garlic cloves, crushed

2 tsp ras el hanout  
 500ml turkey or chicken stock  
 400g can chopped tomatoes  
 400g chickpeas, drained and rinsed  
 140g mixture of dried apricots and prunes,  
 roughly chopped  
 300g leftover turkey, cut into chunks  
 Good drizzle of clear honey  
 ½ small bunch coriander, roughly chopped  
 1 tbsp flaked almonds

NB Ras el Hanout is not a spicy spice blend, but it gives pungent, warm flavour. The cinnamon, cloves, and nutmeg also add sweet accents. Since it's a blend, it's convenient to use in marinades, as a rub, as a seasoning in many dishes like stews and tagines, and as a condiment since you only have to measure out one thing.

Method:

1. Heat the oil in a large saucepan, add the onion and cook gently for 8 mins or until softened. Add the carrots and parsnips, and cook for 8 mins until starting to soften and brown a little. Stir in the garlic and ras el hanout, and cook for a further 30 secs. Tip in the stock, tomatoes, chickpeas, dried fruit and 150ml water. Season, bring to a simmer and cook for 25-30 mins until the vegetables are tender.
2. Add the turkey and simmer for 5 mins to warm through. Stir in the honey, then scatter over the coriander and almonds just before serving.
3. Serve with couscous and Greek yogurt

**Christmas at St James Church, Beauchamp Lane (OX4 3LF) and St Francis, Hollow Way (OX3 7JF)**

8th - 16th open daily Cowley festival of Christmas trees St James Church (see separate card)

Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	Get in the picture	10:00-4:00	Templars Square (Cowley Centre)
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Christingle service	10:30	St Francis Church
	Get in the picture	2:00-4:00	Templars Square
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Christingle service	4:30	St James Church
	Christmas Messy Church	10:30-12:00	St James Centre
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Carol service	4:00	St James Church
	Carol service	6:00	St Francis Church
Christmas Eve Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	Pop up Crib service (come dressed as a part of the Christmas Story!)	4:00	St James Church
	Carols in the Pub	6:00	Corner House Pub, Hollow Way
	Anglican Asian Living Church Crib service	6:00	St James Church
	Midnight Mass	11:00	St Francis Church
Christmas Day Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	Midnight Mass	11:00	St James Church
	Traditional language Christmas service	8:00	St James Church
	Family Christmas Communion	10:00	St James Church
	Christmas morning service	10:30	St Francis Church
	Anglican Asian Living Church	1:45	St James Church

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**Come and join the celebrations**

## NEWS FROM THE BELL TOWER

Some of you will have noticed that the Thursday evening practices are rarely happening nowadays. We are also struggling to provide regular ringing on a Sunday. I think the last time we had all six bells ringing out for Sunday service was in the summer. This is sadly due to dwindling numbers and people having extremely busy lives. We hope to keep the bells ringing, but without some new recruits to learn this ancient art there is a real possibility that the bells at Cowley could fall silent in the near future. So if you are looking for a new interest in the New Year, how about giving it a try? You would be joining in a tradition going back hundreds of years and providing a real service to St James Church. Give me a ring on the number below if you would like to find out more.

St James Church bell ringers are part of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, which stretches from Reading to Milton Keynes. It was brought home to me just how big our Guild is when I travelled to Olney on Saturday to assist with the annual 10 bell striking competition. Six of the 13 Branches entered teams and the ringing was of a level I have yet to aspire to, but maybe one day..... The winning team was from the Old North Bucks branch, and included some people from Abingdon who I ring with regularly so I was really pleased for them, and the ages in the band ranged from 18 to people in their 70's, demonstrating what a wonderful hobby it is for people of all ages. Afterwards we had a lovely pub lunch and then attended the Guild committee meeting, and rang at the lovely church at Great Brickhill.

More recently I was very happy to be invited to ring for the Remembrance service at St Giles, followed later in the day by ringing at New College to mark the occasion, with the bells half muffled which give a very sombre sound.

We hope to have enough ringers for the carol services this year. We will probably have to rely on asking some of our ringing friends from other towers to come along and help us, so we are hoping that not everyone has a carol service at the same time.

Happy Christmas to all of you, and please do get in touch if you think you might be able to join our small but friendly band. Our practice night is Thursday between 7.30 and 9pm.

Lindsay Powell  
01865 777486



# 37<sup>th</sup> Oxford Scout Group

It has been a very busy few months for the 37th Oxford Scout Group based at St Francis! We now have every section running at the group, which means that we cater for people between the ages of 6 and 18 on different days throughout the week, supported by a great team of leaders working with each section.

Members of the group attended Oxfordshire's biggest county camp back in the summer term, where our young people camped alongside thousands of other scouters from across the county at Blenheim Palace. The weekend provided a packed schedule of activities and there were several groups who attended from overseas. The theme of the camp was 'The Movies' and our group was part of the Science Fiction sub-camp, which means we donned our 'Back to the Future' outfits for the opening ceremony at the start of the camp!

During the summer holidays, several of our scouts and explorers attended our summer camp, which this year was Kent International Jamboree, based at the Kent County Showground. Over 8,000 people attended - mainly from across the UK, but also a number of other countries - and everyone had an amazing time! There were a whole range of different activities, including high ropes, craft, water activities, international events as well as loads more! There is something very special about being part of such a large-scale camp alongside so many other scouts from around the world - lots of memories created by everyone who attended!

The autumn term has been a busy one for the scout section...

Two teams attended CPCW (County Patrol Camping Weekend) which was a camping competition held at Horley Scout Campsite near Banbury. The two teams had a great weekend of activities, as well as working hard to look after themselves without their leaders!

We also entered a team into the district Midnight Exercise event at the end of October, which is an evening of various team challenges held across Youlbury Scout Campsite near Boars Hill. The event runs until 1am, but luckily the clocks changed that weekend so we got an hour back! Our team did brilliantly and came second out of fifteen teams - our troop's best ever result in the annual event!!

Each weekly meeting night includes lots of fun and games for every section, as well as working through a whole host of different badge-work elements. Recently in scouts, these have included: teamwork, first aid, cooking, craft, world challenge and loads more! The Scout troop supports a different charity each year, and this year we have chosen Helen and Douglas House. We had a visit recently from a couple of the representatives from the charity, which cares for terminally ill young people. The 37th Oxford Scouts supported the promotion of their 'Santas on the Run' event at the beginning of November, with the actual event taking place mid-December. Throughout the academic year, we are planning various fundraising events to support the charity, with a Tesco bag-packing evening and a Christmas party raffle coming soon!

The 37th Oxford is growing strong, with good numbers of participants and we are lucky to have a great team of dedicated leaders! If you are interested in getting involved, either as a young person or as a leader/helper, then please get in touch - just look-up 'Oxford Spires Scout District' online and then look for 37th Oxford Scout Group!

David Nutt



Messy Church Harvest took a different route in October. Instead of one at St James, we had two - one at St James and one at St Francis. Thankfully, both were staffed well so that there were lots of different crafts to do. The one at St Francis' was quieter as it was on a Saturday and the first one we had attempted there. I believe those who came enjoyed it so we will be planning others in the future - maybe on a Monday to coincide with Little Stars in the school holidays.

So, to the next one. Yes, madly we are doing it on the last Saturday of the Christmas tree festival. We will have crafts in St James Church centre and then move over into the church for the story, songs and prayers. Last year it was very special having our short time of worship amongst all those Christmas trees in the church. If you are able to help in any way, please do speak to me. Help on the day is wonderful but so too is volunteering to do some cutting out.

Now here is a challenge. I know working with children isn't for everyone but if you haven't experienced the buzz of Messy Church, it is something special. It isn't particularly noisy. In fact, the children get on with the crafts quietly and it is the adults who make the noise talking to one another. So if you fancy popping in to see one or joining us for the last part in the church please do so.

Another Messy Church is being planned for Tuesday 13th February but the theme has not yet been decided. Watch out for the notices on this after the Christmas celebrations.

Mary Bayliss



## BEING A FILM EXTRA – HAVING A HIPPY CHRISTMAS

It is a sign of modern life that Television Christmas Specials are actually filmed in the summer and usually consist of an extra storyline and rarely have anything to do with the actual spirit or meaning of Christmas.

The only “Christmas Special” I worked on was on Harry Hill’s Christmas Crackers as an aging Hippie! Cast as a fan of Jimmi Hendrix (the puppet) I was dressed in a shocking pink flower power costume complete with headband and beads. We were a motley assortment of ages. Wrinkles and grey hair we may have, but we were the original “Young Ones” and knew all the dance moves but we weren’t surprised when the bright young things were put at the front and us oldies at the back. Jimmi Hendrix (the puppet) was walked onto the stage and a puppeteer held his guitar from behind a black screen and the music (mimed of course) began. The young things at the front bobbed up and down, but us oldies at the back really did a time-warp and our hands were waving in the air and we re-lived a magical mystery tour.

“Cut” shouted the Director and mumbled a few words to the AD in charge. A few taps on the shoulder and us hippies were promoted to the front row and the bright young things to the back. “Action” shouted the Director and we were away. The “cut” shout came again and we were told the Director was so pleased he was going to do some close-ups. It was then I looked to my left to find I was stood next to a lovely friendly couple, Paul Daniels, the Magician, and his wife Debbie McGee. The music started up again – although this time there was no puppet or stage as the camera was filling that space – and the whole front row fluttered and swayed as we relived our youth, with not a mobile or “app” in sight!

The only Christmas scene in a film I have worked on was in Bridget Jones’ Diary (the first one) when I attended the “After Christmas Turkey Dinner/Bufferet” as a family member. This was filmed in a studio at Shepperton in the middle of summer and it was so hot we were dripping with sweat. Woolly jumpers, even those with an embroidered festive message were not at all popular. Even Colin Firth’s knitted reindeer jumper looked a little droopy so we were all grateful when a bell rang and we were all ushered out and gratefully sank into the deckchairs outside. However, it wasn’t the tea bell, it was the Fire Bell. The studio next door was filming “Chocolat” about a French Lady who opens a shop and they were using real gas stoves to heat the chocolate. Fortunately, it was a false alarm but it was probably a first for the two Fire Engines and a Fire Truck that roared up to the set to be called out to a Chocolate emergency and met by a Christmas Party sat in a snow covered garden.

Still (and I apologise for saying this, but it has to be said)  
“There’s no business like Snowbusiness”!

Sue Hallett



# Remembering May Morgan

As you probably know 'Seashells' is a happy, vibrant group of babies + young children with their adults, who meet on a Tuesday morning at the Church Centre. When news came earlier this year that one of the group's volunteer helpers, May Morgan, had entered Glory many tears were shed as she was held in high esteem and with great affection.

Since then two different acts of honouring May have occurred. 'Seashells' was given a sum of money to purchase toys in her memory. Chris Knevett, Mary Bayliss and I had a fun trip out choosing these:



*A baby walker, a pushchair for toddlers to push, some new farm animals  
and two Nativity sets*

And one of the 'Seashells' mums suggested that we create some sort of art work that the children could join in. As May greeted everyone warmly each Tuesday morning, especially the children with a wave and then waved goodbye at the end of each session, it was felt that something using handprints would be ideal. So, before the summer break we spent two sessions painting the children's hands and printing onto a MDF board, a surprisingly difficult undertaking with 2 year olds! Many of the adults wanted to add their hand prints too, and so the task was completed.



*The resulting art work*

St James Church Committee gave their approval and Dave Stanley fixed the tribute to May above the hatch in the hall (thanks Dave). The following Tuesday, as people arrived for the session we wondered whether anyone would notice. Wow! Their reaction was immediate! Those who had been involved in the creation back in the summer were misty eyed and very moved. It obviously means a lot to have this visual reminder of May in the Hall, close to where she sat each morning. It does not matter that it is not a perfect cockle shell shape; it represents the great affection the Seashells community had and continue to have for May and a tribute to her warmth and care.

Jill Ling



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## UNA'S CORNER

Christmas is coming  
The geese are getting fat  
Please put a penny in the old man's hat  
If not a penny then a ha'penny will do  
If not a ha'penny then God bless you

We had a lodger during my childhood. He came from Wales with a great many Welshmen and lived as one of the family. He would start on that jingle about mid-October and keep going until he went home for Christmas.

I have an apology. I said that Jason Dudley's baby son was called Alfie. Sorry but he is called Spencer - I am not sure if it is spelt with an s or a c. His sister is Halle. Jason is May's grandson.

I would like to point out that the Sunnyside mentioned in the Archives section last month referred to the estate where I live. Sunnyside stretches from Fern Hill Road up to this side of Horspath Road and takes in the few houses in Hollow Way between the corner of Fern Hill Road and the Business Park, which was, of course, the car factory or part of it. The estate further up Hollow Way took our name. On the corner of Hollow Way and Fern Hill Road is a stone set into the wall saying Sunnyside.

Back to Christmas.

When our two children were fairly young we bought Simon a budgerigar. Rachel was terrified of Father Christmas and would run screaming if she saw one in a shop. We used to put her bed in Simon's room on Christmas Eve so her big brother could protect her. We were late going to bed as the children took a long time to settle but eventually we carried in their stockings and the budgie in its cage cov-

ered with the proper cover and a piece of Christmas paper. About two in the morning we were wakened by voices from the room next door.

Is it alive  
Maybe it is stuffed  
If it was stuffed its eyes would be open  
Well his eyes are closed. Poke it  
No, I might get pecked  
A stuffed bird cannot peck  
I am not sure it is stuffed.

Shriek  
It moved, it moved

At this stage we went in and covered the bird up again and settled the children back to bed.

There is a sequel to that story. I had a cleaning lady as I have asthma and cleaning materials and dust make me ill. The lady had a small son whom she brought with her. My husband had made a tape loop for a tape player and Simon had repeated Zebedee several times and we would put this tape on by the cage. Zebedee was a character in a children's TV programme. One day my lady's husband asked in some exasperation "What is that child saying"? The little boy was playing with his bricks and singing to himself Zeb e dee. The bird never did learn to say it.

One Christmas I took my daughter and her Family to see Joseph and his Many Coloured Dreamcoat at the New Theatre. Hannah was quite young and we were not sure whether she would sit still long enough. She was transfixed by the whole thing and watched with great concentration. As the final curtain came

down she said "And then Joseph went and married Mary and they had the baby Jesus and lived happily ever after".

One Christmas I went to my son's at Christmas. Rebecca, about six, was dancing around telling us all that Father Christmas had brought her and how she had heard the sleigh bells on the roof while I noticed Jason, younger by about three years, sitting on the settee with his arms folded all doubled up and hunched muttering under his breath. I sat by him and asked him what was the matter.

Soppy girls

Father Christmas could not come down the chimney

Sleigh bells on the roof

Stupid, she is stupid, of course it is Mummy and Daddy

When I was a child it was black out and Air Raid Wardens really did shout "Put that light out"

No Christmas in windows, we all had blackout curtains, no lighted windows, no street lights, no Christmas lights, no shop lights. Unless you have experienced it you cannot imagine how I felt the first Christmas the lighting restrictions were lifted. Lights hanging on lamp posts, decorated shop windows, coloured lights, and Christmas trees in those windows lighted with candles. It was like fairy land to me. Mind you, beside the fuss and colour now it was somewhat feeble but I thought it was marvelous.

When our son, Simon, was about five we had solid fuel central heating installed. Simon came to me and said he just knew Father Christmas could not climb over the back boiler and get out of the Parkray, and all the other

chimneys had been blocked off. I explained to him the trick adults played on children and he took it very well. Several years later Rachel twigged that it was all impossible and asked me and when I explained she solemnly declared that she would not tell Simon. When he knew that she had been keeping the secret from him he was very indignant.

From Sandi Toksvig writing for the Sunday Telegraph: The Sunday School children were asked to draw their favourite Bible story. Many sheep and angels were admired and then the teacher came to a small boy who had drawn four people on an aeroplane. This, he proudly declared, is the flight to Egypt. The teacher nodded and pointed to the people asking who they were. That's Mary, Joseph and the Baby Jesus he explained. And the fourth person? asked the teacher. Oh, him, that's Pontius the Pilot.

This is a true story. A small boy in the North of England suddenly started using his left hand for everything. His parents were mystified and reported this quirk to his teacher – who was my daughter. She talked to him gently and eventually he explained that at Sunday School the children had been asked to do their best to behave like God for a week. Rachel was a bit confused and asked a few more questions. The small boy explained that God had to use his left hand as Jesus sat on His right hand. Children take everything so literally.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas and I hope the world has a better New Year

Una

# Prayer Space

## ADVENT

God of all hope and joy  
open our hearts in welcome,  
that your Son Jesus Christ at his coming  
may find in us a dwelling prepared for himself;  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God now and for ever.

A New Zealand Prayer Book

## CHRISTMAS

O God, we thank you for the message of peace that Christmas brings to our distracted world. Give peace among nations, peace in our land, peace in our homes and peace in our hearts, as we remember the birth at Bethlehem of the Prince of peace. Jesus Christ our Lord.

Worship Now

## EPIPHANY

Almighty God, you have revealed the incarnation of your Son by the bright shining of a star, which the wise men saw and offered costly gifts in adoration; let the star of your justice always shine in our hearts, that we may give as our treasure all that we are and all that we possess to your service, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

An 8<sup>th</sup> Century Prayer



### 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 an order and we will benefit from the 'More than a book' cash back scheme. It's that easy! We earned £3 from a recent 'Open the Book' resources order

Do look at the on line shop – Bibles, prayer books, cards, courses, fiction, dvds etc.

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

# DIARY DATES TO REMEMBER

Please note that Christmas Services are not listed – see details on front of Chronicle

## Mothers' Union

Monthly Meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of month from 2.15 pm, St James Church Centre

18 December 2017 – Christmas party – a miscellany of carols, readings and memories  
15 January 2018 – Annual General Meeting and Bring-and-Buy sale

## Women's Institute

Monthly Meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of month from 2 – 4.30 pm, St James Church Centre

13 December 2017 – Christmas Party  
17 January 2018 – Feel Your Age and Enjoy It

## Gardening

Last Saturday of the month – Gardening at St James Church/St James Church Centre

## Film Club

Friday, 8 December 2017 – “The Sound of Music”  
St James Church Centre, commencing at 6.30 pm with coffee and cake

## Get in the Picture

Saturday, 9 December 10.00 – 16.00

Sunday, 10 December 14.00 – 16.00

Templar Square

## Christmas Messy Church

Saturday, 16 December 1917, 10.30 – 12.00

St James Church Centre

## Cowley Festival of Christmas Trees 2017

9 – 16 December 2017

More details given elsewhere in The Chronicle

## Creation Theatre – A Christmas Carol

Saturday, 6 January 2018 at 2 pm, North Wall

## Parish Walk

Monday, 8 January 2018, 1.30/2.00 pm

Meeting place and route to be **announced**

## Mission and Social Planning Meeting

Monday, 8 January 2018 at 7.30 pm

88 Temple Road

## Games Evening with Ploughman's Supper

Saturday, 20 January 2018, 6.00 – 8.00 pm

St Francis Church

## Film Club

Friday, 12 January 2018 – “Florence Foster Jenkins” - St James Church Centre, commencing at 6.30 pm with coffee and cake

## Sunday Lunch

Sunday, 21 January 2018, at 12.30 for 12.45 pm,

St James Church Centre

## Valentine Tea Party

Saturday, 10 February 2018, 3.00 – 5.00 pm

St Francis Church

## Messy Church Shrove Tuesday

Tuesday, 13 February 2018 10.00 – 11.30 am

St James Church Centre

## Mothers' Union Puddings and Quiz Evening

Friday, 23 February 2018, 6.30 pm

St James Church Centre

## REMEMBER:

Tuesday lunches at St James Church Centre from 12.30 pm

The last lunch before Christmas will be on

Tuesday, 19 December 2017.

Tuesday lunches commence on 9 January 2018

# *REPORT OF DEANERY SYNOD MEETING ON 8 NOVEMBER 2017 AT ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS, NEW MARSTON*

The worship started with the fabulous hymn "let us build a house", this was followed with a reading of the Beatitudes from the Gospel of Matthew, then one at a time we all went up as representatives of all the churches in the deanery and lit candles in an arc around the lighted pascal candle to remind us all that we are connected and together and to help us to have a combined vision for the deanery spreading the light of Jesus. This was followed by a two minute silence and contemplation. The Lord's Prayer was then read.

Tim Stead, the Area Dean, indicated that the strategy for our mission work was not finalised but was well on its way.

(a) Deanery Action Plan 2015: Co-operation for the communities that we serve. Support churches and non-parochial initiatives were key themes for Cowley. This was to cover a few key areas including poverty, schools, the Eco Church (environmental issues), isolation and loneliness, mental health issues and Migration.

(b) Unresolved issues included: The Diocesan vision: To make the Church:

Contemplative  
Compassionate  
Caring  
Merciful  
Courageous

Further areas that we have to work on were listed as:

Making a difference  
Supporting Churches  
The Creation of new Churches  
Caring for specific demographics  
Schools  
Ministry  
Faith in Milton Keynes

(c) Financial issues were still in an experimental stage. Up to recent days, parish share was considered to be for ministry in Churches, but a shift of perspective was being developed towards a unified Deanery vision as well as in the Churches themselves. Parish share was to be based on the past three years of revenue and with a move to have more ministry posts including half posts. The goal here was to have less staff, save money and to freeze parish share. The reason behind this was to rebuild Deanery savings and then to build cash for Deanery Mission action.

A vision was to have fewer stipendiary ministers and a different type of ministry and to prepare for a future in which there may be fewer vicars to go around which seems to be the way that the world is going. The work that is being done at St Francis and St James as run by Geoff is part of the process.

Also it was pointed out that this was a Deanery Wide vision. That we would have to take into account poorer churches and take action. That we shall develop "Fresh Expressions" to help make the Church attractive to those who are not comfortable with traditional church community, including those who self-identify as "spiritual but not religious".

All these things were considered to be aspirational and not cast in stone.

Trevor Jones, the Deanery Treasurer, spoke on the parish share which was down by 9.9%. It was considered appropriate to pass on the full 9.9% reduction to deprived churches and to hope that others would give more to the Deanery funds or pay the same as they have done before so as to help increase deanery funds pending PCC decisions. The motion was passed.

After coffee we were divided into groups and passionate discussion of our role and what we are doing to find solutions to many problems occurred. Our groups could then submit comments back to the Dean on a slip of paper at the back of the 2017 strategy for mission booklet.

Nick Dewey

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## CHRISTMAS BOXES – SAMARITAN'S PURSE

Thirty-Five Christmas boxes, received from St Francis and St James, were sent off this year, in addition to the six prepared by Joyce Titchell.

Mrs Joyce Titchell has sent the following message:

"I wish to express my thanks to the people of St Francis and St James for your support and donations in preparing the Christmas Gift Boxes over the last ten years.

I have received much support in providing gifts and funds to cover costs.

It is with regret that I must now hang up my "Gift Box Hat" and leave the future responsibility to others more able."

Joyce's record number of boxes in one year was just under 100 – what a record to uphold.

If you took any of the Samaritan boxes which you did not manage to fill please return them to the Parish Office. Empty boxes will be circulated again next year.

Many thanks for those who filled boxes this year – it was lovely to deliver all these boxes to Shoe Zone, the pick-up point.

Sally Hemsworth

## ST CHRISTOPHER'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

The children have had a really busy term as always, with some exciting trips out and about. Year 2 and Year 5 have been out to explore Oxford Castle as part of their learning. Year 3 enjoyed an interesting walk around the local Cowley area as part of their local history study project. Year 6 visited the Didcot Railway centre and spent a day there as World War 2 evacuees. They completed some excellent writing about their experience when they were back at school. Year 1 children also had a railway day, but at the Bucks Railway in Aylesbury as part of their topic on transport. It is always lovely to hear how well behaved our children have been when out of school and what a credit they are to us.

We have also been celebrating some sporting successes this term. Our Year 5/6 athletics team won the local partnership indoor athletics event at Oxford Spires Academy, with a number of children also gaining individual 1<sup>st</sup> places in events. The Year 5/6 girls' football team won their tournament, with the final against Windmill School, while the Year 5/6 boys' football team were runners-up in their tournament, also against Windmill School. We are very proud of how so many of our children have developed their involvement in sports and exercise. We have a large number of children who take part in the 'Monday Mile' each Monday lunchtime – running around our school field – and we have excellent uptake of our after-school sports clubs.

We continue to develop our Forest School site on our school field. We currently have children in Nursery and Y1 spending a morning or afternoon session each week in the Forest School area. The children love being outdoors

and enhancing their learning with different outdoors tasks. Many of our children are becoming very 'environmentally friendly' as they learn how important trees, plants and wildlife are. We were most grateful to some parents who joined us on Saturday to plant 140 new saplings around our school site – we just managed to beat the rain that fell steadily for the rest of the day! The new trees will help to redress the balance for the mature oak that we had to have felled in the Spring because it was diseased and rotted through, and we look forward to seeing how our site is enhanced by the extra greenery.

I have been delighted to show around many potential new families in the past few weeks as families choose new schools for next year's Reception class intake of 4-year olds. The applications remain open online on the Oxfordshire County Council website until the middle of January, so there is still time for any other potential new families to come for a visit. Please contact the school office to arrange a time if you are interested.

As we approach Christmas, the children have been busy practising for their Christmas nativity and carol concert. Our choir are looking forward to singing at St James Church during the Christmas tree festival, and also at Oxford Town Hall as part of 'The Big Sing'. As always, we are grateful to the team from Cowley Parish who present 'Open the Book' in Monday assemblies, and we have been enjoying Rev. Geoff's storytelling and guitar playing as well this term.

Sheenagh Broadbent  
Headteacher

## Solutions to the Christmas Quiz

1. Silent Night
2. Good King Wenceslas
3. O Little Town of Bethlehem
4. Angels from the realms of glory
5. Oh come all ye faithful
6. In the bleak midwinter
7. I saw three ships
8. While shepherds watched
9. See amid the winter's snow
10. Here we come a-wassailing
11. It came upon a midnight clear
12. Ding dong merrily on high
13. Deck the halls
14. How far is it to Bethlehem
15. We three kings
16. Away in a manger
17. Christians awake
18. Joy to the world
19. The first noel
20. The virgin Mary had a baby boy



Come to the next meeting of

**The Venue@Cowley**

**Local History Group**

**Wednesday 24 January**  
**7-8.30pm. Only £3.**

Presentation about the Museum of  
Oxford Development Plans  
by David Juler



Transforming the  
city's museum

The National Library  
of Theatrical Records

Phone 01865 782573  
or email [richard.grant@greensquaregroup.com](mailto:richard.grant@greensquaregroup.com)  
for further information

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

### ONE LIFE FROM B.C. TO A.D.

He trod the dusty trails of Palestine,  
At home when dining with the Pharisee  
As sharing bread and fish by Galilee,  
And no one recognized Him as Divine!

Even their leaders did not understand!  
That humble man Messiah? No such thing!  
Messiah would be their all-conquering king,  
Prestige and power to Israel bring.  
"Away with this imposter," their demand.

They studied Scripture, yet misunderstood  
The prophecies telling what they would see!  
A spiritual Kingdom His would be.  
Some loved Him but refused to see that He  
A King, must save all nations with his blood.

That he would rise again? Preposterous!  
And only to His loved ones did He show  
His risen self, gave power, bade them go  
Tell all the world His messages and so  
The story of Salvation came to us!

They wrote about the marvels He had wrought,  
His words, life, death, and how he rose again,  
Ev'n wonders they accomplished in His Name  
To us who read, the message is as plain,  
"God loves you. Come and follow Me. Fear not."

## THE PARISH OF COWLEY



is working towards becoming a  
Fairtrade parish – where possible,  
we use only Fairtrade products  
please support us in this

# The Anglican Asian Living Church, Oxford



Jesus said '*...whoever follows me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.*'  
John 8:12

*'You are warmly invited to our joyous Christmas/New Year events'*

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December Carol Singing to Houses (times to be announced- all Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays up to Christmas day)

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1.45 pm Asian Church service at St James Church for the first Sunday of Advent with Holy Communion

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December Christingle Service for Children 10.30 am at St. Francis Church –all welcome

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December 1.45 pm Asian Service at St James Centre for the second Sunday of Advent

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December 1.45 pm Asian Service at St. James Centre for the third Sunday of Advent

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December Carol Service 4 pm at St James Church, sing an Asian choir carol –all welcome

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December the fourth Sunday of Advent special Asian Christmas Eve 6 pm Service at St. James Church presenting the Children's Christmas drama, special guest speakers and dinner

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December Parish Midnight Mass 11 pm St. James Church

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Day Eucharist 10 am St. James Church

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December Asian Christmas Day Service 1.30 pm at St. James Church with a GREAT service of celebration, singing, special messages for our Saviour's day. Also with Father Christmas & his Christmas presents for the children & with refreshments

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018 New Year's Day 12 noon Asian Service at St James Church, Beauchamp Lane with lunch at St. James Centre

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2018 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday meeting of 2018 at Revd. Richard Chand house.

*'Have a Happy Christmas & a blessed New Year'*



Usual services & programmes are:

Sunday's 1.45 pm Asian service at St. James Church

Wednesday's 7 pm House Prayer meeting & Bible study Contact Fr. Richard W. Chand 94, Bayswater Rd., Headington, Oxford. 01865 437780 / 07590431903

*'The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us...'* John 1.14

## Cowley Parish Mission & Social Planner 2017-18

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>DECEMBER</b></p> <p>8th - 16th <i>open daily Cowley festival of Christmas trees</i> (J)</p> <p>Fri 8th 5:30 pm <i>Opening reception</i></p> <p>Sat 9th 2:00 pm <i>Come &amp; sing</i></p> <p>Sat 9th 7:00 pm <i>Concert</i></p> <p>Sun 10th 4:30 pm <i>Christingle service</i></p> <p>Wed 13th 7:00 pm <i>Rising Voices concert</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>DECEMBER</b></p> <p>FRI 1st 7:00 pm <i>Parish Christmas supper</i> (CC)</p> <p>SAT 9th 10:00 – 4:00, SUN 10th 2:00 – 4:00 <i>Get in the picture</i> (Templars Square)</p> <p>SAT 9th 10:00 am <i>Christingle making gathering with tea, coffee and cake morning</i> (F)</p> <p>SUN 10th 10:30 am <i>Christingle service</i> (F)</p> <p>SAT 16th <i>Christmas Messy Church</i> 10:30 - 12:00 (CC)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>JANUARY</b></p> <p>SAT 6th 2:00 pm <i>Creation Theatre – A Christmas Carol</i> (North Wall)</p> <p>MON 8th 7:30pm <i>Mission and Social planning meeting</i> 88 Temple Road</p> <p>SAT 20th 6:00 -8:00 pm <i>Games evening with ploughman's supper</i> (F)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>FEBRUARY</b></p> <p>SAT 10th 3:00-5:00 pm <i>Valentine tea party</i> (F)</p> <p>TUE 13th 10:00 -11.30am <i>Messy Church Shrove Tuesday</i> (CC)</p> <p>FRI 23rd 6:30 pm <i>MU Puddings and Quiz evening</i> (CC)</p>

CC) - St James Church Centre - Beauchamp Lane  
(F) - St Francis Church - Hollow Way

(J) - St James Church - Beauchamp Lane  
(A.A.L.C) - Anglican Asian Living Church (J & CC)

# SUNDAY SERVICES

## ST JAMES CHURCH, BEAUCHAMP LANE

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

## ST FRANCIS CHURCH, HOLLOW WAY

10.30am Parish Eucharist  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday All Age bring n/share lunch

## MID-WEEK SERVICES & MEETINGS

Morning Prayer	7.45am 8am	Mon, Wed, Thu at St James; Tue, Sat at St James
Monday	10.00-11.30am	Little Stars Playgroup— St Francis
	2.30pm	Parish Mothers' Union— St James (3rd Monday)
Tuesday	10.00am	Seashells Toddler Group— St James
	12.00pm	Eucharist—Ranklin Room, St James Church Centre
	12.30pm	Tuesday Lunch Club— St James
Thursday	2-4pm	Prayer Space—St Francis
	7.00pm	Cowley Parish Healing Service St Francis (1st Thursday)
	7.30pm	Local House of Prayer, St James

## HOME GROUPS

Leader	Time/Venue
Connie Uren	Alternate Tuesday afternoons at 2.30pm St James Church Centre, Ranklin Room
Friends of St Francis (John Shreeve)	2nd & 4th Tuesday afternoons at 2.30pm St Francis Church
Geoff Bayliss	Alternate Wednesdays at 10am St James Church Centre, Ranklin Room
Mark Oxbrow	Alternate Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm Mark's home, 13 Annesley Road (just behind the Rose Hill Coop). Enquiries to Mark at 01865 461953
Rosanne Butler	Alternate Thursday mornings at 10.00am St James Church Centre, Ranklin Room
Catherine / William Hartley	Thursdays at 8.00pm, Catherine Hartley 07792 104448 William Hartley 07751 939092

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: 07501 908378  
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 Ministers

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01865 701948  
Email: [richardwchand@outlook.com](mailto:richardwchand@outlook.com)

Revd Canon Mark Oxbrow  
01865 461953  
Email: [markoxbrow@aol.com](mailto:markoxbrow@aol.com)

Revd Tony Beetham  
Tel: 01865 770923  
Email: [tonybeetham1@supanet.com](mailto:tonybeetham1@supanet.com)

### Churchwardens:

Christine Woodman Tel: 778078  
St Francis : Vacant

Deputy Wardens  
Margaret Martin Tel: 718532  
Nick Dewey Tel: 07952 524664

### St James Church Centre Manager:

Chris Woodman Tel: 778078

### Hall Bookings:

Church Centre: Pat Sansom Tel: 778516  
St Francis Church/St James Church:  
through Parish Office

### 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.