



Snowdrop days

Saturday February 4 & 11

10:30 am – 3:30 pm

Sunday February 5 & 12

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

cakes and refreshments

family activities

St James Church

Beauchamp Lane - Cowley



Historic Cowley Parish church - open for you.



EASTER FUN DAY

Saturday 8th April

At St Francis Church, Hollow Way



10.00am – 2pm

Lots of Easter craft activities,

Egg Hunt! *Story telling, face painting,*

St Francis Cafe, Easter Raffle,

Hotdogs & Hot cross Buns, & lots more!

£1:50 per child includes crafts and snack, 50p per adult -
Free under 4



Chronicle

February
2017

From the Editors

Sally Hemsworth, May Morgan, Nicki Stevens

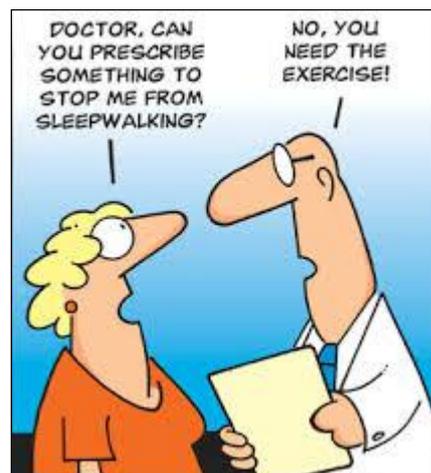
Thank you to all who have produced such a variety of articles for the February edition of the Chronicle – we have caught up with some of our local groups, we have details of what local councils are thinking, and we can see that we have a busy February ahead, with loads of activities at both churches (fun and serious).

The dates for the Annual Congregational Meetings of St Francis and St James, and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting are in the Dates to Remember. Please attend these meetings to support the work of the Ministry Team, the Church Committees and the PCC. Nominations for Church Committee members are needed, as are nominations for Church Wardens and PCC members, and the Parish rely on the congregation to make these nominations. We also have the review of the Parish Electoral Roll to consider.

A busy month or two indeed.

February was known by the Anglo-Saxons as Solmonath (the muddy month) so best wishes for the rest of the month (which has started off very muddy)! Hopefully the snowdrops and aconites in the churchyard at St James will show for the Snowdrop Weekends and cheer us up as the month proceeds.

Will we have any time for the exercise that we need:



5th Cowley Guides

The Guides have started the term working towards their Confectioners badge. To gain this interest badge the Guides have made peppermint creams, made and decorated gingerbread men and made chocolate truffles. The Guides will also be finding out about different types of icing and their uses and decorating cakes.

The Guides have chosen a Go For it to work towards this term. They choose to complete Passion For Fashion. The clauses they have chosen to do are making bead bracelets, decorating t-shirts and designing a dream outfit.

We are hoping to take some of the Guides to a special screening of Beauty and the Beast at the cinema for Girl Guiding members only in March.

Cynthia Retter

Claire Ewers

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A word from the Rectory

What sort of Church are we? What sort of Church is God calling us to be? How are we different than the other Churches in the area? Each one of these is a very good question and together they shape the future journey of St James and St Francis. Our vision statement tells us that we are: "To live out God's purposes for us, make Christ known in Cowley and to raise up a new generation to love and serve the Lord". Putting it another way: To follow God's call, to tell the world about Jesus and help others grow into people who live in, and work for his Kingdom. And for us that is within the Church of England Tradition.

Over then last year I have seen a heart of care and hospitality in the family of St James and St Francis. But families do more than care. They raise the next generation to live in the world. It is a world that God loves.

As St Paul writes to the people of Corinth (*1 Corinthians chapter 12*) he talks of the parts of a body working together. He talks about a whole body, a complete body with all the bits it needs to be a body. I believe God gives every Church all the things that it needs. Usually he gives those things to the people in the local Church. Yes, for a time, gifts and skills may need to be parachuted in from the wider Church. But the long-term vision is for the local Church to discover the leaders God calls from within the local church family. Such leaders will be sensitive to local needs. They will tell the local story. They will speak to people as locals.

We are moving into a time when such local leadership is becoming more important.

Leaders come in many shapes and sizes. Some serve for many years, whilst some for just a few months. Some will discover a calling while they are with us and stay with us. Some will serve here for a while, then, led by God, they will move on. All of them are welcome. All of them need to be encouraged.

Growing leaders is part of our vision statement: "to raise up a new generation to love and serve the Lord". This new generation will have leaders. If we are going to raise new leaders, we need to: identify who they are, encourage and train them, commission them, and support them. Some of these leaders will be young in years, others will already be retired. Then there will be people in the ages in between.

Where God equips his Church, some of these future leaders are already sitting in our churches on a Sunday morning. Some people who already take a lead might find themselves called into new areas of leadership.

So look around you. Who might be being called to: help welcome, help in the office, help with the music, help lead the prayers, preach and teach, lead the liturgy, lead a home group, lend a hand with the cleaning... The list goes on. Are they sitting next to you? Or might it, even be you?

Have a chat with each other, or with me. May God bless us on the journey



Benson Cottage

PARISH ELECTORAL ROLL 2017

Now it's February, it is time for the first alert that we will soon be revising the Parish Electoral Roll in time for the Annual Meetings later in the spring. So this message is for any new *and* established participants of our congregations who are not yet and would like to be registered as a committed member of the Parish – at no cost and with the benefits of being able to vote at the Annual Meetings and to stand for Parish roles.

Please take and complete an electoral roll form and return it to church or direct to Lesley Williams, Electoral Roll Officer – details are on the letter with the form.

We will also as usual ask those already on the roll to check the personal details we hold, especially mobile phone numbers and e-addresses, which have a tendency to change

The official notice with dates will be displayed in both churches from later in the month.

ANNUAL MEETINGS

The Annual Meetings of the two Church Committees are planned for:

St Francis Annual Congregational Meeting, Sunday, 12 March 2017, at 12 noon, at St Francis Church

St James Annual Congregational Meeting, Thursday, 16 March 2017, at 7.30 pm at St James Church Centre

Notices will be posted about these meetings, and forms will be available to allow members of the congregation to nominate people they would like on the Church Committees. Please do consider this carefully as it is important that people represent the congregation on the Church Committees.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting is planned for Sunday, 30 April 2017, at 12.15 pm at St James Church Centre. Notices will be posted both for this meeting and members of the congregation should nominate people both for the PCC and the Deanery Synod. In addition, there will be a separate meeting to consider nominations for the posts of Church Wardens. Dave Stanley and Norah Shallow are not eligible to stand again, and nominations for these two positions are important.

Completed forms should be returned to Geoff/Skye/Sally Hemsworth or the Parish Office as soon as possible.

WATCH OUT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OF THESE MEETINGS – DETAILS WILL BE POSTED IN BOTH CHURCHES



Come and join Messy Church and Seashells for fun activities to think about

Love

crafts
toys

baking

story
songs

All ages are welcome

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

Tuesday 14th February

10am – 11.30am

For more details contact:

Mary Bayliss 01865 778596,

Email: m.bayliss41@btinternet.com

or contact the Cowley Parish Church Office 01865 747680

BELL RINGING



at
St James
Church

Bell ringing practice is on
Thursday evenings, 7:30 – 9:00

The side door to the church will be open

A warm welcome is guaranteed to all –
new starters and those returning after a
break and experienced ringers newly
arrived in Cowley

Call Iris 07733 326 718

DID YOU KNOW?

If you live alone you may find it very useful to register with a 24 hour Emergency Response Service. These services provide an emergency response and support service in co-operation with other agencies, which assists people to live independently with dignity, safety and reassurance using appropriate technology. There are many firms, but one which has been drawn to our attention is: Community Voice Ltd, Unit 17 Hardmans Business Centre, New Hall Hey Road, Rawtenstall, Rossendale, BB4 6HH.

Even if you feel very independent and able, please think about this – a recent experience in the Parish showed how useful it would have been if this person had registered with an Emergency Response Service.

Tony Williamson

A number of you will remember Tony Williamson, who was a Worker Priest in Cowley in the 1950s/1960s. His wife, Barbara, was very active in the church at that time. Barbara died at the beginning of December 2015 after a long illness following a stroke. We have recently heard that Tony married again on the 15 October 2016 to Jill Sweeney, a widow whose husband, Ian, died in 2009. She was a great support to Barbara and Tony after Barbara had her stroke.

Tony keeps very busy taking services on Sundays, communion at the nursing home on two Tuesdays a month, some sick communions, Charing Finance Committee on the Parish Council and Watlington Age Concern and lots of other things.

All our best wishes to the newly married couple.

Register 2016

Baptisms

3 January 2016	Lesley Louise Taylor	St James Church
13 March 2016	Kaytee June Norwood-Clark	St James Church
	Rhys Justine Henry	St James Church
19 March 2016	Rosa Amoreth Stocker	St James Church
10 April 2016	Latisha Singh Cheema	Anglican Asian Living Church at St James Church
	Nathan Singh Cheema	- ditto -
	Luke Singh, Sobhan Singh Cheema	- ditto -
8 May 2016	Freddie Hunter	St Francis Church
	Mia Susanne Jane Langford	St James Church
	Parika Masih, Aryan Masih	Anglican Asian Living Church at St James Church
15 May 2016	Priya Sidhu Lal, Priyanka Sidhu Lal	- ditto -
22 May 2016	Tirath Ram, Lolana Ram	- ditto -
	Riley Ram, Jaya Ram	- ditto -
12 June 2016	Freddie Tricker	St Francis Church
31 July 2016	Neeko-Marley Shanahan-Owens	St Francis Church
7 August 2016	Joseph Burchell	St Francis Church
	Noah David Ian Stone	St James Church
21 August 2016	Eden Owens	St Francis Church
17 September 2016	Brooklyn Mary Jane Jones	St James Church
	Ella Elizabeth Irene Margaret Greenough	St James Church
24 September 2016	Holly Kate O'Neil	St James Church
2 October 2016	Amelie Scarlett Maconchy	St James Church
13 November 2016	Honey Rose Wilson, Chester Lenny Wilson	St James Church

Weddings:

25 June 2016	James Morrison/Charlotte Jilbert	St James Church
6 August 2016	Danielle Scrace/Benji Ross	St James Church
22 October 2016	Richard Buy/Gemma Jackson	St James Church

Funerals:

10 March 2016	The Revd John Goodwin	St James Church
19 May 2016	Sheldon Winspere Thomas	St James Church
23 May 2016	Peter John Curtis	St James Church
27 May 2016	Alice Richardson	St James Church
2 June 2016	Jenny Elliffe	St James Church
15 June 2016	Ethel Giles	St James Church
23 June 2016	Zena Johnson	St James Church
27 June 2016	Betty Cook	St James Church
15 July 2016	Ivy May Surman	Oxford Crematorium
	Leonard Patrick	St James Church
13 July 2016	Georgina (Gina) Murphy	Oxford Crematorium
22 July 2016	David Bishop	St James Church
29 July 2016	Eugen Blackman	St James Church
22 August 2016	Mr Tufail	Anglican Asian Living Church at St James Church
31 August 2016	Francis Elders	St James Church
1 September 2016	Joy Orszulik	St James Church
9 September 2016	Beatrice (Bette) Ethel Harris	Oxford Crematorium
28 October 2016	Evered (Eddie) Harvey Anderson	Oxford Crematorium
3 November 2016	Margaret Harris	St James Church
25 November 2016	Lionel Francis George Dunsby	Oxford Crematorium
1 December 2016	Eleanor Bradbury	St Francis Church
21 December 2016	Eileen Matthews	St James Church

CHURCHES WITHIN OUR DEANERY

Church of the Holy Family, Blackbird Leys



This distinctive church in Blackbird Leys was designed and erected by Colin Shewing, finally being completed and dedicated in 1965. This was quite soon after the estate was built. Meetings before this were at the Priest's house, then in a Health Centre and finally a wooden hut.

I was told that from above, the building resembles a heart shape and indeed when inside the church it is difficult to find a wall which is not curved in some way.

On entering the main church area I was quite astounded at the space inside, mainly, I think, because of those curving walls with no straight boundaries for the eye to seize upon. But once you are used to this effect, the eye is drawn to the Font with its cobbled area being led in via a path partly enclosed with a low stone wall with a bench atop. The actual Font is constructed from stone and is in the form of a large round bath, into which flows water from a small raised trough, like a mill leat.

The Altar is another new shape for me. It is made in the round, and with its supports, also from stone. Just behind this Altar stands another, this I took as being the children's area of worship.

The Pulpit was also made from this same material, being a slim handsome slab.

All these features make this a very modern looking place of worship.

This church today serves as the point of worship for The Church of England, Baptist, Methodist, Moravian and United Reform Church faiths and with its Café at the rear open to the public, (daily from Monday to Fridays at 9.30am to 2.30pm), it would be a pleasure to anyone just to pop in and have a glimpse of what is offered as a church and a place of peace and tranquillity.

Les Hemsworth

Roz interviews Lindsay Powell

So I started by asking Lindsay how she came to ring bells in the first place. The answer was 'Roseanne, in a word!' Apparently every so often, and especially when new neighbours move in, Roseanne has a soiree (wine and nibbles to us lesser mortals,) and gives a real welcome to, and a position at, St James'!

But let's go back to the beginning.

Lindsay was born in Kennington, the only child of unhappy parents. When they both remarried, separately, they were happier! There were lots of children locally, and with gardens, fields and the river to play in together in warmer weather, and as a more solitary bookworm in the winter, growing up was not too bad for her. We also talked of good memories from holidays with an auntie in Southend.

Lindsay has worked for a long time now as an administrator in the NHS, and describes the work as partly that of a 'number cruncher', although she releases her creativity designing posters while organising social events. I asked her how the chronic under funding of the NHS affected her job, and she said the biggest issue at work is the serious lack of resources - right down to or-

dering stationery - she said they mobbed the drugs reps. when they come - for pens! I think a lot of us think the NHS spends too much on administration!

Then to my amazing lessons in bell ringing! The early difficulties are not physical actions of ringing the bell, but the timing of the sound from an instrument you cannot see. In contrast to singing, (my forte, I hope you'll agree) where you get to use the printed words and music, a bell ringer has to learn the methods and sequences - a quarter peal, which takes about 40 minutes to ring, requires an amazing amount of concentration! It is a hobby which attracts mathematicians, physicists and NHS number crunchers, apparently! I asked if ringers ever started as children or if most were interested at a later stage, but Lindsay said a lot of children do come through - and that they are fearless, as opposed to concerned about great big bells falling on them from a great height! Apparently a few years ago a teenager was ringing - not at St James', I hasten to add - when the clapper of a bell did break off and fall down, but thankfully, no one was injured! I asked if there was an accepted 'retiring age' but Lindsay said that older people still ring, but

move on to the smaller bells and have more breaks to sit down in. She said they are still very much a part of the team, as they still guide the newer ringers. I asked if bell ringing at weddings was less in demand as the years go on, and Lindsay said it did seem to have been, but then last summer was really busy!

When you finish a ringing session you leave the bell with its open end pointing downwards - for the reason a local church discovered when its ringers started the next session, after some rain, and they got very wet! There is another church in Oxfordshire who have had a new organ fitted in the not too distant past, and now if their bells need to be taken off site for any maintenance, they would have to go out externally, as the new instrument is in the way! Lindsay said how nice it was that Mary (Bayliss) rings - it is the clergy who do not understand what is required for all these elements to co-exist, that make fundamental errors.

Our bells are maintained by Whites, a company in Appleton, who inspect the frames annually and complete any work required. Each tower has a 'steeple keeper' who checks the 'stays' or woodwork on a more

frequent basis - keeping an eye out for loose bolts or cracks. They also have the responsibility to check for endangered birds or bats who may decide a tower is a great place to nest! I am guessing our tower is not as hard to check as most others - St James' tower being 1 of the 2 shortest in Britain.

Lindsay took to campanology so well that she became Branch Secretary for Oxford City Ringers - which involves sharing details of planned events and visits to other churches to ring, as well as providing information for new ringers. There is only one qualified bell ringing teacher in Oxford – you have guessed it - Lindsay! To become a teacher she has had to pass a bell handling module, a one day mentoring module and do an assessed lesson.

I asked if ringers arrange to ring at other churches when they are on holiday, and Lindsay said poor Chris has to go off and do his own thing once she finds a local church! She has rung in Wales and Hereford on holidays, and although there is only one church with a set of (smaller) bells in Europe - in Holland - there are a few more sets in the old Commonwealth countries, and Kenya, South Africa and India. We are about to get an international visit - 8

youngsters from Connecticut are coming to Oxford for a few days in February to ring British bells. They have a bell tower at their school, as you do!

.....

How would you describe yourself as a small child?

A bookworm.

Have you any happy memories of childhood?

Yes, holidays with my Auntie in Southend. I was close to a friend called Liz at school, but lost touch, as we often do. This story is happier though - as my Mum has been going to the same Church in Kennington for 30 years, so when Liz visited 16 or so years ago, we were able to get back together, and still meet up now and again!

Has your faith been with you since childhood?

My family did not go to church regularly, but in his later years, my Grandad started to go - and I explored it with him, but as I became a teenager, 'stuff' crowded it out. I now 'make a joyful noise to the Lord', but I am not a service goer.

Do you have a treasured possession?

Yes, a teddy bear that was my Mum's before it was mine.

What is your opinion of present day society?

It is not necessarily worse - busier, more crowded and faster (and me slower!). I look for the good bits!

If you could change something in an important way, what would it be?

I would get rid of Donald Trump.

Which period of your adult life has given you the most satisfaction?

The first few years after I met Chris! We met when volunteering together at a homeless night shelter - something we have done for 22 years! He works at the Ashmolean as a data architect, and is cooking my meal while we chat! A well trained husband!

How do you like to spend your leisure time?

I like to go out for meals and long country walks with Chris and our rescue dog Charlie. I like to ring bells!

What plans do you have for the future?

We are talking about moving to somewhere less hectic - possibly in Oxfordshire or Wales. But I will still be ringing!

DIARY DATES TO REMEMBER

Mothers' Union

Monthly Meeting on 3rd Monday of month
from 2.30pm.

20 February—Preparation for The Women's World
Day of Prayer
St James Church Centre

Women's Institute

Monthly Meeting is on 3rd Wednesday of month
from 2 – 4.30 pm

15 February 2017—Armchair travelling to Guernsey
and some other Channel Islands
St James Church Centre

Coffee, Cake and Communion

Monthly meeting on 3rd Tuesday of month
from 10.30 a.m.

With Rev Skye at the Vicarage, 27 Don Bosco Close
(Tel: 434160)

Cowley Parish Bike Rides

Usually the 3rd Saturday of the month

Snowdrop Weekends

February 4th and 5th and 11th and 12th 2017

Church open for viewing and refreshments

Saturdays 10.30 am to 3.30 pm

Sundays 2 – 4 pm

St James Church

Parochial Church Council

Sunday, 5 February 2017, 12 noon at St Francis
Church

Film Club

Friday, 10 February 2017 – "The Man That Never
Was". St James Church Centre, commencing at 6.30
pm with coffee and cake

Valentine Tea Party

saturday, 11th February 2017

3 – 5 pm

St Francis Church

Story of Cowley : After Victoria

Talk by Rosanne Butler

Friday, 17 February 2017 at 6.45 pm

St James Church Centre

£5 per person

An Evening of Conversation

With the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community UK

Saturday, 11 February 2017, 5 – 8 pm

Rose Hill Community Centre

Messy Church - Love

Tuesday, 14 February, 10 – 11.30 am

St James Church Centre

Lunch at the Centre

Sunday, 19 February 2017 at 12.45 am

St James Church Centre

Leading Your Church Into Growth (LYCIG)

A Deanery Day

Saturday, 25 February 2017, 9.30 am – 3 pm

St James Church Centre

Women's World Day of Prayer

Friday, 3 March 2017 at 3.30 pm

Cowley St James Church

St Francis Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, 12 March 2017, at 12 noon

St Francis Church

St James Annual Congregational Meeting

Thursday, 16 March 2017, at 7.30 pm

St James Church Centre

Parochial Church Council

Sunday, 19 March 2017, 12 noon at St Francis

Church

Easter Fun Day

Saturday, 8 April 2017, 10 am – 2 pm

St Francis Church

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday, 30 April 2017, at 12.15 pm

St James Church Centre

'Victorian Schooling'

Talk by Liz Woolley

Friday, 5 May 2017 at 6.45 pm

St James Church Centre

£5 per person

Plant Sale

Saturday, 13 May 2017, 12 – 3 pm

St James Church Centre

Cowley Festival of Christmas Trees 2017

First Full Planning Meeting, Wednesday, 24 May

2017 at 9.30 am

St James Church Centre

REMEMBER – Tuesday Lunches at St James Church
Centre from 12.30 pm.

LOCAL NEWS

Development at Templar Square

NewRiver has submitted an application for the major redevelopment of the Templar Square shopping centre, which includes 225 new homes, a 71-bedroom hotel and two new restaurants, and were answering concerns from residents after it emerged a barrage of opposition had been levied against the development.

This application has to be determined by the 23 March 2017 but a date when it will be considered by Committee has not yet been decided. The formal date for comments has passed but if you feel strongly that you would like to make comments on the proposals contact the Oxford City Council, ... the planning application number is 16/03005/FUL.

The web link is <http://public.oxford.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=dates&keyVal=OGZS3FMF0TQ00>

One new Council for the Whole of Oxfordshire?

Oxfordshire County Council wants to know what you think about its draft proposal to abolish all six councils in Oxfordshire and replace them with one new council for the whole county, called a 'unitary' council.

This is a draft proposal and Oxfordshire County Council wants to hear from residents before finalising the proposal and sending it to the government for a decision. To find out more and have your say, go to www.oneoxfordshire.org.

The Temple Cowley Pools site, Temple Road

The Save Temple Cowley Pools Campaign has been fighting since 2009 to keep open the Temple Cowley Pools & Fitness Centre in Temple Road, Oxford and its fight is continuing even though the facility has been demolished.

The Save Temple Cowley Pools Campaign would welcome your support – they can be contacted on savetcp@gmail.com and, for further information, their website is www.savetemplecowleypools.webs.com

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

COWLEY CHURCH & HOME MAGAZINE

February 1894

BAND OF HOPE

On Friday 19th January, there was the usual quarterly tea given to the children of the Band of Hope, and about 100 children sat down to enjoy the good things provided. After the tea a magic lantern was shown by Mr. Bennett and explained by the Vicar. More than 90 persons paid at the door, and as all adult persons were admitted free of charge there must have been nearly 300 persons present.

May we appeal to parents to encourage their children to join this Band of Hope? During the last few years there has been a great increase in the habit of smoking among young children in this parish. This habit is discouraged in the Band of Hope. A short time ago a parent brought a child to the Vicar four and a half years old who was found smoking a cigarette. It is a grave question whether the person who supplied this to a child of such tender years is not more guilty of the injury done to the child than the child itself – especially is this the case when it is well-known that 99 parents out of 100 in this country do not wish this to take place. In addition to the injury therefore to the health of the child, this act of supplying children creates a spirit of hypocrisy in the child which is very injurious to it. Parents are therefore earnestly entreated to protect their children from this grave temptation, and encourage a spirit of frankness that they may be able to detect this error and nip it in the bud. It is unnatural for a child to smoke, and nature itself will assist the parents to prevent this injury amongst their children.

BOYS' SCHOOL

Mr. Furmage resigned his position in this school during the Christmas vacation, and Mr. Geary, a first-class certificated master, has been employed temporarily. He has had a most difficult task to perform, and has worked admirably well. There is no reason why the secular knowledge in the Boys' School should not be as good as that in the Infants' and Girls', and a great effort will be made to bring this about. The children have got into the habit of coming late, and we therefore appeal to the parents to assist the master in securing attendance punctually at nine. The school will now be opened at 8.45, and work will commence at nine sharp. Parents should take care that their children attend regularly.

Mr. James R. Cowans has been engaged from Dalston, Carlisle. Mr. Cowans holds a first-class certificate and "excellent" Government reports, and we hope the children will make progress under him.

NEW SCHOOL FOR INFANTS

The first block to accommodate 60 infants is now finished. It is a beautiful, well regulated, well warmed, well - ventilated room. The cost for this room has been £400. The other block will be commenced when the weather permits. The money comes in very slowly; £350 more is required to pay for the two blocks. Most persons can assist in getting funds in some way or other – by attending the entertainments which are given for this object, by giving alms in the Parish Church, and encouraging those who help. All the money you give at these entertainments goes direct to this object; there are no expenses, no person receives payment for anything, so that if you spend 6d. you purchase 18 bricks towards these buildings. This brings us to the point of drawing our readers' attention to the entertainment which will be given by Major Colton, from the Depot, on Monday, 5th February, in the Temple Cowley Schools, at 8pm. The masters from St. Kenelm's have very kindly undertaken to provide the first hour of this entertainment. Mr. Mare is well-known to our readers as a first-class musician and requires no words from us to recommend anything of this kind that emanates from St. Kenelm's. Major Colton, who has spent some years abroad, will display by means of a magic lantern his own experience during his travels in Burmah. Come, therefore, and assist us by your presence. You can assist in a most practical form a Christian work in your own parish which will remain long after we have left this world. Tickets can be had at the Post Office, or at the Schools. Front seats 1s. each, others 6d. each.

Researched by Les Hemsworth



Have you thought about being
Baptised or Confirmed?
We have a Confirmation/Baptism
group starting soon . If you are
interested have a word with
Geoff, Skye or Richard.



All are welcome to our

**Women's World Day of Prayer
service** (prepared by Christian Women
of the Philippines)

at Cowley St James Church, on
Friday 3rd March 2017 at
3.30pm.



Activities for school-aged children and a
crèche area in the church. Refreshments
will be served after the service in the St
James Centre.

February-Fill-Dike

The poem starts: February fills dikes, overflows fields and streams, turns paths to slippery ooze.

Yes, it can be less than pleasant if you want to work in garden or allotment. While the ground is sodden, I start making lists. I am looking around at the garden and the first job on my list is to do a tidy up of all the dead top growth on perennials. But I cannot get my brown bin full yet as it just is too wet to tramp all over the borders to get to this stuff. The dead *Acanthus* stalks are lying flat all over the place and brown top growth of Michaelmas daisies and hardy geraniums are all looking at me reproachfully. I just don't have the impetus when days are short, miserable and damp! Similarly, getting my Other Half to get turning the ground over on the allotment is just a no go.

However, I am starting to look forward to spring as, when you look closely, signs of new growth are all around. Snowdrops are starting to thrust their white buds through the emerging leaves and daffodils are starting to push upwards too. However we have a long time to go yet before the cold, rain and frosts have gone.

What I can actually do is give the shed a good tidy and get out spending some money! For the last few years, I have bought some plants in plugs which I can grow on. Largely for the Plant Sale in May but also for gaps and pots at home. The order is now in. I also need to buy my seed potatoes and onion and shallot sets. Again this year I am going to start the onions and shallots in modules in the greenhouse. Note to self, buy more compost and, while I am at it, another pair of wellies. My present pair has a hole and I need to go up a size to accommodate decent socks. My Other Half always laughs at me wearing wellies and suggests I should

wear boots. You can't take the farm out of the girl!

Towards the end of January I get roused from my winter torpor and begin thinking about the year's growing. I already have a good seed supply for this year, ordered via the allotment group in autumn. They need putting in order and planning when to start them off. It is still a bit early yet but the electric propagator needs to be set up clean and ready. This is not to say that I might be tempted by the seed displays in the garden centre and get something new to grow.

So I am looking forward to warmer days to tempt me out. A Christmas present of a decent pair of secateurs is awaiting to tackle the tangle of the wisteria and prune to a couple of buds on each stem. The autumn fruiting raspberries need cutting down to the ground on the plot but I want some warm sun on my back when I do it!

The Plant Sale this year is Saturday 13th May, noon to 3pm. If you can, please think about plants you can grow or divide and pot on. Talking of pots, I am always needing small 3-4 inch pots for small individual plants. Please bring any my way if you can spare them. I have enough larger pots for now, but if you want any to use then just ask.

Joan Coleman



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COWLEY FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS TREES 2016 - the greatest gift

Fundraising for SeeSaw & ROSY

Thanks again to everyone who was involved in another highly successful festival with some special highlights. As usual, we loved *all* the music: the Oxfordshire Jazz Collective (OJC) and the Oxfordshire County Youth Choir, both from our award winning County Music Service, were superb in the Saturday evening concert.... and then we had the bonus of a mini-concert on the Wednesday evening from Rising Voices, led by Emily Marshall – a community choir newly moved to Cowley and now practising weekly at St James Centre. Emily returned to conduct a ‘pop up join in and sing’ event on the second Saturday afternoon, skilfully persuading all sorts of people who thought they were only there to watch/listen that they were all members of the choir! She brought some members of her other singing groups around Oxford with her to support those who were less experienced.

Messy Christmas Church met in the St James Centre for crafts and play on the second Saturday, before coming into the church for a story – The Story – and music.

Templars Square management was again very supportive with PR, media coverage and the provision of four real trees which had been decorated by shoppers in the Centre – we have some more new ideas to work with them for the next festival.

Seven new groups/individuals/businesses contributed trees, including Noah Scarlett, a Y4 pupil at St Christopher’s school, whose bottle pasta tree was the 60th! And we were very pleased with our knitted trees – thanks to all those who knitted the squares and Ed Ling for the backing boards. Pat Chambers was the champion knitter, closely followed by Roz Ware.

For those who like data – Results (facts and figures)

Trees:	2015:	52	2016:	60
Visitors:	2015:	800	2016:	948

Money (*figures rounded*):

Income:	2015: £2,528	2016: £2,100
	<i>included £800</i>	<i>included £500 sponsorship</i>

Expenditure (*not covered by the Parish and personal donations*)

2015: £176	2016: £100
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Donations to SeeSaw & ROSY each:	2012: £ 350
	2013: £ 500
	2014: £ 750
	2015: £1,000
	2016: £1,000

COWLEY FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS 2017 will be Friday 9 – Saturday 17 December on a theme still under discussion. Our targets are: £1,100 for each charity - 65 trees – 1,000 visitors.

The first full planning meeting is on Wednesday 24 May, 9.30 - join the team!

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

NEWS FROM ST FRANCIS

Our primary piece of news must be that we are shortly to lose our beloved Skye and her talented family, who are moving on to pastures new very shortly. We have so much to thank her for, and we are truly grateful for all that she has done for us at St Francis. Her great crusade has been to draw more families into our congregation, and in that she has been successful. She has poured so much into her ministry with us, compassion, love, pastoral care, thoughtful planning and social events. She will be sorely missed and we will have a great gap in our lives which we will find difficult to fill.

However, we have to face the fact that our clergy do move on from time to time, and have

done in many churches over the years.

There is nothing unusual in that.

We have to face our situation and cope with it. We have a number of people in our congregation with great gifts and talents. We shall have to draw on our resources and pull together to get us through this empty period. We do not know what the future holds for us at church, but we must all pray about it and put the matter in His hands. We rejoice in the fact that we can trust in Him.

John Shreeve



REPORT FROM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

A PCC meeting was held on the 4 December 2016 when the following matters were discussed:

- ∅ Joan Coleman gave a detailed report on the financial position of the Parish, its income and spending. The Parish is continuing to spend more than its income and this is of great concern.
- ∅ Refurbishment of Entrance Hall at St Francis: The PCC agreed to accept two estimates – one for the damp proof work and one for decoration. [*Work is due to commence at the beginning of February 2017*]
- ∅ The PCC noted that The Revd Skye Denno's last service will be Palm Sunday – look out for details on the plans for that day.

The next PCC Meeting is on the 5 February – the day the Chronicle is published – so more information in the next edition.

Sally Hemsworth
PCC Secretary

One Sunday we were attending church when the rector invited the children to come forward as he had a visual aid to show them. He produced a smoke detector. He asked the children what it meant when they could hear the alarm. Quickly one small boy gave the answer. "It means Daddy is cooking the dinner."

St Francis CE Primary – Autumn term 2016

It has been a busy and enjoyable start to the school year at St Francis. We had three new members of staff in September – two teachers and three teaching assistants, with one new teacher set to join us in January to cover a maternity leave in Y5. We also have two Co- headteachers now, Mrs Anneka Fisher and Mrs Gillian Standing.

Having celebrated a positive Ofsted outcome in June it was great to start this school year with solid foundations, high morale and a clear focus for school improvement. Reading is our key priority for development this year. We are developing the way we teach reading and comprehension skills across the school, continuing the focus on phonics in the Early Years and KS1 and promoting the enjoyment of reading at every opportunity. Our fantastic new library bus opened in July although it is not yet equipped with heating and lighting so we have created a temporary indoor library space so that we can continue to enjoy all the new books through the winter. Once the new classroom is built next year and the building work has finished we will be able to permanently site the bus and connect up the electricity so that it can be used all year round.

Last year with Reverend Skye's help and support, we introduced a permanent prayer space to the front entrance hall and this is continuing to develop this academic year. The themes this term have been 'Creation' and 'Prayer net'. Children of all faiths are enjoying contributing to these interactive displays and the on-going prayer writing – which now includes a prayer of the week in our newsletter to parents. We also continue to welcome the Open the Book team fortnightly to lead assemblies with pupil involvement.

This term we have had a significant focus on anti-bullying with special activities during National Anti-bullying week in November. Part of this work has included introducing six Y5 Anti-bullying Ambassadors. They received special training from Jo Brown, the Local Authority Anti-bullying co-ordinator and are now planning to help raise awareness and understanding of the issues around bullying throughout the year with input into assemblies/ fundraising activities/ competitions/ surveys and developing play activities.

Gillian Standing
Co- Headteacher



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REAL EASTER EGGS from the Meaningful Chocolate Company

The Real Easter Egg was launched in 2010. It was a real struggle at first as all the supermarkets turned it down. It was left to churches and schools to place orders in order to fund The Meaningful Chocolate Company. To date, more than one million eggs have been sold with 750,000 of these sent through the post directly to churches and schools. Therefore, not only has there been an increase in Fairtrade chocolate sales, but nearly £250,000 has been donated to charity.

The Real Easter Egg remains the only Fairtrade egg to explain the meaning of Easter with a copy of the Easter story in each box. Buying any of the eggs of course also supports farmers and producers in the developing world by using Fairtrade chocolate.

In the Parish of Cowley, we will again be taking orders for the eggs or you can buy the regular one for yourself at some supermarkets and at Fairtrade shops:

it is still only £3.99 for the Real Easter Egg (125g) featuring a redesigned box which shows the 3 crosses, a new 24 page Easter story activity booklet and a 'Yummy bar' (25g), with a 10p donation for each one going to Traidcraft Exchange.

Also available are a dark chocolate Real Easter Egg (165g) for £5.50, with a dark chocolate Yummy bar (25g) and the Easter story activity booklet; and a £8.50 special edition egg (200g) with an Easter traditions booklet, and an orange milk chocolate bar (80g).

Plus there is a Super Sharing Box containing 30 x 20g Midi eggs and 30 of the Easter story booklet £30. The foil reads 'Christ is Risen'. We will have those available at £1 per egg.

New this year, there is an Egg Hunt box (6 x 20g midi eggs = 120g) £5.00 which contains 6 high quality midi chocolate eggs and the 24 page Easter story-activity book.

An order form is available in both churches and St James Centre – deadline Sunday 26 February

<http://www.realeasteregg.co.uk/our-eggs>

Order the 2017 Real Easter Egg Here

Special Edition (RRP £8.50)
Contains a high quality milk chocolate egg (200g), an Easter traditions booklet and orange milk chocolate bar (80g)

Original (RRP £3.99)
The most popular best selling & with new redesign, includes a 24 page Easter story-activity book illustrated by award-winning artist Anna Moxart, a high quality milk chocolate egg (125g) & Yummy bar (25g)

Dark (RRP £5.50)
An egg made from premium dark Fairtrade chocolate (165g) with dark Yummy bar (25g) and a 24 page Easter story activity book.

New Design Easter story
A 24 page Easter story-activity book illustrated by Anna Moxart is included in the Original and Dark eggs.

Out of the 50 million chocolate Easter Eggs sold each year, The Real Easter Egg is the only Fairtrade one with the Easter story in the box.

www.realeasteregg.co.uk

RECIPE

So many things are in season in February, and the following list has been found by a search on the web:



Brussels Sprouts, Cabbages,
Red Chicory, Endive, Kale,
Leeks, Onions, Swede,
Forced Rhubarb, Purple Sprouting Broccoli,
Pineapple, Medjool Dates, Scallops, Walnuts,
Venison, Salmon, Turnips, Turbot, Halibut, Je-
rusalem Artichokes, Mussels, Beetroot, Hare,
John Dory, Brill, Clams, Kale, Chard, Oysters,
Cockles, Parsnips, Haddock, Pears, Hake,
Pomegranate

In addition, there are also a number of Special Celebrations during February - St Valentines Day, Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday (Beginning of Lent).

So endless choices but roasted rhubarb is a favourite – at least for the author of this article!! – so the following recipe appealed.

Fast rhubarb tart with mascarpone cream

For the roasted rhubarb:

5-6 stalks rhubarb

Good shake of light brown sugar

For the tart

Frozen ready-rolled all-butter puff pastry, de-frosted

1 tsp butter, for greasing

Flour, for dusting

2 large organic eggs, separated

2 tbsp unrefined caster sugar

250g/9oz tub mascarpone

2-3 drops vanilla extract

Method

For the roasted rhubarb, preheat the oven to 200C/400F/Gas 6. Cut the rhubarb into 15cm/6in or so lengths (about the length of a wooden spoon-handle) and place in a roasting tin with half a tea-cup of water and the light brown sugar. Roast until just soft enough to take the point of a knife, about 10-15 minutes.

Allow to cool, then drain, reserving the cooking juices.

For the tart, preheat the oven to 220C/425F/Gas 7. Unroll the puff pastry, and using a rolling pin, roll it again to make the pastry slightly thinner. Cut the pastry into three even-sized rectangles. Using a sharp knife, score a 1.5cm/½in border around each rectangle, being careful not to cut through the pastry. Place the pastry rectangles on a lightly greased baking sheet.

Arrange 3-4 lengths of drained rhubarb, depending on the thickness of them, into the middle of the pastry rectangles and brush some of the reserved juice from the roasted rhubarb around the edges to give the pastry a shine. Bake for 20 minutes, until golden and risen.

Meanwhile beat the egg yolks and sugar in a bowl for a few seconds, until thoroughly mixed. Beat in the mascarpone until you have a custard-coloured cream. Stir in a little vanilla extract; a couple of drops should be enough. With a clean whisk, beat the egg white in a clean bowl until it stands in stiff peaks, then fold into the creamed mascarpone mixture.

Serve the mascarpone cream with the warm rhubarb tarts. Any remaining mascarpone cream can be served the following day with berries or used to top meringues served with fruit.

From Nigel Slater's Simple Suppers

GOD ALONE CAN SEE

In the bulb there is a flower,
In the seed, an apple tree.
In cocoons, a hidden promise,
Butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter,
There's a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season,
Something God alone can see.

.....

In our end is our beginning,
In our time, infinity,
In our doubt, there is believing,
In our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection,
At the last a victory,
Unrevealed until its season
Something God alone can see

MOTHER'S UNION NEWS

The Mothers' Union Annual General Meeting was held on 15 January in the Church Centre. The attendance was remarkably good and we were also pleased to welcome the Diocesan President, Alison Bennett. The annual report for 2016 was presented (see below) with the Treasurer's Report. Both of these were passed as accurate, proposed by Margaret Randall and seconded by Valerie Goodall.

The new committee was elected as follows:

Branch leader and treasurer:	Rosanne Butler
Assistant treasurer and prayer leader:	Mandy Watts
Administration:	May Morgan
Purchasing:	Patricia Michael
Committee members:	Mary Bayliss Christine Woodman

An open forum headed by the Diocesan president followed and she questioned us about our branch activities. It seems that we "tick most of the boxes". She was most complimentary about the vibrancy of the Cowley branch.

The meeting concluded with tea and biscuits but, exceptionally, with a celebration cake to mark the 90th birthday of one of our members – Vera Chilvers.

Our annual Bring-and-Buy stall raised just over £41 for branch funds.

Members were reminded that the annual subscriptions were now due.

This month's meeting on 20 February will be a preparation session for The Women's World Day of Prayer.

ANNUAL REPORT OF COWLEY MOTHERS' UNION 2016

It has been said that a parish which has an incumbent priest who is supportive of its branch of the Mothers' Union is likely to flourish. So it has been with us.

Our former rector, the Revd Howard Thornton, was such a person who whilst here became a Mothers' Union member. When our present rector, the Revd Canon Dr Geoffrey Bayliss arrived we were delighted to learn that he was already a member as was his wife, Mary. No sooner had Geoff been inducted than he was an active member of our branch, a branch which is flourishing.

At the beginning of the year two former members who had been busy working parents, returned and were reinstated since their retirement. Since then our numbers have further increased. Another lady who moved into our parish (also an MU member) joined us and in December we were delighted to see three new members enrolled. Thus our membership is increasing. We are now the only full MU branch in the Oxford Deanery. In one way we are proud of this whilst in another we are sad to see so many branches finding themselves unable to continue.

Our present vicar, Skye Denno, has been a member since joining our parish. She has now been appointed as priest-in-charge of Marston and Elsfeld parishes and so will be leaving us. We offer her our congratulations on her preferment. We are also hoping that a new branch of Mothers' Union will be set up there. If not we have offered an invitation for any parishioners there to come and join us. We would be happy to add the names of their parishes to our banner.

It has been a busy year for us. At the AGM in January 2016 five committee members were elected. Since none of them felt able to take the role of leader it was agreed that we should be run by the

committee. Those appointed were: May Morgan, administrator, Rosanne Butler, Treasurer, and Betty Canterbury, John Shreeve and Marlene Shreeve. John and Marlene have both suffered quite serious health problems and Betty has had a period of sickness since then. This meant that May and Rosanne were somewhat stretched for several months. In September the members agreed to co-opt Mary Bayliss on to the committee and she has given us a new energy.

For our 140th Anniversary celebrations in August it was Mary who suggested an unusual way to celebrate. Almost single-handed she organised a Saturday afternoon tea-party for families and friends at which we had the opportunity to hand-paint a mug as a keep-sake. It was a great success, we all painted our mugs (some more artistic than others!) and the stars of the afternoon were the children who created lovely designs and then played board-games with Geoff (our rector) while the rest of us chatted after a tea which included celebration cake.

Meetings have been well attended throughout the year, particularly those with good speakers. We are always pleased when the Revd Canon Mark Oxbrow, the Director of CMS comes to share with us his experiences of the world-wide Christian Church. Mark is a great friend of our branch and now, of course, our Diocesan Office occupies a space in the CMS headquarters in Garsington Road. Another excellent speaker was Mr Brian Lowe who gave a beautifully illustrated talk on the history of stained glass in Oxford.

During the year we held three "party" meetings to which we invited friends of our branch. Our St George's Day lunch in April was a success and we were joined by Pam Cooper from Kidlington who, at the time, was our Deanery leader. The summer tea party saw our numbers rather depleted due to ill health but our recent Christmas party was very well attended and a delightful afternoon of readings, carols and tea was enjoyed by us all.

Two parish outreach occasions have encouraged many parishioners to come along. In February we held our "Puddings and Quiz" evening and in September the "Poetry, Wine and Cheese" evening. Both of these are now something of a tradition in the parish and people are asking for the dates of these in 2017. It is encouraging to know that our friends at church enjoy what we do both as a Mothers' Union branch and a social group.

It was decided this year that whilst we do support projects run by the Mothers' Union we have a Children's Hospital almost on our door-step and that we might be helpful to them especially as they are expanding their accommodation for the parents of sick children. For years many of our members have been knitting small garments for their premature baby unit and continue to do so. Cot blankets are now being added to these. The Children's Hospital has invited us to help in their Open Day in February 2017 and some members are preparing to do so.

Touching on our association world-wide it is our policy to support Mothers' Union projects wherever we can. This year we sent £50 to the Make a Mother's Day Scheme, £40 to the Mary Sumner House Harvest Appeal, £25 to the Christmas Appeal and supported the Diocesan AFIA scheme with a further £22.

Nearer to home, three members joined in the Diocesan celebration of Lady Day 2016 on 4th April. It was a joyful occasion, the singing was amazing. The ladies of Gerrards Cross provided a splendid lunch. The group activities in the afternoon gave us an opportunity to share discussion with Mothers' Union members from many areas.

With a growing membership and the support of our clergy, with many friends throughout the parish and with future projects waiting for us we reflect on 2016 with pleasure and anticipate further growth in the coming year.

Rosanne Butler

FRIENDS OF ST JAMES

The Old School is so nearly sold – it is with the Diocesan appointed solicitors right now and contracts should have been exchanged before Christmas. It is expected to become a commercial Early Years provision. Once it is formalised, we will talk to the new owners about having a plaque on the building, referencing its heritage.

The Friends continue: Rosanne Butler's brand new Story of Cowley talk is 'After Victoria' and

OLD SCHOOL

will cover the period up to 1960. Friday 17 February: refreshments from 6.30, the talk from 7.00. Just £5 for your entertainment and education!

Following that, Liz Woolley, another leading local historian, will talk about 'Victorian Schooling' on Friday 5 May.

Look out also for details of a bluebell time visit to Nuffield Place.

CHRONICLE

Editorial Team- Sally Hemsworth, May Morgan, Nicki Stevens

Deadline for the next edition:

Monday 20 February 2017

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

The Editorial Committee in no way accepts responsibility for goods or services supplied by our advertisers.

Film Club at the Centre

Maggie Smith, our "local" star made "The Lady in the Van" a very entertaining film for our January evening. Despite a cold, wet night we had a good audience. Happily Dave Stanley, our regular projectionist, has sorted out those gremlins in the technology, and both sound and picture quality were right up to standard.

This month's film has quite a tense scenario. "The Man that Never Was" is set in the Second World War and is based on a true incident devised to deceive the enemy. The stars are Robert Fleming and Clifton Webb. As is our policy we try to vary the genre of the film each month in the hope that we keep our members interested.

We have a slight problem with our April club night as the second Friday of the month happens this year to be Good Friday. Pat Sansom, our friendly booking officer, has therefore booked the 21st April instead when the film will be "Hello Dolly" – just right for a jolly Easter week. Please would members pass on the new date to friends and potential guests.

Members I am sure will be very pleased to know that the total profit made from their donations in 2016 was almost £900 for parish funds.

Rosanne Butler



Ladies Pudding Party!

On Tuesday 24th January, a group of 21 lovely ladies came to the Rectory to taste some delicious puddings and cakes and spend time together chatting. We had so much fun that we have decided to do it again. As there is a MU Quiz and pudding evening in March, we are hoping to have one in May. If you missed the last one and would like to come to the next, please look out for an invitation to one in May.

Saturday Feb 11th
Alpha Course:
Holy Spirit Day

The Church Centre
Beauchamp Lane OX43LF

9:30 am to
1:30 pm
Finishing with
lunch at 12:30

What is the Holy Spirit?
How can the Holy Spirit help me?
Can I be filled with the Holy Spirit?
What does the Holy Spirit do?

Join the adventure
St James Centre
Beauchamp Lane
OX4 3LF
Details: 01865 778596
alpha@cowleyteamministry.co.uk

Alpha
Alpha.org
#TryAlpha

CHRISTIAN AID 2017

Oh no! there is no 'over the edge' sponsored abseil this year! What challenge can Lesley Williams undertake instead? IDEAS PLEASE!

It might have to be something that really IS a challenge, instead of just being fun – and it could of course be a group event.

We are also considering whether we collect in Christian Aid Week (May 14-20) in a different way, instead of door to door with envelopes.

WATCH OUT for the chance to come to a short, social, decision making meeting

We do expect to hold our usual Super Soup lunch, a Big Brekkie and a Quiz Aid evening.

TREASURER NEEDED FOR MOTHERS' UNION, OXFORD DIOCESE



The trustees are seeking a new Diocesan Treasurer, a voluntary position. If you, or someone you know, would like and are able to support Mothers' Union in this way and help us with our financial operations at Diocesan level we would be very pleased to hear from you. For details about this role or just general enquiries, please contact finance@muoxford.org.uk

SAYINGS:

PULLING OF CURTAINS - I DECLARE THIS DAY OFFICIALLY OPEN, GOD BLESS IT AND ALL WHO HAVE TO GET THROUGH IT.

IF YOU'RE GOING ROUND IN CIRCLES MAYBE YOU'RE CUTTING TOO MANY CORNERS.

DON'T THINK THERE ARE NO CROCODILES JUST BECAUSE THE WATER IS CALM.

BITTERNESS HARMS THE VESSEL ITS STORED IN MORE THAN THE VESSEL IT'S POURED IN.

I WOULD RATHER HAVE A BOTTLE IN FRONT OF ME THAN A FRONTAL LOBOTAMY.

THOSE OF YOU WHO THINK YOU KNOW EVERYTHING ARE VERY ANNOYING TO US WHO DO.

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Cowley Parish Social Planner

January 2017 - December 2017

A year at a glance

<p>JANUARY</p> <p>SAT 7th <i>Creation Theatre trip</i> 2pm (North Wall)</p> <p>TUES 24th <i>Ladies Pudding night</i> 7:30pm (Rectory)</p> <p>1.</p>	<p>FEBRUARY</p> <p>SAT/SUN <i>Snowdrop days</i> 4th/5th, 11th/12th (J)</p> <p>SAT 11th <i>Valentine Tea Party</i> 3-5pm (F)</p> <p>TUES 14th 10-11.30am <i>Messy Church 'Love'</i> (CC)</p> <p>FRI 17th <i>FoStJOS Story of Cowley - After Victoria</i> 6.45 pm (CC)</p> <p>SUN 19th <i>Sunday lunch</i> 12.45 pm (CC)</p>	<p>MARCH</p> <p>MON 6th 7.30 pm <i>Social planning meeting</i> (The Vicarage)</p> <p>SUN 26th <i>Sunday lunch</i> 12.45 pm (CC)</p>
<p>APRIL</p> <p>SAT 8th <i>Easter Fun Day</i> 10 am-2pm (F)</p> <p>GOOD FRIDAY 14th <i>Messy Church at Easter</i> 10am-12noon (CC)</p> <p>SUN 23rd <i>Sunday lunch</i> 12.45 pm (CC)</p>	<p>MAY</p> <p>FRI 5th <i>FoStJOS Victorian Schooling</i> 6.45 pm (CC)</p> <p>SAT 13th <i>Plant Sale</i>, 12-3pm (CC)</p> <p>SUN/SAT 14th-20th <i>Christian Aid Week</i> (J, F)</p> <p>WED 17th 10 am <i>CAW coffee morning</i> (88 Temple Road)</p> <p>SUN 21st <i>CAW Big Brekkie</i> 8.45am (CC)</p>	<p>JUNE</p> <p>SAT 10th <i>Church Outing</i> (A.A.L.C)</p> <p>FRI 23rd <i>CA Quiz Aid</i> (CC) 7.00 pm</p>
<p>JULY</p> <p>SAT 15th 2-4 pm <i>Open Garden Shirley Co-star's home</i> (90 Normandy Crescent)</p> <p>SAT 22nd <i>Rising Voices concert</i> 7.30 pm (J or CC)</p> <p>SAT 29th <i>FUN DAY in the park with picnic & games</i> (A.A.L.C)</p>	<p>AUGUST</p>	<p>SEPTEMBER</p> <p>SAT 9th <i>Open Doors & Ride and Stride</i> (J & F)</p>
<p>OCTOBER</p>	<p>NOVEMBER</p> <p>SAT 4th <i>Gift & Craft Market</i> 10 am-2pm (CC)</p>	<p>DECEMBER</p> <p>9th - 17th <i>Cowley festival of Christmas trees</i> (J)</p>

Stronghold - fighting organised crime in partnership

You may have read in the Oxford Mail about the 22 arrests police carried out recently as part of Operation Stronghold. What is Stronghold?

Stronghold is Thames Valley Police making a commitment to seeing a reduction in levels of serious and organised crime in our region. Working closely with our partners in local authority, social services and the other emergency services, we aim to achieve better knowledge sharing and suitable resourcing to disrupt and prevent the work of organised crime gangs and provide safeguarding to the innocent victims caught up in the middle.

An organised crime group's activities can cover different serious crime types, including:

- ∅ Child sexual exploitation and abuse
- ∅ Organised immigration crime
- ∅ Cyber crime
- ∅ Firearms
- ∅ Money laundering
- ∅ Drugs
- ∅ Economic crime
- ∅ Modern slavery and human trafficking (including for labour and sexual exploitation purposes)
- ∅ Organised acquisitive crime

Serious crime is defined by section 93(4) Police Act 1997 as crime that involves the use of violence, results in substantial financial gain or is conducted by a large number of persons in pursuit of common purpose, or crime for which a person aged 21 or over on first conviction could expect to be imprisoned for three or more years.

Thames Valley Police continues to work in line with the Governments Serious Organised Crime Strategy for tackling organised crime. the aim of the strategy is to reduce the risk to the UK and its interests from organised crime by reducing the threat from organised criminals and reducing vulnerabilities and criminal opportunities. There are four main objectives:

- ∅ PURSUE - prosecuting and disrupting people engaged in serious and organised criminality
- ∅ PREVENT - preventing people from engaging in serious and organised crime
- ∅ PROTECT - increasing protection against serious and organised crime
- ∅ PREPARE - reducing the impact of this criminality where it takes place

With over 6,000 Organised Crime Groups and nearly 50,000 individuals involved, organised crime costs the UK more than £24 billion per year.

How do you get involved?

Nobody knows their streets, towns and villages better than the people who live and work there. If you see something happening that is out of place, then you can contact us and know it will be dealt with seriously.

Be aware of some of the signs:

- ∅ Trafficking - A sign that it is occurring could be a house being used by a large group of people. Women are often brought into the UK illegally on the promise of real work only to be sold for sex.
- ∅ Cannabis factory - Those who set them up often tamper with electrical supplies or leave live cables exposed putting lives at risk. Profits go into producing cocaine and heroin.
- ∅ Card skimming - Organised crime groups can target cashpoint users as a way of obtaining personal information and stealing money.
- ∅ Cyber-crime - fraudulent emails or phishing scams with the aim of getting personal details are often distributed by organised crime groups.

Although it may seem a trivial detail to you, to us, it could be the final piece of a much bigger puzzle.

You can report concerns to police on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. You can also speak to your local authority about non-criminal matters and they can make a referral to police. You can also contact your local Neighbourhood Policing Team, email: OxfordCowleyNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk>

After retiring from the army a sergeant major became a high school teacher. Just before school started he injured his back. He was required to wear a light plaster cast on the upper part of his body. Fortunately it fitted under his shirt and didn't show when he had his coat on. On his first day, he found himself assigned to the toughest students in the school who had found out he was a former soldier. They were leering at him and he knew they would test his discipline in class. Walking confidently into the classroom he opened a window and sat at his desk, the strong breeze blowing made his tie flap. He picked up a stapler and stapled it to his chest. Dead silence!! The rest of the year went quietly.

FRIENDS OF ST JAMES OLD SCHOOL



THE STORY OF COWLEY

A further talk by local historian Rosanne Butler, telling the history of the village of Cowley

After Victoria

St James Centre, Beauchamp Lane, OX4 3LF

Friday 17 February

6.45 refreshments for 7.00 – 8.30

£5 per evening

no need to book

information from Rosanne Butler – Membership Secretary
Friends of St James Old School
01865 453 257

Lesley Williams – Chair
Friends of St James Old School
07982 439 828
oldschoolcowley@gmail.com

www.cowleyteamministry.co.uk/The-Parish/St-James-Old-School

Report on Deanery Synod Report, November 2016

There were two short talks on “Shared Conversation on Sexuality” and Margery Kemp who was a visionary from the 14th century who believed that she could converse with the saints.

Details of Scheme A13 relating to the Parish Share had been chosen and details were given to the meeting. The deanery had a deficit of £4830 and so far £3600 for this year. Churches were invited to give more if they could.

The main part of the evening was on Shared Conversation on Sex and Sexuality. There had been a training session lasting 3 days as part of www.sharedconversations.org which a representative from the Windsor and Maidenhead Deanery had attended and he set out the wisdom of that session into the duration of the deanery synod meeting as well as to provide us with some fun discussion and listening activities to do to help bring home the issue of understanding this complex issue well.

We are called to “Learn to Listen to Each other Better”. This meant:

- Experience of listening well
- Attempting to understand how someone can believe something that you can't
- Explore potential for good agreement (or to disagree well) in the Church of England around the issue of sexuality.

When performing this we were asked to:

- Look at the background
- Focus on the listening process
- Follow the listening process.

Some Guidelines we were asked to take into account when doing this exercise were:

- Respect (be respectful)
- Risk
- Reticence – (Don't talk if you don't want to)
- Restrict (the things that you are talking about to the subject)
- Random
- Reflective

We were also encouraged to look at the website www.sharedconversations.org to better understand the issue of sexuality and the Church. It is a website, part of a programme that is connected to the General Synod and encourages understanding.

Some key goals of the process and of shared conversations.org, were described as:

- To create safe spaces
- Honest expression of views
- Find out how much we can agree on

We then had some lively and passionate debate in our groups of three and finished the evening with prayer.

Nick Dewey

An evening of conversation

With the: Ahmadiyya Muslim Community UK,

Saturday 11th Feb

5 to 8 pm

Rose Hill

Community Centre

Carole's Way, Rose Hill,

Oxford OX4 4HF



- Two readings
- Two addresses
- A time to talk
- and time to eat together

More details from:
Revd Canon Geoff Bayliss
Rector@cowleyteamministry.co.uk
01865 778596

PEACE NEED OF OUR TIME

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, have invited us to join them for an interfaith gathering at the Rose Hill Community Centre. The aim is to get to know, and understand each other, better. There is a simple program for the evening.

5 pm welcome and refreshments

5:30 A recitation/reading from the Bible and the Quran. Two guest speakers Revd Canon Dr Geoff Bayliss and Dr Zahid Khan will speak to the theme 'Peace: need of our time'. This will be followed by a chance for questions.

7:30 Dinner.

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community have their Mosque at 257 Cowley Road, Oxford, Oxfordshire, OX4 1XQ.

Please pick up an invitation form Geoff if you intend to come along

**Valentine
Tea Party**

Saturday 11th Feb

3-5pm at St Francis church
Crafts, games and lots of cake, suitable for all ages

Prayers from the Ark

By Carmen Bernos de Gaszold

Translated from the French and with a Foreword and Epilogue by Rumer Godden

THE PRAYER OF THE OLD HORSE

See, Lord,
my coat hangs in tatters,
like homespun, old, threadbare.

All that I had of zest,
all my strength,
I have given in hard work
and kept nothing back for myself.

Now
my poor head swings
to offer up all the loneliness of my heart.

Dear God,
stiff on my thickened legs
I stand here before You:
Your unprofitable servant.

Oh! Of Your goodness,
give me a gentle death.

Amen

DOORSTEPS Update report by Lesley Williams

Doorsteps is the Oxfordshire network of church ministers, children's and youth workers, charity leaders and volunteers from across the county, dedicated to our Christian mission being focussed on vulnerable children and families and coordinated through the international charity Viva, based in Marston Street, just off the Cowley Road.

Representatives of many of the Cowley & East Oxford churches met recently to plan what we might do together to support children and families, especially with the imminent closure of our Children's Centres. We decided on a three strand programme:

1. Conduct a mapping of existing non-worship church-based support (toddler groups, youth groups etc.) for children and families in East Oxford and Cowley, to which the Children's Centres as they close, GPs, Health Visitors, Social Workers etc could signpost families
2. Cowley churches family befriending/mentoring scheme for St Christopher's School, which we hope to pilot in April 2017.
3. New open access 'Community Together Stay and Play' for local families, to be run by a partnership of churches and community groups, probably on a Friday when there are few groups and at St Clements Family Centre which, although on the edge of our area, has wonderful facilities and is accessible by public transport

If any of that makes you think "oh! that sounds interesting! I might want to find out more about/get involved with that!" please talk to Lesley Williams

See: www.viva.org/home.aspx

Cowley Women's Institute

The December meeting of Cowley Women's Institute followed its customary pattern of a party with fun, games and quizzes, then a Christmas tea, and ending with a grand raffle.

We welcomed 2017 with a delightful presentation about the life and music of the British composer, Eric Coates. This had our feet tapping and brought back memories for some of us. We also held a bring-and-buy sale.

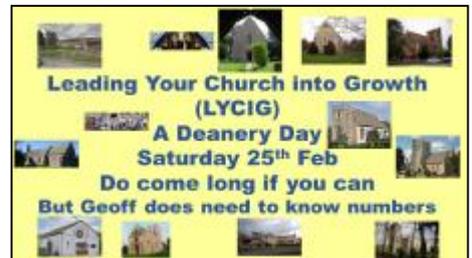
Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, 15 February, when we shall be armchair travelling to Guernsey and some other Channel islands. We shall also consider nominations for members of the Committee, and there will be a cake stall. The meeting begins at 2 pm and visitors are always welcome.

Ann Withers

President, Cowley WI-

Do we want our churches to grow?

Wherever I go, whether to national meetings or PCCs, the talk is about growth and the future of the church. This growth challenge stirs up many different reactions and emotions – excitement, anxiety, hope, fear



Often at the heart of these emotions lies the question, 'is growth possible here?' It's important to recognise that when we talk about growth, it isn't just about numbers, however important that might be. There are three different sorts of growth:

- ∅ Growth in spiritual depth – deepening our relationship and trust in God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- ∅ Growth in service – serving God in our community, the workplace and the wider world
- ∅ Growth in numbers – the task Jesus left us of making disciples

I'm really looking forward to facilitating your deanery awayday. The purpose is to help your church think more about what growth might look like for you and what you could do to make that possible.

To help us explore these questions, we will be using the national *LYCIG Local* resource. This has been produced out of the experience of the LYCIG leadership team and the hundreds of churches who have participated in their 4 day conferences all around the country (see <http://www.leadingyourchurchintogrowth.org.uk/>)

The programme for the day will be:

From 9.30 Arrive, drinks

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 10.00 | Welcome & opening worship including Dwelling in the Word |
| 10.30 | Sharing where we are now (please see below for preparatory questions) |
| 11.00 | Committing ourselves to growth and developing a strategy for doing it! |
| 12.30 | Lunch (provided) |
| 1.15 | Our journey and our culture - growing confidence in our faith, being a community of welcome and invitation |
| 2.45 | Closing prayers |
| 3.00 | End and depart |



With best wishes Andrew Anderson-Gear- Oxford Diocesan Director of Mission

Preparatory Questions:

1. Looking back over the past 12 months, what 'good news' story do you want to share in terms of how your church has:
Grown deeper in faith OR
Served your community OR
Grown in numbers engaged in the church
2. What do you feel holds you back from growing in each of these aspects?
3. Where do you see the greatest potential for growth in your church?

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
2nd 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
Joel Denno	Thursday at 7.45pm at The Vicarage, Don Bosco Close

The Parish Office in St James Church
Centre is open:

Tuesday, 2—5pm
Wednesday, 10—1pm
Friday, 9—2pm

The Parish Office is currently staffed by
volunteers and members of the ministry
team.

Contact details: Tel: 01865 747680
Email: office@cowleyteamministry.co.uk
Out of hours tel: 07501 908378
Website: www.cowleyteamministry.co.uk

Team Rector:

The Revd Canon Dr Geoffrey Bayliss
Tel: 01865 747680 (o) 01865 778596 (h)
Email: rector@cowleyteamministry.co.uk

Team Vicar:

Revd Skye Denno
Tel: 01865 434160 Mobile: 07720 768684
Email: skye@cowleyteamministry.co.uk
Skye has Wednesday as her day off.

Self-supporting Ministers

Revd Richard Chand
01865 701948
Email: richard@richardwchand@outlook.com

Revd Canon Mark Oxbrow
01865 461953
Email: markoxbrow@aol.com

Revd Tony Beetham
Tel: 01865 770923
Email: tonybeetham1@supanet.com

Churchwardens:

David Stanley Tel: 776602
Norah Shallow Tel: 765199

Deputy Wardens
Margaret Martin Tel: 718532
John Shreeve Tel: 717987

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

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