

Prayer Space

O how very right, and fitting, and due,
in all and for all,
at all times, and in all places,
in every season, every spot,
everywhere, always, altogether,
to remember You, to worship You,
to confess to You, to praise You,
to bless You, to sing to You,
to give thanks to you,
Maker, nourisher, guardian, governor,
preserver, worker, perfecter of all.
I commend to You, Lord,
my impulses and my startings,
my intentions and my attempts,
my going out and my coming in,
my sitting down and my rising up.
You who sent down on your disciples
Your Holy Spirit,
do not take away from me the gift O Lord,
but renew it in us, day by day,
who ask You for it. Lancelot Andrewes

Living God,
In the rush and bustle of each day
I all too often lose sight of you,
my mind occupied by the responsibilities, demands and
difficulties confronting me.
Instead of turning to you,
I am sucked in ever deeper
getting things out of all perspective
and denying myself the strength I need to meet them.
Teach me to find time for you,
if only for a few moments,
so that I may hear your voice and discern your will.
Teach me to step back and take stock,
so that I may then step forward,
renewed in faith,
strengthened in spirit,
and equipped for whatever you may ask.
In Jesus' name I ask it. Amen.

Taken from Prayerfully Yours
by NICK FAWCETT

Chronicle

July / August
2021

From the Editors

Sally Hemsworth and Nicki Stevens

It is surprising that this our tenth edition of the Cowley Chronicle for 2020/2021 and once again we are asking if you wish to renew your subscription – this time for 2021/2022. The order form is included with the Chronicle and prices will remain the same for the 10 issues – A4 size is £5.00 for the year and the A5 is £4.00.

We hope you have enjoyed the Chronicles over the last year – we try to vary the material we include but hunting for good and different articles is quite difficult. If any of you feel you have this skill we hope you will contact us. Or if you have any ideas for a series of articles just let us know. We want to include things you would like to read.

We have both been involved with the preparation of the Chronicle for a number of years – Sally expressed an interest in helping with typing following a request for help of this nature and before she knew it she was sub-editor and became one of the editors when Rosanne Butler decided to retire. Nicki was enlisted to help with setting up the Chronicle when Phil Hind resigned and is still doing this to a very high standard.

We saw the following in one of the earlier Chronicles and thought it was very appropriate – Do any of you fit the bill and think you can help?



Don't doubt that you can serve the Lord
With talents small and few.
Remember that the mighty oak
Was once a nut like you!

We are waiting for the Government decision as to whether we open up on the 19 July 2021. But be assured, we will continue to circulate to those who are not attending church – many thanks to all those who help with the delivery.

Pat Chambers would love to hear from you about joining a holiday in April 2022 and about going on a Day Trip – see detailed article. Parish Walks are continuing – if you want to join let Sally have your email address or telephone number – the next walk is on Monday, 5 July 2021, meeting at St James Church Centre at 2 pm. These usually take place on a fortnightly basis.

We look forward to receiving articles, recipes, jokes, stories of activities during lock-down, hobbies – long-term and new, places you would love to visit, and any other ideas for improving the Cowley Chronicle.

All our best wishes to you

Sally and Nicki

A word from the Rectory

You are an amazing bunch! On Wednesday 7th July we are cutting the ground for the toilet at St James Church! We will have builders on site to start the installation of a toilet in St James Church. It should be in and ready for use by September! It is long awaited work, but it is finally going to happen. We need to give thanks to: a number of individuals who left some money in their Wills, Generous donors, the Diocesan Common Vision fund, Oxford Historic Churches Trust and the hard work of those raising funds by activities/sales etc.

As I say you are an amazing bunch! We still have a way to go before we can start on the second phase. The last indication I had showed we are looking at about £19,000. We still have some applications actively seeking support, but I write asking that you might again be generous and pray about the possibility of contributing to this last stage of fund raising.

I have always maintained that the general running costs of a church should be covered by the day to day giving of the congregation. Special projects are something different. For these it is right to look to fund-raising and gift days. I have been here 5 ½ years and this is the first occasion I have come to the body of the church asking that they try to support an internal project of this type. I do hope you will be able to dig deep and help.

This year St James Day falls on Sunday 25th

St James Gift Day

St James' Toilet and Audio-Visual Project Fund raising

Sunday 25th July
At the Celebration of St James Day

£115 000
£110 000
£100 000
£90 000
£80 000
£70 000
£60 000
£50 000
£40 000
£30 000
£20 000
£10 000
£0

SAINT JAMES

The graphic features a thermometer with a blue liquid level at approximately £19,000. To the right of the thermometer is a scale from £0 to £115,000 in increments of £10,000. Below the scale is a small illustration of a house. To the right of the thermometer is a framed icon of Saint James, labeled 'SAINT JAMES'.

July. It is an ideal time for such a focus! Stage 1 of the project will have been under way for several weeks. This means we will be able to see the progress that is being made. Do please make any donations at the church services on that day or to a churchwarden or myself at another time!

As an 'eyes up', you will find that the path to the main entrance of St James Church will be diverted to the north side of the building. This will allow the necessary pipe work to be laid.

Thank you so much for all your enthusiastic support! May God bless each of your days!

The block contains a handwritten signature in black ink and a small icon of a church building with a steeple.

Benson

CHILDREN'S CORNER

We are like the railways you know. I am often feeling like my name should be Puffing Billy these days! All train locomotives have names you know, even today. What would yours be? As you grow older you will probably meet many people who are not family members and have different customs, dress differently or even speak in another language like the many different railways that existed. You may visit places a long way from your home when visiting friends or later when you grow up. But we must all follow certain rules like agreeing the time or follow timetables, so that we may enjoy life and each other's company. There is nothing wrong with having different customs or speaking a different language so long as we agree that we go in the same direction together and not ignore other ways of doing things. Ours may not be the best way. We can always learn from listening to others.

Before the railways there was no real need for a national agreement to have the same time in each town because you would often live most of your life within the range of the distance you could walk or ride on horseback in a day. Of course, time mattered, but timetables didn't. Everyone set 'local' time or were guided by the season. The village clock, usually on the church tower, in the market-place or at the farm estate buildings, told you the local time of day, especially when to start work, but it might be different only 50 miles away in London or Bristol. There were few large towns and if you worked in the countryside, the church clock

or milking time would be the nearest you got to any organised time measurement. After all, what did it matter? Very few people travelled any distance. You couldn't afford to anyway. You almost lived in a small world of your own (village/town). When the railways joined up these towns this caused confusion, and even accidents, so they invented 'railway time' in 1840 as standard time, but only on the railways. It was not until many years later that the whole country agreed that 'Greenwich Mean Time' should be adopted as the standard time for the whole country. As the railways expanded in other countries, they found that they had the same problem and eventually adopted the base of Greenwich Mean time from which they calculated 24 hourly time zones around the world. That provided the basis for our measurement of time as we now know it.

But it wasn't only the timetables that caused a problem. As the inventors spread the word around about steam trains and the opportunities that they gave to transport heavy goods and people long distances, the width of the rails varied, so that there was narrow gauge, standard and wide gauge. Everybody had their own idea of what was needed! Trains meeting at a junction needed people and goods to be moved from one truck to the other. This wasted time so eventually a standard gauge was set that we still have today. It was agreed that all trains carrying goods or people long distances would follow the rules. Narrow gauge was simply retained for quarries and small

mountain railways. They still exist and are great fun if you find one on holiday.

Understanding why some people do certain things differently is important. Just because we have done something a particular way for a long time doesn't mean that is the only way that the work should be done. There may be many ways to reach the same goal. When the railways started many chose the wider gauge

but changed their mind later. It will take time, hard work probably, and perhaps even a change of direction but by following the rules (and the timetable) meeting people can be fun and going places can be enjoyable.

Whatever you do this summer, be safe. Until we meet again, take care.

Uncle Ben

PARISH HOLIDAY/DAY COACH TRIP

Pat Chambers would welcome responses:

HOLIDAY:

A provisional booking has been made for April 2022 in Weymouth – the same hotel as previously, 4 nights Monday April 18 to Friday 22, at the cost of £398 per person for all. The 12 single rooms are now booked; doubles and twins are still available. We'd really value commitment RIGHT NOW in support of the hotel as well as our own wellbeing

Contact Pat 01235 799717 or Brian on 07929 879104. Advice offered!

DAY COACH TRIP:

We have booked for Southsea & Portsmouth (£38.50) on Wednesday 28 or Thursday 29 July - after the schools break up. That price applies if just 20 people book - it would of course become much cheaper if more do so - children, grandchildren, friends and neighbours are all welcome!

Safety : the coach has Air Con and an air purifier – all drivers have had 2 COVID-19 jabs - you will be asked to wear a mask – hand gel will be available

Please give names and numbers to Pat or Brian and say which of those two days you prefer.

Shaun Guard

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RECIPES

Sweetness for the Summer Months!

BAKEWELL TART

Extract from the SeeSaw Calendar for 2021

Grief Support for children and young people in Oxfordshire



Preheat oven to 170C/150C Fan/Gas 3

Pastry:

Tip 225g plain flour and 25g icing sugar in a bowl and mix

Add 125g of cold diced cubes of butter

Rub together with your fingers until it feels like fine breadcrumbs

Add 1 egg yolk and 1 tbsp cold water

Stir in until you get a crumbly mixture

Tip out onto cling film and knead to a ball, wrap with cling film and chill in the fridge for 30 minutes

Whilst waiting...

Frangipane filling:

Beat together 125g soft butter and 125g golden caster sugar in a bowl until fluffy

Crack in 2 medium eggs

Fold through 150g of ground almonds

Then add ½ tsp baking powder and 1 tsp almond extract (if you have some)

Right - take a breather! Get your chilled pastry from the fridge.

Roll the pastry out between two large pieces of grease proof paper to make a circle 5cm bigger than a 23cm fluted flan tin

Press into the tin and cut off excess. Prick the bottom with a fork, place in fridge.

Now spread 4 tbsp of cherry or your choice of jam into bottom of the pastry case

Tip the frangipane mixture over the jam, make sure you cover it all

Place the flan tin onto a baking tray and bake for 40-50 minutes until golden brown

Let cool on a wire rack. Whilst cooling ...

Mix 150g icing sugar with water to make a thick paste

Remove 1 tbsp into separate bowl and add food colouring of your choice

Place the coloured mixture into piping bag.

Spread the remaining white icing over the tart

Pipe lines of the coloured icing over the tart and get creative with a tooth pick to create a pretty pattern.

Decorate with glacé cherries, pour a cuppa and enjoy.

The following (from Cakes, Bakes, Puddings and Prayers by Susan Over) is also good with a cuppa!

Mini-Melting Moments

Ingredients:

225g (8oz) butter

175g (6oz) caster sugar

1 egg

½ teaspoon vanilla essence

225g (8oz) self-raising flour

25g (1oz) desiccated coconut

Method:

1. Preheat oven to gas mark 5/190°C/375°F. Grease two baking trays
2. Cream butter and sugar together until light and fluffy. Beat in egg and vanilla essence.
3. Stir in flour to make a smooth dough and divide into about 40 balls. Roll each ball in coconut.
4. Place balls on baking trays, spaced apart, and bake for 10 minutes until golden. Cool for a couple of minutes, then transfer to wire rack to finish cooling.

There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the heaven: a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance. Ecclesiastes 3:1-4 (NIV)

Thank You, Father, for the precious things of life and thank You for friends and family to share our melting moments. Remind us, Lord, to value our relationships and to build each other up through the good times and the bad. For the sake of Jesus who walks beside us every moment of every day. Amen

PLACES OF BEAUTY

Do you have places you like to visit? The following article on William Morris reminded me of one of the places I love visiting - Kelmscott Manor. It is not too far from Cowley and is situated in a very rural setting next to the River Thames.

Joanna Banham, an independent lecturer and art historian, has written the following article on William Morris, published by the Arts Society, which shows what a talented man he was. There is very much an Oxford link – William Morris' wife (Jane Burden) lived in Bath Place, off Holywell, where a blue plaque gives more information on her.

There are other places to visit listed at the foot of the article, but, although it does not have a William Morris link, it is a beautiful Arts and Crafts House – Blackwells, just outside Windermere, in the Lake District.

Hope you want to add some of these places to your "list".

Sally Hemsworth

WILLIAM MORRIS' BEAUTIFUL WALLPAPERS



Artist, poet, conservationist, designer – William Morris was also a master colourist and a one-man pattern-making phenomenon. The wallpapers he created fulfilled his ambition to bring art and beauty into anyone's home. Arts Society Lecturer Joanna Banham takes up the story

One of William Morris's floral wallpaper designs

'Whatever you do think firstly of your walls'



William Morris in 1870, painted by George Frederick Watts

THE EARLY DESIGNS

1. William Morris created over 50 different wallpaper designs, with the first being in 1862, during the intensely creative period when he was decorating his home, Red House, near Bexleyheath, Kent. That project also provided the catalyst for the founding of his company Morris, Marshall, Faulkner & Co.

The firm initially focused on making expensive, one-off pieces of painted furniture, embroideries and stained glass. But Morris' move into wallpaper design underlines his early understanding of the importance of making economical, more mass-produced work that could reach a wider audience.

All his wallpapers contained stylised fruit, flowers and foliage motifs. These expressed his love of nature, but his first designs also reflect his interest in medieval sources at the time.

Daisy, for example, featured a simple pattern of naively drawn meadow flowers copied from



an illustration in a 15th-century version of Froissart's *Chronicles*. *Trellis* was inspired by the rose trellises in the Red House garden, as well as the medieval gardens seen in illuminated manuscripts. Even more significantly, both patterns marked a radical departure from the highly naturalistic, brightly coloured floral patterns and the more geometric and stylised Gothic Revival designs that had dominated mid-Victorian wallpaper design to this point.

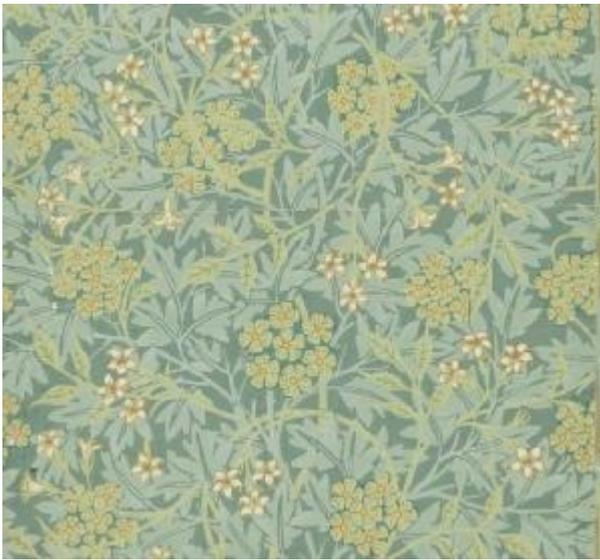
Daisy, a design from 1864 and featured in Emery Walker's House in London

2. A LABOUR OF LOVE

Given Morris's general hostility to machine production, it is not surprising that he rejected the use of modern, steam-powered machines to print his designs. Instead, his wallpapers were printed by hand, using traditional techniques that had changed little since their inception in the 17th century.

The design was engraved onto the surface of a rectangular wooden block, leaving the areas that were to print standing out in relief. The block was then inked with pigment and placed face down on the paper for printing. Each colour was printed separately along the whole length of the roll; it was then hung up to dry before the next colour was applied. Pitch pins on the corners of each block helped to ensure that every element of the design registered accurately.

Multicoloured patterns required many different blocks and could take several days to print. The work was time-consuming and labour - intensive, but Morris greatly admired the den-



The Jasmine design, created in 1872

sity of colour and the slight irregularities that resulted from block-printing.

It is these elements that gave his wallpapers a richness and character that could not be achieved by machines.

3. STRUCTURE AND MEANING

By the early 1870s Morris had fully mastered the art of creating complex repeating patterns. As a result, his designs often featured a distinctive structure that involved superimposing one pattern over another.

In his intricate *Jasmine*, for example, a scrolling tracery of delicately defined jasmine flowers and stems is laid on top of a background formed by an all-over silhouette of hawthorn branches and leaves. The aim of this layering device was to create a sense of variety and depth, and to disguise what he often described as the monotony of endlessly counting the repeats.



The Acanthus design of 1875

Morris always insisted that the test of a successful design was that it provoked thoughts of something beyond itself. 'I must have unmistakable suggestions of gardens or fields in my patterns,' he wrote in his essay on *Some hints of Pattern Designing* in 1884.

He particularly liked to use the indigenous plants that grew wild in the hedgerows and along the riverbanks of the English countryside. The *Willow Bough* pattern (1887) was based on drawings that he made of the willow trees growing near his country home, Kelmscott Manor in Oxfordshire – the elegantly intertwinning branches and leaves in the design attesting to his abiding love of natural forms.

4. ACANTHUS AND TULIPS

Morris's patterns of the later 1870s were more stately and several featured the luxuriantly curving leaves of the acanthus plant. *Acanthus* was the first of a series of large-scale, densely patterned and richly coloured wallpapers. It used two layers of closely interweaving and overlapping leaves to emphasise the vigour of the scrolling acanthus forms. Originally designed for the Speaker's House in the Palace of Westminster, the pattern required 30 blocks to print and was the most expensive of the company's wallpapers.

By the 1880s, Morris' designs had become even more stylised and he increasingly came to accept the mechanical nature of his pattern repeats. Many, like *Wild Tulip* (1884), also reflected his growing interest in weaving; they used the strong, diagonal, meandering stems that appeared in the 15th-century Italian silks and brocades that he studied at the South Kensington Museum (now the V&A).

Morris had also begun to use stylised devices like small dots, made by the blunted ends of copper pins driven into the surface of the wooden blocks, as a decorative feature within the leaves, stems and flowerhead motifs.



Multiple Morris designs in the home of the designer's friend, Emery Walker

5. GETTING THE LOOK

Ironically, Morris himself was always somewhat ambivalent about wallpaper.

He described it as a 'makeshift' decoration and a cheap substitute for the richer embroidered hangings, tapestries and woven textiles that he preferred to use in his own homes. Nevertheless, his wallpapers proved extremely popular with a fashionable, middle and upper-class clientele.

Many of his earliest customers were artists and wealthy patrons. His friend, the artist Edward Burne-Jones, requested 55 rolls of Morris papers when he moved into his home, The Grange, in Fulham in 1875; and George, Earl of Carlisle and his wife, Rosalind, ordered large quantities of wallpaper for their country homes, Naworth Castle in Cumbria and Castle Howard in Yorkshire.

From 1877 less exalted customers could buy wallpapers from the company's new Oxford Street showrooms. There they were displayed alongside other products, including textiles and furnishings, to suggest how a range of Morris items might be combined.

Perhaps the best example of a more 'ordinary' Morris interior can be seen in the recently restored Emery Walker's House on Chiswick Mall, London, where the decoration includes the subtle layering of different patterns in wallpapers, curtains and upholstery that was so characteristic of the Morris look.

Places to visit once lockdown lifts

- [Red House](#) in Bexleyheath, Kent, the home Morris conceived when just 24 and designed by his friend, the architect Philip Webb
- [Kelmscott Manor](#), Oxfordshire, Morris's country home and his 'Heaven on Earth'. Currently undergoing conservation, check with the website for future opening
- [Wightwick Manor](#), near Wolverhampton, a stunning Arts and Crafts house decorated in Morris & Co designs and holding a prime collection of Pre-Raphaelite art
- [The William Morris Society Museum](#), based in the Coach House and basement of the privately owned Kelmscott House, Hammersmith, once Morris' London home. Check with their website for details on this and The William Morris Society
- [The William Morris Gallery](#), Walthamstow, London. Based in Morris' childhood home, this gallery is devoted to his life and works
- [Emery Walker's House](#), Hammersmith, London. Walker, an expert typographer, was a friend of Morris' and his home was close to Kelmscott House. It is filled with Morris & Co designs

Good reads

For the definitive read on the life of William Morris, see *William Morris: A Life for Our Time* by Fiona MacCarthy, published by Faber.

SMILE

THE MATHS OF GETTING OLDER

It is a well-known fact that the only time in our lives when we enjoy getting older is during our childhood. We get so excited that we tell people our age in FRACTIONS! "I'm four and a half" we declare with glee, or "I'm six and a quarter!" Do we ever hear anyone say "I'm forty-two and a half"? Never.

Even as a teenager getting older is great. A fourteen-year-old will tell you he's nearly sixteen or at seventeen she'll be an adult of eighteen. And then ... that important day when you become twenty-one. And then ... before you know it you have turned thirty (turned? Like sour milk?). The next big number is coming up when you find yourself pushing forty. Hold on, let's put on the brakes.

Soon you are reaching fifty and half your life has gone. Perhaps you will make sixty (if you're lucky!) You are now travelling at such a speed that you hit seventy with a kind of a bang. After that it's a case of "hitting" things day-by-day like next weekend or a planned holiday. Into your eighties you might reach a lunchtime date with a friend. By the time you get into your nineties things start to reverse, "I'm just ninety-two" you say. And then a strange thing happens. If you make it to a hundred you get back to the FRACTIONS. "She's one hundred and a half" you might hear someone say!

A WARTIME CHILDHOOD

(Part 11)

Church jumble sales held periodically in the old village hut on Saturday mornings were a highlight of village life. All through the week there would be speculation as to what delights might be on offer, no less by we children. On the given morning the queue would begin to form at least an hour before the 10 o'clock opening time. Once the door was opened, the jostling to get to the stalls was boisterous, to say the least. Of course, with clothing coupons so precious, a useful hand-me-down for your children was worth having. Mummy would give me a shilling or two to join in the fun and I always made for the bric-a-brac stalls to find all sorts of 'treasures'. Some of the clothing was past its best to say the least, but old skirts, trousers and jackets were much prized as they could be cut into strips to make peg rugs.

I can see me now, sitting by the fire on a winter's evening with my mum and a clean piece of hessian cut from an old potato sack, threading woollen fabric into the holes to make a rug. We made bedside rugs and a big one to go in front of the fire, very cosy and hard-wearing they were too.

Auction sales were my mother's delight. We had several wealthy families in the village who donated items to raise funds for the war effort. Mum in her younger days, had worked in service in some very grand houses and therefore knew a real antique or 'good' piece of china or silver when she saw it. She used to come home with all sorts of goodies, some of which are still in my family today, one of which is the little spinning chair (at

least a couple of hundred years old) which sits in my kitchen, and very useful it is too! Another treasure is a small mahogany occasional table dating from the nineteenth century which is now in the corner of the bedroom in my son's London Flat.

The RAF lads stationed up the road at the Stanton Harcourt airfield took a shine to our little village, especially our two village pubs, the Red Lion and the Dun Cow. I guess when they were off duty, a pint or two and a natter with some of our local characters made a welcome distraction. Some of the RAF lads were talented musicians and formed their own small dance band so it was inevitable that they should offer to come and play for village 'hops' in the hut. Mum and Dad were very much involved in organising these. I, of course, was far too young to go to dances. However I do remember on the days of the dances I was allowed to scuff French chalk into the old bare board floor to make it more suitable for dancing. Needless to say, with sweethearts, husbands and fiancés away in the forces, the chance for the village girls to dance with young RAF boys must have been delightful.

The other entertainment the young airmen provided in the hut was a series of concerts. I was allowed to go to those and very glamorous and exciting I thought they were. A stage would be set up using the trestle tables used for jumble sales and parties. Again, my parents helped by making the stage and adding embellishments to make it look nice. Actually, among those young men were some very

talented characters.

Of course, they brought their dance band to play the current hit tunes. One of them was an excellent pianist and accompanied a lovely quartet of singers. Some of them did stand-up comedy and one did wonderful magic conjuring tricks. But the one act I remember best was a young lad who drew cartoons on the blackboard and easel borrowed from the village school. He would invite a member of the audience to come up and make two chalk marks (any shape or length) on the board. Then, right in front of my gazing eyes, he would add to those marks and turn them into a picture. It could be a famous person, a cartoon character or whatever. I was mesmerised.

I had a cousin who lived in another Oxfordshire village. She was a teenager at the time and she, with teenaged boys and girls from their village also came over and did concerts (sketches, songs etc.) in the village hut. Towards the end of the war – 1944'ish – we even had a chap who came along to the hut with film shows once a month. They were mostly westerns and comedies for the main feature, but sometimes he brought an extra 'treat'. One evening we were treated to one of Dame Myra Hess' lunchtime classical recitals filmed in the National Gallery in London. That didn't go down well for most of the villagers but my Mum loved it and it certainly opened up a new musical world for me.

Many more events were held in the old village hut during the war, but I hope you can see why I described it as 'the hub of the village'.

KNEELING

Moments of great calm,
Kneeling before an altar
Of wood in a stone church
In summer, waiting for the God
To speak; the air a staircase
For silence; the sun's light
Ringing me, as though I acted
A great role. And the audiences
Still; all that close throned
Of spirits waiting, as I,
For the message.

Prompt me, God;
But not yet. When I speak,
Though it be you who speak
Through me, something is lost.
The meaning is in the waiting.

R S Thomas



SAFEGUARDING IN COWLEY PARISH

As a Parish, we are committed to the Christian care, nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children and all adults but particularly those who are vulnerable in any way.

So we ensure that our policies and practice on the selection and training of all those staff and volunteers with any responsibility within the Church are in line with safer recruitment principles, including the use of Disclosure and Barring Service criminal records checks where applicable.

We intend that St James and St Francis churches will be safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is a culture of 'informed vigilance' as to the dangers of abuse, including domestic violence and bullying.

We will challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust in our churches.

We follow statute, guidance and recognised good practice in all our safeguarding procedures and check that all users of our premises agree to do so too.

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

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

Following completion of my own 'Leadership' refreshed training, I am committed to raising the safeguarding profile and awareness further by establishing a group to meet 3 times a year, with clergy, church wardens and leaders of all our Parish groups.

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

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

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

Lovely rain!

The orange blossom tree is at its peak of flowering and its delightful heady scent hits you as you go out of the back door. Sadly, no bees are buzzing round as the flowers are double and "there ain't no nectar, folks!" The flowers are so heavy that the branches bend under their weight. The weight of the flowers has been increased by the rain that we have had in the last three days. We always seem to have peak flowering and heavy rain together with the start of Wimbledon fortnight! Mind you the tennis is now starting a week later.

My rain gauge has recorded a total of 45.25mm over the last three days which is over one and three quarter inches in old money! We did need some rain though. The recent hot weather has helped plants to thrive and then begin to thirst for water and the rain came just at the right time. Just in time to fill our water butts again.

Last year we added a new water butt to our collection to make four. A few months ago, I discovered that our new butt had a leak. So when it was empty, we found that there was a slit in the base. No idea how that happened but I tried fixing it with a sealant. Of course, that failed, so when the butt was empty again we have replaced it with a new one. Any ideas of what to do with a leaky water butt? We had a diverter with the old butt which involved cutting a piece out of the plastic down pipe and connecting to the butt with a plastic hose. Our new water butt is of a different design and had

a different diverter. I thought I was clever to get it all attached, even having to increase the size of the hole the down pipe fits in, which was a palaver in itself!

With the recent heavy rainfall, I was anticipating the water butt to be full. But no! Simple physics told me that water does not flow uphill! The replacement is taller than the old water butt and I had to increase the height of the diverter. This, again, was a right palaver involving cutting the pipe again and using a great deal of tape to join pieces together! It is not pretty but the butt is now filling. Hurrah!

Chillies, cucumbers and tomatoes are growing apace in the greenhouse and the crops on the allotment are also looking good. The Other Half mithers about a bit of blackfly on the broad beans but I am hopeful the ladybirds will win out and we will get a crop this year, unlike 2020 when the beans were a complete washout. We will be picking our peas in the next day or so and the summer raspberries are starting. I am particularly proud of the peas, having shaken out-of-date Olbas oil in the row to deter mice eating the newly sown seeds and covering the row with fleece to stop the pigeons eating the newly-emerging plants. It worked a treat!

Talking of pigeons, I have a nesting wood pigeon in the wisteria under the window where I am writing. I keep getting the odd comforting coo.

Joan Coleman

13th April 2021

Mrs J Coleman - Parish Treasurer
95 Crescent Road
Temple Cowley
Oxford
OX4 2NY

Dear Mrs Coleman,

Thank you for your letter of 29th March 2021 enclosing a cheque for £350, kindly given as part of the Cowley Parish Mission Giving, in support of our work in responding to the needs of adults hurt by loneliness.

COVID 19 and the requirements to socially distance and avoid mixing households has meant our Supportive Social Groups have had to stop meeting and our Individual Support Volunteers are no longer able to continue with their face to face visits. Instead, we have changed our service to offer telephone support. These regular welfare calls identify a range of needs, resulting in a variety of responses. Some people need a listening ear, others have required us to respond by linking them to local community hubs to get food and prescriptions delivered. Others have needed additional support from other voluntary organisations and / or referral to health, social care or adult safeguarding services. Whilst some people have family and friends calling, there are a significant number for whom Archway is their only point of contact and as such is seen as a vital lifeline.

To help maintain connection and a sense of belonging we are keeping in email and / or postal contact with over 300 people who are connected to our service, via a fortnightly Newsletter, (The Bright Side), to which readers can submit their own poems, stories etc. It has proved to be really popular with many recipients saying that as well as being cheerful, good to read with quizzes, word searches, and craft ideas to keep the mind occupied, it is something to look forward to, a connection with others and a reminder that they have not been forgotten. Over 280 are not on email so the postal bills are high! The gift from the Parish of Cowley will be used to help us continue providing meaningful connection and support.

With renewed thanks and best wishes,



Sheila Furlong
CEO

Postal Address: The Archway Foundation, New Marston Pastoral Centre, Jack Straws Lane, Oxford, OX3 0DL
Telephone: 01865 790552 / **Email:** office@archwayfoundation.org.uk / **Web:** www.archwayfoundation.org.uk

Patrons: Sir Tony Baldry, Sir Hugo Brunner, The Right Revd Dr Steven Croft the Bishop of Oxford, Mrs Felicity Dick DL
The Revd Canon Glyn Evans DL, Mr Jeremy Irons, Lindsay Mackie / **Charity Reg No 299533 / Company No 2262206**



Psalms for self-reflection

Psalms for self-reflection is a community project from the Bodleian Libraries inspired by medieval manuscripts that have been digitised with support from the Polonsky Foundation.

Participants are invited to a 2-part online workshop exploring how psalms can be used as a tool to support mental health and wellbeing. The workshop is developed and facilitated by Gulamabbas Lakha, mental health researcher at the University of Oxford and ministry leader (Shaykh) with the Muslim community.

The workshop is in 2 parts:

Session A: developing self-knowledge: *Wednesday 21 July, 6.30 – 8.00pm*

Session B: building resilience: *Wednesday 25 August 6.30 – 8.00pm*

Each session will include an introduction to specific texts and the practical psychological tools within them, followed by two reflective exercises in smaller groups and shared discussion.

Participants are invited to contribute as much or as little as they wish.

The sessions are free to attend and will take place on Zoom. No previous knowledge of psalms is required and the workshop is open to people of all faiths and none. Places are limited.

If you would like to join the workshop or have any questions, please email publicengagement@bodleian.ox.ac.uk by Wednesday 14 July.

Helen Cook

Education Officer (Maternity cover)

Bodleian Libraries

Broad Street

Oxford OX1 3BG

CHRONICLE

Editorial Team- Sally Hemsworth, Nicki Stevens

Deadline for the next edition: Monday 23 August 2021

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

Paper contributions should be left at Parish Office for the attention of Sally.

The Editorial Committee in no way accepts responsibility for goods or services supplied by our advertisers, errors and omissions excepted.

JOHN SHREEVE'S ARTICLES

THE OLDEST CHURCH IN ENGLAND

June 2007

I suppose that it was just over a year ago I learnt with dismay that our great Cathedral at Canterbury is in a poor state structurally. Stones which have stood wind and weather for centuries are crumbling badly and a multimillion-pound plan for repair and restoration has just begun.

We tend to think of it as our mother church, yet this is not strictly true – a short distance away lies the little church of St. Martin which is much older in origin and in better shape. It was built while the Romans were here and Roman stones are still in place in the walls. In fact, contrary to popular belief, Christianity was here before the much-vaunted St. Augustine came over here with his monks.

Queen Bertha of Kent, a Christian lady, obtained permission from her husband – King Ethelbert – to worship here. He worshipped his own gods at a temple nearby but was eventually converted to Christianity and baptised by St. Augustine. Whilst St. Augustine was building his first Abbey he obtained permission for his monks to worship here. The walls of St. Martins are nearly two feet thick and Roman brickwork in the chancel stands eight feet from the ground.

There is Roman plaster and Roman tiles, and a Roman doorway. We need not doubt that it is the oldest building in these islands used for worship, and it still plays a part as a parish church and services are still held there. It was probably built by British workmen about 1600 years ago. It was already an ancient place when the first stones in Westminster were laid.

As Marlene and I stood before it, looking at its plain walls and squat tower (no fancy architecture here) we could not help marvel at all it must have withstood over the years. We wondered what the people looked like who first worshipped there, and what sort of lives they led. The Christian faith which first fired them up is still with us, and it is our duty to see that it does not die away in our time. We owe that much to them and to Christ.

Caring & professional

Foot Health Practitioner

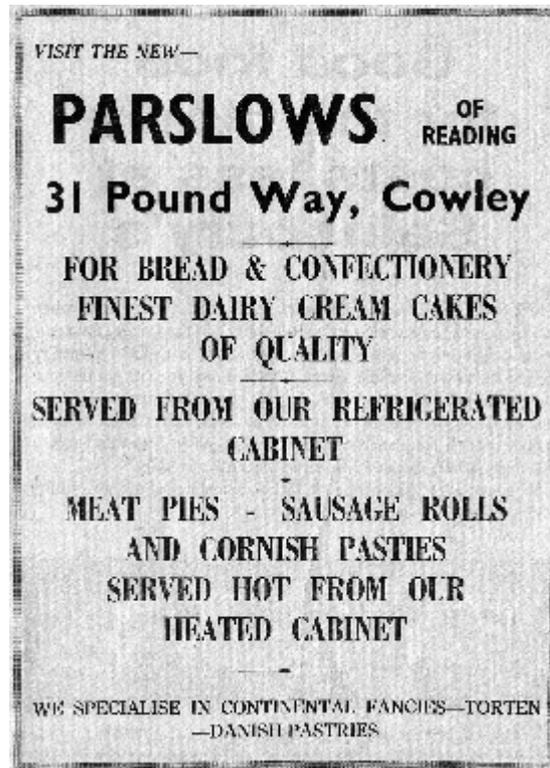
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**Kate Reid MCFHP MAFHP
07952127534**

kate@nurturefootcare.co.uk

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June 1964

SUPPORT PHONE NUMBERS

NEEDING ADVICE OR HELP? or just want to talk?

SOME USEFUL LOCAL NUMBERS:

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

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

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

From the Archives

THE ROMAN EXCAVATIONS AT BETWEEN TOWNS ROAD APRIL 1940

The excavations at Between Towns Road, Cowley, during November and December 1939, have led to the discovery of yet one more Romano-British pottery field in the Oxford district. It has long been known that this industry flourished in Roman times at Sandford, Iffley, Headington and Littlemore, and during 1935 two more sites were revealed, near Dorchester and at Rose Hill; the Cowley site is thus the seventh in the series.

All these potteries were situated for commercial reasons close to the Roman road which runs northward from Dorchester: their position near this road enabled the potters to find a ready market for their wares among the passing travellers.

We do not know very much about the people who lived and worked at these potteries, but the discoveries at Rose Hill in 1935 suggest that there, at any rate, was a small village or hamlet, consisting of a few huts, roughly built of clay and wattle on a wooden framework, and covered with a roof of reeds, the whole settlement being surrounded by a ditch. It is not likely that there were any stone-built houses; these potteries were essentially a rural industry, and lives and the homes of the men who worked at them might best be compared to those of the hurdle-makers and the charcoal-burners whose huts are occasionally to be seen in our woods today.

Interest was first aroused in the site at Between Towns Road in the autumn of 1939, when a quantity of Roman pottery was unearthed during the construction of the air-raid shelters there. Some of this pottery was sent to the Ashmolean Museum for examination, and it was then suggested that this might be the site of a Roman potter's field. Permission to excavate was kindly granted by the Vicar, and work was started by the University Archaeological Society on November 22nd.

Very fortunately, the first trench revealed part of one of the pottery kilns whose presence had already been suspected. The kiln consisted of two parts: a stoke-hole from which fuel was shovelled into the furnace, and the oven in which the pots were baked.

The stoke-hole was simply a shallow depression in the ground, 15 inches deep, the sides of which had originally been surrounded by a low stone wall, to keep the soft sand in which it was dug from falling in. The whole of the bottom of this stoke-hole was covered with ashes which had been raked out of the furnace, and in them were found a large number of broken

pieces of pottery, and one or two almost complete pots.

The kiln itself consisted of two parts: beneath, a furnace, and, above it, the chamber or 'oven' in which the pottery was baked. The furnace was built of clay, which was burnt quite hard by the fire inside. On one side it was supported by a buttress of small stones. In shape it was oval, being about 2ft. 9ins. long and 2ft. wide, with the end nearest the stoke-hole left open for putting on fuel and raking out ashes. The walls of this chamber were about 1ft. 6ins. high, and sloped outwards to increase the draught.

This chamber was covered by a flat roof, or platform, of burnt clay some four inches thick, pierced by numerous holes. Above it was the 'oven', in which the pots were baked; it was probably dome-shaped, the sides and top being built with small bricks of clay mixed with reeds. When there was new pottery to be baked, it was placed in this chamber, which was then built up round it and closed over with a layer of wet clay. The fire was then lighted in the furnace, and the heat, rising through the holes in the floor of the oven, baked the pottery hard.

The remainder of the finds consisted mostly of dumps of broken pottery, some of which contained several thousand pieces. Mention must be made, however, of an iron sickle, found encrusted with dried clay and reeds, which had evidently been used first for cutting the reeds, and then mixing them with the clay to build and repair the roof of the kiln.

Unfortunately, no good evidence of the date of this settlement has yet been found, but some general conclusions can be drawn from the kinds of pottery which have been discovered. Many types of Roman pottery vary in the way they are shaped and decorated according to the date at which they were made. The types that have been found at Cowley seem to belong to the period from 130 AD to 400 AD, and it is probable that the site was occupied at intervals throughout that period.

Excavations were started again on February 10th, but up to the time of writing no further discoveries of importance have been made. It is hoped, however, that these new trenches will reveal at least one more pottery kiln, or perhaps coins or some other definite evidence of the date of this most interesting settlement.

Retrieved by Les Hemsworth



CHRISTIAN AID

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 10-16 May: Together we STOP this climate crisis. The final Parish total from delivery only and Parish envelopes plus from the soup, bread & cheese lunch and zoom puddings & poetry was £755 – excellent! Thank you to all who contributed.



A message from Phil Evans, our Regional Church Engagement and Fundraising Office :

Thank you for all that you have been doing this year to share God's love through fundraising, campaigning and praying with Christian Aid. The Christian Aid Week national running total stands at over £2 million, with much of the cash income still to arrive. That's an incredible result in such arduous circumstances. Please pass on congratulations to everyone who contributed to such an achievement!

QUIZ AID Friday 25 June: With COVID-19 restrictions still in place, we resolved to move the quiz to the Rectory garden, weather permitting. On the Wednesday, the Met Office was indicating rain during the day – or the evening – or may be both. That uncertainty plus the fact that we only had the making of 2, possibly 3, teams registered led us to postpone the event until after the summer – date yet to be set.

As some of the quizmaster's 'in the news' round questions may well be out of date by then, here they are for you now

There may be a prize if you like to email the answers to link@cowleyteamministry.co.uk – or get them to me at 9, Wykeham Crescent, OX4 3SD by 15.07.21. If you want to include a Christian Aid donation, it won't be refused!

1. What was the date when we were first allowed to eat inside a restaurant after the latest lockdown?
2. How many years is the University of Oxford celebrating, as the anniversary of women first being allowed to graduate?
3. Who is the current Health Secretary?
4. Which country won the 2021 Eurovision song contest ?
5. How many wives has Boris Johnson had to date?
6. Name the horse that won the 2021 Derby
7. Which street in Oxford is being turned into a public garden square for the summer?
8. Robert Maxwell's daughter Ghislaine is in jail in America, on trial for sex trafficking. How many times has she applied for and been refused bail?
9. What type of creature has been sent into space to understand more about human muscle loss?
10. How many days of celebration can we look forward to in 2022 for the Queen's platinum anniversary?

BIG BREKKIE: Our first for 18 months is in the diary for Sunday 12 September at 08:45 but with the new service pattern, that will be impossible for clergy, who are due at St Francis for

the 09:30 service there - so we may try a Saturday morning brunch, but not Saturday 11 September as that is Ride and Stride and Open Doors day - unless that is deemed a good day to try it. Watch for news in Link and the September Chronicle .

'THANK YOU FOR THE RAIN'

Following recommendations from many supporters, Phil Evans our Regional Officer, will be hosting an on-line viewing of the incredible film 'Thank you for the rain' on Tuesday 13 July at 7:00 pm. Please do join us and invite your family, friends and church members. Let Phil know that you are interested in joining us and he will send you the viewing link by email.

'Thank you for the rain' tells the story of Kisilu Musya, a smallholder farmer in Kenya, who has used his camera to capture the life of his family, and the human costs of climate change.

The film is a great call to action to all who care about God's creation and justice for all people.

PEvans@christian-aid.org : 01865 246 988 07814 141 812

YCCN RELAY

Members of the Young Christian Climate Network are walking a relay from the G7 summit in Cornwall to the COP26 in Glasgow and we can all get involved by joining the walkers, holding an event as the relay passes through Oxfordshire or hosting a walker overnight. The walkers will be in Oxford on Sunday 15 August arriving from London and travelling on to Birmingham.

This is what the Young Christian Climate Network says:

The climate crisis is both the cause and result of deep injustice in the world. We believe in God's imperative call to work for justice and repent of our broken relationships with our planet and our global neighbours who contribute least and suffer most from the consequences of climate breakdown.

That's why we at the Young Christian Climate Network (YCCN), an action-focused community of Christians aged 18-30, are organising a Relay from the G7 in Cornwall in June 2021 to the COP26 UN climate talks in Glasgow in November. We're doing this as an act of solidarity and faith, believing that no country should be pushed further into debt because of climate change.

Through the relay we hope to rally the church towards climate justice, so that when we look back on 2021, we can say "we did not sit at home while unjust decisions were made on our doorstep; we set sail towards a just future."

<https://www.yccn.uk/rise-to-the-moment>

For people in the Oxford Diocese the local organisers are:

For Anglicans: Alison Riggs (Diocese of Oxford Environment Action Delivery Co-ordinator)

alison.riggs@oxford.anglican.org

For non-Anglicans: Maranda St John Nicole maranda@ccow.org.uk

Bishop Olivia, Bishop of Reading, is leading a whole host of Climate Justice activities in Reading and there will be a linked event at Christchurch Cathedral in Oxford – date not yet known.

Lesley Williams 01865 779 562 07982 439 828 lesleyjwilliams@btinternet.com

Tea-time prayer

God of all of life,
waiting for the water to boil
we confess and lament
the rise of temperature
that has led to a climate crisis
across this beautiful planet.
We wait, impatient for change.

Pouring out hot water
on loose-leaf or tea bag,
into teapot or favourite mug,
we pour out our intercessions
for a change of heart by politicians
to put planet and people first.

Stirring teabag, leaves or sugar
we ask that you would stir in us
a passion to take action,
to do all we can at this critical hour
to take care of our common home
and amplify the call for climate justice.

Drinking that first satisfying sip
we give thanks for the day when
'they will hunger no more,
and thirst no more'^{*}
Infuse us with a strongly brewed vision
of your creation healed and restored.

Amen

#AmenToClimateJustice

**Revelation 7:16*



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BIBLE SOCIETY 'MORE THAN A BOOK' REGISTRATION



If you order anything on-line or by phone from the Bible Society, please use the unique Parish reference number 12044 or select the 'Parish of Cowley' from the drop down menu when placing the order and we will benefit from the 'More than a book' cash back scheme. It's that easy! We earn a little from our 'Open the Book' resources orders but a top up from some personal shopping would be useful. Do look at the on-line shop for Bibles, prayer books, cards, stickers, courses, fiction, dvds etc. <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/products/>



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

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

We are listed as the charity: The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Cowley, Oxford or you can search by our charity number: 1153602



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



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

SUNFLOWERS

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

During July the plants will grow very fast and you may need to give them some support with sticks. When they have stopped growing and have lovely flowers, take a photograph before the flower dies and measure the height of the plant.

Measurements and photos should be sent to chronicle@cowleyteamministry.co.uk or the details can be sent to/dropped in to the Parish Office, St James Church Centre, 13 Beauchamp Lane, Cowley, Oxford, OX4 3LF by the 31 August 2021.

Results and the prize for the tallest will be announced in the October Chronicle - although we will get results in The Link as soon as they are known. By then you will have had a lot of fun and enjoyment from the lovely blooms.

Good luck

Nonny Muss

COWLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Cowley WI meetings are up and running.

We have had two socially distanced meetings already , where it has been great to get together and meet friends again.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday July 21st at 2pm in St James Church Centre, Beauchamp Lane. This time we have a speaker Juliet Blackburn giving a talk on The History of Antique Fans which sounds great.

We have an extra meeting this year on Wednesday August 11th at 2pm in the hall. Confessions of a dance teacher with Wendy Sharpe which will be a lot of fun , some of us may even get a chance to take part.

We have also arranged outings that members can come along to. At the beginning of June we spent a brilliant afternoon at the Botanical Gardens, and then had Tea and Cake in a café on the High. This month we are going to Witney by bus for some shopping or a look in the Museum.

We are hoping for a full summer of activities this year.

Please come along and see us if you would like a fun afternoon and maybe make some new friends.

Kathy Hulcup Secretary Cowley WI

COWLEY FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS TREES 2021



Our second planning meeting in June developed some of our earlier ideas, particularly for a torchlight or lantern procession, with groups coming from across the Parish for an outdoor service at St James and we talked about communication with all possible participants.

Please send us further ideas for activities during the festival

AND, as ever, ideas of how we can reach and involve other community groups, schools etc.

AND if you are confident and have time to be our PROMOTION & SOCIAL MEDIA person.

AND if you have any local BUSINESS LINKS – with shops, service and manufacturing companies – and/or are able to go doorknocking to them

Our next planning meeting is on Thursday 9 September, 9.00 – hopefully a face to face one but, if necessary, on Zoom. Let Lesley Williams know if you are able to join in.

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

DIARY DATES - Covid-19 restrictions dependant

Saturday 24 July	4:00	St James patronal festival tea and singalong <i>St James Centre or Rectory garden</i>
Monday 26 July	10:00-11:30	Messy Church <i>St Francis Church</i>
Sunday 29 August	2:30	Rectory garden party <i>Rectory garden</i>
Sunday 5 September	9:30	Harvest service; bring & share brunch <i>St Francis</i>
Saturday 11 September		Ride & Stride; Open Doors <i>St Francis, St James</i>
Sunday 19 September	11:00	Harvest service; bring and share lunch <i>St James</i>



Home Library Service

Would you like to borrow library books but are unable to visit the library any reason? The Home Library Service is run from Oxfordshire County Council and serves 700 customers throughout the county.

How it works

Contact us to discuss the kind of Books, Large Print/Regular Print, DVDs, Audio Books on CD, Music CD or DVDs, that you like to read or enjoy. We can then arrange for a library volunteer to deliver these to you in your home. Our volunteers are DBS checked, wear an identification badges and provide a helpful and friendly ser-



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vice. Whenever possible, we try and arrange for the same volunteer to visit you each time. Your library materials will be delivered and collected every 3 weeks. The Home Library Service is free of charge, and there is no charge for requests or late returns.

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Little Stars, Seashells, ReFresh and Messy Church

We are so grateful to God that we have been able to open up as support groups over the last months. At Seashells and Little Stars, we have been able to offer over 20 parents/carers a chance to sit and chat and their children to play in a relatively safe environment. We have never had more than 15 adults at any one time, so it has always seemed so quiet to normal. We are going now on our summer break so our last session will be on Monday 12th July for Little Stars and Tuesday 13th July for Seashells. We will be meeting again for Little Stars on Monday 13th September and Seashells on Tuesday 7th September. We are so thankful to all those who come and support us in running these groups. As we don't know what the guidelines will be like in September, we suggest if you know someone who might like to come to either group, please ask them to contact Mary Bayliss as she holds the lists!!!

ReFresh has been very quiet but just what we all needed. A time to reflect on the Character of God, play with toys and pray together. Our last meeting will be on Wednesday 7th July and hopefully we will meet again on Wednesday 8th September.

Messy Church has been missed so much. We have a proposed date: Monday 26th July at 10am in St Francis Church but we won't know whether it is possible until we have the guidance for 19th July. So, I do ask that you save the date, so you can offer to help in some way!! Remember praying is just as important as practical help.

Mary Bayliss



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Stories from our projects

Monira's Story

Monira lives in Bangladesh - home to 160 million people, and among the countries most vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

"All my life I grew up seeing six seasons in my country. But now the hot season is so long, it's burning all the time. Winter comes for a very short time and too late, so we cannot grow vegetables like before. There are many frequent cyclones. The monsoon season begins when it is time to harvest. Due to the sudden rains our crops get ruined! During the last cyclone, our trees fell to the ground and our houses collapsed. All the crops on the land have been destroyed in the cyclone. We are already very poor, and this climate change is making our days miserable."



Support Traidcraft Exchange and donate to the Regenerators appeal between 8th March and 7th June 2021 and the UK government will double your gift to help the most vulnerable stand strong in the face of climate change. www.traidcraftexchange.org/regenerators

But Monira and others like her are working with Traidcraft Exchange to fight back. They are the Regenerators – people on the frontline of the climate crisis who are taking action to protect their land and livelihoods. They know what they need to do – they just need support to get started. With your help, they can come together to fight back against climate change – by planting trees, reducing plastic use, and switching to alternative fuels and climate resilient crops. Alongside this, they can come together to find new ways to earn a decent living, and save collectively – meaning that when disaster strikes, communities are better prepared.



"We learn and understand something new from this project in every meeting. This project is changing our lives and making us aware about climate change. We are trying to plant trees. We are trying to build our houses stronger and on a higher place. We no longer want to be dependent on agricultural work only. We are trying to learn different skills of income. Together when we stand side by side, we are able to deal with many problems. We can help each other with wisdom; we can deal with any danger together."



Mwanaidi's Story

Mwanaidi is bold, resilient and innovative, but With increasingly long seasons of drought threatening her crops, it's getting harder for her to make even a basic living.. She lives in a coastal region of rural Tanzania, and every day, she faces the reality of climate change.

"This year the floods have caused the cashew trees to die, our maize and rice swept away by water and at the end of the rains we don't have anything to eat. These changes, especially floods, have caused our incomes to go down.

This is the fourth year I am witnessing these floods on the valley and our food swept away.

I would like to have a garden where I can plant vegetables like tomatoes and then sell them to people and earn money; or planting watermelons and then sell afterwards. But if I harvest rice and get a lot of money, I want to build a good house so that my children can have a good life."

Mwanaidi and her community are on the frontline of the climate crisis, but with your help, and donations doubled by the UK government, she and her community can fight back and regenerate the land they depend on - by planting crops that can grow in extreme weather, protecting the forests and investing in climate-smart technology.

From greenhouses, to solar panels and new irrigation techniques, Mwanaidi and her community already know that there are solutions to the problems they face - they just need your support to get started.

" I think irrigation could work - especially during those times when there is no rain. We could use water from the river, put some water pipes and irrigate our farms, that way there will be a certainty that we will be able to harvest. So, I believe irrigation will make our life better compared to now - if there were droughts in the future and we had the irrigation pipes; I would be able continue to farm and harvest without any problem."

By learning new skills and changing how they farm, the Regenerators can increase their profits and turn their work into businesses - drastically increasing their incomes.

With basic climate friendly technology, and knowledge and skills about how to adapt to erratic weather patterns through things like growing new crops, investing in beehives or fisheries, communities will be able to earn more from the hard work they already do. These changes mean that whatever the climate crisis throws at them, they'll be able to feed their families and earn a decent income.

Not only this, but by switching to green technology and planting trees, they can regenerate their land - and protect the earth for generations to come.



For services before 20 June 2021 check times and places with the Link/Website

SUNDAY SERVICES (from 20 June)

ST JAMES CHURCH, BEAUCHAMP LANE

ST FRANCIS CHURCH, HOLLOW WAY

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

MID-WEEK SERVICES & MEETINGS

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

HOME GROUPS

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

Leader	Time/Venue
Mark Oxbrow	Alternate Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm Mark's home, 13 Annesley Road (just behind the Rose Hill Coop). Enquiries to Mark at 01865 461953

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

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

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Self-supporting Minister

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Churchwardens:

Christine Woodman Tel:
778078

Maureen Stone Tel 747950

St James Church Centre Manager:

Chris Woodman Tel: 778078

Hall Bookings:

St James Church Centre, St James Church, St Francis Church: Please contact the Parish Office Tel: 747680

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Paper contributions to the Parish Office.