

PRAYER SPACE

When I said "My foot was slipping,"
Your unfailing love, Lord, supported me.
When anxiety was great within me,
your consolation brought me joy...
But the Lord has become my fortress,
and my God the rock in whom I take refuge.

Let us not lose heart or be afraid
Let us hold fast to that which is good and look to that which is eternal
Let the power and peace of the presence of the Lord fill our lives and
be at work within us

Amen

World Environment Day, Friday 5th June

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe
and in the smallest of your creatures.
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.
Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and
beauty.
Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no
one.

O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of
this earth,
so precious in your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey
on it,
that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the
poor and the earth.
Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and
contemplation,
to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature
as we journey towards your infinite light.

We thank you for being with us each day.
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace

Amen

From the Editors

Sally Hemsworth and Nicki Stevens

Again, this month's Chronicle will be going on the website as we are still in lock-down. But the good thing is that Lesley Williams is printing and she with Chris and John Booty are delivering to those without internet access. Many thanks for doing this.

As we said last month, there is a lot of information on church activities taking place on www.cowleyteamministry.co.uk. If you have the internet and feel like joining in but are doubtful of your ability, talk it through with Geoff – he has managed to sort it out for one of your editors (Sally) who kept putting the wrong fitments in!!

You will see an article about the Oxford Bury Knowle Art Group. This shows that one of the hobbies of David Cook is painting. We could introduce into The Chronicle a monthly profile of someone's hobby (written by themselves). It would be interesting reading to find out exactly what people do quite apart from their input in the church organisation. We know we have flower arrangers/theatre goers/readers/gardeners etc – would you like to share your interests with us? Just half an A4 sheet would be gratefully received – sent by the Chronicle email or delivered to 9 Cleveland Drive, Cowley.

There is no knowledge when churches will be allowed to open their doors and hold services, so possibly the July/August edition will be produced as an on-line edition, with some paper copies. We will also be asking you whether you want to renew your subscription so we do hope you feel you have had good value from the Chronicle even in these difficult times!

Look forward to receiving articles, recipes, jokes, stories of activities during lock-down.

All our best wishes to you all.

Sally and Nicki



A word from the Rectory

Main definitions of normal in English: normal¹

Pronunciation /'nôrməl/ /'nɔrməl/

ADJECTIVE

1Conforming to a standard; usual, typical, or expected.

'it's quite normal for puppies to bolt their food'

More example sentences

Synonyms: **usual**, standard, typical, stock, common, ordinary, customary, conventional, habitual, accustomed, expected, wonted, everyday, regular, routine, day-to-day, daily, established, settled, set, fixed, traditional, quotidian, prevailing

ordinary, average, run-of-the-mill, standard, typical, middle-of-the-road, common, conventional, mainstream, unremarkable, unexceptional, plain, simple, homely, homespun, workaday

In the last months, I have heard a number of people saying, 'I am so looking forward to getting back to normal'. I am not really sure I have ever really understood what 'Normal' is. Indeed, I am fairly certain that our calling as Christians is not to strive to return to what most people think of as normal. For Jesus is the greatest change manager in history.

I wonder if you can think of ways in which recent life has been better than previous? You might look at the way we have publicly celebrated and given thanks for the servants of our country. Coming out onto the streets at 8pm on a Thursday evening. Making a horrible noise with saucepan, drums, and kitchen utensils. Wouldn't it be great if the new 'Normal' left space for such things?

You might consider the number of telephone calls that you have been involved in over the last weeks. Could our new 'Normal' leave space for this? How many people have grown a deeper sense of connection and community? Checking up to see if

neighbours are doing ok? Doing shopping for those who are challenged, picking up a prescription, posting a letter. So many little but important things.

For many, life has slowed down. An unexpected blessing? Should this be lost?

When living in Egypt, the people of Israel defined 'Normal' as slavery, beatings, oppression, infanticide (the killing of babies). Yet as they wandered into the desert they called out, *"Weren't the cemeteries large enough in Egypt so that you had to take us out here in the wilderness to die? What have you done to us, taking us out of Egypt? Back in Egypt didn't we tell you this would happen? Didn't we tell you, 'Leave us alone here in Egypt—we're better off as slaves in Egypt than as corpses in the wilderness."* Exodus 14:12 Broken 'Normal' can be something we hold to even when it is unhealthy.

Normal gets defined very quickly. Some evidence suggests it takes just 21 days. Shorter than our days in this season of Covid-19. For the Israelites 40 years was needed to re-discover the 'Normal' they were called to.

The 'Normal' we are called to lost back far beyond our personal memories. In a time before sin entered the world. Today as part of the Kingdom of God we are called to*be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.* Ephesians 5:1-2

Might our new 'Normal' be one that better reflects the character of Christ. As we step back out of our homes may we find new ways to be salt and light in the world.



Benson Cottage

Every blessing to you

CHILDREN'S CORNER

That was a long Easter break from school wasn't it. I hope you had fun and you certainly did some different things or did them in a different way. I had to as well and noticed that there were no children passing my house going to school each day, and of course we were not able to meet together at church or sing and play together. Things have changed, for the moment. It will be different in the future. Don't worry. It is part of growing up. But I like people doing my shopping for me!

Life *has* changed already and will continue to change for us all. Not all the changes we expected will take place and new ones will happen. But that has always been the case. Life *does* change all the time, although we sometimes don't notice it as we grow up. Some people say that is what growing up is all about, getting to know and understand new ways of living as things change for us. We can make plans, put dates in our diary or ask that we do things on a special day but it doesn't always happen that way. We have to change our plans because the weather is not good or someone is away on holiday when we would like to visit them and so on. Then we need to think of another way to do what we wanted to do. We can't always have what we want. Perhaps it would be better if we changed our ideas and did something different altogether.

A long time ago, when I was at a junior school in Cowley, when it was safe to cycle anywhere and there were only a few cars to worry about, we had a young visitor to our

school who could not speak any English. It was very difficult for us to understand what he said to us. His name was Hans. Apparently he had travelled on a train all the way from Austria with a number of other children and a few adults who were not his parents. One of them spoke to us in English and explained that Hans and the others were only able to bring one thing with them plus a small suitcase of clothes. They were only visiting the school for the afternoon but wanted to share something with us. Music. Could they sing a song in their language?

The 'thing' that Hans had chosen to bring was his small accordion. Although he couldn't speak English he could play to us and he did. It was fantastic. He showed that although he was away from his home and a long way from his country, he could be happy by sharing what he was good at. Playing the accordion. What a surprise. None of our school played the accordion so this really was something different! Later on that afternoon we found a song that we knew and he knew the tune so we all joined in. He was only with us for one day, but made such a difference to us and we hope that it made a difference to him because he seemed so happy.

Sometimes we find that we are not happy with what we have done or taken longer than we expected to, but we can all do so much together with other people. Who would think that a young boy, like Hans, could make such an impression that an old man remembers after so long. You may think that your contribution to help is small, but as my father

always reminded me, the pennies make the pounds and it is better to help in the same direction. Every little helps as the advertising tells us. That may mean that we have to listen, slow down, think or change. The little Austrian boy had to change, and learn English, and work hard in a strange new country. We can learn from him that change is not always bad for you. And it can help others.

Perhaps we have learned a little more about

ourselves recently. So many people have joined together to help each other. We are all different and will change. Perhaps I had better go to clear out that untidy drawer. That *would* be a change! Not a bad idea I can hear someone saying. You never know what you might find! Stay safe and continue to help at home.

Uncle Ben

My Comfort Zone

*I used to have a comfort zone where I knew I wouldn't fail,
the same four walls and busy work were really more like jail.
I longed so much to do the things I'd never done before
but stayed inside my comfort zone and paced the same old floor.
I said it didn't matter that I wasn't doing much,
I said I didn't care for things like commission checks and such.
I claimed to be so busy with the things inside the zone,
but deep inside I longed for something special of my own.
I couldn't let my life go by just watching others win
I held my breath; I stepped outside and let the change begin.
I took a step and with new strength I'd never felt before,
I kissed my comfort zone goodbye and closed and locked the door.
If you're in a comfort zone, afraid to venture out,
remember that all winners were at one time filled with doubt.
A step or two and words of praise can make your dreams come true,
reach for your future with a smile; success is there for you!*

Author Unknown

CHRISTIAN AID

The OXFORD ABSEIL has obviously been deferred from Saturday 9 May but there's a new date to look forward to: Saturday 17 October, 10.00-4.00 at St Mary Magdalen Church (Mary Mags) tower, central Oxford, opposite the Randolph hotel.

Lesley Williams remains registered (£20) for her latest abseiling 'fix' and is now actively seeking sponsorship AND would also still welcome co-abseilers.

Register on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/christian-aid-oxford-abseil-tickets-81309646341>

There will be eventually, when we are back worshipping in person, a paper sponsor form but you can encourage Lesley already on the Just Giving on line page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/lesley-williams-abseil-oxford-2020>



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2020
Sunday 10 – Saturday 16 May

Love never fails. Coronavirus impacts all of us. But love unites us all.

CAW 2020 was virtual with lots going on 'on line' – quizzes, concerts, 'bake offs', sponsorship.

From the national office: "You've quizzed. You've run. You've prayed. Thank you for getting involved in Christian Aid Week online!

Your innovative, exciting virtual fundraisers have risen to the challenge of celebrating Christian Aid Week differently. We've loved hearing about the Big Wolverhampton Quiz, the Christian Aid Scotland advisory committee taking on the 300,000 steps challenge, All Hallows by the Tower church doing a non-stop reading of the New Testament and many more. Thank you for all the different ways you've got involved to stand with our neighbours living in poverty.

This Christian Aid Week you have helped save lives. From families living in over-crowded refugee camps, to people with no clean water to wash their hands, your support has made a real difference."

Nationally over £1 million has been raised so far.

In Cowley, we held a Zoom Big Brekkie – Lesley with scrambled egg and smoked salmon - on Sunday 10 May. It was fun but not quite the same as being together at St James Centre – no smell of bacon and coffee.

No one entered the TV programmes quiz which was circulated with the e-mailed May Chronicle and with Link – and paper copies for those who had their Link hand-delivered. Here are the answers for those who tried but didn't complete it

The Parish of Cowley Facebook giving page remains open and has so far collected £232 – THANK YOU to donors, who include Lesley's American and English goddaughters and the father of one of them! <https://www.facebook.com/donate/237479224156294/> *Cowley Parish fundraiser for Christian Aid Week*

You can still donate that way OR with your card by phone to Christian Aid 020 7523 2269, OR let Lesley know if you wish to give but can't do it in either of those ways – she will pay in and collect cash or cheque from you later

The focus of Christian Aid Week naturally shifted from the originally planned climate change to the global response to Covid-19.

Christian Aid and its partners already had experience of limiting the spread of infection during the Ebola crisis, and they built on this experience to continue to stand together with communities living in poverty during this period. If infection rates develop as they have in Europe, then people in poorer countries will be hit even harder. Many are already living with reduced health resilience because of extreme poverty, or in overcrowded humanitarian camps and in countries which do not have the healthcare infrastructures needed to combat widespread disease. They are working on the ground to help prepare communities to limit the impact of Covid-19.

Christian Aid is actively responding to the coronavirus outbreak in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean. They're working together with partners and faith leaders to inform people about the risks, offering hygiene and hand washing sessions, equipping health facilities with supplies and providing training to frontline aid workers. They are also providing food packages to some of the most marginalised families and ensuring protection for women affected by domestic violence.

Please pray for them in this vital work and support them where you can by making a donation.

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/about-us/christian-aid-week/coronavirus-guidance>

From the Archives

DECEMBER 2014

THE ANGLICAN ASIAN LIVING CHURCH

The Anglican Asian Living Church is working on its vision now it has its services at St James Church since January 2014. This will be shared with the Parish so that the Parish is aware of the Church as it develops, giving it choice and enrichment and developing along with the vision of the Parish. It completed its vision for five years which included achievements of having its Minister housed in the Parish and near to the Church and its main congregation and families in the Cowley area. The feedback and discussions are done through the Liaison Meetings set up for this purpose. They then report to the PCC. The Liaison Committee has not met for a while and will be meeting soon, which is a group of people consisting from the St James Congregation and the Asian Church Congregation.

We have just lost my father, the Rev Wazir Chand, who went to sleep in the Lord on Monday 24th November 2014. He was a very influential Priest in the Cowley Parish and Anglican Asian Ministry. He founded the original Asian Ministry in this Parish. We move on as we develop that Ministry together in this Parish.

The Anglican Asian Church has its services every Sunday at 1.45 pm at St James Church and then with refreshments afterwards at St James Church Centre. The Sunday School meets in the Ranklin Room at approximately 2pm - 2.45 pm and then rejoins the main service. There is a celebration of Holy Communion the first Sunday of every month.

The Asian Church Christmas Programmes and the New Year programmes are open for all to attend and all are invited. The services normally follow an Anglican pattern with predominantly Punjabi language and culture. English language is spoken in some parts of the services and people are made welcome in the events. The Asian Church also participated in the Parish Vision and Purpose Day and the Parish Profile update for the new Rector.

All the seasons blessings as we work together to grow His Kingdom in this place.

Revd Richard Chand

Researched by Les Hemsworth

NOTABLE PEOPLE & CHARACTERS OF COWLEY

WAZIR CHAND

APRIL 1989



Father Peter Writes:

Please keep Wazir Chand in your prayers, as he has taken a bold step of asking the Church to test his vocation to the ordained ministry.

On November 13th, Wazir will go on a "Selection Conference" when he will join with other prospective ordinands of various ages and backgrounds from all over the country to undergo several interviews concerning his vocation.

Hopefully, Bishop Richard will then approve Wazir beginning training for ordination as a Non-Stipendiary Deacon in the Parish.

Almighty God,

You have entrusted to your church
A share in the ministry of your Son,
our great High Priest.
Inspire by your Holy Spirit
the hearts and minds of many
to offer themselves for the sacred ministry,
that as deacons and priests
they may draw all men to your kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

SEPTEMBER 1990

Please remember Wazir Chand in your prayers this week as he prepares for ordination to the Diaconate next Sunday morning at St Mary's, Witney.

Wazir was presented with his ordination stole (a gift from us all) during the PCC last Tuesday evening.

JULY 1997

I BELIEVE IT IS GOD'S WILL

The subject of my column this month has the potential to knock spots off many biographies I've read. When I mentioned this to the main character he smiled modestly and said he wasn't sure anyone would be interested.

The story begins with a young Indian teacher and reaches all the way to a semi-detached house in Cowley. In between are some amazing experiences and the formation of the Cowley Asian Christian Fellowship. My interview was with Father Wazir and Mrs. Chand.

Wazir had never thought of coming to England until his brother-in-law suggested sending to the British High Commissioner for the necessary papers. They came and were tucked away. A boastful friend told of an "invitation" to England from the Queen. The hidden papers were declared a similar invitation! Wazir was too poor to afford his ticket and passport. A travel agent friend offered a series of inflated bribes all of which were rejected until the ticket was bought at the correct price of £150. The money was borrowed and in 1963, with just £3 in his pocket, our young Indian teacher arrived in England.

He had been an active member of the Church of North India and believes that the events

which led to his journey here were all God's will. The need to work long hours in the Post Office which caused a chronic back problem was all part of the pattern. After several jobs and a family business he reached the British Leyland assembly line in 1977. His religious life included bringing Asian Christians into his local church in Bicester, helping to organise regular worship in Punjabi in Birmingham Cathedral and leading worship and prayer in St. James' Church, Handsworth.

When he was badly troubled with his back, he borrowed money for Mrs. Chand and the family to join him and then set about paying back the loan by working long hours. Of course, his work on the assembly line exacerbated the problem. Mrs. Chand told me she used to massage his back before he would lie down on the lounge floor without a mattress to try to sleep. It was in this way that a miracle happened. Father Wazir told me that Jesus Himself walked into the room, blessed him and called him, "My son". Within 24 hours the backpain had left him – never to return.

The family worshipped at St. Luke's where Father Ian Knowles initiated the idea of an Asian Pastoral Centre. Bishop Richard agreed to give the Blessing at the Inaugural Service. Imagine his surprise when nearly 400 people attended!

Father Wazir was ordained in 1990 and plays an important part in parish life. He visits many families among the Asian community who do not attend services, in order to lead them in prayer. He holds weekly services in The Hut where his congregation averages around 30 (rising to 100 at festivals). He acts as an advisor and interpreter on occasions, having Urdu, Punjabi, and Hindustani among his languages. He has witnessed many examples of healing through prayer, the most moving of which was that of his own son who was beaten-up some time ago by a gang of young thugs and left for dead on the street.

He is a regular group leader of pilgrims to the Holy Land with Mrs. Chand, as ever, at his side. These journeys bring him great pleasure, but his proudest moment will be this November when he hopes to baptise his eleventh grandchild in the River Jordan.

Rosanne Butler

Researched by Les Hemsworth

Editors' Note:

Wazir Chand died in November 2014 and his son, Richard, has now taken over the reins of the Anglian Asian Living Church in Cowley and today still remains in the Cowley Ministry.

OXFORD CITY FARM – A REALLY GOOD NEWS COWLEY STORY

<http://www.oxfordcityfarm.org.uk/>

The team behind Oxford City Farm has been working to bring City Farming to Oxford since 2008. They are a diverse group of local people, most from the Florence Park area, with broad skills and experience in among other things, health, youth work, planning, community development, teaching, architecture, fund raising, horticulture, ecology and veterinary medicine.

In January 2017, they secured a 40-year lease on the beautiful site, formerly the playground and gardens of Donnington Junior, then Middle School, Cornwallis Road, behind the Isis Care Home. Fund raising has brought critical infrastructure including water, electricity, toilets and hand washing facilities and an office base to the site, allowing them to run regular community farming days where members of the public get involved with the work of the farm, particularly developing infrastructure and supporting growing crops. They have also begun to develop partnerships with schools and other organisations to increase participation in the work. In 2018, a part time community grower and development worker was employed and there will hopefully soon be a director, both funded by grants.

Thus, they have become a valued community resource, supporting health and well-being; a place where people learn and grow together, focused on knowledge and skills related to farming, food production and the environment. The nurture programmes support well-being and resilience through



connecting people to the land and nature and through shared endeavour, committed to each other.

Then, just a month ago, in the midst of lockdown, they were offered the opportunity to re-home a fully equipped kitchen/classroom from a local school for teaching... and save it going to landfill! They had just 3 weeks to raise the £40,000 needed to relocate the building to the farm site. It represented a huge leap forward for the farm, providing a warm, dry and fully equipped teaching kitchen/classroom to enable them to support people of all ages from across the community to build skills and confidence to cook and eat fresh healthy food that has been grown and picked on the site.

Why a kitchen/classroom at Oxford City Farm?

Covid19 has dramatically highlighted the need to address spiralling rates of lifestyle related diseases such as diabetes and heart and lung disease and address health inequalities so that the poorest and most disadvantaged are not disproportionately affected by these illnesses. This building will enable the farm to work proactively with all members of the community, including reaching out to those in high risk groups and communities in need.

The building has wheelchair access so will drastically improve accessibility to the farm

site. As well as the kitchen/classroom space, it also provides accessible toilet facilities, a reception and 3 small offices. The office space will house the Farm's core staff team and the growing number of volunteers; it will also provide flexibility as private meeting space, and as 'break-out' space for courses and teaching small groups.

"We have done so much with so little in terms of resource over the last 3 years, positioning ourselves as an important community resource," says founder member and Chair of Trustees, Lucie Mayer. "Most of our teaching has been delivered outdoors and under canvas. Gaining access to a warm, indoor teaching and cooking space that can be used all year round – rain or shine – would be fantastic. If we achieved our goal, the new building would enable us to build the skills of people, of all ages, across our community, giving them the confidence to grow, cook and eat fresh

healthy food. If we are able to secure it, it will represent a huge leap forward."

And of course the GOOD NEWS is that the £40,000 was raised on a crowdfunder page, with one day to spare – so now has a stretch target of £45,000 in order to source furniture and equipment.

Florence Park has the City Farm, its own Community Centre and Flo's, the Place in the Park – an inspiring community.



BIBLE SOCIETY 'MORE THAN A BOOK' REGISTRATION

Are you looking for something inspirational to read to see you through the rest of this strange time? 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 some from our 'Open the Book' resources orders – not a huge amount but useful! Some personal shopping would be useful.



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

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

Hugh Williamson

Europe and Central Asia Director, Human Rights Watch

Article continued from the Cowley Chronicle, May 2020:

My team's commitment and spirit keep me going but their safety is a constant concern. They're often monitoring protests or interviewing survivors of human-rights abuses in risky situations, or travelling to remote regions, or refugee camps. In some areas, there is an erosion of human rights in the UK. Last year, we published a report on "food poverty" there – why more and more people are dependent on food-banks to get by. Many people realised for the first time that this is also a human-rights issue.

This is a crucial moment for Britain. The direction that the country takes on human rights will be one defining factor on what Brexit really means. People in Britain need, and deserve a government that stands up for human rights at home and abroad.

The idea that everyone has the same "equal and inalienable rights" is rooted in efforts after the Second World War to rebuild a better world and to enshrine such principles in international treaties such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Morals and religion are important for some human-rights activists, but the ideas have a legal grounding. That gives them their strength, and the basis of the mandate of groups such as HRW.

Gaps between the rich and poor, and how the economy and business work, are all connected to human rights. HRW has experts on how businesses should respect rights, on inequality, and on how people's rights suffer due to climate change.

My father, Canon Tony Williamson took the unusual decision in the late 1950s, not to seek a parish, but to take a manual job, in a car factory in Oxford where I grew up (Obituary, 22 March 2019). He worked there for 30 years. He and my mother, Barbara, were among the founders of the "worker-priest" movement in the UK (Feature, 6 September 2019). I realise now that my parents' choices influenced my life, in particular the importance my dad placed on finding practical ways to stand alongside those disadvantaged in society.

My father was, in turn, influenced by his dad, also an Anglican priest. Known as "Father Joe" Williamson, he grew up in poverty in London's East End. Later in the 1950s, he campaigned in Stepney to clear slum housing and help women to escape prostitution. He was well known at the time – one of the characters in *Call the Midwife* is based on him.

I grew up going to church every week; so the institution feels familiar. Faith means more to me now than for many years, especially since the deaths of both of my parents. I now volunteer in a drop-in centre for homeless people run by churches in Berlin. Through my father's

work, I've got to know worker priests across Europe which has been fulfilling. I now write about their lives.

My proudest achievement, along with my wife, Anke, is our two children: Lucas, who is now grown up, and Helen, who was born in Ethiopia, and who we adopted ten years ago.

I like the sound of the sea, but also the ambient sounds of pubs and fish-and-chip shops: places that I miss now that I'm not living in the UK.

It makes me angry when people with power put their own interests above those of the people for whom they bear responsibility.

In the future, I'd like to play my part for human rights and other causes. The world is changing so fast, why not for the better? My friend Erkin Musaev should be able to live a normal life again, and his friends who are political prisoners should be out of jail. That's not too much to ask.

I get hope from meeting people who are doing good things in their lives to make their communities better places without seeking recognition for it. We need more humble heroes.

If readers were to take one step, it would be to think about and act on "human" in human rights. Protecting human rights can be rough – dealing with abuses and their consequences. But it's really about doing something positive every day to respect another human.

If I were locked in a church, I would pick my parents – but I'd be with them when they were building their lives together. It would be fascinating to understand why they decided to do what they did.

Hugh Williamson was talking to Terence Handley MacMath (www.hrw.org)
Extract from the Church Times, 31 January 2020



From the Benskin Family

I felt it would be a good thing to write to you all at this time of great uncertainty and of unknown to inform you of where we are as a family, and bring you up to speed on news from our end.

On the 27th April, at 3:29 AM, Jasmine-Ilaria Hope Valerie Benskin arrived into the world. Her name means “happy and cheerful gift from God” and she is truly living up to her name, with giggles and smiles. Jasmine-Ilaria and Alice are both doing very well, though it was an unusual experience being in the hospital and the labour suite during this pandemic. The mid-wife team were wonderful and helped both me and Alice during that very anxious experience. We are all eternally grateful to them and to the NHS for their care and help in bringing Jasmine-Ilaria into the world. Both Amelia and Isabella are very much in awe of their little sister and show her great affection.

A few months ago I shared with you that I was offered my curacy in the Icknield parish and that we would be moving to Watlington at the end of May. As you can imagine with lockdown and situations such as restrictions on travel and schools no longer operating, this move was delayed. However, recently restrictions were lifted for moving house and this has meant that we are now able to move forward and begin relocating to Watlington. Therefore, we are planning to move in mid-June, somewhere around the week commencing 15th June.

My last Sunday here in Cowley will be the 14th of June. Geoff and I have talked and are planning, when restrictions are lifted and it is safe to do, that myself and all my girls will come back to Cowley to do a proper leaving service and goodbye. Please do not worry – we are not leaving without saying goodbye. Things may just be delayed a bit longer due to lockdown.

With regards to ordinations, this too has now been pushed until September and will no longer be in Oxford Cathedral. The diocese is going to conduct individual services for the four Archdeaconries and these services will be streamed on social media. Geoff will bring you up to speed more on this closer to the time, when we have more information from the diocese, and also from our government, regarding what will be possible in terms of public attendance of the service.

These are very difficult times with great uncertainty for all of us in our community. As a family we have personally held on to the hope that God has a plan and is here in our midst. We have been so grateful for all of your prayers, and for all the help and support that has been given to us as a family. I would like to thank all of you, for all of your help and support to us during this time, and also for the kindness and support over the three years that we have been in Cowley. It has been a great joy to journey with you and we are going to greatly miss each one of you and being in this wonderful community and church. We leave you all our warm wishes and will continue to remember you all in our prayers. Cowley will forever have a special place in my heart.

May God bless you and keep you all.

David Benskin

Main definitions of BMO in English

Bishops Mission Orders [BMO]

ECCLESIASTICAL TERMINOLOGY

Bishops' Mission Orders (BMOs) are made by bishops, as leaders in God's mission in their Dioceses.

In making an Order, the bishop endorses and authorises the mission initiative it covers as likely to promote or further the mission of the Church through fostering or developing a distinctive Christian community.

BMOs can recognise existing mission initiatives or promote fresh expressions of church.

Grace Church is an example of such an initiative. The BMO will give it a status in the deanery and will formally bring it under the umbrella of the Archdeaconry and diocese of Oxford. It defines the relationship between the parish (Cowley Team Ministry) and itself. It puts in place a structure that should ensure that good communication and working relationships are maintained.



Shaun Guard

TV AERIAL SERVICES

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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.

Our practice is focused by a new requirement to complete a 'Promoting a safer church' action plan. We find we must clarify some of our procedures and systems. There is the danger that we *think everyone knows what they should do* but we haven't checked on that.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility – *please be sure to report anything you observe whilst at church or one of our events that causes you concern for someone's safety or wellbeing.*

It is just as important during this strange time when we are all on our own in our homes; the situation throws up its own safeguarding and welfare issues. Please remain aware.

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

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COWLEY FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS TREES 2020

Joy to the World!

Friday 11 – Sunday 20 December



Whilst we obviously don't know what life will be like by December, and recognising we may have to adapt the format, we are confidently planning for an extra joyful community event, once again to share the blessings of life in Cowley at Christmas. We hope the theme may cover both living with Covid-19 and creation/climate change/sustainability – and any other interpretation! The central diorama will be around the figure of an angel.



During June, we will be contacting previous participants and hopefully engaging with some new groups and businesses. If you have never been involved before and would like to be, either as an individual, a family or part of a group – start planning/creating right now!

And contact us: ctf@cowleyteamministry.co.uk

Our next planning meeting will be on Wednesday, 1 July, at 9.30 am on Zoom, unless things have changed considerably by then so we can meet face to face,

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

DID YOU KNOW.....?

For advice and a free(fitted) smoke alarm contact the Oxfordshire Fire Service freephone Community Safety Helpline 08000 325 999, or email community.safety@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

Editor: Thank you David (Cook) for this information

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The roses are blooming in Cowley!

It is a great year for roses. Mine have been covered in flowers and the colours really shine out in this glorious late spring weather we have been enjoying. My David Austin "Lady of Shallot" has been particularly gorgeous. Planted five years ago, it has grown to be a large bushy shrub with apricot chalice-shaped blooms opening from red/orange fat buds. But all my other roses have been wonderful too. I must keep on top of the dead-heading to keep them flowering as long as possible.

My sale of plants did really well, making just over £500 for the St James' Toilet Fund. We set up home-made bunting and put out the trays along the fence in the drive and, armed with the Parish card reader, I was able to take contactless payments as well as cash, but didn't give change to prevent needless touching. Social distancing was mainly maintained with my other half allowing only 2 or 3 people in at a time with the reminder of keeping two metres apart by his drawing of chalk circles on the pavement. We had quite a queue of happy and friendly folks up the road! We opened for a second day as we had a few things left. The weather was sunny and warm those 2 days and I just hope that enthusiasm did not overtake people to plant out straight away as we had a deep frost the following week-end which would have killed their precious charges!

The frost that night cut down our emerging potato plants on the allotment but they have happily recovered. We have light well-draining soil on the plot and it really is suffering with the lack of rain. Most things are growing though but we keep an eye on the need to water some days. Watering makes roots to grow near the soil surface which is not a good idea if you don't do it

regularly. They could suffer easily. It is best to ensure that roots are growing down into the soil to seek moisture in lower layers. Peas, broad beans, French and runner beans are all up as well as rows of beetroot, spinach and chard amongst others – but, as usual, parsnips fail to come up. This often happens, so you sow another row and then both rows emerge! I wait with anticipation!

We have a netted frame that I bought at Harrogate Flower Show a couple of years ago. That is now up and protecting the brassica plants: summer cabbages, brokoli and red cabbage. Protection is needed from cabbage white butterflies which lay their eggs on any member of this family. This ensures the emerging caterpillars get a good start in life by gobbling the leaves. Cabbages are also a target for our prolific pigeons! By the way, brokoli is not a spelling mistake. A new one on me, the plants are a cross between traditional broccoli and kale and are supposed to produce tender stems in late summer. I will see!

I write now during week ten of lockdown. We have had great weather and getting out into the garden and on the plot has been important. Battling pests and bindweed is all part of that and it is fulfilling. My heart goes out to those who have no outside space or work to do once out there. We still don't know what day it is, the structure of ordinary daily living of going here and there, going to church and being a part of activities is a distant memory. We long to cuddle our new grandson born on Easter Saturday. Hopefully there is light at the end of the tunnel and we don't go back to this limbo again.

Keep smiling!

Joan Coleman

FLO'S - THE PLACE IN THE PARK

Rymers Lane, OX4 3JZ



FLO'S CAFE is now open for takeaways!

FLO'S CAFE is now offering hot meals to pre-order, and take away, four days a week.

Are you home-schooling, as well as trying to work from home? Or just fed up with your own cooking?

They are serving a weekly changing take-away menu, featuring warm and nourishing hot meals, as well as delicious baked goods, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

Changing weekly menu : <https://www.flosoxford.org.uk/cafe/>

How it works :

Place your order by phone between 9:30am and 11:30am by ringing 07922 148 496

When ordering you will be able to select a collection time

Pay using your bank card. **note, no cash payments – a system to enable phone/online payments is being developed*

4. collect your order 12:00pm-4:00pm from Flo's at your allocated time, observing social distancing

THE REFILL SHOP is also still opening Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 12:30-6:00 (times may vary – check the website) selling dry basics and washing/cleaning detergents

Only one customer will be allowed in at a time, so please wait outside at a safe distance from each other; staff will wash their hands between serving each customer; stay safe and well.

Shop local and plastic free for unpackaged staple foods from [Infinity Foods](#) and [SESI refill detergent](#). All products are sold by weight or volume, which means you can buy exactly what you want, take your own containers and or borrow and take back provided ones!

What is usually in stock?

pasta, muesli, brown rice, oats, raisins, red split lentils, brown lentils, sunflower seeds, pumpkin seeds, walnuts, almonds, cashew nuts, bicarbonate of soda, vinegar, coconut shampoo & conditioner, aloe vera shampoo and conditioner, olive oil soap, fig hand soap, washing up liquid, laundry liquid, fabric conditioner, all surface cleaner, toilet cleaner

Current stock is listed on the website - <https://www.flosoxford.org.uk/flos-refill-shop/>

A toilet and AV system for St James

You may well have heard the very good news that the Diocesan Common Vision Fund has awarded us a grant toward the Toilet and Audio Vision System in St James Church. This means we can move forward with the project. It seems reasonable that we take the first step by installing the toilet and then go on to tackle the Audio-visual system as a Second Phase. Below are the current plans. Fuller plans can easily be emailed out to anybody, or they inspected at the Rectory.

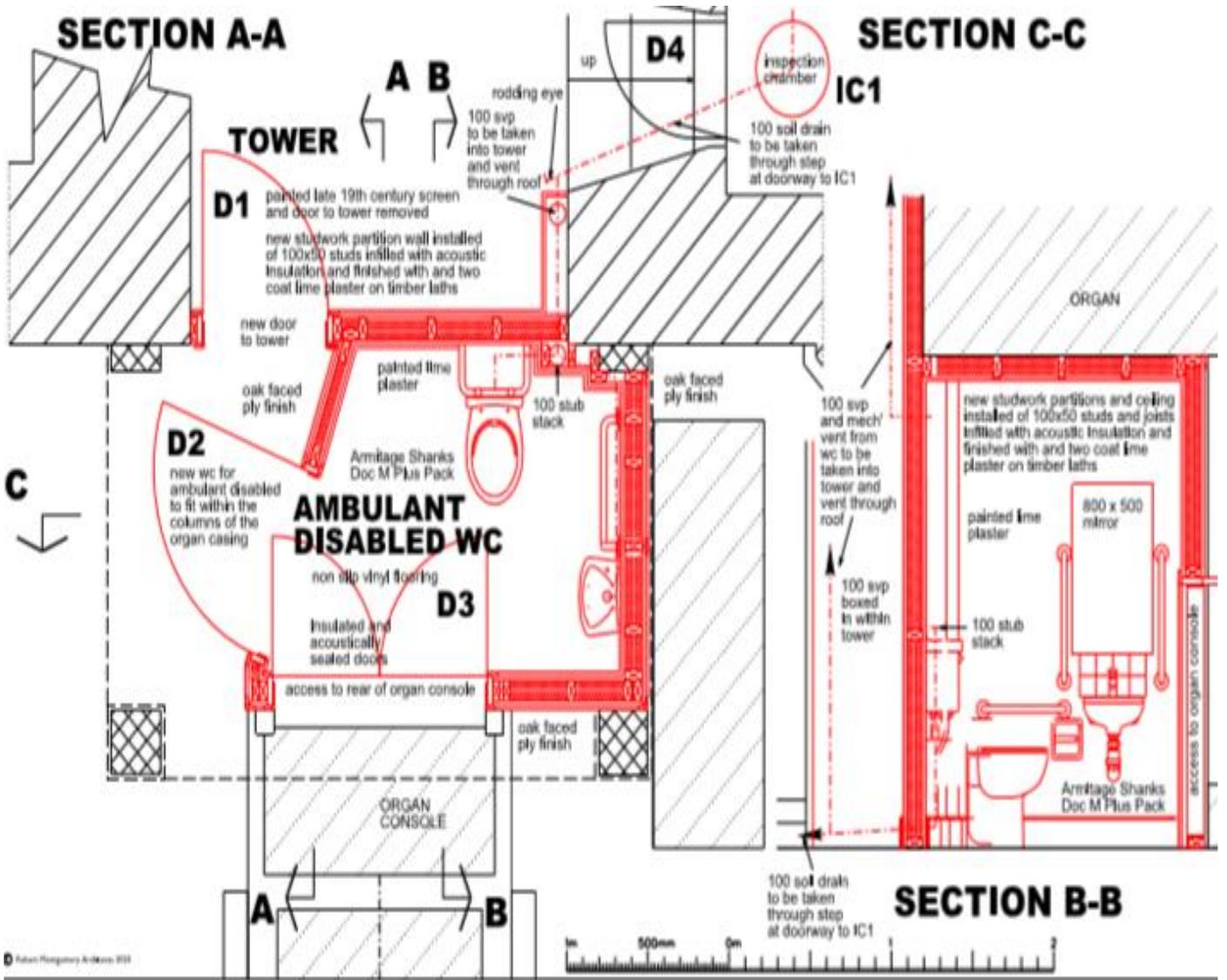
The unit: Current boarding separating the tower from the main area of the church will be replaced. The door from the church will be closed and a new one opened slightly to the south. Access to the rear of the organ console, for maintenance will be maintained. The wooden surfaces will have an oak finish and flat surfaces will be finished with 2 coat lime plaster on wooden laths. The unit will be well sound proofed. Provision follows that required for 'ambulant disabled access'. There is a facility with fuller access available in the Church centre.

Drainage: The aim is to take the drains out via the tower door and down the path. From here into a main drain access point in the front garden of the Rectory. This will cause minimal disturbance to the Main worship area (knave) of the Church. The mains drain in the road is some 2.5 metres down. The use of the Rectory drains will significantly reduce costs and disturbance. There will need to be some archaeological work completed as the ancient grounds of the churchyard will be disturbed.

This is a very exciting venture! Please pray that God will guide us each step of the way. If you have any thoughts or concerns, please let us know. Whilst there is still some fund raising required for the completion of the whole project, we are confident we can move on with Phase One. We hope to press forward with this as soon as we are able. This comes with much prayer and thought. Your brother in Christ



Revd Geoff Bayliss
Rector



PERSONALLY SPEAKING - BIG BIRTHDAYS!

Congratulations to our Editor, Sally Hemsworth, on her 80th (yes really!) and Geoff on his 60th, both celebrated recently.





From Maggie Lewis (NHWN, Multi Scheme Administrator, Oxford Local Policing Area)

New Policing Arrangements for Your Area

Many of you will know Sergeant Rob Mann who led his Neighbourhood team from Cowley Police Station and was full of dynamism and energy. Sadly, we have lost this dynamism as he is taking on a new role in Head Quarters on June 1st. It is a new team and he has said he is looking forward to it but sad to be leaving Cowley. He has been on furlough for some time but although the PCs are on shift they will go where needed so may not be in the Neighbourhood Policing Team.

From June 1st Sergeant Neil Bouse will be the Neighbourhood Policing Sergeant for Cowley and Wood Farm areas replacing Sergeant Rob Mann. This will be in addition to the same role as he does in East Oxford Neighbourhood Policing Team. From June 30th PC Chrissy Jupp (who has worked for many years with Cowley NHPT) is retiring on June 30th. She has always worked closely with Neighbourhood Watch and will be greatly missed. Inspector James Sullivan has recently joined the Oxford Neighbourhood Policing Team and he is a very approachable Inspector and I will be working closely with him. Unfortunately, Covid19 has suspended most of the meetings we would normally have.

We will need to help him as much as we can and to keep our communities safe by reporting suspicions.

My vision is to have a dedicated and interested PCSO for NHW to each Neighbourhood Policing Team and for every Coordinator to introduce themselves to their local policing team who has not already done so - however, now is not the right time!

Potential Increase in Crime

Most people will be enjoying the sunny weather this weekend and I hope you are one of them.

From Monday, 1 June 2020 many people will be returning to work and children resuming their schooling and this may have implications for residents.

1. Volunteers may be less accessible to the self-isolating and more help will be needed.
2. Potentially there may be an upsurge in crime, particularly burglaries. Please could Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators advise their members.

I have taken this general advice from Thames Valley Police website to keep your home safe:

Burglar facts

- Burglars target homes that they think will contain valuables. A sure giveaway is leaving packaging from expensive items outside your front door.
- Burglars often look for homes with windows or doors left open or with vulnerable features that they can exploit.
- Burglars are aware of the times when someone is expected to be away from their house such as during the school run or holidays.
- Burglars typically do not want to be seen or heard and if they feel that they would be noticed by a neighbour or passer by then they are more likely to feel exposed and may move on to find somewhere else to burgle.
- Burglars often choose a home because they have spotted a specific vehicle, motorcycle or bicycle they want to steal – and the keys are more than likely to be inside the residence.
- Sheds and garages are often vulnerable as they are not that secure and contain tools which the burglar can use to assist them to gain entry to a home.
- It is a fact that many burglars return to homes that they've previously burgled because the homeowner failed to upgrade security following the first burglary. They sometimes return to an area to try to burgle a nearby home that they spotted while committing a previous break in. Even more reason for you to ensure you keep your home as safe as houses .



Answer sheet

Questions

- 1 In and out (4,3,4)
- 2 Stir cereal (8)
- 3 A wee bit chilly (1,5,2,5)
- 4 What you can't teach Old Shep (3,6)
- 5 Explosive idea (3,3,4,6)
- 6 Codename (5)
- 7 Attic and basement (8,10)
- 8 Orphan's view (8)
- 9 Fabulous fair ride (3,5,10)
- 10 Yellow family (3,8)
- 11 Off to bed, pet (9,10)
- 12 Let's eat at my place (4,4,4,2)
- 13 Unknown documents (3,1,5)
- 14 Just cons and nags (4,5,3,6)
- 15 Can't see what's on the calendar (5,4)
- 16 Short survey before the light goes (7)
- 17 Negotiate search (7,4)
- 18 Stern invitation to boogie (8,4,7)
- 19 Saturday's big wedding (5,2,3,3)
- 20 Designer clothes (3,4)
- 21 Tamper with the World Health Organization (6,3)
- 22 Overhear a few words (11)
- 23 Our place in the universe (5,4,4,3,3)
- 24 Endure seasonal drink (4,2,3,6,4)
- 25 Questioning identity (3,2,3,5,3,3)
- 26 Where the Queen might be treated (1,1)
- 27 Built to impress (5,7)
- 28 What people play on their loos (4,2,7)
- 29 Gawp at cube (9)
- 30 Those close to us (7)

Answers

- Home and Away
- Porridge
- A Touch of Frost
- New Tricks
- The Big Bang Theory
- Morse
- Upstairs, Downstairs
- Panorama
- The Magic Roundabout
- The Simpsons
- Goodnight Sweetheart
- Come Dine with Me
- The X Files
- Only Fools and Horses
- Blind Date
- Poldark
- Bargain Hunt
- Strictly Come Dancing
- Match of the Day
- Top Gear
- Doctor Who
- Catchphrase
- Third Rock From the Sun
- Last of the Summer Wine
- Who Do You Think You Are?
- E.R.
- Grand Designs
- Game of Thrones
- Gogglebox
- Friends



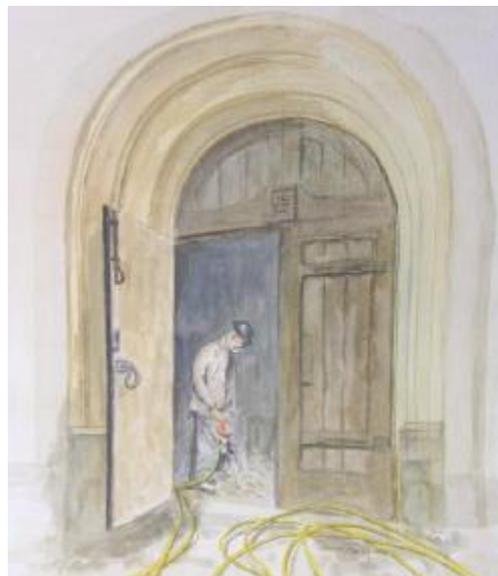
Oxford Bury Knowle Art Group

Man with pneumatic drill attaching the tower entrance doorway
of St.Luke's Church during it's 'conversion'

Exhibitions and News:

'To enjoy each other's company through the medium of art' is why David Cook is a member of OBKAG and has been for the last 20 years.

He describes himself as a self taught artist preferring water colours. Whilst absorbed in painting everything else becomes unimportant which helped him mentally cope with his wife's illness and demise. This is surely something that is very relevant to us all in these unprecedented times, for loosing ourselves in our art acts as mental therapy. David reminds us that 'a thing of beauty is a joy forever'. I hope you enjoyed looking at David's paintings. Contact details: cherwelloxford22@yahoo.com



Oxford Bury Knowle Art Group (OBKAG) is a friendly group of folks who meet in the North Oxford Community Centre once a month. See www.oxfordburyknowleartgroup.co.uk for details.

When we can go out and about again if you are interested in art come and join us. Contact Details: Jeanwykes@gmail.com

CHRONICLE

Editorial Team- Sally Hemsworth, Nicki Stevens

Deadline for the next edition: Monday 22 June 2020

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.

**ALL CHURCH SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES
SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE—
FACEBOOK DAILY PRAYER TAKES
PLACE MONDAY—SATURDAY 12 NOON,
CHURCH SERVICES ON SUNDAY:
DIOCESAN WITH EUCHARIST AT 10.00
AND COWLEY AT 11.00**

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
1st Sunday All Age bring n/share lunch

MID-WEEK SERVICES & MEETINGS

Morning Prayer	8.00am	Tue, Thu, Sat at St James; Mon at St Francis
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	7.30pm	Local House of Prayer, St James

HOME GROUPS

Leader	Time/Venue
Friends of St Francis (Katherine Reed)	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

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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St Francis : Nick Dewey
Tel: 07952 524664

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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chronicle@cowleyteamministry.co.uk
Paper contributions to the Parish Office.