



WINDSOR CASTLE

March 10<sup>th</sup> 2022

Dear Mrs Hemsworth.

The Queen wishes me to write and thank you for your letter, from which Her Majesty was interested to learn about the celebrations the Parish of Cowley is planning to hold this June, in honour of The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Although Her Majesty is unable to help in the way you ask, The Queen was touched to hear about the special service taking place at St James's Church, and Her Majesty hopes this will be a memorable and enjoyable occasion for all those in attendance.

I am to send The Queen's good wishes to you and your fellow parishioners for the future, and I am to thank you once again for your kind thought in writing as you did.

Yours sincerely  
Jennifer Jordan

Lady-in-Waiting

Mrs S Hemsworth

Chronicle

June 2022

# From the Editors

*Sally Hemsworth and Nicki Stevens*

Many congratulations to Her Majesty for 70 years as our Queen!

What a lovely surprise to get a letter from the Queen. A letter was sent from the Parish Office asking for her favourite hymns to be sung at our special service to commemorate her Platinum Jubilee. Although she could not help, we hope she will enjoy the songs we sang. You will receive the Chronicle on the day of the service!

You will see that the appeal for people interested in becoming a Committee/PCC member continues. Do think about this carefully as the churches need this type of help.

The next Parish Walk is on Monday, 6 June 2022 – 2 pm at the Church Centre, then a drive so that we can walk over the Chilswell Hills (and have a cup of tea in the nearby Garden Centre!). Do hope the walkers have good weather.

We are so glad to see that another Quiz has been arranged, this time for Christian Aid. They are such good fun and really test the memory. How lovely to have instant recall for this sort of “test”. The cream tea will make it all worthwhile!

We are very grateful to those who contribute to the Chronicle – and we have one or two new contributors coming forward, but we still make our usual plea – ideas for articles, book reviews, recipes, jokes, cartoons are very welcome. It is so important to hear from you.

Nicki and Sally

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**OPEN THE BOOK** telling scripted Bible stories in assemblies for our three Parish schools – an essential part of our mission to the children of Cowley

It's never too late to join the Open the Book team!

We normally have just enough storytellers for our three teams – but not if someone is away, ill, or just not available. We've had a challenging time with team members self-isolating, on holiday and otherwise not available. More team members are urgently needed in each school for the future.

We are delighted that two members of Grace Church have joined us for Tuesdays at Church Cowley St James; we'd love some more for the other schools/days

The commitment is for alternate weeks in each school but you can do as little or as much as you wish – usually two of us provide continuity by being in all three teams; the others are in just one.

- alternate Mondays at 8:45 – arriving at 8:20 – St Christopher's School, Temple Road
- alternate Tuesdays 2:45 – arriving at 2:15 – Church Cowley St James School, Bartholomew Road
- alternate Thursdays 10:30 – arriving at 10:00 – St Francis School, Horspath Road

*To learn more about what's involved, talk to Geoff – Lesley Williams – Joan Coleman – Jill Ling*

## A word from the Rectory

Hearing God's voice! I have many great friends and each year I love to hear news from them. Sometimes the route is direct; I chat with them face to face, or on the



phone. Sometimes the news reaches me second hand, via friends or social media. Whatever the route, it is so good to be updated and be able to focus my prayers in a realistic way. In John chapter 15 we have a record of these words Jesus said: *"No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you."* It is an awesome privilege to be a friend of Jesus, a friend of God. Back in the Old Testament we hear these words being said of Abraham: *"Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"—and he was called a friend of God.*

It is a gift offered to every one of us: To be a friend of God. As we ask Jesus into our lives that friendship starts and grows. Yet all friendships are more than just a relationship record on a piece of paper. They are a place where we interact with each other. I have just had delivered a book by Pete Greig the founder of



the 24/7 prayer movement: How to hear God – a simple guide for normal people. Over the next few weeks I am really looking forward to engaging with it. He considers 8 ways that we might be

able to hear from God. He suggests we can hear from God through Jesus, the Bible, prayer and prophecy. Sometimes it comes as a whisper, or dream. We might hear it via our community, creation, or culture.

For me, a challenge lies in making the time and space to nurture my friendships. It is so easy to allow the business of life to crowd in. My friendships are important. They are the bedrock of so much of life. Thankfully friends, like God, are understanding. They remain true even if the lines of communication have gone silent for a while.

God wants each one of us to be able to call him our friend. It does not diminish God as an omnipotent and awesome creator and sustainer, but lifts our understanding of ourselves. We were created to be 'friends of God'. How awesome is that!



Benson Cottage

## LESLEY'S LATEST ABSEIL - Dorchester Abbey tower – Saturday 30 April 2022

As part of the bi-annual Dorchester Festival, fundraising for the Abbey and Dayspring, an Oxfordshire charity providing social and therapeutic respite days for people living with dementia, helping couples stay together at home, thus delaying or avoiding residential care. Their centres are: Rosewood in Greater Leys, Lilacs in Kidlington, Limes in North Oxford, and Rowan in Littlemore.

The Abbey tower is 100 foot, considerably higher than St Mary Magdalene in central Oxford, with an easy straight descent. It was a beautiful day and there are stunning views across to Wittenham Clumps – but the final climb up a wooden stepladder and out on to the tower roof and the set-up of the abseil point was such that there was no opportunity to stand and gaze – just a brief wave to those gathered below and down over the top - a repeat performance is definitely necessary!

Thank you to all sponsors : the target requested by the organisers was £400; as at 31 May 2022, Lesley has raised £848, including gift aid – amazing!

The Just Giving page is still open :

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

<https://dorchesterfestival.com/>

<https://daybreak-oxford.org.uk>



# Shaun Guard

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# CHILDREN'S CORNER

## Sunday School Treat

I grew up a long time ago, although some people say that I haven't grown up yet, but what I mean is that I was a young man a long time ago when many people went to church on Sunday and children went to Sunday School in the same way that we do today, but things were different. What on earth am I saying? Well LIFE was different.

Very few people had cars, most people went to work on a bicycle and buses were smaller. Mummy's job was usually to stay at home to look after the children and there was usually only two weeks annual holiday for the working man. You were lucky if you had a holiday by the seaside. I was taken with my mother and sister to 'Granda's' in Gloucestershire, and our 'outings' were meeting the cousins who lived in the area where my grandparents were born.

So the Sunday School outing was a 'big thing'. This was usually a day out by coach to a beauty spot and a picnic with games for everyone – or even a coach trip to Bournemouth or Portsmouth for the day. Imagine our surprise one year when it was announced that the 'day out' would be to Barry Island in South Wales and we would be going by *train*! A whole train to ourselves and we could take the whole Sunday School, (then about 200 children) – and their parents, if they paid a small sum for themselves. We would charter Oxford buses to take us from the church to the station and return in the evening!

THAT really did need some organisation, with adults acting as conductors for the day – being responsible for their 'bus load' and to check at the other end that everybody got off the train. At six o'clock we had to be back at the station to board the train for the return journey home. All went well until we found that two boys – not usually naughty boys, but always out for a bit of fun – were missing. Where could they be? Luckily the funfair was close by, so a search party was sent out to look for them and it was exactly as we expected. They were having 'just one last ride' but had no idea of the time. Luckily, no one else was missing, and because the train didn't stop anywhere else on the way home, all thirteen buses were filled and some very tired children arrived back to their church.

Life doesn't have to be complicated. It can be fun. We learned a lot that day about co-operation and love.

Go carefully on your holidays,

Uncle Ben

P.S. The 'two naughty boys' both trained as teacher. One became deputy Head Teacher of his school and the other went to Oxford University before training to be a teacher and later Headmaster of the largest Comprehensive school in southern England.

## MOTHERS' UNION NEWS

Our small diocesan prayer group met as usual on the third Monday of the month and last month our focus was on the Platinum Jubilee Anniversary of our worldwide patron, the Queen. She inherited the patronage of our organisation from her mother, Queen Elizabeth, the Queen 'Mum', who kept an eye on us for many decades.



Our present queen is not our patron in name only, she takes a great interest in all our worldwide projects, has visited our Headquarters at Mary Sumner House in Westminster and met the staff.

Our prayers focused on those issues which are not only important to her majesty, but to us all – care and support within the family, care for the earth and our service to God.

This month our prayers will be led by Abi Griffin so we look forward to learning what her theme will be.

Rosanne Butler

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### 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.

## RECIPES

### Fruity flag traybake (by Mary Berry)

#### Ingredients:

100g butter or baking spread,  
softened, plus extra for the tin

175g self-raising flour

50g ground almond

2 tsp baking powder

4 large eggs

225g caster sugar

125ml full-fat Greek yogurt

zest 2 lemons

#### For the butter icing:

175g butter, softened

350g icing sugar, sieved

#### To decorate:

300g raspberry

175g blueberry



#### Method:

- Heat oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4. Butter and line a 30 x 20cm traybake tin with baking parchment. Measure all the sponge ingredients into a mixing bowl and mix together using an electric hand whisk until smooth. Spoon into the tin and level the surface.
- Bake for 25-30 mins until lightly golden and the top of the cake springs back when pressed with your finger, and the sides of the sponge are shrinking away from the sides of the tin. Carefully lift the sponge out of the tin, then transfer to a wire rack to cool. Remove the baking parchment.
- To make the icing, tip the butter into a bowl and whisk using an electric hand whisk until light and fluffy. Add half the icing sugar and whisk again until incorporated. Add the remaining sugar and whisk again until smooth. Spread the icing over the top of the cold cake.
- To decorate, place a double row of raspberries across the centre and down the length of the cake to make a cross. Next,

place a single row diagonally from each corner to the middle. Now fill in the empty spaces with blueberries. Cut into squares to serve.

### Coronation pies

By Good Food Team

#### Ingredients

1 tbsp olive oil

1 onion, chopped

2 tbsp medium curry powder

3 tbsp mango chutney

140g cooked chicken

breast, diced into chunks

140g soured cream

knob of butter

500g pack shortcrust pastry

flour, for dusting

1 egg, beaten

2 tbsp flaked almonds



#### Method

- Heat the oil in a small frying pan. Cook the onion in the oil until soft, about 5 mins, then stir in the curry powder and cook for 1 min more. Scrape into a mixing bowl and stir in the mango chutney, followed by the chicken and soured cream, then season.
- Heat oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6. Cut 24 strips of baking parchment as wide as the base of your muffin tin and grease one side with a little butter to help them stay in place. Criss-cross 2 into each hole of a 12-hole muffin tin so the edges of the strips stick out – this will help you remove the pies easily once cooked. Thinly roll out three-quarters of the pastry on a lightly floured surface. Stamp out 12 circles big enough to line the holes generously, with little pastry overhang at the top for sealing.
- Divide the chicken filling between the pies. Roll out remaining pastry and cut 12 lids. Top each pie with a pastry lid, press together the edges to seal and roll down any excess pastry to make a lipped-edge. Brush the tops with more beaten egg and scatter with almonds. Poke a fork in each to let the steam out while they cook and bake for 20-25 mins or until golden and cooked through.

# A WARTIME CHILDHOOD

(Part 20)

Everyone in those war years was expected to 'do their bit' for what was described as 'the war effort'. From finding room to host the 'Land Girls' who came from far and wide to work on the farms – the W.I. making jam and pickling – the Mothers' Union making garments for refugee children – to lots of the ladies in the village knitting gloves, socks and scarves for the troops.

*But what of we children?* Oh, yes, we 'did our bit' too.

'Digging for Victory' meant planting every spare piece of land for food production, so harvesting was vital. Rural schools were given permission to close for a week each October so that the children could help with the potato picking. I can honestly say that it was not one of my favourite occupations! It was back-breaking work (and mucky too). Making your way up and down the rows was exhausting, but we did it and got paid a few pennies pocket money for our efforts.

Much more to my liking was rosehip picking. We all know that orange juice, full of vitamin 'C' is good for babies. However, during the war there was no way that our merchant ships could bring oranges from overseas, so rosehips (also rich in vitamin 'C') provided an excellent alternative in the shape of rosehip syrup. Children were provided with a small cardboard trug and asked to go out into the hedgerows, then paid 4d. per trug when filled with ripe rosehips. I really enjoyed scouring the bushes, avoiding the thorns and getting extra pocket money too.

My real favourite part of 'doing my bit' though

was helping with the National Savings effort, because that involved regular visits to people's homes in the village. Our headteacher in the village school was the National Savings organiser and we children were recruited to help. This is how it worked. All the contributors (and that was about everyone in the village) had a small drawstring bag in which they kept their savings book. At the weekends they would put however much money they wanted to save, for stamps or certificates, into the bag. The children had their regular clients and would go round and collect the bags ready to take into school on Monday morning. Our teacher would then take the money, allocate the correct stamps and certificates and return them to the bag, whereupon after school on Monday evenings, we would run round the village delivering the bags back to their owners. I loved my round, and so well remember some of my clients.

Mrs. Florey, the farmer's wife, was lovely. She always greeted me with a smile. She had a big farmhouse kitchen and would often offer me a little treat when I delivered her savings bag. A threepenny bit with the pattern of thrift flowers on one side was riches indeed! Sometimes it might be a slice of home-made cake.

The other clients whom I remember, lived in a tiny cottage just around the corner from us. They were a dear old couple (not married) who had lived together for years, I was always invited into their little living room which was hung with lots of dark Victorian pictures – like "The Stag at Bay" and tragic people in all kinds



of suffering. One picture over their mantelpiece was called "Rock of Ages" and had a young female clinging to a rock while billows of waves washed over her and lightning flashed overhead. It took me many years to come to terms with the hymn of the same name! However, I would sit in their stuffy little room and chat for hours because they were so nice.

On Monday mornings, after she had marked the register, our teacher would spend a while sorting out the National Savings bags while we older children would be charged with learning the collect from 'The Common Book of Prayer' for the week – by heart. I have to say that large passages from those prayers are still in my memory today!

Rosanne Butler

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## OXFORD'S MAY MORNING - a report by Lesley Williams

It's many a year since I last ventured into Oxford at 05.00 on the first of May for Oxford's traditional Magdalen tower celebration of the start of spring; and in fact the last time was a scary experience with a crush on the bridge triggered by rowdy, all night partying students arriving at the back of the crowd and pushing through but it's not like that anymore, being very well managed with a strict security system.

For the first time, I was organised enough to use my membership of the Botanic Garden and book a ticket to view the event from there, complete with preliminary Morris dancing, croisants and coffee. Ruth Goodwin and her sister Janet were also there!

Modern technology now enhances the Magdalen College choir singing so it is very clear for those below. It's amazing how silent the crowd is to enjoy it – and how quickly it disperses to move into central Oxford to enjoy the music, dancing and breakfast in the cafes and pubs. Ruth, Janet and I walked round the Garden first to admire the spring blooming before heading out ourselves, separately.

I'm a great admirer of the street band Horns of Plenty and enjoyed their performances both in The High outside Queen's College and later in Radcliffe Square.

There were Morris dancers, also in The High, Radcliffe Square, under the Bridge of Sighs, in several Broad Street spots; and a joyful, colourful band established on the steps of the Clarendon Building. I love the way the Morris groups share their musicians, invite dancers from the crowd and generally make the day special.

Also special is randomly bumping into friends and families from all walks of one's life!

Cycling back over Magdalen Bridge, I was able to admire the artwork on the large wooden panels that now prevent students – and others – jumping into the Cherwell. Previously they have been ugly and bare but a City Council crowdfunding campaign this year – to which I had contributed – paid local artists to produce Oxford related designs. They were stunning and provided a cheerful exit from Oxford.

# SMILE

Welcoming the Euro (First Published in 'The Chronicle' - January 2002)

Some news we've just picked up. Did you read it in the papers? The European Union commissioners announced that agreement has been reached to adopt English as the preferred language for European communications, rather than German, which was the other possibility. As part of the negotiations, Her Majesty's Government has conceded that English spelling had some room for improvement and has accepted a five-year phased plan for what will be known as EuroEnglish. (Euro for short).

In the first year, 's' will be used instead of the soft 'c'. Certainly, sivil servants will resieve this news with joy. Also, the hard 'c' will be replased with the 'k'. Not only will this klear up konfusion, but typewriters and komputers kan have one less letter. There will be growing public enthusiasm in the second year, when the troublesome 'ph' will be replaced with the 'f'. This will make words like fotograf 20% shorter. In the third year, public akseptanse of the new spelling kan be expected to reach the stage where more complicated changes are possible.

Governments will enkorage the removal of double letters, which have always ben a deterrent to akurate speling. Also, al wil agre that the horrible mes of silent 'e's in the language is disgrasful, and they would go.

By the fourth year, people wil be reseptiv to steps such as replasing 'th' with 'z', and 'w' with 'v'.

During ze fifz year, ze unesesary 'o' kan be droped from vords containing 'ou', and similar changes vud of kors be aplid to ozer kombinasyon of leters.

After zis fifz yer, ve vil hav a reli sensibl riten styl. Zer vil be no mor trubls or difikultis and evrivun vil find it ezi tu understand ech ozer.

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## WHERE BABIES COME FROM?

For weeks a six-year-old kept telling his teacher about the baby brother or sister that was expected at his house. Then one day the mother allowed the boy to feel the movements of the unborn child. The six-year-old was obviously impressed but made no comment. Furthermore, he stopped telling his teacher about the impending event.

The teacher finally took the little boy aside one day and asked: "James, whatever has become of that baby brother or sister you were expecting at home?" James burst into tears and confessed, "I think mummy ate it!"

# POEM

*When I was a little girl I learnt this poem and have loved it ever since. As that was about eighty years ago, I should think it would be out of copyright now – and so I'd like to share it with you:*

Rosanne Butler

Four and Eight - by *Frida Wolfe*

The Foxglove by the cottage door  
Looks down on Joe, and Joe is four.

The Foxglove by the garden gate  
Looks down on Joan and Joan is eight.

"I'm glad we're small," said Joan, "I love  
To see inside the fox's glove,  
Where taller people cannot see,  
And all is ready for the bee,

The door is wide, the feast is spread,  
The walls are dotted rosy red."  
"And only little people know  
How nice it looks in there," said Joe.

Said Joan, "The upper rooms are locked,  
A bee went buzzing up – he knocked,  
But no one let him in, so then  
He bumbled gaily down again."

"Oh dear!" sighed Joe, "if only we  
Could grow as little as that bee,  
We too, might room by room explore  
The Foxglove by the cottage door."

The Foxglove by the garden gate  
Looked down and smiled on Four and Eight.

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## Mission Giving 2022

Each year the PCC allocates 5% of the Planned Giving total to be given to other Christian causes. Anyone can nominate a charity and we will have a meeting to discuss this before the decision is put to a meeting of the PCC. Watch out for the meeting date and time in the Link.

Please bring information about your charity to the meeting, or before to Geoff or Joan Coleman ([ojcoleman@btinternet.com](mailto:ojcoleman@btinternet.com) or 95 Crescent Road).

# The Plant Sale 2022

My sister, Lindsay, came down from West Yorkshire to help me get ready for the Plant Sale. I had progressively been labelling and pricing all the stock I had nurtured but there was still a great deal to do. The weather had been kind with only one frost in the previous three weeks and there was little destruction from slugs and snails. Most of the plants looked good.

Friday was spent sticking on dots for the pricing and boxing everything up ready to transport to St James Church Centre. We did have a break mid-morning though to go to pick some asparagus at Rectory Farm, a bunch of which I gave to the raffle. We also picked some strawberries as we had to go to the farm shop to pay.

My other half complained that transporting stuff on a Friday late afternoon was an ill-conceived idea as the traffic was backed up all over, but we managed to get most of the plants over to inside the Centre ready for the next day. Other people came and added to the huge floor space taken over by boxes and boxes of plants of all descriptions.

I had been collecting boxes for months for this purpose, as we did our shopping. But I found out, to my dismay, that cardboard boxes coming to the supermarket containing fruit and veg, are no more! They now use boxes, presumably plastic, that they reuse. I don't know how I can get boxes for next year as those used to bring plants over to the sale are used by folks to take their purchases home! I will have to suss out other supermarkets!

Luckily Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> was dry and also overcast. Lots of helpers came to set up: plants on the ground in the carpark and tables

for the raffle, cake stall in the hall as well as a bric-a-brac stall in the front of the Centre. The kitchen got busy to serve refreshments. A great team effort.

The turn-out was huge and business brisk. In 2021 we had a covid-sensitive set-up with payment at the end of a one-way route which worked well, though it was found that we needed people to tot-up purchases before they reached that point. Trying to do the same this year, quickly showed that we needed more helpers to do that job! We will learn for subsequent years. Also I found that I should test the card reader properly before the start as I was unable to take contactless payments until I had sorted it out!

Another thing I learned that with our pricing system of 40p, 60p, 80p etc., I needed more 20p coins in our float. We have had the same pricing system for a few years and I am reluctant to change as we want people to come and enjoy their plants at a reasonable cost and to avoid getting lots left over that people are reluctant to pay for.

In the end we took over £900 from plants alone with the final figure of £1,665.44 which was later augmented by a gift-aided donation to make it £2,059.94. This is going into the St James' Fabric Fund.

I wish to say a GREAT BIG THANK YOU to all that came to make the Plant Sale a success, especially to the other gardeners who nurtured and cared for their charges and gave them so others can grow on and enjoy.

Joan Coleman

# JOHN SHREEVE'S ARTICLES FROM PAST CHRONICLES

The Word of God

February 2010

In these days of easy, fast printing, it's difficult to imagine a world without it. A world in which people communicated with each other either verbally, or through handwritten books or letters. It was into such a world that our Gospels came into being. Originally the first Christians proclaimed the good news by word of mouth, just as Christ had commanded them to - boldly and face to face. Then they started to write things down; why was this? Some Bible scholars attribute it to a crisis of confidence within the church. I do not subscribe to this view. I think that several other factors were involved.

Firstly, the first Christians, many of whom had followed Christ and heard him speak, knew that he had promised to return again to them. Many of them half-expected this to happen within their lifetime. When this did not happen, they had to make new plans. It was very important to them that the precious sayings and teachings of Christ were not lost to posterity – or distorted by failing memories.

There was the question of distance. As the new church rapidly expanded to new lands and even new continents, long journeys were not always possible. Then came persecution and oppression both from the Romans and the Jews, leading to many Christians having to flee to wild places and live in caves, or to Rome and the catacombs. Then the New Testaments came into their own. In them, these scattered and fearful Christians could always be sure that they had before them the authentic words of Christ. In recent years there have been some remarkable discoveries regarding these Gospel writings. Fragments of very early copies of St Luke's and St John's Gospels have been found at Karanis in Egypt, written on parchment.

A tiny fragment of St John's Gospel was discovered in the Cairo shop in 1920, but it was not until some fifteen years later, when it was in the John Rylands Library in Manchester, that it was recognised and dated officially to around AD130 – around a century after the crucifixion of Jesus. This fragment contains snatches of the report of the Trial of Jesus before the Jewish Council on one side, and Jesus' interview with Pilate on the other. The brief text confirms the reliability of later versions of the same story and is virtually the same as found in modern bibles. Indeed, in all the known versions of the New Testament that are ancient, there is very little that gives any grounds to suppose that there have been major changes to them. The original Gospel message remains intact. That is a most remarkable fact.

The oldest known book of the Gospel of Luke – two papyrus pages dating from about AD 220 – contains fragments consisting of Luke 12:18-37 and Luke 12:42-13:1. This is also one of the oldest surviving books, known as 'Biblia' in the ancient world. It has a central gutter with the holes that once held the stitching. (Chester Beatty Library, Dublin).

These Gospel writings, so familiar to us in our churches today, are firmly based in history and properly attested and authenticated by expert scholars. We owe much to the unknown scribes who laboured faithfully to give us an accurate report of the life and sayings of our Lord – a true testament indeed!

John Shreeve

## Oxfordshire History Centre: Archive Service Accreditation Award and news update

Oxfordshire History Centre, the county's archive, and local studies' service, based at St Luke's Church, has been awarded Accredited Status for a second time. This follows its initial award in 2015.

Accreditation is the national quality standard which recognises good performance in all areas of archive service delivery. The award is made by the UK Archive Service Accreditation Committee, representing the entire archive sector. Accredited Archive Services ensure the long-term collection, preservation, and accessibility of our archive heritage.

The award is the culmination of a nine-month application and validation process, where the service was assessed on its organisational health, collection management procedures, access arrangements, and its work with a range of stakeholders.

The History Centre is now fully re-open, after a period of restrictions on numbers in the building and a series of measures to ensure the safety of staff and visitors (*see photograph*) We encourage visitors who wish to access documents and other resources in our searchroom to book online in advance to guarantee a seat, but also welcome casual users on the day. Our Reception Café is now in operation again.



During the pandemic lockdowns we continued to offer a remote enquiry service for customers (although staff access to the collections onsite was very limited) and took the opportunity to update and enhance many of our older catalogues. These and much more recently-added online content is available through our digital resources' website ([Oxfordshire History Centre digital resources](#)).

Our annual two-week stocktaking resumed in January and February. This fortnight enables us to carry out those behind-the-scenes tasks that cannot be done when the building is open. The emphasis this year was on moving and re-organising several hundred boxes of historic collections within our strongrooms to maximise our expansion space. It was particularly important to free-up additional shelves this time, as we have received a lot of new deposits and donations of records recently, some delayed for the past two years. We also re-housed many maps on newly-installed and better-quality shelving (*see photograph*). For full details of our stocktaking activities, see our blog ([Oxfordshire History Centre blog](#)).

We are open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and alternate Saturdays, and will be pleased to see you or hear from you, whether you are a regular user of our service or a first-time visitor. We are continually adding to our holdings and resources, and later this year will have an expanded and improved online search facility. There is always something new to discover at the History Centre!

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## KEEP IT IN THE FAMILY

I had the opportunity to read the Children's Corner (with permission) and there are so many customs that are different in different parts of the country, never mind going abroad. One particular occurrence where I was a little baffled, *and surprised*, happened to me when I was asked to take some photographs at a wedding. Yes, it was 'just a local village church affair', or so I thought! The reference in last month's Chronicle to the kilt triggered my thoughts.

The wedding was to the daughter of my wife's cousin who lived locally but was to marry a Scot who had migrated south but was still proud to be a Scotsman. He had a brother and sister and hoped that they would agree to play their part in the celebrations.

No 'official' photographer was to be engaged, they wanted to 'keep it in the family' and I was asked to take the photographs. I would have a free hand to take as many as I wished, professional film would be provided and so long as I delivered the film to a specific address, another photographer would process the film and print the pictures. I would of course be a guest at the reception. That was too good to be true, although a privilege.

Imagine our surprise when the bridegroom, and another man, both turned up in full Scots dress, but the 'best man' was to be the bridegroom's sister, in a lime green trouser suit. Apparently, the second kilted gent was to act as a 'bride's attendant'! No bridesmaids. Further enquiries revealed that the local vicar kindly allowed the bride's brother to play the organ and to cap it all her uncle officiated and married them! They really did 'keep it in the family'. I wondered whether we were meant to have a 'bring and share' reception but things became more conventional after the church ceremony, and we retired to the village hall for the reception. Naturally, Dad paid the bill.

David Cook

# SOMETHING FROM NOTHING

There is a saying that you aren't able to get 'something for nothing', and I think that is true but you will notice that is *not* what I said at the beginning. This is a story of how something was able to be made from .....well, really.....nothing.

For some time the local church had existed without a toilet. Actually, almost a thousand years, so why was it so necessary now? There was a Church Hall nearby with all the facilities. Surely this would meet the needs of young and old alike! But it didn't. And it would be nice, everyone agreed. The subject had been examined as recently as 20 years ago with concern about the cost, never mind the practical difficulties of having to build and extension to the existing building to meet local planning rules and church authority requirements that would be an added cost, in view of the listed building. There was no room inside the church.....or was there ?

Time passed, and fate decreed that we should receive the services of a new Priest in charge who was asked to comment on this old chestnut. During several discussions with parishioners he was not convinced that it was an impossible task. There was support for the 'idea' but not a solution of the practicalities, so 'further discussion at a later date' was usually the end of that particular subject when it was raised. And there was the cost.....What we didn't know at the time was that while he had been resident at other churches, they had been able to add their facilities. So, every corner of the church and grounds was searched to try to find sufficient room, that would meet disabled requirements, baby changing facilities and of course, washing facilities.

There was the redundant boiler house, outside the church in a basement building so that it did not have to match the remainder of the church. Access would not be possible for disabled users or children so that idea was discarded. Any new building above ground level would need to match the original church building and be very costly. The other parts of the simple layout of the church prevented any internal building, so far as searchers could see, but there was a 'cupboard' under the organ pipes, that many people thought was part of the organ, so never opened, but was in fact an open space that had been made into a simple storage cupboard, It was stuffed with spare chairs used for outdoor services or additional seating at the church hall 50 yards away, that had spare room to store them. Job done, or so we thought.

The 'cupboard' under the organ pipes served no other purpose because the four pillars forming the cupboard only served to support the framework for the pipes! And the space met the requirements for a disabled toilet. But that was one of the simplest problems to solve. The church vestry drainage was not connected to the sewer. Eventually, planning costs, digging a sewer trench and other extras cost more than the toilet being built and all the fittings. We now have facilities that allow the church to be used and appreciated more by young and old by making something from nothing. Yes, and fully paid for, after generous donations, grants and assistance from many sources, and a lot of hard work. Thank you, everyone. Are we the only church with a loo inside its organ?

NONNY MUSS

Editors' Note:

Perhaps we could hold a concert of Chamber Music?



## SAFEGUARDING IN COWLEY PARISH

We intend that St James, St Francis and the Anglican Asian Living Church 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 also agree to do so.

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.*

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

### USED STAMPS

Many of you will know that we have a jar at St James Church, by the south door, to put in used stamps. These go to the RNIB at regular intervals.

The RNIB has given us a check list:

- Stamps are trimmed with approximately one centimetre of paper around the edge.
- Make sure there are no large gold Post office printed labels or pre-printed postage labels – these have no value to RNIB.

If you have some used stamps you wish to give, and do not get to St James Church, you can send them to the Parish Office at St James Church Centre.



# Film Club at the Centre

Although most of our members had seen the film 'The Eagle has Landed' which was the one shown last month, they were amazed how much of it had appeared so fresh and interesting. On top of which it is an excellent production with some very strong performances from its stars. It was an ideal choice to show so close to the 77<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE day.

This month's film – "Fisherman's Friend" is a delightful story – a British production about a

young man faced with a crisis in his way of life. He seeks solace in a remote Cornish fishing village where he finds not just solace but friendship and (dare we give away?) love too! So, we look forward to another happy, relaxing evening on the second Friday of this month. Members are reminded that they can bring along a friend to any club evenings. Non-members will also be welcomed if they are interested in finding out more about us.

Rosanne Butler

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## A Good Read

Aspire to Die - An Oxford Murder  
by M S Morris

For those of us who remember Morse and enjoy Lewis this is the book for you.

When a beautiful, wealthy student is found dead in her room in Oxford's most prestigious college, Detective Inspector Bridget Hart is called to investigate. The murdered girl appeared to have no enemies yet was killed in a brutal assault.

Haunted and driven by her own personal tragedy, newly promoted DI Bridget Hart has a lot to prove as she leads her first murder case. Her investigation covers a tangled web of lies, lust and ambition, and brings her into conflict with powerful interests.

Chris Woodman

## Prayer Space

Lord God, you have taught us  
that we are members one of another  
and that we can never live to ourselves alone;  
we thank you for the community of which we are part;  
for those who share with us in its activities,  
and for all who serve its varied interests.  
Help us, as we have opportunity,  
to make our own contribution to the community  
and to learn to be good neighbours,  
that by love we may serve one another,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Frank Colquhoun

Loving God,  
I thank you for the wonder of the universe  
and the infinite beauty of this world.  
I praise you for the loveliness that surrounds me,  
the inexhaustible splendour of creation.  
Forgive me for becoming over-familiar with it all,  
exploiting and squandering your many gifts.  
Help me to rejoice in all you have given and to act as a  
faithful steward of creation, to the glory of your name.  
Amen.

# THOUGHTS

If the Earth were a few feet in diameter, floating a few feet above a field somewhere, people would come from everywhere to marvel at it. People would walk around it, marvelling at its big pools of water, its little pools and the water flowing between the pools. People would marvel at the bumps on it, and the holes in it, and they would marvel at the very thin layer of gas surrounding it and the water suspended in the gas. The people would marvel at all the creatures walking around the surface of the ball and at the creatures in the water. The people would declare it sacred because it was the only one, and they would protect it so that it would not be hurt. The ball would be the greatest wonder known, and the people would come to pray to it, to be healed, to gain knowledge, to know the beauty and to wonder how it could be. People would love it and defend it with their lives, because they would somehow know that their lives, their own roundness, could be nothing without it. If the earth were a few feet in diameter!

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## FROM THE OX4 FOOD CREW : MEALS ON MONDAYS

Pay-as-you-feel lunches for all *every Monday, 12:00 – 2:00*

FIRST MONDAY of each month : at the Ark-T Centre, John Bunyan Church, Crowell Road

Along with a Community Hub Day

U5s soft play 9:30-11:30

Chat, newspapers and games 2:00-3:30

At The Venue, Barns Road

10:00-11:00 Dementia information and advice - 1:1 benefits, housing and debt advice

ALL OTHER MONDAYS : at Flo's café, the Place in the Park, Rymers Lane

Pay only what you feel / can afford, with the option also of donating more / 'paying it forward' for those who are able – cash or card. All funds raised go towards helping the tackling of food poverty in OX4

No need to book – just turn up! [www.ox4foodcrew.co.uk](http://www.ox4foodcrew.co.uk)

# From the Archives

Published by: COWLEY PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL – JUNE 1979  
SHOTOVER COUNTRY PARK

Before 1660 Shotover was the name given to a Royal Forest which included all of the parishes of Headington, Barton, and Marston and parts of the surrounding parishes, including Cowley. Much of the Forest disappeared during the Civil War but about 500 acres of the original land is now managed by Oxford City Council.

Five nature trails have been constructed to illustrate some of the features to be found in the Park. Each trail is labelled with a coloured symbol which will be found on prominent trees and stumps along the route. All trails start from Mary Sadler's Field which is at the top of Old Road, Headington.

## Trail 1: (*symbol – red Oak leaves*)

A feature of this trail being the Larch trees which are renowned for their rapid growth. Many birds may be found in the Larches. Bluetits may be seen acrobatically extracting seeds from cones and the tiny Goldcrest may be seen hunting insects. A number of interesting plants may be found in the marshy land bordering the western edge of the Larches including many Horse-tails or Scouring Rushes, the former name because they are supposed to resemble the tail of a horse, the latter because they are very abrasive and were often used to burnish copper utensils. At the top of the hill, Bracken can be found and growing amongst this Bracken, small quantities of Heather, (an extremely rare plant in Oxfordshire).

## Trail 2: (*symbol – orange Acorns*)

A feature of this trail is the different species of tree. Starting with the pollarded Oak trees which are several hundred years old, the wild Service tree, the Sweet Chestnut with their serrated lance-shaped leaves, the Maple with vivid red leaves and flowers, the wild Cherry with their striking white flowers in Spring and the Silver Birch trees, thought to be the most beautiful of our native trees. Clumps of Heather can be seen which in autumn will have prominent purple flowers.

## Trail 3: (*symbol – blue Hazel leaves*)

A feature of this trail is the different plants that can be seen. In Spring, the Star of Bethlehem, the yellow flowered Lady's Bedstraw and the pink flowered Musk Mallow. Look out for aromatic Mints and in Spring, Moschatel, whose flower stalk resembles a four-sided town hall clock. Below some Oak trees, you will see a number of small grass-covered mounds, each of which supports a colony of ants, the favourite food of the brightly coloured Green Woodpecker which may often be seen feeding in this area of the park. You cannot fail to hear the raucous calls of the Jays and Magpies.

## Trail 4: (*symbol – yellow Holly leaves*)

As you walk along this trail you will see Kestrels hovering above the ground and then swooping down on their prey – mice, voles and other similar creatures. Disused ochre-pits can also be found, some being worked until about 1930. The trail leads to Horspath Common, part of which is wooded, with Sycamores and Ash trees predominating. Look out for the yellow flow-

ered Celandines, the blue flowered Speedwells and the large pink flowered Balsams with their explosive seed pods. Away from the path to the left of the Common the patient observer may see Badgers in the dusk of a summer's evening although the animals are nocturnal.

Trail 5: (*symbol – green Sycamore leaves*)

The feature of this trail – the many mammals who feed in Brasenose Woods. Among the Foxes, Grey Squirrels, Rabbits, and two species of Deer, the Fallow Deer and the smaller Muntjac. The Deer are very shy creatures and can usually be seen by waiting quietly and patiently for a long time.

The Woods provide food and shelter for many different species of birds including colonies of Blue, Coal and Long-Tailed Tits, Jays and Magpies. Listen for the drumming of the Greater Spotted Woodpecker as its beak hits against the bark. Summer migrants to Shotover are Chiffchaff, Blackcap and Cuckoo.

If you are interested in Butterflies, you will find Tortoiseshell, Hedge-brown, Brimstone, Peacock, Red and White Admirals, Purple Hairstreaks and Ringlets – all to be seen in the Woods.

The field bordering the Wood is the site of three Roman pottery kilns which were used for firing Mortariums – (*vessels used by the Romans for grinding food*) – as in a present-day pestle and mortar.

Shotover Park offers to both young and old, a lot of interesting wildlife to look for and enjoy, as they wend their way round each of the Nature Trails.

*Please note that the above was first published 43 years ago, so be aware that some of the plants, fauna, animals, birds etc. might not be there now! For up-to-date information please contact Oxford City Council website: Shotover Park – Conservation.*

LEH

**BEGINNING - AT LAST!**

*March 2004*

After what seems like a never ending delay, work is beginning on the new Rectory and Church Centre in Beauchamp Lane. The first phase from March to September will be the alterations and extension to Benson Cottage which will become the new Cowley Rectory.

The second phase will be the building of the Church Centre incorporating the old Scout HQ and the new curate's house. This will take place in the autumn after the demolition of the present Rectory.

The final phase, sometime next year, will be the building of flats on land now occupied by 'The Hut'.

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## PERSONALLY SPEAKING

We have heard from Alina Nachescu that Nicu, at home in Romania, has had two stents inserted, following a routine heart check. Alina says that they are very glad to have several doctor friends in Timisoara who are all keeping a professional eye on him! Our prayers are with them both.

# UNA'S CORNER

Oxford Remembered

Part One

I was interested in Rosanne's account of an early visit to Oxford. The city centre was so different then when I was a child.

There was a large Woolworth's store in Cornmarket which had a staircase running along the right-hand wall. Not many steps but it twisted at right-angles up to the top floor. On the platform where the stairs turned was a large red weighing machine. It cost more than the usual old penny – might have been sixpence. A card was printed out with your weight – (bathroom scales were unknown then).

After the war, there was a biscuit counter along the opposite wall to the back of the shop. Not packets, but tins, filled with different biscuits – these being ranged under glass and tipped towards the customer. The last of these tins would contain broken biscuits – assorted and cheap!

During the war paper was in short supply, so we had to be very careful with the paper bags and would carefully fold them after use so they could be taken back and reused. – No plastic then!

There was a staircase on the back wall, not very high which divided in two and reached the next floor. After the war, at the end of the biscuit counter was the 'Lyon's' ice-cream counter. This ice cream came in cylindrical form with cardboard strips which assistants pulled apart and then transferred the ice cream to a biscuit cone.

Out of the door, over the alleyway and across Market Street took you to Boot's double entrance. This shop was also on two floors.

Coming out again onto Cornmarket, there was W. H. Smith's with two – maybe three floors and several different departments. I loved the book section.

Along from Smith's was Fuller's Restaurant, (too expensive for us), then onwards to Boswell's with the double glass doors. Through these doors we went down the stairs and could always see the toys in the toy department. On emerging into Broad Street, there was Baker's China and Glass shop next door.

Crossing Cornmarket we came to the double-glass-fronted Cadena Café. First, a narrow corridor which led to a small cafeteria. There were grids in the pavements from which occasionally wafted out gorgeous smells of ground coffee and baking. The tea shop behind the café had tea and cakes. I think West's came next – an upmarket grocer – if I remember.

So many memories.

Una Dean

Caring & professional

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## FROM THE CHURCH WARDEN

The Easter weekend at St James was a very special time. Maundy Thursday was well attended with the Asian Anglican Living Church joining us. Geoff cooked a very tasty meal and the AALC brought more delicious food. Thank you very much for their contribution. As always the service was very moving and St Luke's Chapel was a quiet place for those choosing to have private prayer time after the service.

On Good Friday we had more sad thoughts going through our minds knowing what Jesus was going to have to endure in order to save us. The service was followed by Stations of the Cross as St Francis.

At sunset on Saturday Geoff conducted the Service of Light with a small gathering around the fire in the churchyard with Max joining us. Mary and Geoff provided some welcome hot dogs and we all went home full of anticipation for what was in store for us on Easter Day.

What a wonderful day that turned out to be. A huge congregation, friends we hadn't seen for months and everyone feeling so blessed to be able to worship together on a warm, sunny day in a beautiful church and feeling so grateful we were all in a safe place, praying for war-torn countries especially for the people of Ukraine who are going through unimaginable torture.

Thank you to Geoff, Mark, Max and our Ministry team who worked so hard to give us four days of prayer, readings and hymns which has brought the Easter story afresh to us in a very special way.

### GOOD THINGS CONTINUED:

Into May and a delicious Big Brekkie in aid of Christian Aid was served which Lesley organised. The following week the Plant Sale took place which was a great success for Joan who had worked very hard nurturing all the cuttings.

On Sunday 22 May Geoff did a blessing for the beautiful new Icon that David Cook had painted. Many of David's family were present and Peter, his son, played a solo on the saxophone and also joined Alexander our organist which was lovely to hear."

The service for Ascension Day took place on Thursday 26 May with supper beforehand provided by Geoff and this busy month came to a conclusion with a Rededication Service of the Cassel memorial plaque which is in Church and was attended by a good number of ex-military.

Into June – and we are looking forward to the Platinum Celebration Service at St Francis Church on the 5 June 2022 – a Parish Songs of Praise, with a bring and share street party brunch served at the front of the church. We know that St Francis Church is being decorated to celebrate this special time. More will be reported next time.

Chris Woodman

# ADVERTS FROM OLD COWLEY CHRONICLES

Starting on March 6th, 1963  
**THE OXFORD FAMILY  
PLANNING COMMITTEE**  
will hold a SUB-CLINIC at  
**Cowley Infant Welfare Centre**  
TEMPLE ROAD, COWLEY  
**Every Wednesday**  
**from 2 to 3 p.m.**

A Specially Trained Woman  
Doctor and Nurse will be in  
attendance to help and advise  
women before and after  
marriage

No appointment is necessary  
Fee by arrangement

MARCH 1963

JANUARY 1963

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*Weddings & Private  
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“LET US QUOTE YOU”

## CHRONICLE

Editorial Team- Sally Hemsworth, Nicki Stevens

Deadline for the next edition: Monday 20 June 2022

If possible, please send entries by email to Sally at [chronicle@cowleyteamministry.co.uk](mailto:chronicle@cowleyteamministry.co.uk).

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

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



## GARDENING PARTY



HELP REQUIRED – COME AND BOOST THE NUMBERS LOOKING AFTER THE AREA AROUND ST JAMES CHURCH AND ST JAMES CHURCH CENTRE.

LAST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH (EXCEPT DECEMBER) – 9.30 AM ONWARDS AT ST. JAMES CHURCH CENTRE.

Come and have fun, fresh air and exercise as we prepare the St. James Church Centre garden for another beautiful spring and summer showing. If possible bring your own tools but some will be available. Both heavy and light work available plus coffee and cake.



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



## Link to online giving!



We have put a new button on 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>

# THE ARCHWAY FOUNDATION

This year The Archway Foundation celebrates 40 years as a charity making a difference to lives in and around Oxford and Abingdon...seeking to alleviate loneliness and its associated impact on physical and mental ill health.

Archway CEO Sheila Furlong provides us with an update below. Look out for Archway display boards in our churches during June.

## 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY UPDATE ON THE ARCHWAY FOUNDATION

*Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love  
and his wonderful deeds for mankind*

*Let them sacrifice thank offerings  
and tell of his works with songs of joy.*

Psalm 107:21-22

As the Israelites spent 40 years in the desert and Christ spend 40 days in the wilderness it is hardly surprising that in this significant milestone year, Archway faces challenges of its own, with increased demand for its services at a time when financial resources are challenging to secure. The faithful support of church congregations and individuals within them, is a wonderful reminder of God as our provider and the need to trust Him for the future.

Prior to the pandemic, the majority of Archway Friends (beneficiaries) were struggling not just with loneliness but also its associated physical and mental health challenges. In many instances the pandemic experience has exacerbated these issues and thoughtful careful support will be needed to enable people to engage socially with others. For this and many other reasons our re-shaped service will offer a pathway of support including:

### INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT SERVICE



*BY TELEPHONE - Staff & Volunteers offering a listening ear,  
signposting support and a pathway to our face-to-face services*



*FACE-TO-FACE - Serving those who have greater needs through  
one-to-one home visits, or meeting with a volunteer to explore  
options in the community.*

### SUPPORTIVE SOCIAL GROUPS



*In Oxford and in Abingdon, providing opportunity to engage  
with others in a supportive environment with the aim of  
gaining sufficient social confidence to make meaningful social  
connections in the wider community.*

## Give Thanks:

- For the care and commitment of staff, volunteers and trustees, enabling Archway to continue to be a lifeline to others.
- For everyone who has played a part in the life of Archway during the last 40 years.
- The privilege we have of being alongside one another at the point of need, bringing comfort to others just as we ourselves receive comfort from God.

## Pray that:

- The 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Thanksgiving Service in Merton College chapel on June 18th will be a celebration of what God has done in and through Archway and a seeking of what He wants for its future.
- Friends and volunteers who long for what was before, will feel supported into adapting to the changes.
- The fund-raising group and staff will find new financial support opportunities.

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## FAIRTRADE - where are we with it as a Church and Parish?

The PCC has now agreed unanimously to confirm our determination to work harder at Fairtrade Parish Status, as we declare we are living by the Kingdom principles of caring for those who produce, process and transport our food. So we have now rebooted our fairtrade commitment!



We confirm that we will stock the kitchen only with those fairtrade products which are readily available in the shops so *all such donations to kitchen supplies should be Fairtrade, please*



Any non-Fairtrade donated items of goods which are readily available in the shops will be graciously received but passed on to the Community Emergency Foodbank

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[shop@computerassistance.co.uk](mailto:shop@computerassistance.co.uk)

The advertisement features a background image of a person's feet in white sneakers on a paved surface. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 15-21 May 2022 [caweek.org](http://caweek.org)

Every gift. Every action. Every prayer. Every one of us can change lives.



In Cowley, we invited participation by

- giving everyone an individual CAW donation envelope, along with 3 to hand to or deliver to friends or neighbours, in Link, both at church and those delivered to homes  
£202.28 donated
- Delivering 'delivery only' envelopes to twelve streets, those local-to-our-churches and to Parishioners' homes, which were labelled, requesting the recipients to return them to St James Centre or the deliverer's home.  
£179.80 donated
- A dedicated Parish webpage, which is still open  
£20.00 donated – that was Lesley Williams testing the system!  
[https://giving.give-star.com/microsite/christian-aid/christian-aid-week/team / e64e1189-7ea0-4fa9-8989-7056203f4c8f](https://giving.give-star.com/microsite/christian-aid/christian-aid-week/team/e64e1189-7ea0-4fa9-8989-7056203f4c8f)
- Big Brunch on Saturday 14 May, 10:30-12:00, prior to the APCM – our first that was not on a Sunday between services and well supported by parishioners – but not attracting any church neighbours or folk off the street! We acknowledge donations from local supermarkets - Littlemore Road Co-op - fruit, Templars Square Co-op - eggs and coffee, Templars Shopping Park Sainsbury's - crumpets and croissants  
£130 donated
- A tombola stall in Templars Square – on Sunday 15 May, 1:30-3:30 with balloons, bagatelle and the marble game to play: Templars Square was very quiet but as usual we engaged meaningfully with a few people who wanted to talk about life and enjoyed the delight of tombola and games winners:  
£28.50 donated
- giving a bucket to each of our three Parish schools – sadly only St Christopher's chose to use it.  
£22.42 donated

So Cowley Parish Christian Aid Week has raised, with a little topping up, £585.

THANK YOU to all donors, envelope deliverers, Big Brunch and tombola stall 'staff'. Please continue to include Christian Aid in your prayers for the world.

A poster for a 'Quiz Aid' event. It features the Christian Aid logo at the top left. The main title 'QUIZ AID' is in large, bold, red letters. Below it, the date and time are 'Saturday 25 June 3:00-5:00 pm'. The location is 'St James Centre Beauchamp Lane'. It describes the event as 'a family quiz afternoon crafts and toys'. The price is '£5 adults – free for children pay on the door' and it 'includes a strawberry cream tea'. There are three red circles with white question marks and the word 'raffle' in bold. At the bottom, contact information is provided: 'information : Lesley Williams 07982 439 828 link@cowleyteamministry.co.uk'.

christian aid

# QUIZ AID

Saturday 25 June  
3:00-5:00 pm

St James Centre  
Beauchamp Lane

a family quiz afternoon  
crafts and toys

£5 adults – free for children  
pay on the door  
includes a strawberry cream tea

raffle

information : Lesley Williams 07982 439 828  
[link@cowleyteamministry.co.uk](mailto:link@cowleyteamministry.co.uk)

## CHRISTIAN AID MIDSUMMER QUIZ AID

Saturday 25 June, 3:00-5:00 with a strawberry cream tea.

Following the success of the Valentine Puddings and Quiz event held on a Saturday afternoon, with craft activities for children and non-quizzing adults and toys for the very little ones, which allowed families and friends to enjoy a fun time out together – and still be able to have Saturday Night Out – we are using the model for our summer Quiz Aid.

Rosanne Butler will, of course, be the Quiz Master and has planned 6 rounds : in the news, general knowledge, history, colours, the natural world, summer. There will be the usual starter table challenge, the chance to play a joker for double points in a chosen round and a raffle – with a cream tea at the midway point. It's £5 for adults, free for children.

Donations are invited for the cream tea elements and raffle prizes

*contact : Lesley Williams : 01865 779 562 07982 439 828*

*[link@cowleyteamministry.co.uk](mailto:link@cowleyteamministry.co.uk)*

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## BESIDE THE SEASIDE - a daytrip to Weymouth on Tuesday 5 July 2022

Pat Chambers is hanging on to this booking in the hope of adding just a few more ozone lovers – round up some friends!

Departing Cowley 9:00 - 9:30, then leaving Weymouth to return 4:00 – 4:30

£25 each if there are 30 travellers will cover the cost – a reduction if we can sign up more than 30!

Cash or cheque will be payable to Pat Chambers who will then draw a personal cheque for the coach company.

Everyone is welcome – friends, family, friends of friends etc - let's fill the 52-seater coach!

If this goes well, we will consider another trip to Eastbourne in August when school age children can also come

*contact Pat 01235 799 717 [pat.silverpolo@gmail.com](mailto:pat.silverpolo@gmail.com) or Brian Brown 07929 879 104*

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## COWLEY FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS TREES 2022

Theme : Peace on Earth

Dates : Friday 9 December – the opening reception – through to Sunday 18 December 2022

Next planning meeting : Thursday 23 June, 9:00, Ranklin Room

Anyone who would like to **join the planning group is welcome – or just send ideas to [ctf@cowleyteamministry.co.uk](mailto:ctf@cowleyteamministry.co.uk)**

# CHURCH MATTERS

The Annual Parish Meeting/Annual Parochial Church Meeting was held on the 14 May 2022, when the following appointments were held:

Church Wardens:       Maureen Stone  
                                  Christine Woodman

PCC Members:         Sheila Collett  
                                  Sally Hemsworth  
                                  Lesley Williams

As the term of office for a PCC member is 3 years, the following are also PCC Members:

Joan Coleman  
Marie Paterson  
Norah Shallow  
Andrew Swallow

Sunita Masih (co-opted to represent AALC)

Sue Philcox was co-opted on to the PCC at its meeting on the 29 May 2022

The Parish is allowed 12 PCC members, so there are four vacancies. Please speak to Geoff Bayliss if you are interested in becoming a member.

Deanery Synod:        The following are Deanery Synod members until 2023:  
                                  Christine Lee  
                                  Maureen Stone  
                                  Christine Woodman

Church Committees:   As there were no Annual Meetings of the Church Committees, the Church Committees are going to be appointed at the Church Services of St Francis and St James Churches on Sunday, 12 June 2022. Nominations will be accepted up to that date.

A PCC Meeting was held on the 29 May 2022 when the following was discussed:

- Digital Projection at St James – work is continuing on this, and it has been possible to claim the grant of £10,000 from the Oxford Diocese.
- Mission Giving: A meeting will be arranged when people on the Electoral Roll will be invited to make suggestions for grants based on the 2021 figures (5% of annual planned giving). Watch out for the date in The Link.
- Policies: The Parish Mission Prayer and Giving Policy and Safeguarding Policy were reviewed and accepted. They will be reviewed in twelve months' time.

- Roadmap out of lockdown: This was discussed fully, and the PCC agreed to move slowly. The ministry team would not be expected to wear a mask when giving communion, but receiving communion would continue in the same way; people would not be expected to wear masks when attending services, but if they wished to do so this was acceptable. In addition, people hiring church premises would still be expected to do cleaning before and after use.
- Curates: Liam Cartwright and Josh Hordern would be ordained on the 3 July 2022.

If you wish further information, please discuss with Geoff. I am also very willing to discuss any queries you have.

Sally Hemsworth



## CAP MONEY COURSE - JUNE 2022

The current cost of living crisis makes sensible budgeting all the more important right now. The CAP Money Course will empower participants with practical, powerful tools to balance their household budget and feel in control of their finances.

Friendly, informal sessions give pointers for managing a budget, including a handy online tool to help track what you spend your money on, helping to save money and stay out of debt.

CAP Money is the UK's largest provider of face-to-face adult financial education and is for ANY-ONE who would like to have more control over their finances!

This course will run over two Mondays, June 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, 7.30 pm, at Woodstock Road Baptist Church, OX2 7NQ, and be facilitated by CAP Money Coaches John Livingstone and Emma Harvey.

# SUNDAY SERVICES

**ST JAMES CHURCH, BEAUCHAMP LANE**

**ST FRANCIS CHURCH, HOLLOW WAY**

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

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

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

Contact details: Tel: 01865 747680

Email: [office@cowleyteamministry.co.uk](mailto:office@cowleyteamministry.co.uk)

Out of hours tel: 01865 778596

Website: [www.cowleyteamministry.co.uk](http://www.cowleyteamministry.co.uk)

## 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 contact Chris Woodman)

### Team Rector:

The Revd Canon Dr Geoffrey Bayliss

Tel: 01865 747680 (o) 01865 778596 (h)

Email: [rector@cowleyteamministry.co.uk](mailto:rector@cowleyteamministry.co.uk)

### Self-supporting Ministers

Revd Canon Mark Oxbrow

01865 461953

Email: [markoxbrow@aol.com](mailto:markoxbrow@aol.com)

Revd Max Diaz Butron

[mazdiazbutron@icloud.com](mailto:mazdiazbutron@icloud.com)

## HOME AND STUDY GROUPS

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, 10-11.30, but weekly during Lent. Contact Rosanne 01865 453257

### 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

### Cowley Chronicle—Editorial Team:

Sally Hemsworth, Nicki Stevens

Articles to be emailed to:

[chronicle@cowleyteamministry.co.uk](mailto:chronicle@cowleyteamministry.co.uk)

Paper contributions to the Parish Office.

