

A word from the Rectory

April hosted many things including the Communion before Confirmation classes. At these we worked our way through the elements of the communion service. It was a good way to think about what and why we do things. BUT we also baked Pizza's, Muffins, cookies.... The children are such a brilliant bunch! For some unknown reason this all reminded me of an episode of Dad's army, the BBC comedy, where Corporal Jones marries Mrs Fox. They have what looks to be a wonderful cake, but with shortage of food and the rationing in place it turns out to be a decorated cardboard case with a simple Victoria Sandwich inside.



It is clear that we need to think and pray about the future God is calling us to. It is also clear that we are not looking towards a flashy icing coated outer layer that has not real substance but one where the fruit of God's Spirit, working inside each one of us, leads to a living, loving, welcoming Church that is a blessing not just to those who already count themselves as family but also to those who are growing to become family. Jesus told us that a good tree cannot bear bad fruit and a rotten tree cannot bear good fruit. (Matthew chapter 8).

So what needs to be at the centre? What should the life of the Church look like if it is going to bear good fruit year in year out. Also who what is the Church?

Well the Church is us, each one of us. It includes our differences and the

common ground on which we stand. The life of the Church is our lives. It is the things we do each day. Our Sunday worship is in some ways the icing on the cake, the bit that the world so often sees. The bit that people recognise when they have missed the church at work around them in the week.

So what is at the core of that daily Christian living? Baptism and Confirmation ask that we: reject the devil and all rebellion against God, renounce the deceit and corruption of evil, repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour.

We are asked if we turn to Christ as Saviour, submit to Christ as Lord, come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

Then we are sent out into the world to continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers. Also to persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever we fall into sin, to repent and return to the Lord. Further to proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ and seek and serve Christ in all people, loving our neighbour as our self. Lastly we are called to acknowledge Christ's authority over human society, by praying for the world and its leaders, by defending the weak, and by seeking peace and justice?

It is against such framework that our own mission statement "To live out God's purposes for us, make Christ known in Cowley and to raise up a new generation to love and serve the Lord."

May God bless us in that task!



Benson Cottage

Chronicle

May 2016

Editor's Letter

Dear Readers

As usual there seems to be quite a list of subjects to talk about. First of all it is a big "hooray!" at the appointment of our new bishop. I am a volunteer welcomer at Christ Church Cathedral and often get the chance to chat with some of the staff. They most of all have been longing for a new "boss", especially as several of them have mentioned the incredibly busy life Bishop Colin has had during the vacancy. No wonder he had a big smile on his face in the photographs as he welcomed Bishop Stephen to Dorchester Abbey and beyond the other week.

Talking of newspaper (and TV) photos of the Queen and Prince Philip on Her Majesty's 90th birthday celebrations, weren't they superb? And how about ninety-five year old Philip, driving the royal Range Rover for the Obamas, obviously we are never too old to shape up, are we?

I hope you enjoy the "old lady" poem which one of our readers found for us recently. Some of you may have read it in your daily paper. I have changed it a little (editor's prerogative) so I hope we are not going to get into trouble by publishing it!

May is the month for gardening. The annual plant sale in a couple of weeks time should give us lots of inspiration so do come along and see what goodies you can find. Joan, our lovely parish treasurer, puts masses of effort into the sale and always seems to come up with something different. And while we are talking about Joan, don't you love her regular gardening articles in The Chronicle? I know I do. You can almost smell the newly turned earth which her "other half" provides for her amazing planting.

The other side of gardening is that which a group of our dedicated parishioners do at the Church Centre. We are publishing a plea for a few more people to give them a hand in keeping the area looking neat, tidy and attractive. The new bulbs and little plants which have already been planted around the Centre are a joy and are just coming into their own. Thank you so much, Gardening Group.

Everywhere you look at the moment in Cowley there seems to be building and changes taking place. What with the new Pure Gym opening at the top of Rymers Lane, the new Community Rooms and flats in Barns Road and now a new Co-op store on the corner of Littlemore Road, Cowley and Bartholomew Road, you wonder what is going to be next. One change which seems to have been put a stop to though is the proposal to turn The Corner House pub into a provision store. I hope you agree with me that to lose the pub would be a great pity.

Following my talk about the beginning of the Story of Cowley it has been suggested that some of my research should be available in print. Well, dear readers, once I have stopped being the editor of our parish magazine in the summer I plan to put some of my findings into a little book. I have no idea how long this will take, or even how to get a book published so I shall be on a steep learning curve. Let's hope I can pull it off.

Looking forward to a glorious sunny month ahead.

God bless

Rosanne

Mothers' Union News

Our annual lunch in honour of our patron saint was celebrated at the April branch meeting. Fourteen members, prospective members and guests enjoyed a light lunch of salads and a dessert in the Church Centre. Stephen Michael, the husband of one of our members, kindly played the piano during our short act of worship. We were also pleased that our other guest, our deanery leader, Pam Cooper, was able to join us. We were sad to hear that one of our long-serving committee members, Marlene Shreeve, was in intensive care at the John Radcliffe Hospital, following a fall at home. Prayers were said for her and her husband, John, another stalwart on

the committee. We also remembered in our prayers several of our members who, through ill-health, had been unable to join us.

Members are urged to make our May branch meeting a "must-do" occasion as we shall be welcoming Sue-Ellen Pedley, a leading embroiderer at Christ Church Cathedral. The title of her talk is "The history of Church Embroidery" which promises to be fascinating. As ever, visitors are always welcome at our meetings so if this subject is attractive to non-members do, please, come along at 2.30 pm on May 16th. We shall be very pleased to see you

A NEW BISHOP AT LAST!

After a long wait and many comments such as "Surely there must be someone suitable", it is with enormous relief and pleasure that we learn that someone more than suitable has been found to fill the position of the Bishop of Oxford. However, we should pay tribute to Bishop Colin Fletcher, the Bishop of Dorchester, who has done a sterling job in the Diocese whilst we waited. And what a complex Diocese it is, one of the biggest in the country stretching from Milton Keynes in the north, down to Newbury in the south, Slough in the east, across to the Gloucester border in the west.

The Right Revd Dr Stephen Croft, the former Bishop of Sheffield, has certainly taken on a daunting task. He is, though, extremely well qualified to cope. He serves on the Archbishop's Council and chairs the Ministry Council of the Church of England. He has a passion for mission and evangelism and for finding creative ways of sharing the Gospel. He is the co-author of the "Emmaus" and "Pilgrim" courses both of which are well-known to many of us in our parish especially those of us in home groups.

Bishop Stephen has personal connections with Oxford. He is a graduate of Worcester College and met and married his wife, Ann, in the city. He also lived in Oxford between 2004 and 2009 when he was leading an initiative aimed at encouraging new forms of church for the 21st century. During that time his two daughters attended Cherwell School.

Bishop Stephen takes up his new appointment in October and promises that "the Diocese will be daily in my prayers and I look forward so much to working with you". Well, we, too, look forward to meeting him and working with him, don't we?

AN AFTERNOON TO REMEMBER

It is not widely known, I suspect, that Frank, my husband, calls me a "football hooligan". Not that he really knows as he has never accompanied me to a match and wild horses would not drag him to one. I, on the other hand, consider football to be a beautiful game and love to watch so much that I would never misbehave myself.

Anyway, it was at the Parish breakfast on Sunday, 3 April, that the conversation veered towards the fate of Oxford United in their match against Barnsley in the final of the Johnson's Paint Trophy later that afternoon. I remarked that I would have loved to go and watch the match at Wembley but had no-one to go with even though there were, reputedly, a few tickets still available.

Geoff, our lovely Rector, who was sitting next to me said "I'll take you". I thought he was teasing, but, no, he was serious. I was thrilled. We arranged to set off at 12 noon as we had to find a parking space and buy our tickets. I searched in the cupboard and found my son's Oxford United scarf that he had worn to see the Us win the Milk Cup in 1986. Geoff wore his yellow jacket so we were real "Yellows" fans.

Because Geoff is a native Londoner he knew roads that avoided the heavy traffic and we parked up close to the stadium with lots of time to spare. A nice young lad (a local) led us from our parking spot through a little back lane to the main concourse where thousands of Oxford fans were gathered. There was a real family atmosphere with some very small children waving huge flags and mums and dads keeping the whole thing organised.

Having learnt where to find the right box office Geoff and I were walking along when I heard,

"Look, there's Rosanne!" Would you believe out of all those thousands of people we met Steven who comes to church at St James, with some of his friends and cousins. Of course, we stopped for a chat. It was such fun and we hadn't even got our tickets yet let alone seen the match. Some of The Chronicle readers may remember my report on the opening of Church Cowley St James School's new astro-turf pitch by one of their old pupils, the England International footballer, Martin Keown, a few months ago. Well, we had only just left Steven and his friends when walking towards us was Martin Keown and his friends. "Martin" I shouted. He stopped shook my hand, wished Geoff and me an "Enjoy the match" word and was really pleased to be reminded of his visit to his old school.

We eventually bought our tickets and were escorted to our seats high up in the stands. We could see beautifully and the atmosphere was brilliant. The Oxford fans were in full voice and were behaving beautifully. The standard of the football was slick and skilful, our team did us proud. It was almost a foregone conclusion that Barnsley, a division above us in the Football league, would win, though only just. The biggest thrill for me was that Oxford's second goal was one of the best you'll ever see.

It could not have been a happier afternoon even though the traffic on the way out of Wembley was horrendous. Geoff coped with it all with calm good humour and with Radio 2 on his car radio to hum along to he delivered one very thrilled person at her front gate just as her husband was beginning to wonder where she had got to.

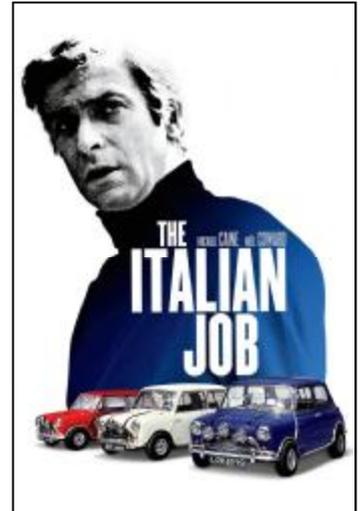
Rosanne Butler

Film Club at the Centre

After watching a gang of gold prospectors sloshing about in the winter mud of California in our April film, May will see us rejoicing in the adaptability and versatility of our lovely Cowley built Minis. "Paint Your Wagon" though quite long (and the Centre chairs became a bit hard!) was much enjoyed. It was great fun and, of course, ending with the moral message that sinful living leads to total retribution.

This month, after many requests from members, we are showing "The Italian Job". The film is described as an action-packed cult classic of the

60s. Although there has been a re-make of the story quite recently, we are going back to the original version starring Michael Caine (in one of his classic roles) and Noel Coward. The car chases are amazing and we are confident that as usual members will have a very happy evening.



SIGNIFICANT DATES IN MAY

The first woman to sit in the British parliament Nancy, Lady Astor, died on 2nd May 1964. She and Winston Churchill were natural enemies and often quarrelled with each other. One famous exchange goes like this:

Lady Astor: "Mr Churchill, if I were your wife, I would put poison in your tea.

Winston Churchill: "Madam, if I were your husband I would drink it!"

On 5th May 1961 America launched its first man into space. Alan Shepard completed a 15 minute sub-orbital flight that took him 115 miles high.

The aviators Richard Byrd and Floyd Bennett were the first people to fly over the North Pole on 9th May 1926. They flew from Norway to America taking 16 hours to do it.

In 1941 on May 11th London suffered one of the worst bombing raids of World War 2. It was during this raid that the chamber of the House of Commons was destroyed.

On 14th May 1650 the British parliament voted in favour of capital punishment for adultery. However the punishment was never carried out.

On 28th May 1967 Francis Chichester arrived back in Plymouth in his yacht Gypsy Moth IV after the first solo round-the-world voyage. It took him 119 days.

In 1871 the first Bank Holiday was established in Britain. It fell on Whit Monday, May 29th.

Iphone – ipad –ipod – I wonder

Now, I am a fairly old lady
Lots of changes in life I have seen,
Technology's given us wonderful things
But are they as good as they seem?

I see people going by on buses
All looking down at their laps
They never look out of the window
They're busy downloading their apps.

Kids walking to school in the morning,
Their posture could give them stiff necks.
You never hear chatter or laughter,
They're too busy sending their texts.

A family nearby in a restaurant,
But there's no conversation as yet.
The kids are all playing on tablets,
While dad's placing footballing bets.

When families drive off on vacation
In the back all is quiet and still.
Gone are the games, spotting red cars or trains
They've got aliens and monsters to kill.

I see folk in the country out running
(Or sometimes a more gentle jog)
They don't hear streams or the birds' song
They're list'ning on their ipods.

They go down to the beach in the morning
Happy and blessed with the weather
But with ipods, Kindles and smartphones to guard
They can never go paddling together.

Yes now I'm a fairly old lady
I've given these inventions some praise
But no whips and tops, skates, marbles or hoops
I'm glad I'm not young nowadays!

Prayers from the Ark

By Carmen Bernos de Gasztold
Translated from the French and with a Fore-
word and Epilogue by Rumer Godden

THE PRAYER OF THE GLOW-WORM

Dear God
would You take Your light
a little farther away
from me?
I am like a morsel
of cinder
and need Your night
for my heart to dare
to flicker out its feeble star:
its hope, to give to other hearts,
what can be stolen from all poverty –
a gleam of joy.
AMEN

And the Woman who held the babe in her
Arms said
Speak to us of children
And He said
Your children are not your children they
Are the sons and daughters of lifes
Longing for itself.
They come through you but are not from
You and though they are with you they
belong not to you. You may give them
your love but not your thoughts for
they love their own thoughts.
You may house their bodies but not their
Souls for their souls dwell in the house
Of tomorrow, which you cannot visit –
Even in your dreams.
You may strive to be like them but seek
Not to make them like you for life goes
Not backward nor tarries with yesterday.
You are the bows from which your
Children as living arrows are sent forth.
The archer sees the mark upon the path
Of infinity and he sends you with his might
That his arrows go swift and far.
Let your bending in the archers hands be
For gladness for even as he loves the
Arrow that flies so he loves the bow
That is stable.

From Pat Sansom

DIARY DATES TO REMEMBER

Mothers' Union

Monthly Meeting on 3rd Monday of month
from 2.30pm. May Meeting: Sue-Ellen Pedley: "The
History of Church Embroidery"
St James Church Centre

Women's Institute

Monthly Meeting is on 3rd Wednesday of month from
2 – 4.30 pm
May Meeting: Demonstration of Flower arranging
St James Church Centre

Coffee, Cake and Communion

Monthly meeting on 3rd Tuesday of month
from 10.30 a.m.
With Rev Skye at the Vicarage, 27 Don Bosco Close
(Tel: 434160)

St James Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, 8 May 2016, at 12.15 pm

Film Club

Friday, 13 May 2016 – "The Italian Job"
St James Church Centre, commencing at 6.30
pm with coffee and cake

Plant Sale

Saturday, 14 May 2016, 12 noon – 3 pm
St James Church Centre

Christian Aid Week 15 – 21 May 2016

Cowley Local History Society

Tuesday, 17 May 2016 at 8 pm
"Oxfordshire and the Spanish Civil War"
An illustrated talk by Liz Woolley

Cowley Festival of Christmas Trees 2016

Planning Meeting, Friday, 20 May 2016 at
9.30 am St James Church Centre

Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday, 22 May 2016, at 12.45 pm
St James Church Centre

Parish Sunday Lunch

Sunday, 29 May 2016 at 12.30 pm
St James Church Centre

History of Cowley – Continuing the series of talks:

11 May, 8 June and 6 July 2016
6.45 pm for 7 – 8.30 pm
St James Church Centre
£5.00 an evening
In aid of St James Old School

Welsh Male Voice Choir Concert

Saturday, 11 June 2016— 7 for 7.30pm
St James Church

DO NOT FORGET – Tuesday Lunches at St James
Church Centre from 12.30 pm



Plant Sale
Saturday 14th May 12 – 3pm
St. James Church Centre
Beauchamp Lane
Cowley

Tomatoes, herbs, herbaceous perennials,
annuals, house plants and much, much more.
Refreshments, raffle, bric-a-brac, preserves
Bring your bags!

Newbiggin by the Sea

Back in October Ed and I took advantage of Gilly Burn's amazingly generous offer, and headed North to 'rent' out her terraced cottage in Newbiggin by the Sea. 'Rent' in inverted commas because although Gilly is the home owner, she wants people to use the house but pay her zero – instead make a donation to St James Church Vestry Fund! So this is a brilliant way to have a break from Oxford, enjoy the spectacular Northumbrian Coast and Castles AND raise money for the Vestry Fund!

Northumberland is a good 6 hour drive from Oxford, quite a long way, but we were able to spend the night with Ed's brother and sister-in-law in Barnsley and enjoy a family catch up with them before travelling on to the marvellous Fountains Abbey, a World Heritage Site in North Yorkshire. The sun shone brightly and the sky was a marvellous blue with not a cloud in sight as we walked around that beautiful place. And the weather stayed exceptionally fine as we re-joined the M1 and headed north.

Newbiggin by the Sea is north of Newcastle upon Tyne and an area of England we had never visited before. We were a little nervous finding our way through the Tyne tunnel in the rush hour but we soon left the busy traffic behind and arrived at our destination. Gilly's house overlooks the golf club house and then beyond the golf course you see the sea. A very short walk takes you to the new Maritime Centre; the solid looking St Bartholomew's Church sat out on Church Point surrounded on 3 sides by the North Sea; the famous Couple Sculpture; and a lovely walk along the promenade into the town centre (the longest promenade in the whole of Northumberland!).

We unpacked and admired the two wonderful

open fire places in this 3 bedrooomed terrace. Gilly has a wonderful collection of old china tea cups and saucers in her roomy up-to-date kitchen. The front bedroom overlooks the sea and we were able to sit up in bed, drinking from the china tea cups, watching the golfers tee off with the sea a glorious backdrop.

The weather stayed absolutely glorious as we travelled further north to visit Lindisfarne, the Holy Island. The ancient saints Aidan and Cuthbert seem to spring to life as we enjoyed the scenic routes and beautiful walks. Bamburgh Castle, the Farne Islands and the heroic story of Grace Darling kept us occupied the rest of that day as well as tantalising glimpses of romantic castles and large houses as we drove south back to Newbiggin. The coast line is absolutely breathtaking as you drive along the coastal route.

We decided to explore Newbiggin the following day and enjoyed the sculpture trail around the small town, the modern Maritime centre and a lovely lunch of freshly caught cod in a tasty light batter – with chips of course! We walked that off with a long walk along the coast past the golf course.

We had remembered our National Trust membership cards and used them to the full the following day taking in the small cottage where George Stevenson lived as a boy and the wonderful Wallington Estate. We were spoiled for choice as there are so many NT and English Heritage stately homes and castles around that area, as well as Hadrian's Wall.

Then it was time to return to Oxford. This time we broke our journey at Hardwick Hall, Derbyshire – yes National Trust again! Conveniently close to the M1 serving tasty cooked meals as well as being a fascinating historical place with

lovely grounds to walk around. And so we returned to Cowley.

Do, do remember this generous offer of Gilly's and take advantage of seeing some stunning English countryside as well as contributing to the Vestry Fund.

Jill Ling



St James Church Vestry Fund
3 bedroom terraced house
in
Newbiggin by the Sea
Northumberland
Easy access to the wonderful coast and
castles of Northumbria!
Available to 'rent' - you give a donation to
the Church Vestry Fund
More details from
Gilly: mobile 07770385685
Ed and Jill Ling: 01865 778243

PARISH ELECTORAL ROLL

The number on roll, as announced at the APCM on 17th April, is 156 (44 at *St Francis* and 112 at *St James*). But more members have completed forms since then and will be added.

Remember you can sign up as a worshipping Parish member at any time during the year - complete a form (available in both churches) and give/send it to the Electoral Roll Officer.

Lesley Williams

News from the Bell Tower

Our ringers at Cowley are a busy bunch. I did a quick reckoning of how many other hobbies we have between the eight of us and here is just a quick run through of some of them: gardening, brass band, painting, embroidery, athletic rock and roll, RSPB volunteer, the Choir, football, stained glass..... and of course bell ringing. There is much talk of how busy people's lives are nowadays, and it is heartening to realise that people can still find the time to pursue the hobbies that they love. When we ring on a Sunday morning I am always so glad to be part of a band of people who share my enjoyment of a hobby which provides a service to the church, and a real sense of continuity with people going back centuries. Of course I probably wouldn't have enjoyed it so much a few hundred years ago - I would have been fined for being late, forgetting to take my hat off, or some other infringement of the many rules they had then, that's if I'd been allowed to ring at all, when the majority of ringers were men.

All in all I feel very fortunate. We are a small band, but committed, and enjoy each others company as well as the shared endeavour of improving our ringing. We all complain about having too much to do, and yet we all find the time somehow to do the things we want as well as the things we have to do. Sometimes I wake up on a Sunday morning and want nothing more than to go back to sleep, but once I am heading towards the church, I am always so glad that I am going to be doing my part, to keep a tradition alive by letting the bells ring out for the Sunday morning service.

Lindsay Powell

Cowley Bell Ringers

REPORT FROM CHURCH COWLEY ST JAMES C E PRIMARY SCHOOL

What a busy year our school has had so far! All of our staff, parents and children have been working really hard together in order to continue to make the school a fun, vibrant and exciting place to learn.

We were very pleased with our improved results across the school from Summer 2015. We are continuing to support teachers in raising achievement across the school, and initiatives such as Easter School, interventions, boosters and mentoring support the learning throughout. We are predicting positive outcomes for the year 2 and 6 SATs, although the introduction with the new testing and results procedures means that we cannot be entirely certain in our predictions at this stage - we hope you will join us in wishing all of our year 6s the best of luck in their SATs! In school, we have introduced a new assessment procedure into years 1- 6 based on a progression of skills in reading and writing. Teachers, pupils and parents can use the continuums to identify next steps in their learning and identify gaps that need to be addressed. Both pupils and parents are really pleased with the new system and find it very easy to use. We will continue to develop and embed this over the next few months.

We have been developing the school site further over the past year through a number of different projects. Our multi-use games area has now been completed and has proven a popular asset to playtimes and PE sessions. The additional space has meant that children can enjoy a wider range of games and activities all year round, and they have benefitted from sport's coach expertise every week in rugby, tennis and football.

Our new (attention seeking!) library is officially opening this week, with author Mark Robertson cutting the ribbon! Mark has worked closely with the children across the school in a number of workshops based on creative writing, authorship and illustrations, including supporting the children to create wonderful dragon illustrations. The library will allow parents to support children further in their reading during drop in sessions, as well as providing a number of high quality books for children to be inspired by throughout their reading journeys.

Our Forest School site has also proven a fantastic resource for the children in reception and for many,

is the highlight of their week! The children have loved their sessions where they have learnt to saw wood, build fires and create willow structures. The forest school leader also accompanies the year 3 children to the allotment each week, where produce is starting to be used in our kitchen as part of our healthy school dinner agenda!

The school buildings have now been painted both inside and out. Our new entrance (including a giant pencil for a chimney) has meant that the school feels more welcoming and a place of learning mixed with a little bit of fun! All of the classrooms have been painted in very bright colours (it is certainly a sight!).

We are continuing to develop our curriculum to create awe and wonder across the school. Pupils have opportunities to say what they would like to learn, including topics, extra-curricular activities and educational visits. Our current topic is 'Take one Country' where pupils get the opportunity to delve into the life and culture of countries around the world. This will all build up to our next project 'The Olympics' which all children across the school will learn about after half term.

We continue to welcome and strengthen our links with the parish and community as a whole. The children thoroughly enjoy visiting the allotments on the old Church Cowley site and Open the Book assemblies remain very popular. Our 'Storyteller's Café' runs every morning and afternoon (during drop-off and pick-up times) and sells a whole host of lovely treats – please come along to join us for a cup of tea or speciality coffee and to learn more about the school. In July, we will be hosting another Summer Fete on the school site. Our circus themed fete last year proved extremely successful and so we are hoping this year's will be even better! We hope to see you all there!

Please contact us on office.3210@church-cowley-st-james.oxon.sch.uk if you would like to visit the school, support the children in events or be an audience for any of our many performances and assemblies. We really look forward to inviting you into the vibrant school of Church Cowley St James Church of England Primary School.

Steve Dew, Head teacher

PLANT OF THE MONTH— LILAC

This is a plant with some unexpected relations and a confusing botanical title. Its correct specification is *syringa* which is in itself confusing as many people call the lovely mock orange blossom *syringa* whereas that particular flower is, in fact, *philadelphus*. But back to our flower – Lilac.

It is closely related to privet which has smaller but similar shaped flowers. Another of its relatives is the olive. Both olives and lilacs have the reputation of living for ever. Both have survived centuries of neglect with no detriment to them. The name *syringa* comes from the Greek word *syrinx* meaning a pipe. This is because the plant which originated in Turkey provided stems for making musical instruments and smoking pipes. The pithy centre can be hollowed out and the outer wood is still robust.

It seems strange that the name Lilac comes from the Arabic word for blue – *laylak* – especially when nowadays we usually associate with a delicate shade of mauve. Not that that is the only colour available in our garden centres. We can choose from deepest purple to the purest of white. The distinctive perfume can be a delight for some people whilst others might agree with the botanist John Gerard who in the sixteenth century accused it of “molesting the head in a very strange manner”.

The French ambassador, Pierre Bélon, visited the court of Suleiman the Magnificent in Constantinople and described the lilacs in the gardens there amongst the many wonders he encountered. He said that the flowers resembled “a fox’s tail”. The bushes were certainly growing in Vienna in 1562 and were soon collected and

sent to all parts of the world. The settlers in the New World took it with them to grow in their gardens and in some parts of America the original bushes still survive.

At the end of the 19th century Victor Lemoine introduced a new double lilac, now known as “French” lilac. At that time, too, a pretty pink variety arrived from Asia called “Miss Kim”. In a recent survey it was discovered that one in every five Koreans has the surname Kim so this lilac honours a great many young ladies!

Lilacs are very easy to propagate by cutting. A short piece of new, green wood can be potted on in rooting compost and soon a new plant can be transferred to the garden. I had a mother-in-law with very “green fingers” and she did not even bother with the potting process but would just pop a cutting straight into her garden with remarkable success.

Once the lilacs come into bloom in May we know that spring is really here. The older readers among us might even be tempted to hum the tune of Ivor Novello’s little song “We’ll gather lilacs in the spring again”. Their perfume is so distinctive that it even gives off a sweet fragrance if the wood is burned. Lilacs are forever.



FRIENDS OF ST JAMES OLD SCHOOL

Our own 'local historian' Rosanne Butler continues her fascinating monthly series of 4 talks on 'The Story of Cowley', on Wednesday evenings, with refreshments : 6.45 for 7.00, £5 per evening, in St James Centre. 42 people enjoyed Session 1, 'How it all began, Cufa's Ley' and are eager for more!

May 11 (2) 3 settlements and stone

June 8 (3) the bread basket of the university

July 6 (4) Victorian Cowley

No need to book. Information from Rosanne 453 257 or Lesley Williams 779 562 oldschoolcowley@gmail.com

You can still of course join the 'Friends' for just £10 a year : pick up a leaflet & registration form in St James Church or Centre

COWLEY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Tuesday 17 May 2016 at 8.00pm

TALK

Oxfordshire and the Spanish Civil War

An illustrated talk by Liz Woolley

At United Reformed Church, Temple Road, Cowley
Annual Membership fee £18 (OAP £16)
Visitors welcome £3 per meeting

Lesley Weston MFHT ITEC DIP Registered Aromatherapy Practitioner

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ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting was held on Sunday, 17 April 2016, after a soup and fruit lunch in aid of Christian Aid. The meeting appointed the following:

Church Wardens: Norah Shallow
 David Stanley

PCC Members: Joan Coleman
 Sheila Collett
 Sally Hemsworth
 Gerald Ives
 May Morgan
 Marko Noerenberg
 Lesley Williams

It is possible to have 12 PCC members so there are five vacancies.

Independent Examiner (Accounts): Maureen Thomas

Deanery Synod: Nick Dewey
 William Hartley
 Margaret Weller
 Chris Woodman

The meeting accepted reports from the Team Rector, Team Vicar and from the groups associated with the church. All the reports showed a very active parish - if you have not read the booklet, copies are available in both churches.

The Annual Congregational Meetings of St Francis Church took place on the 24 April when the following were appointed as Church Members:

Stella Atkinson
Shirley Costar
Esme Forbes
Faith Hunter
Lyn Lord

The Annual Congregational Meeting of St James Church will be held on Sunday, 8 May 2016, 12.15 pm at St James Church Centre. Nomination forms for membership of the Church Committee are available in St James Church or from the Parish Office.

Sally Hemsworth



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Rosanne interviews Faith Hunter

There is a modern cliché which seems to be used for all kind of experiences. That is “to go on a journey”. Pop singers talk about the journey they travelled to their first successful album, actors mention it when discussing a recent success, it even crops up amongst business people talking about their next project. We Christians often describe our journey of faith, don't we? Well this month I want to tell you about the journey of Faith with a capital F. I think you will find it amazing and quite moving.

Faith was born in Kenya forty years ago, the youngest child of a family of four. Her mother suffered from severe mental disorder and several times in her children's lives had to be taken into care. Whilst still a small baby Faith was put into the care of a Dr Barnardo's Home but when her mother returned to the family she claimed her back. However, because her mother spent long periods of time in a mental hospital, her little daughter too went in and out of care. Faith's elder sister distanced herself from the whole situation but her other sister, eleven years older than herself, took on the responsibility of looking after her. It was she who would make sure Faith was properly dressed and fed and would take her to her first nursery school.

Their home was way out in the countryside of Kenya, long distances from other villages so when Faith went on to primary

school at five years of age it required a three mile walk there and back each day. Their mother returned from hospital and found herself a boy-friend whom she married. Life settled down for a little while. Primary School was housed in what Faith described as a great big hall with groups of children seated around it according to age. She was a bright little girl, with an enquiring mind and she did well.

She cannot quite remember exactly how old she was, about seven or eight perhaps, when her devoted sister came home one day to say that their mother was dead. She had gone out one night to meet someone, it was never fully established why, and she had been murdered. Faith and her sister went and found her lying in a nearby stream. It was at this point that tears flowed, quite understandably, and I was very moved.

We then talked about a happier period in our little girl's life. A lady came to the village wanting to help people in need and realised that Faith needed not just more care but a better education. She was taken to the home of this kind lady's mother. It was on a farm where Faith learnt to milk cows, feed chickens and generally help out but more importantly she went to a “proper” school. She loved it.

After primary school she was sent to a big girls' boarding school with a uniform and excellent teaching. Faith told

me that their dresses were black and white check (a style she would never wear now) and a blazer which she really did not like! She found herself good at all her lessons except maths which were a struggle. She described herself as inquisitive and very much a “hands on” girl. Consequently her favourite lessons were art, crafts and home science. She moved on from secondary education to college in Nairobi, always loved and encouraged by her sister and the two kind ladies who had taken her under their wings. At college she learnt Pitman's shorthand, typing and dressmaking.

At the age of nineteen she was given the chance to travel with the “lady” who turned out to be an Oxford professor and who was eventually found to be a distant blood relative. First, from Africa they visited Amsterdam for a meeting on Global Warming and then on to London. Faith told me that she found London very strange because she had been used to the teeming crowds of people on the streets of Nairobi and when she reached our capital there seemed to be so few people walking about. As is the custom in many African countries the lady who brought Faith to England was called “Auntie” and it was Auntie who was responsible for her arriving in Oxford. Recognising a bright young teenager, Auntie had high hopes that her protégée would go on to further education, instead of which she cut loose,

found herself a job in a factory, in Kidlington and shared a house with other young people in Marston. Whilst working at the factory she met and fell in love with a young man named Daniel. They courted for four years before their marriage, at the same time changing jobs. BMW paid good wages and the young couple wanted to buy a house. So they both found employment at "the works" and saved hard for a mortgage. Their first home was at Greater Leys and then Daniel found a nicer house in Sandhills.

Daniel and Faith have a family of three sons – Alexander, born in 1998, Fredrick who arrived in 2006, and William born in 2010. Although Faith concedes that their house in Sandhills was indeed nice, she was not very happy there, finding it too remote. She needed an area with shops, transport and so on, so four years ago they bought a house in Dene Road and she feels much more settled and happier. It is not just the move to another home which has had an influence on her happiness, though it is the culmination of a long search for God. Let me explain.

As a youngster Faith had no time for religion of any kind and could not see the point of it all. Her devoted sister, who brought her up, however, is a strong believer and prayed constantly that God would become part of her life. As she grew up Faith had a big question in the back of her mind. If there really was a God, why had He let her down so badly? Obviously the Holy

Spirit had started to move within her and she began to research by reading, watching spiritual programmes on TV and asking questions. Some of the time she experienced disappointment because the most intelligent people did not always have answers. She learnt all she could about the main world religions – Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism, Judaism, even at one point looking into Satanism. She tried reasoning it all out in her mind until one day she decided to buy her first Bible.

Wondering where to start she decided to read the New Testament and she told me, with a sparkle in her lovely dark eyes, that everything fell into place. She read it from Matthew through to Revelations and at the end of it she had found Jesus, the Holy Spirit and Father God. The next step was to find a church in which to celebrate her newly found reason to live. After several experiments in local church communities she found St Francis and that was it. She knew she had found a warmth and love reflected in the people there. Her two younger boys look forward to Children's Church and she could not be happier with her friends there.

And she needs love and support as much now as ever. Sadly her oldest son has developed a mental disorder which she thinks is inherited. However, he is gradually recovering from that episode and Faith has asked that we pray with her that he continues to improve.

She is a busy working mum, too. She works in the care system supporting people with learning difficulties. She explained that she helps to keep their lives on track, running their homes and helping with shopping and other important issues. Daniel now works as a security officer and when we met Faith told me that he was spending a little time back in Kenya. I asked her if she would like to go back sometime but she has no such ambition as she has found real security and love here in Cowley.

How would you describe yourself as a small child?

Bouncy, inquisitive, I always wondered about things. I was quite small so I did not like eating too much.

Have you any happy memories of childhood?

I loved playing rounders and dodge-ball in the village. I preferred playing to going home for meals.

Has there been anyone who has been a strong influence in your life?

My sister, she still is. I spoke to her only this morning on the 'phone.

Has your faith been with you since childhood?

No, I have only been a Christian for four years.

Do you have a treasured possession?

I would have to say my Bible.

What is your opinion of present-day society?

It is a big battle. I do not know what is happening or what children are exposed to. But I guide my boys, advise them and pray for them because I know they have God watching them.

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

I want my eldest son to get better.

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

Just bringing up my boys.

How do you like to spend your leisure time (if you have any!)?

I like to visit my friends. I read – any helpful, factual book. On TV I like “foodie” programmes and comedy.

What plans do you have for the future?

I would like to go back to education. I have always wanted to do a nursing course.

THE FUTURE OF THE COWLEY CHRONICLE

At a recent meeting to discuss the future of the Cowley Chronicle on the retirement of Rosanne Butler it was unanimously decided that the Chronicle was essential to the life of the Parish. BUT views are required on its future and content.

WATCH OUT FOR A QUESTIONNAIRE WHICH WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE PARISH SHORTLY.

The present team, Nicki Stevens, May Morgan, Sally and Les Hemsworth (proof reader) are willing to continue but feel that we are lacking someone from St Francis Church – please consider being that person.

We are looking forward to working with the new Editor – WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE THAT PERSON?

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April 6 (1) how it all began – Cufa’s Ley

May 11 (2) 3 settlements and stone

June 8 (3) the bread basket of the university

July 6 (4) Victorian Cowley

no need to book

information from Rosanne Butler – Membership Secretary
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Lesley Williams – Chair
Friends of St James Old School
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CHRISTIAN AID RESULTS

- (1) OVER THE EDGE: Thank you again to all sponsors; donations, including Gift Aid, totalled £720!
- (2) SUPER SOUP LUNCH: we enjoyed 3 delicious homemade soups, with bread and fresh fruit and donated £165 to Christian Aid!

To this will be added the profit from a Lunch Game grid, when that is complete: there will be a cash winner.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 15 – 21 May has a focus on Morsheda, a young mother of four, living in Bangladesh. She has no land, few assets and no savings.

For Morsheda's family, living on low-lying islands in the Brahmaputra River, floods are a terrifying part of everyday life. Morsheda cannot even count on having a safe place to call home: the single-room, corrugated-iron house she shares with her children has been flooded four times.



MORSHEDA'S STORY

Morsheda will never forget the day she nearly lost her baby son, Murshid. As floodwaters poured into her home, he fell from his bed into the inky water. He could have drowned in moments. Luckily, Morsheda woke when she heard him fall and was able to save him. But she knows that the floods will come again. Her home has already been hit several times. Each time, Morsheda gathers her family and holds them close as they wait for the danger to pass.

'I feel very scared of the river. I keep thinking "it is coming".'

Morsheda lives on low-lying islands in Bangladesh. She shares a single-room, corrugated-iron house with her four children. She earns as little as 74p a day doing backbreaking manual labour. She has no savings. And because floods are a terrifying part of everyday life, she doesn't even have a safe place to call home. When the river levels rise, Morsheda worries that it might be like the worst time the floods hit.

She remembers how desperate she was. How she hurried to build a makeshift raft for her frightened children. How they scrambled to safety as huge waves crashed against their house. How she prayed the raft wouldn't capsize as it tipped and plunged on the swirling waters.

'My children were so scared. My sister was holding them very tightly and we were panicking because my neighbour's child was washed away.'

Morsheda and her children live a precarious life. They know that the floods will come again, and soon. But we can lift our neighbours like Morsheda to safety.

Just £250 is enough for a Christian Aid Home Safety Package. It could flood-proof Morsheda's home, raising it eight foot on an earth plinth, keeping her family safe at last. It could also buy a goat, seeds and a wormery to help produce compost, so Morsheda could keep livestock and grow crops on the small patch of land around her home. All of this will give her a long-term income and a solid foundation for a new life.

'If I could raise my house then I would feel much safer living here with my family'

JOIN US IN THE WEEK WE LOVE EVERY NEIGHBOUR.

THANK YOU

We are again inviting you to join us collecting door to door in some local to St James church streets – there is a list to sign up for that. The commitment is:

- (1) deliver the envelopes over the first weekend (14-15 May – that takes up to half an hour, depending on the length of the street) and then
- (2) go back, door knocking, preferably early evening, to collect from those who wish to donate – with spare envelopes because it's amazing how many have been mislaid/eaten by the dog/ didn't ever make it through the letterbox! I try to go back once or even twice, including on Saturday 21 May, to catch those who are out mid-week. I allow around 2-3 hours in total, but if you only have time to collect once, that's fine.

Either choose one of the assigned streets from the list or add your own road to the list and go visiting your neighbours!

Bundling party

AND THEN we will 'save life with a bacon butty' at a **BIG BREKKIE** on Sunday 22 May, 08.45 until 10.00. It is the usual Sunday breakfast time, between the 8.00 and 10.00 services, but bigger and better! Donations to Christian Aid will be invited. Invitations will go out with the Christian Aid Week envelopes and to our schools – invite your neighbour.

Lesley Williams



RECIPES

Continuing our series of traditional dishes from the British Isles here are two more for the collection.



Half Pay Pudding (from Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire)

1oz butter
4oz plain flour
4oz fresh white breadcrumbs
½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
4oz shredded suet
2oz currants
4oz raisins
2oz chopped candied peel
10 fl oz milk
2 tablespoons golden syrup

Using the butter grease a 2-pint pudding basin. In a mixing bowl mix the flour, breadcrumbs and cinnamon. Stir in the suet and dried fruit. Then add the milk and syrup, and stir mixing thoroughly.

Spoon mixture into a pudding basin. Cover the basin with a circle of greaseproof paper (greased with a little butter) then a circle of aluminium foil on top. Tie the paper and foil over the pudding and place the basin in a large saucepan of boiling water making sure the water comes up to about two-thirds the side of the basin. Cover the pan and steam the pudding over gentle heat for 3 hours adding more hot water if necessary. Remove pan from stove and lift out the pudding and remove covers. Loosen the sides with a knife then turn on to a serving dish. Serve immediately with custard or cream.

Now for a dish from Wales –

Glamorgan Sausages

1 large onion, finely chopped
3oz grated Cheddar cheese
2oz fresh white breadcrumbs
1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley
½ teaspoon dried thyme
1 little salt
½ teaspoon ground black pepper
¼ teaspoon dry mustard
1 egg yolk
2 tablespoons flour
1 egg white lightly beaten
3oz dry white breadcrumbs
2oz butter
2 tablespoons vegetable oil

In a mixing bowl combine the onion, cheese, fresh breadcrumbs, parsley, thyme, salt, pepper, mustard and egg yolk. Mix with a fork. Shape the mixture into 8 sausage shapes. Roll each sausage in the flour, then the egg white, then the dry breadcrumbs.

Melt the butter and oil in a big frying pan and when the foam has subsided fry the sausages for about 7 or 8 minutes till they are golden brown all over.

Serve with chips and peas for a tasty lunch or supper dish.

The Children's Church leader had just told the children the story of Jonah and the whale. At the end of the session she asked them what we might learn from the story. Little Johnny had the answer. He told her, "It teaches you that you can't keep a good man down".

The Big Build-up to 14th May

In recent weeks, my first act of the day is to go to the greenhouse. As well as looking at how well things are growing or whether watering is required, I look for signs of nibbling! If I do find any, I will search all around that particular seedling for the slug or snail that is causing the damage. When I find it, it is either dispatched by being chucked high into the Leylandii hedge or placed in a beer trap. Hopefully they won't return! I do, however, use the nasty slug pellets, but only in the greenhouse. I don't want to be responsible for the deaths of birds and hedgehogs by using them in the open garden.

The greenhouse is getting fuller as seedlings need pricking out or potted on. I cross fingers that my home-grown plants will be big enough for the Plant Sale on May 14th. I hope you have that date in your diaries and that you can come to buy or to help on the day. We will be setting up on that morning as the Film Club is happening the previous evening. Because of that, we will be having a later start, 12 noon and to finish at 3pm.

All contributions of plants will be more than welcome to make a great show and to raise much-needed cash for the Parish. Tomatoes and other vegetables, herbs, bedding plants, herbaceous perennials, bulbs and shrubs – whatever you can find. Home-made cakes are needed to fill the cake stall as well as any jams or preserves. Raffle prizes too. It is always a happy day and bacon butties are available from the kitchen, and, free from me if you are helping set up at breakfast time!

We have had some really heavy rain in April which has made doing the spring digging on the allotment very stop/start. I have managed to put in my shallots and onion sets which I had started in modules. At the time of writing, I have finally put in early potatoes. The weather has been drier in recent days but the weather people are saying that a colder spell is on its way. Hey-ho, that's April!

In the garden, I have put wires up to train the roses along the fence in my new side border. I have done the same on the back border fence to train my peach tree which went in a couple of weeks ago. I had wanted a nectarine, but when I went to Waterperry Gardens to buy one, there was only one and it had a very strange shape to it, so a peach it is and it already has some pretty pink flowers. You are supposed to help pollination using a rabbit's tail but I have had a go with a paint brush. Shouldn't really, as fruit in the first year will weaken the just-planted and vulnerable tree. I know that having a peach is problematic and may end up a disaster with no fruit and a mass of peach leaf-curl, but I will give it a go.

At the end of the month I am off to Chelsea Flower Show! I have always been put off by stories of crowds and being told you see more on the TV, so I have never been. I am going solo and in the 3.30pm slot on a members' day. Hopefully, the crowds will have thinned and I can wander around without worrying about losing a companion. I wonder what I'll be inspired by?

Joan Coleman

BIBLE PROFILES – MARY MAGDALENE

There were no less than five different Marys closely associated with Christ, and Mary Magdalene is one of the best known. She should really be called Mary of Magdala because that is where she came from. Magdala was a small port just up the coast from Capernaum, by Galilee.

After a dramatic healing by Jesus of seven demons, according to bible sources, her life is turned completely around, and she becomes one of his most devoted followers. Along with a few other dedicated women she helped to provide him with food and finance on his journeyings. In listings of the women involved she is often mentioned first, indicating signs of leadership, and she used her material resources to good purpose helping the disciples. She is the only woman mentioned by all four Gospel writers amongst those who witnessed the Crucifixion. That took courage but she was there for him when he most needed it.

After his body was removed from the cross by Joseph she notes where it is laid in the new tomb. She has to return home because the next day is the Jewish Sabbath and everything stops for that. However, she is determined to prepare spices with which to anoint his body the next day. This was something that Jewish women did.

So, early next morning while it is still dark, she rushes to the tomb to complete her task, only to find the stone rolled back and the tomb empty. Two men in white tell her that Christ is risen. She rushes to tell the other disciples, who do not believe her. She still cannot completely drag herself away from the scene and returns in sorrow, weeping – only to find herself face to face with the living Christ – the first to witness his resurrection. We do not hear any more about her after this, but I like to feel that she carried on the good work in whatever way she could.

John Shreeve



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Five-year-old Jenny was given a new ball to play with. She asked if she could take it into the garden to play with God. Her mummy asked “How can you play ball with God, Jenny”. “Oh”, the little girl replied, “its lovely ‘cos every time I throw my ball up to Him He always throws it back”.

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The porch was added in 1652 and the church was restored mainly between 1840 - 1865, with parts of the medieval building being retained. A vestry was added in 1893 and a Parish Room designed by Liz Shatford was built by the parishioners in 1995.

A Yew Tree still stands in the churchyard today which was planted on Good Friday 1800.

Each year, on the 2nd Saturday in July, a Flower Festival is held.

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SAINT OF THE MONTH—ALEXANDER NEVSKI

1263 as he had during his short life. Although he was only 43 when he died he did much to protect his country from the invading armies of Sweden and Lithuania and the infamous Tartars, the Teutonic Knights from the west (now parts of Germany) who also had aspirations to rule Russia so it fell to this brave young prince to summon up support and fight.

He was born a royal prince of Novgorod and throughout most of his adult life he was required to fight alongside his father. The Tartars actually won victories at the time but turned southwards leaving the Russians to reclaim lost territories. After the death of his father Alexander was in control of the army and in 1240 defeated the Swedes by the River Neva (hence his title Nevski). He was a pious man who was convinced that God was on his side and he was inspired by visions of early Russian saints to persevere in his cause. He made a truce with the Tartars after which he retired to a monastery and took holy orders.

With the many changes in political and social culture in the 14th century Alexander's cult fell out of favour. However, once the Tartars had been defeated in 1381 the new emperor saw that raising up his ancestor to the altars of the

orthodox faith would strengthen his power.

Alexander was back in favour (at least his memory was). His cult centred on the monastery where he had been buried in Vladimir-Kljazma.

When Peter the Great completed his fine new capital, St Petersburg he built a monastery dedicated to Alexander thus making him patron saint of the city. The saint's relics were moved to this new site. It is interesting to note that during the Second World War Alexander became the symbol of Russian resistance. The Russian Orthodox Church financed an armoured division called "Alexander Nevski" and in 1942 the Order of Alexander was restored as a tribute to distinguished military service. In 1938 a film was made of his life which at the time was declared a masterpiece.

Alexander was never popular with the papacy in Rome possibly because when papal legates came to Russia with orders on the laws of the Church his reply was "We know the law of God very well and will take no lessons from you".

His special saint's day is celebrated on 23 May.

CHRONICLE

Editorial Team- Rosanne Butler, Sally Hemsworth, May Morgan, Nicki Stevens

Deadline for the next edition:

Wednesday 25 May 2016

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

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NEWS FROM ST FRANCIS

Once again we are moving forward in our church's calendar towards Pentecost, a really dramatic and powerful event in the early Christian church. With the gift of the Holy Spirit which changed people from being fearful defeatists to a vibrant, courageous force totally dedicated to spreading the good news of Jesus Christ and salvation for all, not just the Jews. We could certainly do with more of that powerful spirit in our churches today, as we try to cope with all the problems and difficulties of our 21st Century world. Marginalised and ridiculed by so many, we struggle for credibility amongst sceptical people. We try to design our worship and services to make them attractive and interesting to the people around us. Yet, unless we work within the guidance of the Holy Spirit much of our work will be in vain.

We also need to be seen as a group of people who are caring and sharing, and alert to the needs of those around us. Liturgy and

ceremony are not enough. We are also called to mirror this within our

own church communities. I feel that in both our churches, St Francis and St James, we have got better at that recently. We have come across members who have fallen on difficult times and have supported them very positively with prayers and good works. Thus fulfilling the guidance of St Paul who said that we ought to pray for one another all the time, and enter into one another's joys and sorrows. In this way people do not feel isolated and alone when trying to cope with difficult situations. So it has been really good to see this happening within our church communities. Our way forward will be much more positive as a result.

John Shreeve



What is a Local House of Prayer?

What might it be like if the reality of the Presence of God broke out in your community? Just imagine your local community blessed by the Kingdom of God breaking out in homes and businesses!

There has been and continues to be a move of God at Ffald-y-Brenin, Pembrokeshire, Wales where God has blessed and is blessing those that live in that valley and those who visit there. (Many amazing incidents are recorded in the book 'Grace Outpouring' and on the F-y-B website <http://www.ffald-y-brenin.org/what-god-has-been-doing>). From this outpouring has sprung an initiative which has spread throughout the UK and wider where ordinary Christians gather together in 2's or 3's or more to pray for their local community using a similar format as that in Ffald-y-Brenin. These gatherings are called 'Local Houses of Prayer' (LHoP).

The exciting news is that we at St James are hosting a Training Day (over 2 evenings)! If you would like to find out more about LHoP and hear some uplifting stories of things God is currently doing please come along on Tuesday evenings 24th and 31st May in St James Church Centre 7pm – 9.30pm. You will be so encouraged by what you hear!

Ed and Jill Ling

“What should our church be like in 20 years time?”

“What steps do we need to take to get there?”

“What should be the first steps?”



A vision morning

Saturday June 18th More

details to follow please keep the date free

HOME GROUPS – LENT THROUGH TO EASTER

Many of our Parish home groups throughout Lent have been studying the excellent little book “The Nail” written by Stephen Cottrell. It was published in 2011 and has been widely used by Christians on their journey to Easter ever since.

In the book key witnesses describe, in modern language, Jesus’ Crucifixion from their point of view. Each character considers the part he or she played in hammering the nails into Our Lord. We learn, for example, how the Roman centurion was just following orders and that Pontius Pilate merely bowed to the overwhelming demands of the crowds. By describing these and other sides of the Good Friday story Stephen Cottrell invites us to question how we might

have behaved on that fateful day.

So that has been the main thrust of our discussions, prayers and study over the last six or seven weeks. It has been a deeply moving course to study reaching into our understanding of Jesus’ sacrifice and taking us further along our journey of faith.

Each home group will continue to meet on a regular basis, mainly fortnightly during the coming months. Every group has its own dynamics so if you are interested in joining one do speak to Geoff and he will point you in the right direction, I am sure.

Rosanne Butler

FROM THE ARCHIVES

COWLEY

CHURCH & HOME MAGAZINE

May 1893

Instruction In Cooking

On Monday, the 24th April, the Oxfordshire County Council sent Miss Willett to lecture and instruct on cooking. Owing to the short notice we had of her visit, coupled with the prejudice which the wives of the artizans and labourers have against this subject, the attendance was not large on the first evening, but during the week the interest increased, and the number of adults reached 40 on one evening in addition to children.

Every well-informed person must have felt, as they listened to Miss Willett, that she had real information to give; her quiet manner and her method of only saying what was necessary made the lessons really instructive. The cheap dishes she produced in themselves were worthy of observation, as the writer of these notes has witnessed workingmen in this parish whose wages have gone up three times in amount over the last 15 years, reckoning their children, still these families are only just able to make both ends meet, and they might have taken some hints home for their benefit. The young people who attended the classes in the afternoons during the week were interested, and we regret very much that more could not be added to the class; but if the County Council would send us help in this direction again, arrangements will probably be made so that a greater number of young women can obtain instruction.

Band of Hope

It will soon be the usual time for the Band of Hope to take their pleasure trip. And as no expenses are incurred in this matter except this annual outing, we hope that friends who read this notice will send us some means to provide them with this. Each member pays ½ d. per week and provides a quarterly tea and some magazines written on this special subject, and this encouragement of a treat will not be wasted if we consider the many

temptations these children will be called upon to face before many more years are spent. Children do not require intoxicating drinks, and there would be no drunkards if parents would keep their children from the drinking practices of the day. Children are what we make them, and those who give children "drink" have a great responsibility in the matter. Please send a donation to encourage these children in the right path to Miss Robinson, The School House.

SAINSBURYS ACTIVE KIDS

As in past years we will be collecting vouchers for 'Seashells' and 'Little Stars'. Boxes for their collection will be in both churches (or you can give them straight to me MM). Start date is 27th January 2016 and the closing date will be 3rd May 2016 - every one counts.

Many thanks.
May Morgan

COWLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

To mark St George's Day in April members of Cowley WI were shown a collection of coins, medals and medallions depicting the Patron Saint of England, with, of course, the Dragon, and including a few kings and other famous men who all shared the Christian name George.

There will be a demonstration of flower arranging in May when we celebrate our birthday, and our annual Garden Party will be held in June – the third Wednesday in the month, 2 pm, in the Church Centre. Hope to see you then.

Ann Withers

President, Cowley WI

A young student, trying to earn a little extra cash in the summer vacation knocked on his wealthy neighbour's door and asked if he had any jobs he could do. "Well, you could paint the porch for me", he was told, "the paint and brushes are in the garage". Three hours later the young lad reported back that he'd finished the work. "By the way" he remarked, "I have to tell you it's not a Porsche, it's a Ferrari".

***In Celebration of the Queen's
90th Birthday***

An evening of music

with the

**OXFORD WELSH MALE
VOICE CHOIR**

*and featuring
Roz Ware (singer) &
Emily Jensenius (violin)*

at

St James Church
Beauchamp Lane Cowley,
OX4 3LF

11th June, 2016

7.00 pm for 7.30pm

*Funds raised will go towards maintaining our
beautiful historic 12th century church*

Tickets: £10

From: Margaret Weller (Tel: 01865 775150)

Christine Woodman (Tel: 01865 778078)

SUNDAY SERVICES

ST JAMES CHURCH, BEAUCHAMP LANE

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

ST FRANCIS CHURCH, HOLLOW WAY

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

MID-WEEK SERVICES & MEETINGS

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—St James
	12.30pm	Tuesday Lunch Club— St James
Thursday	2-4pm	Prayer Space—St Francis
	7.00pm	Cowley Parish Healing Service St Francis (1st Thursday)
Friday	2.00pm	Bingo—St James

HOME GROUPS

Leader	Time/Venue
Connie Uren	Alternate Tuesday afternoons at 2.30pm St James Church Centre, Ranklin Room
Friends of St Francis (John Shreeve)	2nd & 4th Tuesday afternoons at 2.30pm St Francis Church
Mark Oxbrow	Alternate Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm Mark's home, 13 Annesley Road (just behind the Rose Hill Coop). Enquiries to Mark at 01865 461953
Rosanne Butler	Alternate Thursday mornings at 10.00am St James Church Centre, Ranklin Room
Catherine / William Hartley	Thursdays at 8.00pm, Catherine Hartley 07792 104448 William Hartley 07751 939092
Joel Denno	Thursday at 7.45pm at The Vicarage, Don Bosco Close
Helen Beetham	Alternate Friday mornings at 10am St James Church Centre, Ranklin Room

The Parish Office in St James Church
Centre is open:

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

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

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

Team Rector:

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

Team Vicar:

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

Self-supporting Ministers

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

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

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

Churchwardens:

David Stanley Tel: 776602
Norah Shallow Tel: 765199

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

St James Church Centre Manager:

Chris Woodman Tel: 778078

Hall Bookings:

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

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