

HARVEST AND ST FRANCIS DAY

At St Francis on September 28th, the flower arrangers (plonkers) which is what we call ourselves, got together to make our church look beautiful to celebrate harvest and St Francis day. We said a prayer asking God to be with us and guide us in all we were about to do. We had been out gathering conkers, hops, apples, pears and other things from the hedgerows. There were beautiful displays of dahlias in colours of orange, yellow, and red lovely autumn colours.

We are very lucky to be able to go and pick these from Victor Whitby's garden from July to October, thank you Victor.

We had a joint service with St James to celebrate harvest and St Francis, which was followed by a bring-and-share lunch, a time to share food and conversation.

Lyn Lord

PARISH MISSION AND SOCIAL PLANNER

NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	DECEMBER
SAT 2nd 10:00-2:00 <i>Craft and gift fair</i> (CC)	SUN 1st Advent Sunday 08:45 <i>Big Brekkie</i> (CC)	<i>Christmas tree festival</i> (J)
SUN 3rd 4:00 <i>Loved ones service + tea</i> (J)	FRI 6th 7:00 <i>Parish Christmas dinner</i> (CC)	FRI 13th <i>Opening reception and blessing</i>
SUN 10th 10:00 & 10:30 <i>Remembrance Day services</i> (J, F)	FRI 13th-22nd <i>Christmas tree festival</i> (J)	<i>Festival opening times</i>
FRIDAY, 15 TH 7 pm – <i>Mother's Union Annual Wine, cheese and poetry evening</i> (CC)	SAT 14th <i>Get in the picture</i> (TS)	SAT 14th, 21st 10:00-4:00
SUN 17th 12:30 <i>Sunday lunch</i> (CC)	SUN 15th 10:00 (J) , 10:30 (F) <i>Christingle services</i>	SUN 15th, 22nd 2:00–4:00 and to order for groups, schools
SUN 24th 10:00 (J)10:30 (F) <i>Stir up Sunday all age services</i>	SAT 21st 2:00-3:30 <i>Messy Church Christmas party</i> (J)	SAT 14th 7:30 <i>Festival concert – Jubilee Brass</i> (ticketed)
Mon 25th 7:30 <i>M & S meeting</i> (88 Temple Road)	SUN 22nd 10:30 <i>Carol service</i> (F)	WED 18th 10:15-11:00 <i>Schools Christingle</i>
SAT 30th 10:00 -12:00 <i>Advent candle decorating</i> (F)	4:30 <i>Carol service</i> (J) <i>followed by tea</i> (CC)	7:00 – 9:00 <i>festival open with informal concert</i>
	TUE 24th Christmas Eve 6:00 <i>Singing in the Corner House</i>	

(CC) - St James Church Centre - Beauchamp Lane (J) - St James Church - Beauchamp Lane
 (F) - St Francis Church - Hollow Way (A.A.L.C) - Anglican Asian Living Church (J & CC)
 (TS) – Templars Square (CH) – Corner House pub

COWLEY FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS TREES 2019

Friday 13 - Sunday 22 December

with the theme COWLEY UNITED – celebrating community life in Cowley

Fundraising for ROSY and SeeSaw



We hope you have this programme in your diary, noting that some times have changed slightly from last month's listing. The advertising cards are available now to take for friends and family. We will be counting them into street bundles in the w/b 18th November – watch Link for days and times - and then asking the fit and able to start delivering to every home in the Parish, starting in the w/b 25th November, along with the Parish Christmas services invitation cards. Please be ready to sign up to help us with the counting and delivery – young people very welcome!

Tickets for the Jubilee Brass concert on Saturday 14th December will also be available soon - or you will be able to book on line, if that's your preferred way.

<i>Opening reception:</i>	<i>Friday 13 December 5:30 - 6:30</i>
<i>Jubilee Brass concert</i>	<i>Saturday 14 December 7:30-9:30</i>
<i>Parish Christingle :</i>	<i>Sunday 15 December 10:00, 10:30 services</i>
<i>Messy Church Christmas party:</i>	<i>Saturday 21 December 10:00-11:30</i>
<i>Carol service:</i>	<i>Sunday 22 December</i>

<i>Festival open:</i>	
<i>Saturday 14, Saturday 21</i>	<i>10.00-4:00</i>
<i>Sunday 15, Sunday 22</i>	<i>2.00-4:00</i>
<i>Wednesday 18 December</i>	<i>6:30-9:00</i>

Whilst not planning to open during the week, we can of course do so for any groups or schools wanting to visit – and we will provide tea

Schools' Christingle - all 3 schools together – 30-40 children each + one performance item from each school:

Wednesday 18 December 10.15 – 11.00

Get in the picture – Saturday 14 December – Templars Square with a Christmas tree

Details of how to enter a tree – a real or artificial one or a non-tree creation – as an individual, family, group, school, business - are available now from Lesley Williams.

Not so much a competition: just a display at the festival, in the entry porch to the church: please tell us what 'COWLEY UNITED' means to you – with a picture or photo or poem or story and hand it in at church or St James Centre or email it to ctf@cowleyteamministry.co.uk – by Wednesday 11 December.

Our final planning meeting will be on Wednesday 13 November, 9:00-10:00 in the Ranklin Room. It's now 'all systems go' so we would still welcome anyone new who would like to help us, particularly with advertising now and organising during the event

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



**Cowley festival
of Christmas trees**

St James Church
Beauchamp Lane OX4 3LF

14 – 22 December 2019

music – crafts – refreshments – trails

adults : £2.50 family : £4.00 under 14s : free

fundraising for : ROSY & SeeSaw
www.cowleyteamministry.co.uk

Cowley festival of Christmas trees
'Cowley United'

festival open

Saturday 14 & 21	10:00 – 4:00
Sunday 15 & 22	2:00 – 4:00
Wednesday 18	6:30 – 9:00

and also

Saturday 14	10:00	tree decorating at Templars Square
	7:30	concert with Jubilee Brass
Sunday 15	10:00	Christingle service
	2:30	pop-up singing workshop
Wednesday 18	7:00	Rising Voices & other choirs
Saturday 21	10:30	Messy Church - Christmas party
Sunday 22	4:30	carols by candlelight




We are celebrating
'Cowley united'
at the Christmas tree festival
St James' Church
Beauchamp lane OX4 3LF
December 14 to 22nd

Drop them off at:
 St James' Church centre
 13 Beauchamp lane OX4 3LF
 Email them to: CTF@cowleyteamministry.co.uk

Cowley Team Ministry www.cowleyteamministry.co.uk

ST FRIDESWIDE PILGRIMAGE

Friday 18 and Saturday 19 October

Parish of Cowley pilgrims from Abingdon to Oxford on Saturday 19 October were Geoff and Mary Bayliss, David Benskin and Lesley Williams – along with around 60 others.

Jill Ling and Brenda Lee joined the pilgrimage at Iffley Lock and Ed Ling met us at Christ Church. We were 'walking the Beatitudes' with short worship and reflection stops along the way, all scripted in an excellent booklet giving the background to St Frideswide, the concept of pilgrimage and the Beatitudes.

Lesley had also walked from Dorchester Abbey to Day's Lock on the Friday but did not have time to spend the whole day continuing to Abingdon so returned to her car at the Abbey, along with Bishop Colin, who also had a busy day ahead of him.

Five of us enjoyed tea and cake in Christ Church College dining hall (as filmed in Harry Potter) and had a short time to experience the creative prayer stations in the Cathedral based on the Beatitudes, set up by BeSpace before the splendid Pilgrimage service, led by Bishop Steven, with music from the Frideswide Consort Girls' Choir, newly established as at the cathedral.

The whole event was all amazingly well planned and meaningful – and will likely be repeated next year.



Part-time disciples?

Last year, as part of my work with the Anglican Communion, I visited a vicar near Coventry. During the conversation sitting over a coffee on her sunny patio she asked me, "So what are you doing now with the Anglican Communion Office?" I replied, "Most of my work there is on discipleship, following Jesus and how this works out in different contexts and countries." As I sipped my coffee, her eyes lit up and she said, "Oh yes, we did Discipleship here at St. Jude's two years ago. This year we are doing the Environment." That was the beginning of a very long conversation!

Many of us make the same mistake as my vicar friend in Warwickshire. We participate in a 'Discipleship' course and then we move on. It feels as if we can tick that box even if we did not get a certificate at the end of the course. But discipleship is not like that, it's not a course we can complete but rather a 'way of life'. When you get married you do not agree to go on a ten week, or even a ten month, course with your spouse and then move on to something, or someone, else. Marriage is a life-long commitment or venture and discipleship is the same, it is about a relationship which goes on for the rest of life – for life eternal!

In the work I am doing with Anglican churches around the world we talk about 'whole-life discipleship'. This does not just mean discipleship that goes on until the day we die, and beyond. It also means that discipleship affects every aspect of our life – our home life, our relationships with family, what we do at work, how we use our leisure time and even how we vote. We use the slogan Jesus-shaped Life. One of the biggest challenges for Christian communities around the world is that so many of us live Jesus-shaped lives at church on Sunday, at our



home group and while we study the Bible at home but as soon as we step into the workplace, take a night out with our friends, or have to deal with a difficult relative we become very 'Not-Jesus-Shaped'. The most extreme example of this took place in Rwanda in 1994. At the time around 92% of the population of Rwanda were Christians attending church each week but despite this we saw a genocide during which Christians attacked Christians and at least half a million people died. They were 'Jesus-Shaped' in church but when it came to community and political issues it was tribalism, anger and violence that shaped them. So what about us? How Jesus-shaped are we?

One of the privileges I have had is to act as editor for a new 'Life Guide' for those of us who want to follow Jesus in every part of our lives – to be truly Jesus-Shaped. Written by 11 different authors from many different counties (including Bishop Stephen Cottrell who you may remember was bishop of Reading a few years ago) the Life Guide has 12 sessions covering topics such as discipleship at work, in the family, transforming communities and amongst people of other faiths. I hope that at some stage next year we will be able to use this international life guide within this parish.

But in the meantime, ask yourself, "At each moment of this day, am I living a Jesus-Shaped Life?"

DIARY DATES TO REMEMBER

Mothers' Union

Monthly Meeting on 3rd Monday of month
from 2.15 pm

18 November 2019 – "C S Lewis in Oxford" –
talk by Brian Lowe

St James Church Centre

Women's Institute

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

20 November 2019

St James Church Centre

Gardening

Last Saturday of the month – Gardening at St
James Church/St James Church Centre

Film Club

Friday, 8 November 2019 – "Sleepless in
Seattle"

St James Church Centre, commencing at 6.30
pm with coffee and cake

Parish Walks

Monday, 4 November 2019 - Walk through
the University Parks, meeting outside
Randolph Hotel at 2 pm.

Monday, 18 November 2019 – Details to be
announced.

Mothers' Union Annual Wine, Cheese and Poetry Evening

Friday, 15th November 2019, at 7 pm

St James Church Centre

Sunday Lunch

Sunday, 17 November 2019 at 12.30 pm

St James Church Centre

Mission and Social Meeting

Monday, 25 November 2019, at 7.30 pm
88 Temple Road

Advent candle decorating

Saturday, 30 November 2019, 10 – 12 noon
St Francis Church

St James Church Committee

Monday, 2 December 2019, at 7 pm
Ranklin Room, St James Church Centre

Parish Christmas Dinner

Friday, 6 December 2019, at 7 pm
St James Church Centre

St Francis Church Committee

Sunday, 8 December 2019, at 12 noon
St Francis Church

Christmas Tree Festival

Friday, 13 – 22 December 2019
St James Church

Get in the Picture

Saturday, 14 December 2019
Templar Square

Messy Church Christmas Party

Saturday, 21 December 2019, 2 – 3.30 pm
St James Church

Singing in the Corner House

Tuesday, 24 December 2019 at 6 pm
The Corner House

REMEMBER: Tuesday lunches at St James
Church Centre from 12.30 pm

REAL ADVENT CALENDAR - FROM THE MEANINGFUL CHOCOLATE COMPANY

Advent shopping: a box of the calendars has been ordered and there will some spares for those readers who failed to sign the list. Price £3.99

If we sell out, they may be available at Tesco and Morrison's or head for one of the Fairtrade shops: Fairtrade Headington or at St Michael's at the Northgate, Cornmarket.

We will also have bars of Christmas Fairtrade chocolate. Price £3

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



NEW DESIGN

THE REAL ADVENT CALENDAR

INCLUDES FREE CHRISTMAS STORY-ACTIVITY BOOK

RRP £3.99

A GREAT WAY TO SHARE THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Where to buy
Available from churches, cathedral shops and Christian bookshops, Traidcraft, eden.co.uk, TLMtrading.com, Embrace the Middle East, Redemptorist Publications, local shops and larger branches of Tesco.

MEANINGFUL FEATURES

- Free 24 page Christmas story-activity book
- A line of the Christmas story behind each window
- Foil sealed for freshness
- Made from quality Fairtrade milk chocolate: 35% cocoa
- Palm oil free
- 25 festive chocolate shapes
- Charitable donation
- Recyclable box & tray

FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE WWW.REALADVENT.CO.UK

MOTHERS' UNION NEWS

On 10th October six members from our Cowley Mothers' Union branch attended the Diocesan Annual General meeting at Benson. It was an all-day event with business and a speaker in the morning and a service of eucharist in the afternoon.

Alongside the business, branches had the opportunity to pass on their collection of Christmas cards to the committee designed to make Christmas a little lighter for those in prison over the festival. I was very proud to hand in nearly 50 cards from not only members but also kind people in our parish who heard about the initiative.

One of the excellent schemes which Mothers' Union runs in our Diocese is a charity called AFIA. This stands for "Away From It All" and is designed to fund a holiday for needy people who may not have been able to afford a break for a number of years. This year AFIA managed to send nine families, with young children, on holiday which would have been outside their financial reach. As you may well guess our branch is an enthusiastic supporter of this.

At the AGM one talented member had donated an exquisite white baby shawl which she had knitted to be raffled in aid of AFIA. Well, we were thrilled when Marion Webster's (one of our members) ticket was drawn out. She is an elderly lady and has generously offered to pass it on to anyone in our parish who is expecting or has just given birth to a new baby. It is a beautiful shawl so if you know of anyone who would like it please let Marion or me know.

Our October branch meeting was much enjoyed, despite the fact that several members were unable to attend due to ill health. What made the afternoon so special was our speaker the Revd. Mark Oxbrow who, in his own inimitable style, spoke about the three countries in Africa which he had visited during the summer and the interesting people and adventures he had encountered.

This month we also have an interesting speaker when Mr Brian Lowe will give a talk on C S Lewis in Oxford. He has spoken at our meetings before and we know we are in for a good afternoon.

We are also planning for our popular annual wine, cheese and poetry evening on November 15th. It starts at 7 pm in the Church Centre and we ask £4 if you bring a poem and £5 if you do not. This covers the cost of an excellent supper and unlimited supply of wine or soft drinks. This evening is open to everyone and so we are hoping for a good crowd!

Finally I must mention that congratulations are due to Margaret Randall who has been a member of our Cowley branch for over 50 years. She has been presented with a certificate to mark a long service record.

Rosanne Butler

OPEN THE BOOK is 20 years old this year

In 1999 a small group of church volunteers started going into primary school assemblies in Bedford to read and act out stories using *The Lion Storyteller Bible*. After being inspired by the idea, the project spread into Gloucestershire in 2001.....and further. Later, in 2007, a national charity was formed. With the increasing growth of volunteer numbers into the thousands, OtB joined the Bible Society in 2013 and is now an international scheme.



There have been celebration services around the country, organised by the national Open the Book team, based with the Bible Society in Swindon. At St James and St Francis, we celebrated on Bible Sunday, 27th October, telling the story of the prophet Elijah, fed by ravens in the desert, and singing 'happy birthday to you, Open the Book' with a 20 candle cake. Our story tellers were also recommissioned.

We will be celebrating with the schools on our first storytelling visit in November.

The charity's aim is to bring the Bible to life for every child in every primary school
www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/open-the-book/otb-about-us/

We have an Open the Book team of 11 in Cowley Parish, telling the stories in our three schools on alternate weeks:

St Christopher's, Temple Road

Monday – meeting at 8.30
for a 9.00 assembly

Church Cowley St James, Bartholomew Road

Tuesday – meeting at 10.00
for a 10.30 assembly

St Francis, Horspath Road

Thursday – meeting at 10.00
for a 10.30 assembly

If you think you might like to share the joy of storytelling, ask to come and watch an assembly.

contact: Lesley Williams, Jill Ling or Joan Coleman

CHRONICLE

Editorial Team- Sally Hemsworth, Nicki Stevens

Deadline for the next edition: Monday 18 November 2019

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

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

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

For I know the plans I have for you (Jeremiah 29-11)

It was around ten years ago while at work I was talking to the wife of a patient who had recently passed away. As the conversation flowed, the topic of faith popped up. I can still remember a wave of warmth appear over her face as she remembered her husband saying 'If you ever want to make God laugh, tell him your plans'. At the time I'd never heard of anything like that before and it has stuck with me ever since.

My husband Duncan regularly has to tell me when I'm trying to process the reasoning of events in life, exclaiming 'but why has that happened?' that we may not know the answer yet or, the line I'm not so keen on, that we may not ever know the reason. Of course the only one who does know the answer, is God.

I was passing the time waiting for the spin cycle to finish on the washing machine the other day, looking out of the window onto the garden. I noticed something small and dark hanging from our children's play house. It wasn't a particularly windy day but the unknown 'thing' appeared to be dangling and swinging in its own non-existent breeze.

I had to concentrate for a while to notice the 'thing' was actually a Daddy long legs (or crane fly for its 'proper' name?) stuck in a spiders web. I watched as it used momentum from the web, looking like a clip from the 'hanging rings' event on the old TV show 'Gladiators', to gain enough swing to escape.

Following an array of Tarzan antics, suddenly something flew from the web and I noticed the Daddy long legs had escaped. I was joyous for its victory! Quickly the thoughts of 'Yay! Never give up!' came to mind as I watched it merrily back on its way hovering over the house. Alas, the freedom was to be short lived. As quick as it had escaped, the Daddy long legs had managed to meander its way straight into another web. The new spider appeared from nowhere, whizzing its way down the web at super speed and quickly putting a stop to the Daddy long legs wriggling.

By this point, the washing in the machine had long stopped whirring but my mind was quite the opposite. The victorious feeling had quickly changed to deflation and I was stood thinking there must be some kind of life lesson to learn from what I had just witnessed. There had to be. Should I have intervened? Gone out there and interfered with what I would be told by others as 'just nature'? I thought of the first spider missing out on its lunch, the second spider taking advantage of an already bruised and weak victim, the Daddy long legs' silliness of falling into the exact same trap it had only moments before escaped. I was clearly thinking far too much about this when I had washing to sort!

Throughout the day I kept thinking back to it and what the 'lesson' was. When you're feeling helpless and you think that's it, you may get a second chance? If you mess up, be careful not to follow the same path again or you might not be so lucky next time?

I talked about it the following day at the church group ReFresh, laughing at my peculiar ramblings that wander through my head and my need to have an answer for it all.

I was back looking out on the garden later that day while preparing lunch and the thought of plans came into my head, followed by the conversation with the recently widowed lady. Maybe, as ever, I was throwing too many demands for a written in stone reason for something that I wasn't going to get.

Maybe it wasn't some complicated and deep meaningful answer after all. Maybe it was just the plan. That no matter how much free will we have in life to make the choices to paddle one way or the other down the stream of life, or to choose which rocks to battle to swerve out of the way of on the way down, the current will always be there to decide the path we take. The 'current' being God. The one who has written the plans for us and the one who 'knows the plans I have for you'. I think I'm content(ish!) with that 'written in stone' answer.

The memory of the conversation I had years ago with that lady has stuck with me and I think the thoughts of the Daddy Long Legs vs The Spiders will be joining it too!

Cara Vivian

You are invited
to our beginning of Advent

christian aid **big brekkie**

Sunday 1 December
8.45 – 9.45

porridge - bacon butties – scrambled egg – toast – crumpets – croissants
fruit – tea – coffee – good company

St James Centre – Beauchamp Lane – OX4 3LF



all donations for Christian Aid

Christmas Party
Friday Dec 6th
7:30 pm
Church Centre Beauchamp Lane

Starter:
Vegetable soup
= Melon
= Pate and Toast

Main course:
White Fish in cheese sauce
= Turkey with gravy
= Mushroom, shallot & squash pie (can be gluten free)
(All served with options of 'Pigs in Blankets', stuffing, vegetables)

Pudding:
Mincemeat & Apple crumble (gluten free available)
= Fruit salad
(Both served with ice-cream or Custard)
= Lemon sorbet

Come and join us for a gentle evening. You will need to book up your menu. Geoff is cooking and again is going to try not to over cater! We have maximum numbers of 80 seats so get in quick!

How can you book up?
• You can contact Geoff direct:
rector@cowleyteamministry.co.uk / 07759393023
• You can sign up on one of the sign-up sheets.
• You can contact the church office.

We hope to cover costs by donations collected on the evening. Profits will go to the St James Toilet in Church Fund.

If the menu above does not fit your needs have a chat with Geoff and he will see what we can do!



Thames Valley Police in Oxford have received two reports from the public stating that their front and back door handles have been tried, this is happening during day time hours between mid-day and 3pm

Keep Your Home Safe - Burglars are often opportunistic thieves who prey on houses and flats. They seek out any opening that they can take advantage of, specifically doors and windows that are left open or unlocked or are easy to force. Anything of value that they might spot through a window will only spur them on. But it really doesn't take much to deter these thieves – just smart thinking.

Burglar facts

- Burglars target homes that they think will contain valuables. A sure giveaway is leaving packaging from expensive items outside your front door.
- Burglars often look for homes with windows or doors left open or with vulnerable features that they can exploit.
- Burglars are aware of the times when someone is expected to be away from their house such as during the school run or holidays.
- Burglars typically do not want to be seen or heard and if they feel that they would be noticed by a neighbour or passer-by then they are more likely to feel exposed and may move on to find somewhere else to burgle.
- Burglars often choose a home because they've spotted a specific vehicle, motorcycle or bicycle they want to steal – and the keys are more than likely to be inside the residence.
- Sheds and garages are often vulnerable as they are not that secure and contain tools which the burglar can use to assist them to gain entry to a home.

It's a fact that many burglars return to homes that they've previously burgled because the homeowner failed to upgrade security following the first burglary. They sometimes return to an area to try to burgle a nearby home that they spotted while committing a previous break in . Even more reason for you to ensure you keep your home as safe as houses.

Message Sent By - Michelle Beahan (Police, NHW & Community Messaging Co-ordinator, Oxford LPA)

NOTABLE PEOPLE & CHARACTERS OF COWLEY TAKEN FROM THE COWLEY CHRONICLE AUGUST 1970

COURAGE REWARDED



Remember the explosion at a Littlemore council house a year ago? Among the three men recently awarded the Queen's Commendation for brave conduct for their part in the rescue operation was P.C. David Dutson, of Paget Road, Cowley.

P.C. Dutson arrived at the house in his patrol car just as the explosion occurred. "It was just like a Roman candle, with flames shooting up some 50 to 60 feet", he said. The ground floor walls were blown right out, bringing the upstairs floor crashing to the ground.

Together with Det. Constable Ron Orman, also of Cowley Police Station, P.C. Dutson dashed into the wrecked house, now burning fiercely, to try to find the children known to be inside.

"Almost the first thing I saw was a shape, in a bed, that looked like one of the children. It turned out to be a giant teddy bear", he said. However, he then saw a leg and an arm sticking out from under the rubble of the roof, and by holding up the roof beam together with his companions, first one child, then another, discovered lower down, were dragged clear.

Meanwhile, a van belonging to Mr. Molloy, the explosives expert who blew himself up, was standing near the gate, with its engine running, and 200lbs. of gelnite inside, which it was feared would go up at any moment.

This was the real danger with which P.C. Dutson and the other two men, having evacuated the other inhabitants of Alice Smith Square, had to cope. It was only after all the family had been miraculously rescued that bomb disposal experts arrived on the scene to render the explosives safe. The picture shows P.C. Dutson with his award, after it had been presented to him by the Lord Lieutenant of the County at St. Aldates Police Station.

Researched by Les Hemsworth

Have you an
interest in
Art and Faith?

Next meeting 9th
November

10:30-12pm

Are you interested? If so please
put your name and contact
details below. Many thanks....



John Booty 01865 770836

Leave a message on the answer phone if needed

THE DAD SHE NEVER KNEW

When I was a little girl I had a best friend called Margaret. She had a big brother who was a rear-gunner in Lancaster bombers in the Second World War. He loved getting letters when he was posted away from home so my mum suggested that when Margaret came round to play or have tea that we should write him little letters telling him news of our village. He wrote lovely letters back.

Being romantic little girls with heads full of happy-ever-after fairy stories we thought it wonderful when, on leave, John brought a rather beautiful girl-friend home to meet his family. We got even more excited when in a short while they returned and she was wearing an engagement ring.

John and his beautiful girl were married (because of the urgency of war) quite soon and he continued on his sorties into Germany with his Lancaster crew. One day Margaret came to school with the news that her new sister-in-law was expecting a baby and she was going to be an auntie.

However, a couple of months before the little girl was born a telegram was delivered to their home to say that John and his crew were "missing" believed dead, after one of their bombing raids over Germany. Both my parents and I were devastated so I cannot guess how John's family coped.

I don't know why but I remember the baby was christened Rosemary and all my life I have grieved the fact that she grew up never knowing her lovely daddy (especially as my relationship with my father was so special). Every Remembrance Sunday I think of her and of John and the many brave young men who gave up their lives to protect their country. And, of course, I pray for them.

A few years ago I wrote a poem on behalf of Rosemary trying to imagine how she grew up. I called it My Dad and I thought you might like to share it on Remembrance Day. It's Rosemary's dad (not mine) of course.

**Preaching and Teaching:
5 evenings looking
THE SKILLS OF THE
PREACHER**

**Tuesday Nov 12th
7:30 -9:30**

**S^t James Church Center
Ranklin room**



**Led by
Revd Canon Geoff Bayliss**

This course is a repeat of INTRODUCTION TO PREACHING – KIDLINGTON (Level 4: Introductory) Wednesday Evenings and can be formally accredited a unit for 'local ministry training'

MY DAD

Let's see, he would be eighty,
No ninety, this year, or more,
The dad I never knew because
Our country was fighting a war.

John was his name, an airman,
Only twenty in '42
Who went off to fly a bomber
With his young and valiant crew.

They'd only been married a year
When a baby was on the way.
Mum told me he was excited,
"The first of our fam'ly", he'd say

But one fateful day they told her
Her darling John and his plane
Had gone missing on a night raid
And might never return again.

A couple of months or so later
She gave birth to a baby girl (me!)
How tough it must have been knowing
A family we never would be.

As I grew up she told me
All about my lovely dad
So young, handsome and carefree
And, I guess, a bit of a lad

Now, every year in November,
When Remembrance Day comes round
I stand by mum, an old lady now,
Hold her hand and gaze at the ground.

I know in her head she's still young,
In love with her wonderful John,
And me, I just ask God to
Look after my dad so long gone

I pray that one day in heaven
We'll be together, we three,
Dad will hold mum close in his arms
And reach out to his daughter (me

Prayer Space

Lord, when we say "Give us today our
Daily bread" may we remember our
Brothers and sisters who live below the
Poverty-line and pray "Give THEM today
their daily bread".

Give us the wisdom and courage to
challenge

The policies and structures which make
the poor even poorer, while we have more
than enough.

Grant us such deep compassion that we
will not rest while surplus food rots in one
part of the world and families starve in
another;

for your love's sake.

Based on words of Sister Margaret
Magdalen CSMV

Claire Ewers

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SUNDAY SERVICES

ST JAMES CHURCH, BEAUCHAMP LANE

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

ST FRANCIS CHURCH, HOLLOW WAY

10.30am Parish Eucharist
1st Sunday All Age bring n/share lunch

MID-WEEK SERVICES & MEETINGS

Morning Prayer	8.00am	Tue, Thu, Sat at St James; Mon at St Francis
Monday	10.00-11.30am	Little Stars Playgroup— St Francis
	2.30pm	Parish Mothers' Union— St James (3rd Monday)
Tuesday	10.00am	Seashells Toddler Group— St James
	12.00pm	Eucharist—Ranklin Room, St James Church Centre
	12.30pm	Tuesday Lunch Club— St James
Thursday	7.30pm	Local House of Prayer, St James

HOME GROUPS

Leader	Time/Venue
Friends of St Francis (Katherine Reed)	2nd & 4th Tuesday afternoons at 2.30pm St Francis Church
Geoff Bayliss	Alternate Wednesdays at 10am St James Church Centre, Ranklin Room
Mark Oxbrow	Alternate Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm Mark's home, 13 Annesley Road (just behind the Rose Hill Coop). Enquiries to Mark at 01865 461953
Rosanne Butler	Alternate Thursday mornings at 10.00am St James Church Centre, Ranklin Room

The Parish Office in St James Church Centre is staffed by volunteers and is not covered continually. Please leave a message and someone will get back to you.

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St Francis : Nick Dewey
Tel: 07952 524664

St James Church Centre Manager:

Chris Woodman Tel: 778078

Hall Bookings:

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

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