

Lead us by living waters

Some years ago I was leading a group of young people up to the summit of a Lakeland peak. The day was dark and damp (a typical August day!) and the first part of the walk involved several miles along a stony farm track. Initial excited chatter was soon replaced by silent trudging and then as the rain crept down our necks and the damp got into our socks the questions started. "Do we have to go up today?", "What's the point of walking into thick cloud?", "Can we stop for lunch yet?". My firm command kept this small community moving but then came the complaints, "My feet are wet?", "We're going to catch pneumonia.", "Steve used to let us go to the shops in Keswick on wet days." My sympathy (and secret inward desire also to be in a warm pub!) was not allowed to show. We trudged on, slowly, wet and miserable. That was until we turned a corner and met a wonderful mountain stream running down the hill towards us. At once spirits lifted, feet got lighter, cold and wet shirts were forgotten and a dozen young people were scampering over rocks, clambering over waterfalls and happily shouting to each other. Part of the skill of leadership is knowing how to keep a community together UNTIL you get to the good places.



But what sort of leaders do we need today? Last month Nepal elected Bidhya Devi Bhandari, a communist women's rights activist, as their first female President whilst in Russia the macho-

style leadership of Vladimir Putin seems to grow in popularity month on month. Closer to home we have seen the rise of the persuasive Nicola Sturgeon in Scotland and the sudden rise to power of the conviction-led Jeremy Corbyn in the Labour Party. Do we wish to be led by conviction, by authority, by encouragement, or perhaps by those who promise security, build consensus, or strength community?

James Edmeston's popular hymn "Lead us Heavenly Father" talks of being led "over the world's tempestuous sea" but goes on to speak of being "guarded", "guided", "kept" and "fed". A much older hymn (Psalm 23) speaks of being "led beside still waters" and "in paths of righteousness". Some of these sentiments are a far cry from the styles of leadership we see in parts of our world today and challenge us as Christians to re-examine our expectations of leadership. Two thousand years ago in a small Roman province on the eastern Mediterranean a small group of religious seekers struggled to understand their leader. He lacked the authority of a Roman centurion and the dignity of a Jewish rabbi. He amassed no wealth and raised no army. He gave few orders and seemed to prefer questions and stories ... and yet there was something about this carpenter Jesus which marked him out as unique, as THE leader. He never became Prime Minister, King or Emperor but for billions of people he has become the Way, the Truth and the Life. He leads.

In our parish we will welcome a new leader into our community this month. As Geoff arrives, with Mary by his side, we will discover his style of leadership. It may be a surprise! On the surface his leadership may be rather different from what we have experienced before but

Chronicle

November
2015

deep down it will be shaped by the leadership of Jesus. During the Induction service on Thursday 26 November at 7.30pm at St. James (at which you are, of course, expected!) we will pray for Geoff in terms rather similar to those four words I quoted from James Edmeston's hymn. We will ask God to help Geoff "guard" us as a shepherd guards sheep from danger, to "guide" us in the ways of Jesus, to "keep" us in our faith and to "feed" us with the words of God. But, just in case all that sounds far too serious, I want to end by

returning once more to my young friends climbing Scar Fell Pike. My personal prayer is that Geoff will lead us to the "living water" (as the prophet Isaiah describes the Spirit of God), to exciting, sometimes scary, places. To places where waterfalls gush, rocks tumble, rainbows form and spray wets my hair and lips. May we all become as excited about the Living Water as those young people were about the tumbling mountain stream.

Mark Oxbrow

Editor's Letter

Dear Readers

Well, November's here at last and by the time you read your next Chronicle our new Rector will have been installed and the Rectory in Beauchamp Lane won't look so sad and lonely.

Before that, of course, we have our famous Craft Fair when bargains will abound. Whatever you do, don't complete your Christmas shopping until you have taken advantage of the wonderful things on offer. Last year I bought a very pretty pendant which has been much admired and looks far more expensive than the £3 I paid for it. You see what I mean about bargains.

How are you enjoying the new LED street lighting in our area? Personally I love it. The other evening we looked out into our front garden, thinking it was flooded with moonlight only to realise that it was the light from the new street lamp which had just been installed. I understand that running these new lights will be far less costly in electricity than the old ones thus justifying the cost of replacing them.

I wonder how many of you take advantage of the advertisements in The Chronicle? Frank and I decided to call Lindars, who regularly advertise, to fix a new bell on our front door. We have seldom, if ever, had such prompt, efficient and reasonable service. They were excellent. When I mentioned this to Sally (my co-editor) she told me that she had experienced the same exceptional service (and they had paid for the advert within hours of receiving the bill). I

understand, while we are on the subject of advertisers, that quite a few of you have used the services of Michael Holden too and have been more than satisfied. Have you had exceptional service from any local tradesman? If so please let us know and we will ask if they wish to advertise in The Chronicle - a personal recommendation is very worthwhile.

Those of us who remember the Spence family and mourned with them at the death of dear Beth are also delighted to celebrate with Michael and his new wife a new addition to the family. I understand that their baby boy, recently arrived, has been greeted, literally, with open arms by his big half-brothers and sisters. Congratulations to them all.

Next month will be the double Christmas issue of The Chronicle and we try to make it as special as we can so I am wondering if any of you, our readers, have a good story, seasonal if possible, a poem or any other articles that you would like us to include. Remember it is your magazine and love to get pieces from as wide a range of contributors as possible. They don't have to be works of great literature (you only have to read my articles to realise that!), just your stories please.

I hope you enjoy this month's issue and that the autumn contwe inues to delight us all with its glorious colours and glimpses of warm sunshine.

God bless.

Rosanne

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

Fly while you still have wings

by Joyce Rupp 2015. (and other lessons my resilient mother taught me)

This is a wonderful unique book! I have read many of Joyce Rupp's spiritual books – she has been writing for 30 years. In this book she shares the story of her own grief, offering readers both a profile of her mother's resilient spirit and a voice of compassion for their own experience of loss. Her mother lived a life filled with hard labour and constant responsibility. Joyce shows how the difficulties of her mother's early years and family life, including the death of a 23 year old son in an accident forged a resilience in her mother. This affectionate profile of their relationship reveals how Joyce sometimes failed to listen to and accept and understand her mother in her latter years. I personally found this book challenging and at times hard, but so helpful, leaving me with a spirit of hope, reconciliation and peace. Actually the book title speaks loudly, so “fly while you still have wings!!”

The Awesome Journey (Life's pilgrimage)

by David Adam SPCK 2015.

Another treasure from David Adam! We have received so many wonderful books from one of the best loved figures in Celtic Spirituality. He reminds us that God is in our midst, and the more we are aware of this, the more exciting our awesome journey becomes. He invites us to come and explore with him!

God's question to Adam 'Where are you?' is relevant to us all. Abraham's long journey of hearing and obeying (and learning the art of having no agenda) is ours too. David explores Jacob's life, Moses, Elijah and even the return of the Prodigal Son is a disarming reminder of the welcome that awaits each of us, while Paul's call to rejoice inspires us to be fully present each day.

As we continue to move forward, these profound insights on grief and glory, emptiness & fulfilment, repentance & forgiveness, loving & being loved, will transform the way we live and the way we relate to God here and now.

This would make a lovely Christmas present!

Helen Beetham

ST. JAMES CHURCH

CHRISTMAS GIFT AND CRAFT FAIR

Saturday 14th November
10.00 am to 2.00 pm

St James Centre, Beauchamp Lane, Cowley

Enjoy refreshments while you shop

Excellent Christmas Raffle with really good prizes

- Home-made cakes and preserves
- Handmade crafts for that special gift, including
 - Copper foil glassware
 - Good second-hand books
 - Canvas paintings of a modern design
 - Suncatchers and hand crafted cards
 - Usborne Books
 - Handmade polymer clay beads/jewellery
- Tombola and lots, lots more

all at prices you can afford

ALSO COME AND MEET FATHER CHRISTMAS

All proceeds will go towards refurbishment at St James Church
Please come and join us

A FLOATING MISSION

We tend to think of ourselves in these modern times as being trendy guys when it comes to new ideas on mission and outreach. The people in olden times were just old fashioned and out of touch. Yet this was not entirely true. In early Victorian times before the advent of the railways to Oxford much of our heavy goods reached us via the Canals in canal boats. In addition to coal, which was in tremendous demand, corn, malt, slate, seed and salt also arrived by canal boat. So the Boat People had to work very hard, and had little time for leisure and even less for church worship or education.

It was felt by some in authority that they were a deprived and neglected body of workers. So someone came up with the idea of a Floating Chapel on the canal especially for the Boat People. It was felt that in addition to Sunday services it could provide a venue for the children to be educated. Henry Ward, a prosperous coal merchant and boat builder provided both the finance and the expertise. The vessel comprising a converted river barge 70 ft. long by 14 ft. wide on which the superstructure of a Chapel was built, and it was capable of accommodating 150 people. It was described as being of a chaste and elegant design, judiciously decorated with appropriate ornaments. It was consecrated by the Bishop of Oxford in December 1839.

The Parish of St Thomas provided the minister and a school mistress was found for the children. Finance was provided on an annual basis from various sources and a central site was found on the canal to berth it. So mission idea became mission fact.

It lasted for 30 years and then quietly sank to the bottom of the canal. It was not thought worthwhile to try and raise it. So that was the end of the Boatman's Chapel.

John Shreeve

I LOST MY HUSBAND IN TESCO'S

I lost my husband in Tesco's,
It's ever so easy to do.
I'd popped down the aisle to get loo rolls
And stopped for some kitchen roll too.

I told him I'd just be a moment
I turned round and he wasn't there
I thought I knew where to find him
But no, I searched in despair.

I headed at first to the end aisle
Where Tesco's stock all of their booze.
An Australian red or some Chilean
Or Italian, what would he choose?

A lady who works stacking shelves
Could see I was wand'ring about
"Something wrong, dear?" she asked very kindly
Thinking "Old dear (confused)", I've no doubt.

"Yes, I have just lost my husband,
I had him five minutes ago".
"Well, I'll help you find him" she offered
"What's he wearing?" she wanted to know.

" A blue shirt and nice beige trousers,
It was lovely and warm in the sun"
And just as I told her, she pointed
To a man so attired. Wrong one!

And would you believe we saw dozens
Of fellows in slacks and blue shirts
But none of them looked like my husband.
She gave up on me, I felt quite hurt.

Then around the corner came someone
Dressed exactly like him, so I said,
"Well this one's much younger and handsome
So I think I'll take this one instead!"

Rosanne Butler

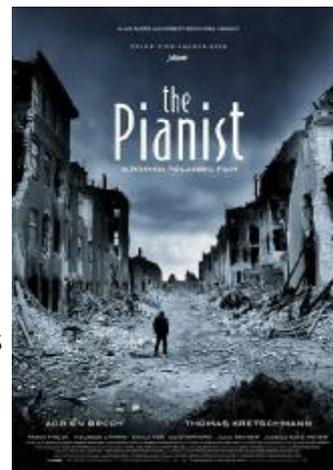
Film Club at the Centre

Three Oscars, two BAFTAs, best actor, best film, four stars from the critics and produced by Roman Polanski, I don't think the next film to be shown at Film Club needs any more recommendation than that from me. "The Pianist" is a "must-see" production despite the fact that it contains some quite disturbing incidents. Set in Poland in World War II it is based on the true story of a Jewish pianist who suffered degradation and brutal treatment in the Warsaw ghetto yet managed to survive uplifted by his love of music. Members, don't miss it!

Our October evening was as ever very well attended and marked our third birthday as a club. "Kramer vs Kramer" is a moving story with some

superb acting. One of our members remarked as she left at the end of the film that her withers had been thoroughly wrung! I think many of us felt that way.

As last year our November club night will be a week later than normal as the annual parish craft fair will be set up on 13th ready for the actual event on Saturday, 14th. So we are moving to 20th November this month. Please, members, do pass this news on to anyone you know who is planning to come.



5th COWLEY GUIDES

We started the new term with some new girls from 2nd Cowley Brownies. These girls are to be enrolled on the last meeting of this half term.

We decided to work on the Guide Personal Safety Badge. This includes looking at the right type of clothes to wear for different activities, plus the risks involved in these, safe walking routes to school and Guides, bullying, computer safety (cyber bullying).

At the same time we have been working on a Team-work Challenge Badge set by the 6th Whitley Bay Brownies. This included some fun activities, making something useful out of junk, a crystal maze evening and working out challenges. The Guides were in different teams to do each task to see how well they could work in teams.

We have just started an Autumn Challenge - have made family trees using leaves and twigs, finding out about in season fruit and vegetables, pumpkin carving and finding out about Diwali.

Cynthia Retter

COWLEY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

17 November 2015

Annual General meeting 7.15 pm

Followed by

TALK

William and Lizzie

The early lives of Lord and Lady Nuffield

An illustrated talk by Louise Hodges

At United Reformed Church, Temple Road, Cowley

Annual Membership fee £18 (OAP £16)

Visitors welcome £3 per meeting

DIARY DATES TO REMEMBER

Mothers' Union

Monthly Meeting on 3rd Monday of month
from 2.30pm.

St James Church Centre

November Meeting: Work of Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Berkshire Wildlife Trust

Women's Institute

Usually the monthly Meeting on 3rd Wednesday of
month from 2 – 4.30 pm St James Church Centre

November meeting: Reminiscing about Christmas

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)

The March of the Edibles

5 pm from Church Cowley St James School in Bartholomew Road to the Old School in Beauchamp Lane

Wednesday, 4 November, 5.00 – 5.45 pm

Christmas Gift and Craft Fair

14 November 2015, 10 am to 2 pm

St James Church Centre

Oxfordshire History Centre Open Day

Saturday, 14 November 2015 10 – 4 pm

St Luke's Church

St Francis Church Committee

Sunday, 15 November 2015 at 12.15 pm

St Francis Church

St James Church Committee

Tuesday, 17 November 2015, at 7.30 pm

St James Church Centre

Cowley Local History Society

Tuesday, 17 November 2015

Annual Meeting at 7.15 pm

Followed by an illustrated talk: "William and Lizzie
(The early lives of Lord and Lady Nuffield) by Louise
Hodges

Film Club

Friday, 20 November 2015 – "The Pianist"

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

Friends of St James Old School

Committee meeting: Saturday 21 November 2015,
9.45 for 10.00

St James Church Centre

Parish Sunday Lunch

Sunday, 22 November 2015 at 12.30 pm

St James Church Centre

Please fill in lists in churches or book in advance by
calling the Parish Office (01865 747680)

Installation of New Team Rector,

Rev Geoffrey Bayliss

Thursday, 26 November 2015, at 7.30 pm

St James Church

Cowley Festival of Christmas Trees 2015

4 – 13 December 2015

St James Church Centre

See article for details

Parochial Church Council Meeting

sunday, 6 December 2015, 12 noon

St James Church Centre

Treasure Island Theatre Visit

Creation Theatre, North Wall, Summertown, Oxford

Saturday, 9 January 2016 at 2.00pm

Contact Rev Skye Denno to get tickets

DO NOT FORGET – Tuesday Lunches at St James

Church Centre from 12.30 pm

FLOWER OF THE MONTH—GARDENIA

If you are lucky enough to grow a gardenia in a pot then you should congratulate yourself because they are notoriously difficult plants to grow. They are fussy about temperature, attract bugs and are difficult to water as they can “damp off” when you least expect it. Having said all of that they are one of the most exotic, fragile and beautiful plants in the world.

The gardenia was discovered in South Africa by the captain of an English ship in 1754. Captain Hucheson had gone ashore whilst his vessel “The Godolphin” was being provisioned and walking through a shrubbery he became aware of a sweet, heavy scent. He turned and saw a mass of huge white double flowers. He thought he had found a plant dropped straight from heaven. He dug it up and carefully carried it back to London. It survived and was propagated. It became known as cape jasmine.

An English merchant and botanist John Ellis had a friend and colleague who went to settle and work in Charleston, America in 1751. This gentleman’s name was Dr Alexander Garden. He worked as a physician, collected plants and kept in close touch with European botanists. He was sent (from Ellis) two gardenia plants. By now it was suggested that the flower should change its name from cape jasmine to gardenia



to recognise the fine work of Dr Garden. Unfortunately along with many other people he lost both his precious plants! However he did name his granddaughter Gardenia. He told friends that he took the loss of his plants as a bad omen for the perpetuation of his name.

The plant belongs to the madder family Rubiaceae. As the name suggests the rose madder was used for centuries for the deep red dye produced from its roots. As for the gardenia, a word of advice to prospective brides – if you want to waft down the aisle on your wedding day in a cloud of gorgeous perfume then choose for your bouquet a dozen white gardenias as I did. One tiny breath of the scent brings back memories of a special day.

Rosanne



FRIENDS OF ST JAMES
OLD SCHOOL
invites you to the
**MARCH OF THE
EDIBLES**
Wednesday 4 November
lantern procession, leaving Church
Cowley St James School at 5.00 pm
5.15 pm at St James Old School
the launch of Friends of St James Old School
and the allotment garden declared open
by Cllr Rae Humberstone,
the Lord Mayor of Oxford
music and refreshments

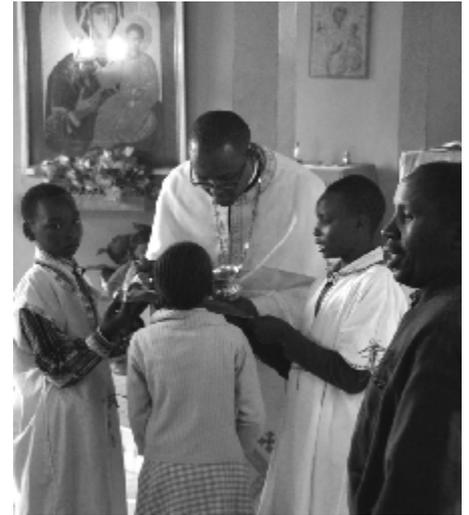
Aiming high in Kenya

When someone mentions the Orthodox Churches we normally think of ancient churches in Russia or perhaps the monasteries on Mt. Athos in Greece but in September I found myself visiting a vibrant Orthodox church in an African village. I came away inspired (and then had four days in hospital to reflect on my experience!)

Early on the Sunday morning we made our way out through the modern suburbs of Nairobi with their shopping malls and gated estates to a large village called Muguga. As my driver negotiated the giant pot holes and rocks on the mud roads he explained to me that he had lived all his life in this village and was brought up in the Orthodox Church there. His priest later explained that the church had been established 90 years ago and was one of over a hundred Orthodox churches close to Nairobi. The service had already begun when I arrived and I found a place to stand as the priest chanted the ancient liturgy of St. John Chrysostom (4th. century) but in the local language with the words appearing on a screen above the altar. (More advanced than Cowley parish I thought to myself!) As often happens in Africa I was called forward to preach with no notice given ... praise God for the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. The solemn liturgy finished and I was about to leave when the women's group entered the church again with drums and dances, to be followed by an amazing drama by the children telling the story of the cross.

The drama, and more singing and dancing, over the priest took me to the church hall for tea and then announced that we were going to the home of an elderly member who was sick and could not get to church. I thought he meant himself and me but not so – half the congregation, 50 people, came! Crowding into the tiny (wood and tin) house and yard we proceeded with another time of worship which would have been perfectly ac-

ceptable in any Pentecostal church. The elderly lady was prayed over anointed with oil and even given a small gift of money from the church to help her buy medicines. Perhaps



our congregations at St. Francis and St. James could start doing home visits like that!

After lunch, a simple meal of rice and beans, at the home of a parishioner, I was taken to the priest's home to pray with his uncle whose house had burned to the ground two weeks before – he lost everything, just a heap of ashes left.

At the end of a full day I was left with an impression of:

A church that brings ancient faith and modern culture together in very creative ways;

A church that values, involves and listens to its many young people;

A church that takes pastoral care very seriously, not leaving it to the priest;

A church which aims high, expects to grow, wants to have a strong witness in its community.

As we walked back to the church from the home of the elderly parishioner I asked a young boy of about twelve what his father did. He told me he was a builder. "And you", I said, "what do you want to do when you leave school. " He looked me straight in the eye and said, "Mister, I'm going to be a bishop." There is nothing wrong with aiming high!

Mark Oxbrow

Friends of St James Old School

Chair: Lesley Williams
Secretary: Eva Sommers
Treasurer: Richard Mohun
Membership: Rosanne Butler

Wednesday 4 November, 5.00 - 5.45 will see the official launch of the Friends of St James Old School and the opening of the allotment garden in the playground by the Lord Mayor of Oxford, Cllr Rae Humberstone. At 5.00, children from Church Cowley St James School will parade with fruit and vegetable shaped lanterns which they have created specially, from the Bartholomew Road site to the Old School - the March of the Edibles! There will be singing and refreshments. PLEASE SHARE THE OCCASION WITH US

And then, please sign up as a member of the Friends of St James Old School! We now have a bank account so are keen to start enrolling members! An information leaflet and membership form are available in both churches – the annual subscription is £10 single, £20 family. We hope to sign up many former students and staff – and all interested local residents.

And/or you can donate more in order to support the urgent work which needs to be done to the building to keep it safe and waterproof. We are seeking grants but matched funding is urgently required.

Progress on the future of the building: we are waiting to hear (the decision should be made by Christmas) whether the County Council will support Church Cowley St James School's business plan for the building to become the school's 2 and 3 year olds' Foundation Stage setting, freeing up space in the Bartholomew Road building for the older Nursery children. The capital funding would come from the Government's 2 year olds' provision pot.

Please see and like us on facebook : it's a public group page [www.facebook.com/Friends of St James Old School](http://www.facebook.com/Friends%20of%20St%20James%20Old%20School), Cowley.

e-mail us : oldschoolcowley@gmail.com

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

You will be pleased to know that £345.10 was collected at the MacMillan Coffee Morning held on Saturday, 26 September 2015 at St James Church Centre. Many thanks for all those who contributed cakes and came along to support this event.

A young man had just proposed to a beautiful girl with absolutely no success. “Why won’t you marry me”, he pleaded, “Is there someone else?” She replied with a deep, deep sigh “There has got to be”.

Children's Church, St James

So far in Children's Church this term we have been looking at the lives of some of the great characters in the Old Testament, including Ruth, Samuel, King Saul and Solomon. We have also been involved in the Harvest Festival service and an all-age Baptism service. After half-term we will discover some more Biblical heroes before exploring the season of Advent and, of course, preparing our contribution to the Christmas Tree Festival! We are also hoping to get together with the Children's Church at St Francis for some Christmas fun.

Although we are sometimes small in numbers we are very enthusiastic and enjoy our time in the Church Centre. The leaders (John Booty, Caroline and William Hartley, Catherine Hartley, Jill Ling and Harriet Stevens) love teaching and engaging with the children and it is so rewarding to watch the children grow in their faith.

Please pray that the Children's Church would continue to grow and flourish, and that each child that comes would be blessed by their time with us.

Catherine Hartley

An Afternoon to Remember

The pupils of Church Cowley St James School will, no doubt, remember for a long time the afternoon of Wednesday, 14th October 2015. Some of them will never forget it because it is not every day that you meet a very famous Premiership footballer face to face. On that day a local hero Martin Keown came to officially open the smart, newly surfaced, playing field at the school in Bartholomew Road. What made the occasion special was the fact that Martin is an ex-pupil of the school and very proud of the fact. What made it even more special was the way he stood and talked to the children about how he followed his dream to play top-level soccer and encouraged each of them to find their own dream and follow it. He spoke in a down-to-earth way (the Cowley way) to youngsters who listened eagerly to him. He recalled memories of living in Dodgson Road as a small boy, of being signed into Arsenal Football Club's youth academy at the age of thirteen and the excitement of winning his first FA cup medal.

To add the icing on the cake for almost a hundred eager autograph hunters, Martin sat and signed, smiled, agreed to endless photographs and spoke individually to the pupils and parents who had queued up patiently to meet him. As I said at the beginning they won't forget it, I am sure.



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There were two brothers, one of whom had died. On bumping into the survivor an elderly lady asked, "Now let me see is it you or your brother who has died?"

A Letter from Jill Ling

A huge thank you for all your faithful prayers for our eldest daughter Beth as she battles breast cancer. Ed and I had been with her in June as she had the mastectomy and then late August I flew out to Ecuador alone to offer some support as she had daily radiotherapy treatment.

We seem to have had frequent visits to Heathrow Airport this year! In July our youngest daughter Anna departed from there for Bolivia where she is working with Tearfund. While I was with Beth and family in Ecuador Anna was able to join us for a few days and we all went out to celebrate Anna's birthday plus the completion of Beth's radiotherapy with a wonderful meal in a beautiful restaurant/hacienda the other side of the mountain from Beth and Ossie's apartment in Quito. It was wonderful to have Anna with us but that's a whole other story there about God's goodness in an unusual rapid release of her passport and visa from the Bolivian authorities!

Beth continues to be happy, resilient and calm about all the hospital trips and medical interventions. So far this year she has had 10 stays in hospital (including life-threatening Sepsis),

plus 25 trips for the radiotherapy plus numerous appointments with a variety of medical experts. Now the treatment after radiotherapy is about to commence; this is a precaution to mop up any micro cancer cells that may be lurking in her body as the doctors are fairly certain all cancer was removed with the surgery. The chemo from earlier in the year has knocked out Beth's immune system giving her other complications that are treatable by tablets and the thrombosis that occurred at the time of the sepsis means other additional complications; she is looking at a further year of medical interventions.

As a family we are all extremely grateful for and humbled by extended family and friends' concern, care and support both prayer and financial. Amazingly their current financial needs have been met and we praise God our Heavenly Father for all the many, many answers to prayer. Please continue to pray for Beth's health and the children's peace of mind about their mummy especially when daddy Ossie has to go away on business trips.

Jill Ling

It does not matter how many Christmas cards you send this year you can be sure that the first one you receive will be from someone you have forgotten.

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ROLE DESCRIPTIONS OF VOLUNTEERS

More roles undertaken by Lesley Williams are given below:

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL CONVENOR

2015 will be our fourth Cowley Festival of Christmas trees – the first in 2011 was just for a single weekend but festivals 2, 3, and 4 have been/are for 10 days.

The role involves coordinating and minuting the planning and review meetings – we start in May/June – contacting all the groups and schools which participate and collecting registrations – coordinating the programme, opening times, mini-concerts and events during the festival and currently, also dealing with all the advertising/media relations – but that should really be someone else's job!

CHRISTIAN AID/FAIRTRADE CO-ORDINATOR

The Parish of Cowley is committed to supporting Christian Aid – additional to its annual 5% mission giving allocation plus sundry ad hoc donations to emergency appeals, MacMillan Cancer Relief etc. and the Christmas Tree Festival fundraising for ROSY and SeeSaw.

We set an annual target of £2,000, collected through Christian Aid Week (May); at least one Quiz Aid evening; a Super Soup lunch and, for the last 3 years, sponsorship of Lesley Williams' abseiling from St Mary Magdalen Church tower, in central Oxford.

Christian Aid Week is the most time consuming: bundling up the envelopes, encouraging collectors to enrol, delivering and collecting in a couple of streets, counting and paying in the money. *(Those of us who annually collect door to door have discussed whether this method is worth the time committed, given that an increasing number of homes either ignore the call or refuse/decline to give – but it is an annual opportunity to declare our Christian pledge to our disadvantaged brothers & sisters worldwide. And in 2015 we considerably increased our total!)*

Cowley was formerly a registered Fairtrade Parish, committed to the 100% use of basic Fairtrade products for Parish meetings, after services, at lunches etc. as well as the 'celebration' of Fairtrade Fortnight (February/March). That had lapsed but a Fairtrade policy has just been accepted by the PCC and we will actively pursue re-registration, moving to a greater use of the range of fairtrade products that are now readily available in the supermarkets.

REDUCE/ REUSE/ RECYCLE EXPEDITER

As Christians, we are co-creators with God and should be actively committed to care for Mother Earth by our careful use of her resources. This involves being educated about mankind's impact on the climate and ecology as well as a practical, day to day, small scale commitment to use resources sparingly.

Living in Oxford, it is now much easier than formerly to recycle on the doorstep with the weekly/ fortnightly mixed collections. But it still needs care to know what can and cannot *(still no polystyrene or crisp/sweet/biscuit/fruit wrappers)* be recycled and to reuse as much as possible. *Hurrah for the 5p plastic bag charge – if only it was 20p!*

As a Parish, we are also conscious of our carbon footprint and are eagerly awaiting the solar panel installation on the St James Centre roof, before the end of the year. Should we develop a policy for walking, cycling, car sharing?

'THE DOOR' COLLECTOR

The Cowley Deanery stock of the monthly Diocesan newspaper is delivered to St Michael's Church, Marston Road. Cowley's supply of 125 copies is collected from there and distributed to St Francis, St James, St James Centre and the three Parish schools in the week of publication, towards the end of each month.

Winding down to winter

We now have no hedge at the bottom of our garden. Our son, Tom, came with a friend a couple of Saturdays ago and removed all the rest of the laurel hedge including grinding out the stumps. Quite a lot of large trunks all went through the chipper to make a van load of chippings which we were able to tip on the allotment site for use of the gardeners down there. There was a strong smell of almonds, as laurel contains cyanide. I would not like to be in an enclosed space with it. As a child collecting insects, I often used a laurel leaf in a lidded jar with a butterfly. The cyanide stops respiration and quickly kills.

So we are open to the pathway access to the houses behind us. I am waiting for a quote for fencing so we can get going doing something to the extra space we have uncovered. I do want some fruit with spring bulbs and, perhaps, hellebores underneath.

I am in a quandary as to what to do with my dahlias in my new border. They have produced some tremendous growth this year and have been belting out flowers now for months. When we get our first frost, it will be curtains for all that greenery. All the old gardening books tell you to cut off the blackened stems to a few inches, lift the tubers and put them somewhere frost-free and upside down to drain any sap and then, when dry,

treat them with flowers of sulphur to prevent rotting and then pack them round with dry compost or newspaper to protect them over the winter. However, if you get a mild winter, a protection of a dry mulch of straw or bracken will keep them alive still in the ground. I think I might go the lazy way and hope that dire predictions of a hard winter to come will not come true. After all, it didn't happen last winter did it?

We have taken down the runner bean supports on the allotment and done some tidying for the winter. We have, though, begun next year by planting out our garlic. The raspberries, which we newly planted last November, have grown well this year and the Autumn ones, variety Joan J (!), are cropping well as I write in mid-October.

Also cropping well are my chillies in the greenhouse. I will harvest them soon and freeze them in a plastic box – easy to fish out for cooking. The tomatoes did well this year especially the cherry tomatoes, Sunberry. I also loved the old beef tomato favourite, Marmande. One slice will fill a sandwich! I will find a sunny day to clear out the greenhouse and give it a clean ready for seed sowing for next year's Plant Sale. Put Saturday 21st May in your diaries!

Joan Coleman

Rosanne interviews Dr Emily Jensenius

It would seem to me that St James Church choir have been extraordinarily lucky to find a lady like Emily. Several members of the choir were quite distressed to hear a month or two ago that their choirmaster Mark Porter was leaving to take up a music fellowship in Germany. How would they manage without him? Well the answer was right under their noses in the shape of an attractive young doctor of music who describes herself as a bit bossy and has plenty of expertise to take up the baton. (Not that anyone conducts our choir with a baton, if you know what I mean!).

So what brought Emily to Cowley, I asked? Would you believe it was an excellent bus service into the City of Oxford and plenty of good shops. Although I must admit that is a rather simplistic answer on my part as what really brought her here was her husband, John, who is working at Nuffield College. He looked around for the most likely place to take up residence whilst based in Oxford and plumped for Cowley. Now how lucky for us was that? Because we now have both John and Emily in our midst. It was John, too, who suggested that they should look around for a church to belong to. In a very short time they found St James. Emily described to me the lovely welcome she received the very

first time she came to church greeted as she was first of all by Ed and Jill Ling and soon under the wings of Josh and Claire. She and John have joined Josh and Claire's home group, made plenty of friends and love the family atmosphere they have found.

So from which part of the world did they hail? America is the answer. Emily grew up in a small town near Seattle in Washington with the intriguing native American name of Issaquah. She and her two younger sisters were home-schooled right into their teens mainly by their mother. Several other family friends were also taught at home so in order to take advantage of trips to museums and other places of interest they would join up with them and set off on all kinds of expeditions. Her mother and grandmother were fine classical pianists and at the age of six Emily began her musical education. At ten she began to learn the violin with a private tutor. She soon joined the local youth orchestra and found herself very busy with practices, rehearsals and concerts. Her grandfather had an old German violin tucked away in a cupboard which he gave her to play.

At sixteen she took classes at her local community college in preparation for entrance to university. The requirement of

a much wider range of subjects to be studied in American universities meant that she did two year courses in maths, chemistry and Japanese alongside her continuing work on music theory. In all subjects she did well and was accepted at the Cleveland Institute. Not only did she study music but also such subjects as astronomy and modern dance. It was in Cleveland that she joined a string quartet playing viola. Under the tuition of a renowned tutor, James Dunham, the quartet toured giving many classical concerts. It was while at Cleveland that she fell in love.

She then spent two years continuing her studies at Huston University and, aged twenty four, married John. He moved to work in Florida and poor Emily, the new bride, spent her lonely hours keeping in touch by 'phone and Skype. However, the young couple were reunited when she had gained her masters degree and she joined him at Florida State University to study for her doctorate. She described the culture there as an interesting mix of students from all over the world diverse in their ethnic backgrounds. She was obviously very happy there. It took five years to qualify and then another move was on the cards.

John was invited to come to Oxford leaving Emily still in

Florida. She occupied herself with lots of musical “gigs” as she described her many musical performances. She was also working at her college. After six months she joined her husband and this is where we came in.

Church has always been important in Emily’s life. Since she was a young child she and her family were part of a church community in her home town. As a child, most of her friends were those she met at church. Sundays were regular worship days and Wednesdays were always for youth groups. Bible study alongside dramas, crafts and music were all features of these social evenings.

She met John through the United Methodist Group on campus at her first university and it was inevitable that once established in Cowley they would want to become involved with a church. Emily joined St James choir and now we can see where that has led her!

She loves living in Oxford. She is revelling in our museums, libraries and countryside. She is studying theology and church history and has recently discovered the wonderful treasure of country churches to be found in our Cotswold villages. She also has a tutoring position teaching music to three children (aged six, eight and ten) three or four times a week.

She spoke too of the choir of which she is now responsible.

She is conscious of the choice of material they can sing and is very confident that this will become more challenging as they progress. She described them as very dedicated. It looks as though with Emily’s professional expertise and their hard work we at St James are in for some musical treats in the near future.

How would you describe yourself as a small child?

I was very curious and also quite bossy.

What childhood memories would you like to share with us?

In the early 90s Dad had a video camera and he would take it around wherever we went. He would cut in video film of us and to make it seem like a real movie used to spin the globe to make the intro. Dad played piano at birthday parties, and we would dance. Dad also took us ski-ing in the mountains.

Has there been anyone who has had a strong influence on you?

There was a bouncy lady at our church who played guitar when I was very little. She made music joyous for us.

Has your faith been with you since childhood?

I was baptised at six. I felt the presence of God in church very early on.

What is your opinion on present-day society?

I am sort of a hopeful pessimist. I keep seeing human beings still making the same silly mistakes. I look around and see lots of people who are concerned and there is a desire to make the world a better place.

If you could change something what would you do?

I would like human beings not to be squabbling over natural resources like water, fuel, food and so on.

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

I would say the last third of my life both emotionally and spiritually.

How do you like to spend your leisure time?

John and I have hobbies in common – distance running. We have both run half and full marathons. We like to bake. “The Great British Bake Off” is our favourite TV. Apart from my study books I read novels, historical fiction and human interest books. I am a moderator on a religious forum – trying to be a peacekeeper.

What plans do you have for the future?

I would like to build my musical career performance-wise. And we do want to start a family.

MOTHERS' UNION NEWS

The wine, cheese and poetry evening which was held early in October was, as ever, a very pleasant event. Those who came remarked on the lovely supper and everyone brought poems to read. The profit which was made, £41, will go to Mothers' Union charities – Overseas Outreach to support branches, mainly in Africa, and Away From It All which provides "bucket and spade" seaside holidays for deprived families in this country. Our next evening event will be our popular "Puddings and Quiz" in February so do watch out for that.

The October branch meeting was a great success when members, who are old enough to remember shared memories of a war-time childhood. Mary told about being a small child in hospital (unbelievable compared with present day treatment). John told how he and his brother would peep over the wall at the Cowley airfield site and watch the broken aircraft being repaired by our amazing engineers. Marlene spoke about evacuating with her family to Anglesey and having to learn to speak Welsh. May was packed off to Switzerland after a serious illness and told us how well she was cared for despite walking barefoot in the snow as was the tradition. Cynthia was not born until after the war but told how her parents were caught up in the Coventry blitz. Patricia was born during the war but like many children did not get to meet her father until she was two years old. There were many more stories too of rationing, air-raid shelters, gas masks and evacuees. It was all great fun to share.

The November meeting on Monday, 16th should be interesting as we are

going to hear about the work done by the Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Berkshire Wildlife Trust.

As a change from tradition our December meeting, on 21st of the month, will take the form of a Christmas lunch rather than our usual tea-party. Please put the date in your diary and also note the time – 12.30 pm. We hope all our members will be able to come and we shall be inviting our new Rector and his wife to join us. It promises to be a lovely way to round off our Mothers' Union year together.

Please could any member who wishes to send Christmas cards to people in prison this year bring them to the November meeting. Let's remember that often prisoners have no other cards to put in their cells to indicate that it is Christmas.

A time for everything
There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens:
a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.

From the book of Ecclesiastes

BEING A FILM EXTRA – The Importance of Rain

One of my favourite productions was the four year stint as a regular on Larkrise to Candleford. As my ancestors originally came from Oxfordshire near where Emma Thompson lived, historically, I was the only true villager in Candleford the others came from Bristol and Wales as the actual set was based in Box, a village near Bath. However, working with each other for such a long time, we became “a family” which included the cast and crew and we had many a laugh.



The set was actually Neston Park Stud Farm owned by Sir James Fuller who was a very nice man with no airs or graces. Candleford was a hardboard frontage nailed onto the back of the stables, when someone entered any door they often came up

against a brick wall. The inside scenes were filmed in Yate and Larkrise Village was on a farm further up the road. Filming was often paused whilst mare and newly born foal were led out. There was also a resident dog called Rusty which got fatter and fatter with biscuits and sandwiches, it was a doggy Shangi la while we were there.

The very first scene I did was a picnic held during the journey whilst measuring the distance between the Candleford and Larkrise Villages. When the scene was shown it looked like a glorious English Summer’s Day but in reality it was absolutely bucketing down and between showers we had to pick up our long skirts and run from the picnic set to the nearest gazebo and squash in while thunder and lightning reined above. Natural rain doesn’t show on film which is why they have the dreaded pole orientated rain showers for scripted rain scenes, but that’s another story.

However, my friend and I had to pretend to drink non-existent tea from little china cups (being posh) and in front of us was a plate of sandwiches and a large pink blancmange. When the first shower came over the props man came rushing over with a large umbrella. “Thank you” we said “that was very thoughtful of you”. “Oh it’s not for you” he replied. “It’s for the blancmange, we don’t want it

damaged by raindrops” so there we were rain dripping down our necks protecting the dessert until the props man came back in a panic and carefully carried it away in a plastic mac. Then we legged it over to the gazebo.

Then there was the firework night scene, although the firework display was really a flashing strobe light to which we all “Oohed and Aahed”. It was also a very “crisp” night so even though we were layered with thermals under our costumes it was still cold. However, at midnight, our lovely caterers did us proud and provided a large urn full of hot chocolate, the best I had ever tasted. Feeling very warm and comforted we all drove off to our various destinations. The next time I filmed I commented on how lovely the hot chocolate was to our caterer. “It should have been” he replied “I put a whole bottle of brandy in there”!!

Hopefully, the brandy was highly diluted in that large urn and that “warm” feeling was just that, but I now always check the ingredients if I have a long journey home.

Keeping with the caterers, I remember one lovely day when we were all having lunch on the grass beside the farm buildings next to a cornfield. It was idyllic, with cows mooing and chickens running round the yard when our Welsh comic picked up two of the chickens under his arms and stamped up the steps of the catering van. We could hear him, between shrieks of laughter, complaining about the freshness of the free range chickens in his Sunday dinner and the fact they could have at least plucked them first.

My very last scene was a cricket scene and again, coincidentally, this beautiful English Summer’s Day was actually in the middle of a storm, we sat on the benches, clapping the players and gritting our teeth while the skies emptied above and ran down into our wellies concealed under our Victorian costumes.

But raining or not we wouldn’t have missed it for the world!

Sue Hallett.



ST CHRISTOPHER'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Lots of news from here – just very busy as usual!

The Governors have (finally!) appointed me as substantive Headteacher for the school. We had our statutory inspection as a Church school (SIAMS inspection) at the beginning of July. We were delighted to be rated as 'Good' for our distinctiveness and effectiveness as a Church of England school, with comments such as:

The school's values, based on biblical texts, ensure positive relationships across all the ages and different cultures within the school community.

The (acting) headteacher's dedicated leadership which has improved the Christian character of the school so that all adults and children feel valued and able to learn.

You can read the full report here: <http://www.st-christophers-pri.oxon.sch.uk/Documents/SIAMS%20Report%20-%20July%202015.pdf>

It has been lovely to continue our visits from the 'Open the Book' team of volunteers from the local churches. We have a regular assembly from them every second Monday morning, and the children really enjoy the lively interpretations of Bible stories. Reverend Skye visits us regularly and also led the Harvest/Autumn assembly. We are also pleased to announce that Rev Beth Allison-Glennie from Cowley Baptist church has recently agreed to become one of our Foundation Governors. She already knows the school as she also led some assemblies last year.

We continue to try to provide exciting learning opportunities for all the children in the school. This term we have had Year 1 visiting the Oxfordshire Bus Museum in Long Hanborough as part of their topic on transport. Year 4 have visited Sulgrave Manor near Banbury and had an amazing day dressed up as Tudor children and learning about Tudor life and Henry VIII. Year 5 spent a day at Youlbury Scout Camp in order to help them to develop language skills to link with their writing about Red Riding Hood. Some of them had never been to the woods before and the experience really helped their vocabulary choices for their work.

Our children also always enjoy taking part in local partnership sports events. This term one of our Year 4 football teams won the competition at Oxford Spires, Year 3 footballers also enjoyed an afternoon at Spires, and 13 children from Year 5 and 6 took part in the Cross-Country event with 11 other local schools.

The staff and children are looking forward to a well-earned week off at the end of October and ready to return for Term 2 and the busy term leading up to Christmas (am I allowed to mention that word yet!?)

We always welcome any visitors to school. If any local parents are thinking about schools for their 4 year olds for next September – please call the school and make an appointment with me for a visit. I always enjoy showing prospective parents around our lovely school, so please come and see for yourself! (The school office phone number is 01865 779772)

Sheenagh Broadbent
Headteacher

RECIPES

We are always on the lookout for something a little different for our recipes. Here are a couple of unusual puddings.

Cranberry Mousse

4 egg yolks
4 fl ozs cranberry juice
8 ozs canned whole cranberries or 8 ozs fresh cranberries cooked with 2 tablespoons of water and one tablespoon sugar
1 tablespoon orange juice
2 egg whites
2 ozs sugar
5 fl ozs chilled double cream

Put a small bowl on top of a saucepan of boiling water and pour the egg yolks into the bowl. Whisk them until they thicken and are pale in colour. Whisk in the cranberry juice.

Keep the saucepan over a low heat and continue to whisk until the mixture heats up and thickens. Do not let the mixture boil. Remove the bowl from the pan and stir in the cranberries and orange juice. Refrigerate the mixture for 30 minutes.

In a medium sized bowl beat the egg whites with the sugar until they reach stiff peak consistency. In another bowl whip the cream until it is thick. With a metal spoon carefully fold the cranberry mixture, cream and egg whites together then place in the fridge for at least 6 hours.

Spoon into individual serving dishes and serve

Coffee crumble

1 tablespoon flour
2 tablespoons cornflour
1 tablespoon drinking chocolate
8 fl ozs milk
8 fl ozs black coffee
6 tablespoons sugar
2 ozs butter
4 tablespoons crumbled digestive biscuits
4 tablespoons rolled oats



Preheat the oven to 170° C (Gas mark 3).

Mix together the flour, cornflour and drinking chocolate. Add a little of the milk and blend to a smooth paste. Heat the black coffee in a saucepan with the rest of the milk and 4 tablespoons of the sugar. Just before it comes to the boil pour a little of it over the chocolate paste, stir till the whole is blended. Return the mixture to the saucepan and cook over gentle heat stirring until it becomes thick and smooth. Pour into shallow baking dish and set aside.

In a small mixing bowl cream together the butter and remaining sugar till light and fluffy. Add the biscuit crumbs and oats and mix well. Spread evenly over the coffee mixture.

Bake in the oven for about 20 minutes.

If you are serving the dish hot serve immediately with whipped cream or ice-cream. This dish is also good served cold again accompanied by cream or ice-cream.

Three thoughts on committees:

If Moses had been on a committee the Israelites would still be in Egypt

A Committee is a group of the unwilling, picked from the unfit, to do the unnecessary.

A Committee is a group of people who individually can do nothing but together decide that nothing can be done

(Editor: No criticism of our committees meant)

NEWS FROM ST FRANCIS



Once again we at St Francis are tackling issues that are important to the ordinary people in our Parish. We want to show them that the things that matter to them, matter to us. At our recent Pet Service we looked at the problems involved in keeping pets and our attitudes to the animal kingdom. We are offering practical help to the Food bank who have run into problems regarding the storage of their food reserves. We are suggesting and arranging a Christian alternative to the Halloween Party – no witchcraft or magic. At our All Souls Service and Remembrance Day Services we are offering answers to the pain of bereavement and loss, which people feel very keenly.

As far as ordinary Parish matters are concerned, we are getting close to the arrival of our new Team Rector, which is exciting and will be a great relief to Skye, who has been under great

pressure. The date has already been announced for his installation, Colin Fletcher (acting Bishop of Oxford) has been booked to preside, and invitations have been sent out. We shall be looking for help with the refreshments.

Looking to the future there is another Fun Day in the offing and the dates for our Christmas events have been fixed. Owing to all that is going on already in November it is almost certain that our usual Caribbean Evening will have to be delayed this year. Our Worship Committee has again been looking at ways to implement and plan our services. All in all, plenty to keep us occupied and busy.

John Shreeve

THE COLOURS OF THE CHURCH

The month of November sees several changes to the 'hangings' in our churches. At the morning services on November 1st we celebrate 'All Saints'; at St Francis white will be used and at St James gold and red.

It is all change then for the same afternoon when at St James we have our annual memorial Service commemorating All Souls. The appropriate colour then is violet.

We revert to green for the two following Sundays. Then on the 22nd November we celebrate Christ the King when red on white will be used at St Francis and the gold and red at St James.

The Sunday after that is Advent Sunday when both churches will be using violet hangings – and the whole cycle begins again!

Margaret Martin

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My Singing Career

At about 10 years old and an 'orrible red haired freckly little brat, I was told I had one redeeming feature, my Ma thought I had a great soprano voice. I am assuming she knew one when she heard one as she and her Mother, my Gran, were both amateur singers so I was coaxed and expected to perform at the drop of a hat for all and sundry, which I HATED!

I hated performing and was confined to my room several times for stamping absolute refusals. I had no aspirations at all and I never bothered with it again as a young woman.

Gran and Gramps were regular Army and as he was an Officer she was able to give little singing soirees in the Mess from time to time. When she had her first daughter, my Ma, the same pressure happened to her but she loved singing and would burst into song for anyone and did the current circuit in Swindon where they lived until she married and came to live in Oxford.

Now I have four daughters who love nothing better than to exercise their lungs and all have incredible voices which is such a joy to me. Back in 2010 my youngest daughter and I were in Reading Town Centre shopping about 1 o'clock and spotted a church hall with posters on the wall offering an open invitation to come in and have a taster session for the Oxfordshire Rock Choirs, tea

and coffee available, which after shopping was a sizeable draw. We went in and by 5 o'clock we were hooked totally and overwhelmed by the joy of the experience. We paid our fee and joined on the spot. I have hardly missed a week since then. We were at the music rooms in Cherwell School for about three years until I moved to the Abingdon morning group as it meant not having to go out on dark winter evenings.

We have performed at Wembley, the O2 arena, Highclere Castle, countless market squares at Christmas and summer fetes and many many places in Oxfordshire/Beds/ Bucks and raised loads of cash for charity - our own particular Rock Choir charity is 'Missing from home'. We met at the NEC in Birmingham back in February when 15,000 of us joined together for the RC 10th Anniversary, joined by several celebrities.

Three of my daughters are in choirs, one is a Rockie, the others are in the Oxford City choir at St. Michael in the Northgate church and I dare say (hope) any more females born into this family will be blessed as we all are.

Oh! I suppose I should say, the male voices in the family are not too bad either, just in case any of them read this.

Pat Sansom

CHRONICLE

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

Deadline for the next edition:

Wednesday 25 November 2015

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

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SAINT OF THE MONTH—STANISLAUS KOSTKA

Our young saint this month lived in the sixteenth century. On first encounter it is hard to understand how such a short life could have earned him saintly status. However, with a faith as strong as his and an even stronger determination his saintly nature reveals itself.

He was born in Poland in 1550 to a noble and wealthy family. Home for him in his early years was a grand castle with servants to wait upon his family. He and his older brother Paul were educated by a private tutor as was the tradition for rich young men at the time. Whilst still young teenagers the two boys were later transferred to the Jesuit College in Vienna. Their tutor accompanied them.

Stanislaus became the victim of bullying from his brother and when he discussed the problem with their tutor he received no support at all. On top of this their lodgings in a Lutheran household in Vienna was less than satisfactory. As a consequence Stanislaus fell ill. As he recovered he decided that his future lay within the Jesuit brotherhood. When he attempted to join in Austria he was rejected. He was just sixteen. So strong was his belief in his calling that he decided to put his case to the brotherhood in Rome and he set out on the 350 mile walk to do it.

On the way he met an important Jesuit priest who was given charge of the movement in Austria, Bavaria and Bohemia. His name was Peter Canisius. He established a college in Prague which became famous for its religious and academic standards. Although Stanislaus received encouragement from Canisius he was also tested to establish his sincerity and whilst he took time out from his long walk to Rome he was given menial tasks to fulfil at the college. He passed the tests with flying colours and was sent on his way.

He finally reached Rome, still only seventeen years old and sought out another important leader of the Jesuit movement Francis Borgia. This grand gentleman had been born the son of a duke and was the grandson of Pope Alexander VI. He enjoyed marriage and family life with all the privileges his high status afforded. However when his wife died he left all his wealth and titles to his children and secretly joined the Jesuit Society. In Rome he built the Roman College and it was here that our young saint fell under his influence. At the age of seventeen he was admitted into the Society of Jesus as the brotherhood was called.

During the remainder of his life he became a model of religious piety in all respects. He had visions of many kinds and spent his time in study, prayer and contemplation. He was only a student at the College for about nine months and at the age of nineteen he unexpectedly died. Less than 100 years later he was declared a saint and 13th November was chosen as his feast day.

FLORENCE PARK

Over 60's Lunch Club

The Over 60's Lunch Club is open to anyone from the Oxford Area who is aged over 60. There is no charge but if someone wanted to make a small voluntary contribution it will be accepted. The Club is held every Friday from 12 – 2 pm. The first hour is usually an agreed activity or just a chat which is then followed by a hot lunch.

Florence Park Community Centre is based in Cornwallis Road opposite to where Donnington School used to be, which is now Isis Care Centre.

COWLEY FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS TREES 2015

4 - 13 December 2015

'The twelve days of Christmas'



Registration forms are now available: if you belong to or know of a group, business or family who would like to be involved by entering a tree, ask for a form! Alternatively, we are for the first time offering businesses the chance to sponsor a tree: ask for details about that, too! We are aiming for 50 trees this year, and to raise £2,000: £1,000 each for ROSY & SeeSaw.

We *still* hope to find someone who will take on the advertising/media relations which is essential to ensure maximum coverage and support for the event and its fundraising.

Later in November, we will be signing up

- (1) door to door deliverers of the advertising cards, during the w/b 23 November
- (2) stewards for the festival opening times, concert etc.
- (3) helpers for the festival fun day on Saturday 12 December. We would love it if every active worshipper in the Parish would offer to share in at least one of those tasks.

Please add these dates/times to your diary/calendar

Friday	4 December	5.30-7.00	opening reception, by invitation
Saturday	5	open 10.00-4.00 Concert 7.00	
Sunday	6	open 10.00-4.00	
Monday	7	open 2.00-4.00 with performances by local schools	
Tuesday	8	open 2.00-4.00 with performances by local schools	
Wednesday	9	open 6.30-8.30 with performances by local schools	
Thursday	10	open 2.00-4.00 with performances by local schools	
Saturday	12	open 10.00-4.00 10.00-2.00 Festival Christmas fun day	
Sunday	13	open 2.00-4.00 4.30 closing - Christingle service	

Lesley Williams 07982 429 828 ctf@cowleyteamministry.co.uk

The Long Wait

We owe a debt of gratitude to Skye for her leadership during our long wait for a Rector. Thank you Skye for your strong leadership.

We are equally gratefully to the office staff, led by May, and all those behind the scenes who have worked very hard during the wait and kept the Parish on course.

Thank you to you all

Una

News from the Belltower

I have very little to report this month. You will probably have noticed that we are only managing to ring on a few Sundays due to lack of ringers. We hope this will improve, and would love to have some new ringers to join us. When it is a quiet month for news, I thought I would begin to share some stories from the history of bell ringing. This month, here's a very brief look at women's place in ringing.

It is usually assumed that ringing was for men only until at least the end of the 19th Century. This advert for a striking competition certainly upholds that view:

"To all Gentlemen Lovers of Ringing: On Thursday the 25th of this Instant Marchthere will be at the Crown in Maldon, six hats of half a guinea value each to be rung for at the parish church of St Mary".

This was an advert for a striking competition in 1763, and many similar examples can be found. However, there were certainly some women ringing in this period. In 1770, this appeared in the Cambridge Chronicle:

"On Friday last a new peal of bells was opened in Sibsey in Lincolnshire, on which changes were immediately rung by five ladies."

There was certainly a lot of opposition to women ringers, and the vast majority of bands well into the 20th Century were all male. When women were allowed to ring, this was usually on the treble, and to this day there still remain many towers that refer to their treble as the ladies bell. Nowadays of course it is recognised that it is not brute strength, but good technique which is needed to ring heavier

bells (with the exception of a few such as the 4 tonne tenor of Liverpool Cathedral).

The first recorded all female band was in Saffron Waldon. Bell News, the Bell ringers magazine of the time reported their efforts in June 1890, and no other group came forward to refute their claim:

"The band of lady ringers at this town who are under the tuition of Mr F Pitstow, rang upon the tower bells rounds and call-changes in the honour of Her Majesty's birthday. We imagine it is the first time in history that a peal of Church bells has been rung by a band of the fair sex".

In 1912 the Ladies Guild was formed to bring ringing ladies together, and try and improve standards. The measure of their success is that they are still going strong today, with several branches, and a full calendar of events all over the country. In the 1970's and 80's there was some concern that ringing would become an almost all female event, as the number of girls learning, far outweighed boys, but this never materialised. At present there is a good mix of men and women, girls and boys all ringing together, and with all levels of ability. It's one of the reasons I enjoy it so much.

Lindsay Powell

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INDUCTION OF OUR NEW TEAM RECTOR

We are very much looking forward to the Installation of our new Team Rector the Rev Geoffrey Bayliss on Thursday 26th November at St James Church.

As you probably know we have had a lengthy period of vacancy, sometimes known as an Interregnum, in which we have been one vital member of staff short. During this time however there is a long but necessary due process to be followed between appointments.

We have managed, thankfully to continue most of our activities under the able lead of Rev Skye Denno and our SSMs (Self Supporting Ministers) and volunteers.

However, we are pleased to say we are now at the end of this period and are looking forward to a new chapter in the history of the Church in Cowley. We want to see where God leads us and know we will be able to do more and in new ways with this fresh input and energy.

We have planned a welcome which will be attended by local clergy, some dignitaries and a full congregation.

It is also the official start of a new incumbent's office so the Rt Revd Colin Fletcher the Acting Bishop of Oxford and the Archdeacon of Oxford, Martin Gorick will carry out the formal investiture.

Geoff and Mary both come from a teaching background which will be very useful in our work with the schools and young people. They will be living at the Rectory. They have two grown up daughters that live away. We hope you will soon meet them and welcome them to our Parish.

Churchwardens: Dave Stanley Norah Shallow

SIGNIFICANT DATES IN NOVEMBER

On 8th November in 1951 three climbers in the Himalayas discovered and photographed giant footprints in the snow. The footprints were said to be made by the Yeti (otherwise known as the Abominable Snowman) and were found on the lower slopes of Mount Everest.

King Edward VII was born on 9th November in 1841. His mother was Queen Victoria. He was born as heir to the throne and had to wait sixty years to become King as, of course, will our own Prince of Wales.

The Scottish explorer, James Bruce, became the first European to reach the source of The Blue Nile in Ethiopia on 14th November 1770. The Blue Nile is a tributary of the main River Nile.

St Peter's Basilica in Rome was dedicated on 18th November 1626. It is believed to be built over the tomb of St Peter who was martyred in Rome in 64 AD.

On 26th November 1703 England experienced a Great Storm killing an estimated 8,000 people. There wasn't another storm like it until the hurricane of 1987.

On 27th November 1703 the first lighthouse built in Britain on the Eddystone Rocks was destroyed in the Great Storm. The present Eddystone lighthouse is the fourth to be built on the rocks.

REPORT FROM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

PCC meetings were held on the 19th July and 18th October 2015. Both these meetings were to discuss outstanding matters after the special meetings held to discuss the replacement of the Rector, and the following shows the vast range of subjects discussed:

Faculties: Refurbishment of the Kitchen at St Francis has been awarded a Faculty, and work will begin in February.

Refurbishment of Vestry at St James

Sale of Redundant Bell at St Francis

CEF Storage Facilities at back of St Francis Church

These three items have been agreed by the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC), and Chancellor agreement and a Faculty are awaited.

Bell Tower at St James: The lead work has been completed and a suitable ladder is on order.

Solar Panels at St James Church Centre: This does not require a Faculty but needs planning permission, and the necessary application has been made.

Finance: At both meetings there was discussion on the finances of the Parish, and great concern that more is being spent from the General Fund than income. Although it is appreciated that the bulk of the spend is on the Parish Share there is general agreement that the Parish is extremely well served by having a Rector and a Team Vicar, and the cost of the Parish Share does not cover the cost of these two appointments, their accommodation, etc.

Joan Coleman has prepared a leaflet setting out what the Parish spends on basic requirements to keep the Parish working efficiently. This leaflet will be available in the churches very shortly and Stewardship will be discussed.

Mission Giving: Details of this are given on a separate report in The Chronicle.

Review by Ecclesiastical Insurance and the various documents needed within the Parish, some updates, such as a Health and Safety Policy, Fire Risk Assessments, Terms for Letting Parish Premises, Policy for dealing with finances at events and fund-raising activities. The PCC has agreed to a Parish Safety Group being set up – the membership consists of the two church wardens, the treasurer, the secretary to the PCC and the St James Church Centre Manager. This group will prepare draft paperwork for agreement by the Church Committees and the PCC.

The removal of the black barriers around the parking areas at St James Church Centre – suggestions have been made and the various options are going to be costed before further discussion by the Church Committee and PCC.

Anglican Asian Living Church: The Liaison Committee meets quarterly and reports back to the PCC.

Things are going well and the major item under discussion is storage.

Pastoral Care Policy: It is hoped that Parish agreement can be reached to a Pastoral Care Policy and this is going to be discussed by the Church Committees.

Fairtrade Policy: The PCC has agreed a policy on the new of Fairtrade goods within the Parish. This will be widely available shortly.

Installation of the Revd Geoffrey Bayliss on the 26 November 2015: Details of the arrangements were reported to the PCC, and arrangements are being made for a bring-and-share supper after this important event.

The next PCC Meeting is planned for Sunday, 6 December 2015, 12 noon, at St James Church Centre.

OLD MARRIED COUPLE

We've become all runty and straggly of late,
And are very partial to sardines, rice pudding,
Mind Imperials and old radio programmes.

Anything new-fangled, and we call the grandchildren
out,
And stand around, like infants,
While they instruct us on the instructions.

They've fitted a panic button in our little flat –
Which we try not to press all the time,
As everything puts us in a panic these days.

How did we get this way?
When we were first married, it was so different!
Life was clear and comprehensible,
And events seemed borne out by our optimism;

But, then, time took control
And showed us an hourglass instead of an open road,
And the world, like wind chimes, rang confused;

And now here we sit, strangers
For being overfamiliar,
Not knowing what to make of things.

Robert Shreeve

Prayers from the Ark

By Carmen Bernos de Gaszold
Translated from the French and with a
Foreword and Epilogue by Rumer Godden

THE PRAYER OF THE BUTTERFLY

Lord!
Where was I?
Oh yes! This flower, this sun,
thank you! Your world is beautiful!
This scent of roses ...
Where was I?
A drop of dew
rolls to sparkle in a lily's heart.
I have to go ...
Where? I do not know!
The wind has painted fancies
on my wings.
Fancies ...
Where was I?
Oh yes! Lord,
I had something to tell you:
AMEN

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR CHURCHES

St. James the Apostle



Turning back the clock one hour last Saturday I wondered how much people's lives are now governed by the clock. At the time St. James' Church was built there was, of course, nothing to look at on the wrist telling when it was time for lunch, dinner or even bedtime.

This is borne out by the two 'Mass Dials' which are positioned one each side of the main door inside the porch at St. James'. These, as suggested by the name, showed the times of the Mass when a stick was inserted into the hole above the striations radiating from the holes. This was on the same principal as sun dials which are usually seen on some church towers for telling the actual time.

They would not work today however, as a porch has been built which shelters them from the sun!

Les Hemsworth

COWLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

A presentation about the cruel diseases that affect the brain, including Alzheimer's, and how the community can help sufferers, was given by a member of the Dementia Friends Group at the October Meeting of the Cowley WI.

Our next meeting on Wednesday, 18 November, at 2 pm, in the Church Centre, will be a more light-hearted affair! Come and join in the fun as we reminisce about Christmas and take part in a Bring and Buy Sale. Hope to see you then.

Ann Withers

President, Cowley WI

Cowley and Oxford Deaneries – Joint Synod

The following matters were discussed at the Cowley and Oxford Deaneries Joint Synod on Wednesday, 23 September 2015

1. Resourcing the Ministry and Mission of the Church

Revd Phil White, Vicar of Broughton in the Aylesbury Deanery and also part-time Mission Enabler, spoke of his experience in Berryfields, a housing development on the outskirts of Aylesbury. The focus was on growing a sense of community and taking time to work out what the church would be. We were shown pictures of More⁺, a café and activities space converted from a Blockbuster shop, and a new hall by a canal basin that will be used for Sunday worship in future.

David Morris, Aylesbury Deanery Treasurer, spoke of the task of disbursing the £60k reserves that the deanery had accumulated. This is being done by giving small one-off grants for mission initiatives. The deanery has recently become the first in the diocese to apply for Charitable Incorporated Organization (CIO) status.

Revd Margot Hodson, Vicar of Haddenham benefice, spoke of the needs and resources of her four churches: Haddenham, Cuddington, Kingsey, and Aston Sandford. All depended on a number of volunteers, some into their 90s, and there was the challenge of recruiting further support. Margot spoke of developing the ministry and mission of the church in traditional parish settings, for example with one church that greatly valued the Prayer Book as their main liturgical inspiration and pattern. She too valued it and maintained it. The members themselves began to wonder how they could bring new people in, so they now run a breakfast club once a month that has reached an unchurched clientele. But they continue with the PB as their main liturgical resource – an example of mission in a traditional setting.

Questions that followed touched on what links the churches described had with other Christian denominations so as to avoid duplication of effort (an impressive range of collaboration was then mentioned), and the question of how to cope in outstandingly deprived parishes where the range of skills needed from volunteers was not forthcoming.

2. Revd Tim Stead (Area Dean Cowley) reported:

- (a) The draft Mission Action Plan for Cowley Deanery will be unveiled on 4 November
- (b) Mental Health: a project known as Headrest is working across the two deaneries: for more information contact Revd Gavin Knight vicar@stmichaels-summertown.org.uk.

Mission giving for 2015

A group of seven collected together on 6th October to decide on 2015 Mission Giving. The PCC had allocated £2440, an equivalent of 5% of 2014 planned donations given by the envelope scheme and standing orders.

The largest amount, £520 was given to Faith2Share. Mark Oxbrow is the International Director. Faith2Share is a network of Christian mission agencies across five continents. Together strengthening indigenous movements of the mission of God and believing that humanity is enriched when people of faith share that faith with each other.

Six other charities were given £320 each:

Close to home:

C.E.F. The Community Emergency Food Bank, based at St Francis' Church, who gives food to those local people who are being referred by Social Services or their GP while they have no financial support.

The Oxford Community Soup Kitchen which serves hot meals each Wednesday and Saturday based at the Asian Cultural Centre in Manzil Way. It helps those in financial hardship and provides clean dry clothing.

The Archway Foundation which acts as a focal point for people hurt by loneliness at whatever age. The social network of Archway offers support, friendship and a listening ear.

Oxford Youth Works is a charity working with young people in the city. This includes going into secondary schools to boost self-confidence in the students and to empower them to reflect and take responsibility for their and others' lives but within a Christian framework. OYW also has a website and a presence on social media.

Thrive Barton is a team of Christian youth workers and volunteers intentionally living in Barton estate. These young leaders are pioneering local mission bringing hope to their communities. They also use social media to share inspiring stories and resources.

Internationally:

The RENEW Foundation is a Christian, international non-governmental organization dedicated to empowering female survivors of human trafficking and prostitution in the Philippines. RENEW is located in Angeles City. Endemic poverty, high unemployment levels, a weak rule of law enforcement, and a rapid growth in the sex tourist industry have all contributed to significant trafficking activity and high levels of prostitution in the country. The charity, also registered in the UK, provides residential care, social and health care programs.

Joan Coleman

FROM THE ARCHIVES

EXTRACT FROM THE COWLEY CHRONICLE, NOVEMBER 1942

BIG BEN STRIKES NINE O'CLOCK

The observance of the Silent Minute has spread throughout the countries of the United Nations. Millions of people keep it in this country.

In Australia it is observed at Noon local time throughout the commonwealth, and Noon also is kept in South Africa. In New Zealand a recording of Big Ben is transmitted every evening at 9.00pm local time.

In the United States, individuals and groups numbering hundreds of thousands keep the Silent Minute at 9 00pm local time, and in many parts of South America it is also observed.

In Malta, the heroic island, the Silent Minute is kept at 9.00pm London Time-the very moment we are doing it here.

In Occupied European Territories, individuals and groups of those people in Norway, Denmark, Holland, Belgium, France and Greece who are able to listen in to Big Ben, keep the Silent Minute whilst praying for Britain and the return of their freedom with the aid of Britain.

The Navy keeps the Silent Minute in many of His Majesty's ships in Home Waters, the Atlantic and Mediterranean and on the Iceland station.

The Army is doing so in many military units throughout the country and it is observed by many prisoners-of-war in Germany and Italy.

The R.A.F. observe it in many officers' and men's Messes in this country and Overseas and even in the Libyan Desert.

Les Hemsworth

FEEDBACK

In Significant Dates in the October 2015 issue of The Chronicle the item about Columbus refers to him sailing in The Mayflower. I may be wrong, but I thought that was the ship in which the Plymouth Fathers sailed to America. Surely Columbus's ships were the Pinta, the Nina and the Santa Maria. Sorry.

Ann Withers

Editor:

Dear Ann

You are quite right – Columbus' ship was the Santa Maria. It was the Pilgrim Fathers who sailed in the Mayflower. Sorry for the silly mistake.

Rosanne

SUNDAY SERVICES

ST JAMES CHURCH, BEAUCHAMP LANE

8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Sung Eucharist
Sunday 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
(from 26 November 2015)

Team Vicar:

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

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