

Chronicle

October
2016

Join the adventure

Monday 1st October
7:30 pm
St James Centre
Beuachamp Lane
OX4 3LF
Details 01865 778596
rector@cowleyteamministry.co.uk




Woman gives birth in back of black cab!

It is hard to imagine a hospital without a place for babies to be born. Every community needs people who will help babies to come into the world. Yes, sometimes birth takes place at home but still a midwife is usually present. Just occasionally a baby is born in an unexpected place. The headline at the top of this page is one of many examples I found when surfing the internet of babies born in unexpected places.



Jesus (John 3: 3), as he talks to a man named Nick, says these words. "I assure you, that unless a man is born from water and from spirit he cannot enter the kingdom of God." Joining the Christian family is a new birth. Just occasionally it happens to somebody alone but more often they have been part of a group of people who have helped them on their way. These people are midwives of faith. They are Christian brothers and sisters who are 'around' at just the right time. It can be anybody who themselves knows and follows Jesus. It can be you. Yes, every member of our Christian family can do it.

Every Church needs a delivery suite and a ward for new born Christians. A place where people discover the love God has for them. A place where we can be born into Jesus' family. A place where we help others as they are born of 'Water

and the Spirit'. ALPHA is one of those places. It is not the only place but it is one place. If you know somebody who has questions about the Christian faith encourage them to come along to ALPHA. The time advertised may not suit but we can find another way to deliver this, or other material. Just as a hospital delivery suite is there to support mums as they have babies so we are here to help friends, neighbours, and strangers as they are born into the family of God in Christ.

Why do people come to ALPHA?
Because they are invited by a friend. Sometimes the Christian friend makes the step of coming along with them. Together they often get to know each other better and get to know Jesus better as well. Have you got a friend you could ask? Go on, be bold and do it today, pair up with a buddy or come along on your own.

NOT BEEN ON ALPHA?
You may have been a Christian for a long while but have never been part of ALPHA. If you fancy coming along and joining us, please do. Just give Geoff a BUZZ (01865 778596) or turn up on the day.



Editor's Letter

We are so grateful to Rosanne for acting as Editor for ten years but she has decided not to continue (although she is continuing to contribute to the Chronicle – many thanks, Rosanne) – so we are looking for someone to continue this role.
COULD THAT BE YOU?

If you would like to meet Geoff, Skye and the team please contact Geoff, Skye, May, Nicki or Sally – a short meeting can easily be arranged.

We are always keen to have articles from our readers and wider – favourite recipes, poems, anecdotes, jokes, news from the Parish and wider – anything you feel would be of interest to our readers. Please do send them in. Articles can be emailed to chronicle@cowleyteamministry.co.uk or, if hand written, can be left at the Parish Office for the attention of Sally. Look forward to hearing from you.

Your Parish Needs you!



Might you be the person God is calling to take the Chronicle on a new Journey? We need a **NEW EDITOR** to work with a well-established team for our Church Magazine from this August. If that is you or for further info, speak to our Rector or Vicar. **ASAP**



Come and join Messy Church and Seashells for fun activities to think about

Harvest

crafts story songs
toys baking

All ages are welcome
at St James Church Centre,
Beauchamp Lane, Cowley, OX4 3LF
Tuesday 25th October
10am – 11.30am

For more details contact:
Mary Bayliss 01865 778596,
Email: m.bayliss41@btinternet.com
or contact the Cowley Parish Church Office 01865 747680

ST. JAMES CHURCH CHRISTMAS GIFT AND CRAFT FAIR

Saturday 5th 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

Local Honey

Good second-hand books and puzzles

Suncatchers and hand crafted cards

Phoenix Cards

Handmade semi-precious jewellery

Tombola and lots, lots more



all at prices you can afford

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

Mothers' Union News

Our Cowley branch has been busy this month. We held our annual wine, cheese and poetry evening in aid of the Mothers' Union Harvest Appeal. This appeal seeks to support farmers in the most impoverished areas of the world to buy seed. If their crops have failed the year before they have no way of salvaging seeds to plant in their seed-time. We made a profit of £40 which from a small Mothers' Union branch like ours is really good. The poetry evening itself was most enjoyable. We welcomed many guests and the poems chosen by them along with our members were varied and very entertaining. The wine and cheese supper went down well too.

The September branch meeting also saw quite a lot of visitors joining us. The speaker, Mr Brian Lowe, from Horspath was the main attraction. He gave a quite brilliant illustrated talk on the beautiful stained and painted glass in Oxford's chapels, churches and the cathedral. At the meeting members voted to co-opt Mary Bayliss on to the committee. Since our dear friend Marlene Shreeve has been so ill and John has been devoting his time to her care we have been without two hard-working committee members. Mary will be a most welcome "extra".

The October meeting will be a not-to-be-missed occasion on Monday, 17th when our speaker will be the Revd Mark Oxbrow. Mark is a great friend of our Mothers' Union and he always talks about the most fascinating aspects of his missionary work. We look forward with anticipation to this coming one.

The other good news is that our numbers are growing. We are hoping to enrol five new members around Christmas time which is great news especially when we learn that in other parts of our deanery membership numbers are dwindling.

Rosanne Butler



**Supporting you
through everything**

Whether you are a home user
or a business,
the largest independent
computer support company in
Oxford is here for you.

**01865
717088**  **Computer
Assistance**

shop@computerassistance.co.uk

Prayers from the Ark

By Carmen Bernos de Gasztold

Translated from the French and with a Foreword and Epilogue by Rumer Godden

THE PRAYER OF THE OX

Dear God, give me time.

Men are always so driven!

Make them understand that I can never hurry.

Give me time to eat.

Give me time to plod.

Give me time to sleep.

Give me time to think.

AMEN

SURVIVORS OF HISTORIC SEXUAL ABUSE – LISTENING SERVICE

The Diocese of Oxford has developed a team of trained listeners to help survivors of sexual abuse or unwanted sexual attention in childhood. This is not a counselling service but provides help designed to guide survivors in deciding ways to move forward, generally in up to 3 completely confidential one hour sessions

There are leaflets now available in both churches and the St James Centre with more details of the service – including for anyone who thinks they may like to train as a listener, as a way of fulfilling their Christian role in the community.

Diocesan Safeguarding Officer 01865 208 290
safeguarding@oxford.anglican.org

COWLEY FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS TREES 2016

10 – 17 December 2016

Theme: The Greatest Gift

fundraising for SeeSaw & ROSY

Our planning progresses: There will be two creativitrees to which you are invited to contribute:

- (1) Knight one, purl one tree: please knit or crochet 4 inch/10 cm squares in any colour green that you have (anyone with green wool you are not using, please bring it along) and wait to see how they become a tree

Deadline = 30 November

- (2) Poetree : please write or bring a copy of a short poem on the theme of gifts – which could be interpreted as parcels, birthdays, talents & skills, wishes – these will be hung upon a tree

Deadline = 30 November

Our target is for 55 trees, up from last year's 48. If you are involved in any local group or business which would decorate/make a tree/mobile/picture – or you know a creative family or even an individual..... please put them in touch with us The trees can be any size from 12 inch/30 cm table centre to 4 ft/120 cm.

We would still very much like to enrol someone who is good with social media, who can sit quietly at home/in the office/in the pub and regularly post updates about the festival to spread the word about it into the community.

And we also seek financial sponsorship, which last year raised £800 towards the £2,352 we received for SeeSaw and ROSY. Ask Lesley Williams for a letter and leaflet to hand to any companies/organisations with which you have a connection/influence.

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

DIARY DATES TO REMEMBER

Mothers' Union

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

St James Church Centre

Women's Institute

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

St James Church Centre

Coffee, Cake and Communion

Monthly meeting on 3rd Tuesday of month
from 10.30 a.m.

With Rev Skye at the Vicarage, 27 Don Bosco Close
(Tel: 434160)

Cowley Parish Bike Rides

Usually the 3rd Saturday of the month

MacMillan Coffee Morning

Saturday, 1 October 2016, 10.00am – 1.00pm

St James Church Centre

Mission Giving 2016

Tuesday, 4 October 2016, at 7 pm

St James Church Centre

Strike Up The Band

Saturday, 8 October 2016, at 7.30 pm

St James Church

Film Club

Friday, 14 October 2016 – "The Imitation Game"

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

Parochial Church Council

Sunday, 16 October 2016, at 12.15 pm

St Francis Church

Men's Bangers and Mash Supper

Tuesday, 18 October 2016 at 7.30 pm

The Rectory

Caribbean Evening

Friday, 21 October 2016 - 7.00pm – midnight

St Francis Church

Parish Sunday Lunch

Sunday, 23 October 2016 at 12.30 pm

St James Church Centre

All Souls Party

Friday, 28 October 2016

5.30 – 7.30 pm

St Francis Church

Winter Gift and Craft Fair

Saturday, 5 November 2016

10.00am – 1.00pm

St James Church Centre

St Francis Church Committee

Sunday, 6 November 2016 at 12.15 pm

St Francis Church

St James Church Committee

Tuesday, 15 November 2016 at 7.30 pm

St James Church Centre

Christmas Tree Festival

9-17 December 2016

St James Church

Carol Singing at Templar Square

Saturday, 10 December 2016 at 2 pm.

Xmas Open House

Thursday, 21 December 2016

3.00pm – 9.00 pm

The Vicarage

Christmas Roast Dinner

Monday, 25 December 2016

St Francis Church

REMEMBER – Tuesday Lunches at St James Church

Centre from 12.30 pm

MISSION GIVING 2016

The PCC have allocated £2,400 for this year's Mission Giving. Please think what charities you would like money to go to. Written details, please, to Parish Treasurer, Joan Coleman, or to Rev Geoff Bayliss.

There is a meeting at 7pm on Tuesday 4th October to decide in St James Church Centre

FROM THE ARCHIVES

COWLEY CHURCH & HOME MAGAZINE

October 1893

Extract from sermon preached by the Vicar, Rev. G. Moore, M.A., on Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity:

.....“Many that are first shall be last, and the last shall be first.” – Matthew xix. 30.

In our day we have the difficulty placed before our eyes with an astonishing force. Our country is, as far as we can see at present, to be ruled in every detail by the majority. Things which were held to be quite out of the reach of the government are now not only to be examined, but a powerful section of the community say that they shall be overhauled and used according to the will of the greater number.

Now these new apostles do not, as a rule, throw aside Christianity; some do, and with this section it is not difficult to contend, but I wish to confine my remarks to those who profess the doctrines of Christ and who possess their power from those amongst us who are either indifferent in this matter, or are ignorant, or come in the category of which I have been speaking: this last section is described as Hypocrites.

To make my point clear, let me give an instance – it shall be the action of the Local Authority in the parish of St. Pancras, London. For centuries in this country the burial places of the dead have always held a place of reverence and respect in the hearts of our countrymen. We have all been taught to respect death, to respect the place of the dead, and I suppose every person has an instinct of reverence for the spot where the bodies of his friends rest. Now, what has been the case of the parish I have mentioned? The Churchyard, like many others, has been closed for want of space for some years. After it had been closed an application was made to run the railway through, and this, unfortunately, in my opinion, was allowed to be done. On three grounds, reason, in my opinion, refuses to

acknowledge that this step was wise.

- (1) A railway is merely a machine for accommodation and making money, and there are circumstances which, in my opinion, ought to check both these.
- (2) This said railway is a common nuisance to the worshippers of the Church.
- (3) When the body is buried most exceptional reasons ought to exist before it is disturbed.

The Local Authority first acquired one section of power after another, partly, no doubt, through the concession of those who are the lawful guardians of our churchyards. The churchyards are in the keeping of the Vicars and Rectors of the parishes in this country; they are for all practical purposes the freehold of the clergyman. The parishioners have their rights, but they are carefully defined – so that if a clergyman holds firmly to his duty there is little risk of the thing happening which I am now discussing. But it is the moral weight brought by these new apostles which creates this state of things. I need not examine their arguments, because in my opinion the facts I have stated clear up any difficulty that might arise when those argument are alleged. The Local Authority of St. Pancras have gone on from point to point, as they say for the good of the masses, till at last they settled some months ago, without any reference to the Rector of the parish, to erect a large bandstand in the middle of the churchyard – that a band might be engaged to play in this consecrated ground.

The Rector, thank God! Has had the courage to go to law, and he has won his case; this Local

Authority must now pull down this stand and restore the ground to its former state. But is this fair? Is it fair for one man to take up the axe against a body which are said to represent the inhabitants of this parish? These men have not had to pay a penny of their own money, they have struck a rate to meet this wicked folly. The Rector has not only had to endure all that is disagreeable to a Christian and an educated man, but he has had to find probably not less than £200.

Now, if these men had been obliged to find the money either for the stand itself or the defence, they would have given no trouble; they would have gone, leaving their places void.

But there is another sad aspect to this question; it is the hypocrisy which in my opinion rests beneath the whole business. These men, or at least the active part of them, hate religion, hate the Church, hate every honest clergyman. They are hypocrites when they wish to attach religion to their conduct.

Now in cases of this kind the law is more certain to be administered fairly; it was merely a question of law, and therefore it was decided by

judges, not by jurymen.

Jurymen have to do with facts only, no person's character is safe, in my opinion, in their hands. But up to the present in this country the law is administered by judges, by men of education, of character and honesty.

What did the judge say? He had, he said, merely to decide what the law said, and the stand must be taken down, but he could not close his eyes to what might happen if the stand was allowed to remain. The band would play, and at certain times in the week persons exasperated by drink would be drawn from the public-house, and might dance over the bodies of the dead.

I need not pursue this point further. I have said sufficient to prove what in my opinion is creating a danger in our day – a danger to religion, a danger to morality, a danger to the young.

I have tried to draw your attention to one danger caused by the new state of things under which we live. Be on your watch, and do your best to arrest this evil.

Researched by Les Hemsworth



**Men's Bangers and
Mash Supper!
Tuesday 18th
October
7:30 in the Rectory**

If numbers grow we may need to meet in the St James Centre!
Also a chance to think about other events we might hold.
Let Geoff know or sign up if you would like to come along.
Do bring along what you fancy to drink
(There will be a plate for donations to cover costs)

The changing seasons keep us busy in the garden

This time of the year it is noticeable that the morning dew lasts longer and even stays all day when we get cloudy and still conditions and the days get shorter. Getting out in the garden or allotment has to be whenever conditions allow.

It is a time for clearing out spent annuals in the borders and planting bulbs for the spring in their place. I love daffodils and intend to put in as many as possible in my back border which, until last winter, was occupied solely by an overgrown laurel hedge (and the accompanying bindweed!). I will also put in tulips. Both daffs and tulips will be the tall varieties so we can see them from the house. The tulips will be red as I am not fond of any other colour, and the daffs, the traditional yellow trumpets. Before I get on with clearing I shall be collecting as much seed as possible as well as shaking it out of the plants as well. I don't intend adding any more annual seeds as I hope they will regenerate themselves.

The Californian poppies were a joy, as were the calendulas, cornflowers, echiums, sunflowers, sweet peas and agastache. All designed to attract insects. A favourite still in flower, as are the asters and zinnias, and will continue to do so, is cosmos. Bright pinks and whites on top of tall stems, they bob about cheerfully in the breeze and add to the colourful range of flowers I have had this year. Deadheading regularly keeps them flowering. My dahlias are another story. They have sulked all year with two not having any flowers at all. They

survived the mild winter and were late to get going and have not produced any of the incredible growth that I saw last year. I am presuming that they have used up the nutrients in the new border so I will dress them with some fertiliser and compost this autumn and hope for the best for next year. Just coming into flower are the Michaelmas daisies and, waiting in the wings are the spray chrysanthemums. The borders have been colourful all year and much, much more uplifting than the boring shrubbery I had before.

Tidying up the allotment is also a seasonal job. Harvesting the potatoes and cutting down the runner beans and their support and chopping off spent broad beans and peas, pulling up sweet corn and courgette plants all produces a lot of top growth. This is left to dry and then we usually have a bonfire of it. You can compost this material, except the potato haulms that may carry disease, but it is bulky stuff and it is just good to have a cleansing fire of it all. The problem is that you have to wait until the stuff is perfectly dry and then get the job done. There may be a problem this year as the powers -that -be have imposed days and times when we can only have that blaze. The new regulations are a bit like waiting for the third Tuesday after a new moon but only when there is an R in the month! The arrival of the correct day will probably not coincide with the pile being dry. Life is never simple!

Joan Coleman

NEW BLOOD WANTED!

Are you interested in how the Parish works? Want to get involved? Joan Coleman wishes to pass on the rewarding job of Parish Treasurer. You do not have to be an accountant but being a bit savvy with numbers helps.

Talk to her about the job if you would like to know more.

Contact her by email ojcoleman@btinternet.com or by phone 01865 770865

HYMN OF THE MONTH

God moves in a Mysterious Way
By William Cowper

Light Shining out of darkness

God moves in a mysterious way,
His wonders to perform;
He plants his footsteps in the sea,
And rides upon the storm.

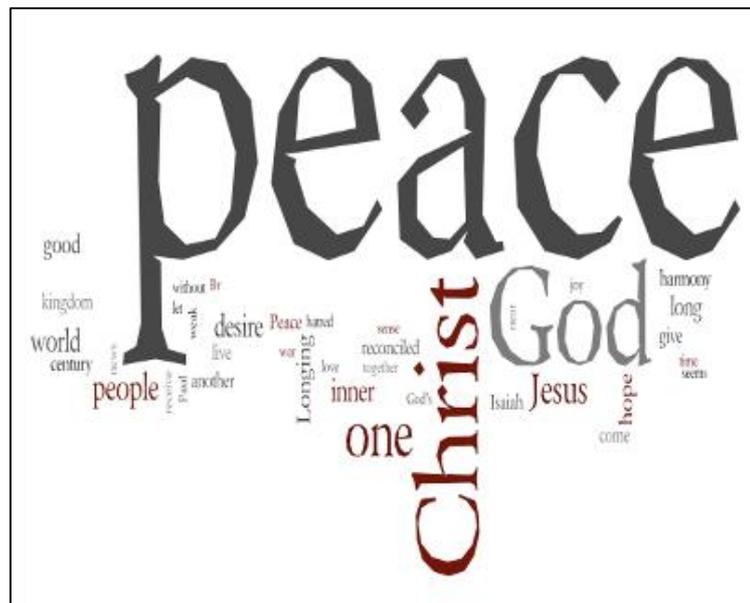
(Very much to the point nowadays!)

Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take,
The clouds ye so much dread
Are big with mercy, and shall break
In blessings on your head.

Blind unbelief is bound to err,
And scan his work in vain;
God is his own interpreter,
And he will make it plain.

This is the work of William Cowper (1731 – 180) who produced some of the finest religious verse in spite of a life spent in religious torment. Cowper came from a distinguished family. His father was chaplain to George II. He went to Westminster School where he showed great promise. However from the age of 21 he began to be affected by severe bouts of melancholia. But what a writer and what a wonderful hymn.

John Shreeve



News from the Bell Tower

Now the summer holidays are over, our regular Thursday evening practices have resumed. We are very pleased to be teaching two new ringers, and although their lessons were curtailed over the summer, we hope their progress will become more rapid now we can offer them more chances to practice again. We are also happy to welcome a third new recruit, who has already had a few lessons before moving to Oxford. We shan't sit back on our laurels though, and will still be very happy to see anyone else who might like to join us on a Thursday evening.

Last week we were very pleased to be able to ring for the St James Wedding Fair. We invited some ringing friends along from other towers to swell the numbers, and enable us to ring some more complicated methods which we often don't have the numbers to enable us to practice. Hopefully our ringing added to the event. It is only with a church wedding that you can have the bells ringing after all. A huge thank you must go to all the organisers of the event, and the cake was wonderful!

Rosie and I are continuing to work hard at our teaching, under the mentorship of Tony Crabtree, Ringing Master of the Vale of the White Horse Branch. We feel much more confident in teaching our learners, as well as helping the existing band to progress. Soon we shall be having our Module one assessments. We are already signed up for module two as we are enjoying it so much. Rosie also deserves a mention for successfully ringing in her first full peal. This was at St Mary Magdalen in Oxford on 9th August. It took two hours and 40 minutes, and the method was called Yorkshire Surprise Major (major meaning it was on eight bells). This was a huge achievement as she has only been ringing for two years. Well done Rosie.

Cowley ringers practice on Thursdays between 7.30 and 9pm (telephone first to check in case we are cancelled). We would love to have visitors, whether wanting to learn to ring, or just to see what we do. You can ring me on 01865 777486 if you would like to come along one week.

Lindsay Powell

Shaun Guard TV AERIAL SERVICES

-  **Poor Reception Solved** - Aerials repaired & supplied
-  **TVs** - Hung on your wall for you. Also supplied & tuned
-  **Extra TV Points** - For aerial and Sky (In HD!)
-  **Sky TV** - Also Foreign Language TV

Call Oxford 01865 400141

A part of  **OXFORD AERIALS**

NEWS FROM ST FRANCIS



After several successful baptisms we have moved on to other things. We had a good Open Day at St Francis recently, with some willing volunteers ready to welcome the riders and plenty of coffee and cakes on hand for those who wanted them. So, all in all, St Francis acquitted itself very well on the day. Now we move on to Harvest Thanksgiving which is always important in our churches. Traditionally the celebrations have always taken place in September (Michaelmas tide). There was a good harvest this year so we have much to thank the Lord for.

Our Pet Service will follow on the 1 October and not so far ahead our Patronal Saints day.

Our Friends of St Francis Prayer Group is still flourishing and has just completed the new course book on Mission – the Joy of the Gospel.

Little Stars mother and toddler group has just restarted and on Thursday afternoon the church

is open for special prayers. We are glad of Joel and his team for all they do for the Sunday Club.

In the light of recent developments we are looking for an increased commitment by our congregation towards funds and the running costs of our church. We must also find more ways of raising money and possibly ways of cost cutting.

We are grateful to all who contribute to our work and worship here, it is of great value. We are still known as a welcoming church and one in which warm fellowship is there in our congregation. We are grateful to Skye for all she has done to encourage more families to join in our congregation.

John Shreeve

CARIBBEAN EVENING

**ST. FRANCIS CHURCH
HOLLOWAY ROAD
OXFORD**

FRIDAY 21st OCTOBER 2106
Doors Open @ 7 p.m. till Midnight
TICKET PRICE £14.00
Includes Food, Entertainment and Disco

Come and join us for a journey around the carribea

TICKETS 07954593642 or 07336802669

ALL PROCEEDS TO ST FRANCIS & ST JAMES CHURCH MAINTENANCE FUND

DISPLAYING SOME OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORK FROM THE PARISH

It is always good to know what is going on. This is some material that has been used by our young people as they have explored what it means to know more about God.

Where would you put them – what do they mean to you?

PLEASES GOD:



DISPLEASES GOD



More next month!

My Hope UK with Billy Graham is a nationwide effort to reach people across the United Kingdom with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Following the 60th anniversary of the 1954 Harringay meetings, the 1955 Kelvin Hall meetings, and the 30th anniversary of Mission England, you can bring the same Gospel message to your community through *My Hope UK* with Billy Graham. Through this outreach you can present others with powerful testimonies and a recent message from Billy Graham. Let's work together to share Jesus with a world desperate for hope



Watch out for details in the coming month

THE REAL ADVENT CALENDAR 2016

It's back for this Advent, with a redesigned pack and an improved chocolate blend, but the same great idea from the Meaningful Chocolate Company: fairtrade chocolate, a free 28 page Christmas story and activity book, a charity donation for each calendar sold – and still at only £3.99.

You will be able to buy it yourself at large Tesco stores, at fairtrade shops and on line from the producers as well as Traidcraft, TLM, Eden etc - or you can order through the Parish and collect them here!

Lists will be up in both churches and St James Centre: deadline Sunday 23 October – but you can pay on collection.

Contact Lesley Williams 01865 779 562
07982 439 828

lesleyjwilliams@btinternet.com

THE REAL ADVENT CALENDAR
Includes **Free** Christmas Story-Activity Book

RRP £3.99

A great way to share the Christmas story

Meaningful Features

- FREE 28 page Christmas book
- Charitable Donation
- Uses quality Fairtrade chocolate
- 24 festive milk chocolate shapes
- Recyclable box & tray
- Palm Oil Free

TRAIDCRAFT **FUNZIBODO**
Agains poverty through trade THE FUNGI AND SEEDS TRUST

"...a great idea."
Alan Titchmarsh

Available Now www.realadvent.co.uk

COWLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Meetings of Cowley Women's Institute resumed after the summer break when representatives of the Oxfordshire Federation gave an illustrated presentation "When Revolution was the Only Solution". They explained how the Women's Institute has changed the lives of women and families over the last 100 years, and spoke of some of the resolutions raised and campaigning carried out in that time, with the "Keep Britain Tidy" campaign, led by national Chairman, Lady Brunner from Greys Court, receiving special mention. Our meeting ended with a well-supported Harvest Bring and Buy Sale.

"Beer, Sausages and Marmalade" is the intriguing title of an illustrated talk about local ethics and tourism in 19th century Oxford, to be given by a local historian at our next meeting on Wednesday, 19th October 2016, at 2 pm in the Church Centre. There will also be a competition for a Pretty Scarf.

Visitors are always welcome at our meetings – the third Wednesday in the month, at 2 pm in the Church Centre. We hope to see you there.

BOOK OF THE MONTH

English Country Churches

By Derry Brabbs

Cassell Paperbacks

To anyone who likes looking round old churches this book is a sheer delight. There is a coloured illustration on every page with a brief description of each. And it is so comprehensive. It covers the whole country from the South Coast up to Cumbria and the Scottish border. The thing that comes through very clearly is the sheer depth and variety of church building we are blessed with. From elaborate very fine buildings to primitive affairs with thatched roofs and even buildings built entirely of wood which are often much stronger than they appear. There is so much fine craftsmanship involved that one marvels at it all. One question comes to mind. In these days of increasing austerity how much longer are we going to be able to keep up the cost of maintaining these lovely buildings?

The author says that he was inspired by the poet John Betjeman's great love of English churches and that comes through clearly. And because this is a paperback and not too big it is easily carried around, which is a great help.

So enjoy!

John Shreeve

CHILDREN'S CHURCH, ST JAMES

Over the summer holidays we took a break from following our normal programme from Scripture Union but still met together every Sunday for fun and games. We did lots of crafty things such as making bunting for the Patronal Festival and decorating heart and star decorations to take home as a reminder to share God's love and shine like stars. As Olympic fever hit the nation in July we had our own mini version of the Olympics, where we made our own Olympic torches and took on various challenges to collect Olympic ring coloured wrist bands. It was a fun way to be reminded about how God calls us to run the race and never give up!

We also made use of the big screen in the Church

Centre for an exciting showing of The Prince of Egypt and a cartoon version of the book of Samuel. Of course we couldn't have a movie without snacks, so some wonderful healthy smiley faces were made out of rice cakes, fruit and veg and popcorn was also abounding! It's been wonderful to continue meeting together over the summer for the first time (in past years Children's Church has always broken up over the holidays) and it was only possible due to the dedication of the Children's Church team, so a big thank you is in order to all of them. Now with the new school year upon us we're looking forward to what new and exciting things God has in store for us!

Catherine Hartley

CHURCHES WITHIN OUR DEANERY

St Andrew's Church, Headington



This church is the oldest surviving building in Headington, being built around 1160 in the Norman style and is currently a Grade II listed building.

King Ethelred is thought to have been christened on this site and Saint Frideswide may also have worshipped here in perhaps an early timber church, her childhood being spent in Headington.

The only part of this church remaining from the original date is the Chancel Archway, other parts being added over the centuries. It has a South Aisle from the 13th century, windows in the north and south Chancel walls which date from the 14th century, a Tower which was finished around 1500 and a South Porch built in 1596. In 1862 J. C. Buckler lengthened the Nave.

It is a large, handsome airy church exuding peace and tranquillity, with some glorious stained glass windows.

Les Hemsworth

M J Holden Plumbing & Heating

- Bathroom Installation and Refurbishment
- All Plumbing Repairs
- Leaks and Bursts
- Outside Taps
- Radiators
- Blockages
- Ball Valves and Overflows
- Pumps and Valves
- Property Maintenance
- All Trades Covered

If you find using your bath a struggle have you considered converting to a shower enclosure?

No job too small—full insured—free estimates

Telephone: 07584 190069

Email: mike_holden69@hotmail.co.uk

Deanery Synod Meeting, 16 May 2016

The theme of the evening was Mission and Exploring the Ideas of Welcoming, and there were three interesting and useful presentations:

1. **Everyone Welcome:** In the presentation it was indicated that many people try church but statistically only 10% come back. It is therefore necessary to transform your church through welcoming. The course has five main sessions.
Making the Church more visible
Make the premises more inviting
Welcoming God, Welcoming People
Community
Training a welcoming team
2. **"Who is Welcome in Your Congregation?":** A nine week programme. Its main theme is making the Church more inviting and it also covers subjects such as Back to Church Sunday. The course contains sections on:
Building a team
Characteristics of a healthy congregation
Norms
Caring for volunteers
Ways of welcoming.

Statistically people came to church because of the following promotional methods:

- 2% Adverts
- 6% Invite from Clergy
- 6% Evangelism
- 86% Personal invitation

The reasons people came to church were statistically:

- 50% just moved into the area
- 10% married
- 40% recent life crisis or transition

Introverts and extroverts experienced their first Sundays differently and many newcomers reacted well to being contacted after the event. It is important also to track attendance patterns. If a person is away for 2 – 3 months it becomes a habit that they may struggle to break. Unfortunately it was also shown that 80 – 95% of congregation members have little intention of inviting others to church. But 6 months after being invited to Back to Church Sunday 12 % were regular attendees.

More information can be obtained from www.seasonsofinvitation.co.uk.

3. **"The Family Welcome Award":** Its goal is to help us think about how we are inviting people along and how we are becoming more family friendly. Its goal is to help us think about:
Where we are now
Where do we want to be
What do we need to do
What will help us
Are we getting there

Nick Dewey

RIDE & STRIDE - Saturday 10 September 2016

Although Saturday 10th September 2016 was a wet miserable day our R/Striders were not put off by the weather and managed to do the Cowley Parish proud by raising funds for the annual Ride & Stride, thank you to Lesley Williams, Dave Stanley, John Booty and Jane Coutanche and everyone who sponsored them (the same team as last year). I know the R/Striders would appreciate it if sponsorship money could be paid by the end of September and I will then be able to let you know the amount we have raised for both churches, half of which will be given back to the Parish from the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust.

A big thank you also to the welcomers for looking after all the R/Striders who visited our two churches, despite our British weather a pair of R/Striders told me at 17:50 pm they had visited 57 churches, we were their 58th and they still had two more to go as they had planned to visit 60 churches.

June Smith

Here are their accounts:

Dave Stanley: For this year, my plans were made to cycle into the beautiful Oxfordshire countryside. However the weather forecast was grim. After donning full waterproofs and delaying for as long as possible, eating cake at first base, St James Church, a gingerly start was made to Smith and Low to pick up florescent yellow trouser clips. The Ride and Stride sticker had already detached itself in the rain by then! Each church visited became a welcome beacon of refuge from the elements and a chance to renew energy. Just after stopping at St Nicholas, Forest Hill, my trusty bike started to

make some disturbing clicking noises. Loath to turn back now that the open countryside had been reached, I continued. Islip beckoned ahead but caution and a steady downpour took the better part of valour and I backtracked to Oxford via the church of the Holy Rood, Woodeaton, built 1250 AD, featuring ancient oak pews and welcome juice and biscuits, left out for the sole St/ rider of the day! St Nicholas Orthodox church in Ferry Road was open for the first time to st/riders and had beautiful wall paintings and icons.

Finally, the excellent Reg Taylor bike shop on Iffley Road confirmed broken front wheel bearings - which reminds me now to collect the repaired bike!

Eight churches visited in all and a great, wet sense of satisfaction.

John Booty: It took a while to dry out .. the wet weather meant I left the bike at home and walked instead, heading down the Iffley and Cowley Roads. I really enjoyed visiting the fascinating Bartlemas Chapel, built for a fourteenth century leper hospital. I bought a leaflet about its interesting history. Ride and Stride is such a good event for getting to places you would not usually visit – 7 churches in my case.

Lesley Williams: My proposed ride became an enforced stride when my bike was stolen from outside my flat on the previous Tuesday evening - may it be a blessing to whoever has it now.

Like John, I headed for town fully waterproofed, where I could 'collect' most churches within a relatively small area. As usual, I bent the rules a

little by visiting the College chapels that were open for Open Doors weekend – that included several I had not seen before – Brasenose, Trinity, University College.... so in 3.5h I managed 25. That was 3hr striding; then the matinee of 'Glasgow Girls' at the Oxford Playhouse (an absolutely brilliant retelling of a true story of schoolgirls who, guided by their teacher, fought a campaign in 2005 to stop one of their asylum seeker friends being returned to Kosovo – a very moving message about our attitude to the refugee issue), followed by an extra

half hour up St Giles to Blackfriars, The Friends Meeting House and St Giles church - my legs would have allowed more – I really wanted to see the Keble 'Light of the World' again - but the colleges were then closed.

I'm now having to decide whether I pay up on the £5 per church I committed, expecting that 15 would be the maximum.....

Thanks to all our supporters.

SATURDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER 2016

I must say I thought it would not work! How on earth could we manage the Ride and Stride welcoming, visitors for Open Doors and a huge wedding fayre in our Parish Church all on one day? (especially when Geoff told us he had arranged several stalls advertising photographers and a side chapel full of wedding dresses). My heart was even more in my boots when I woke up in the morning to pouring rain. Soaking wet cyclists, visitors trying to look around the building and young couples wanting information about planning their future nuptials, how could that possibly work? However, having promised to help "man" the church for most of the day for the Open Doors side of things I braced myself for chaos.

Well, I could not have been more wrong. It was a brilliant day in all respects. There were hosts of volunteer welcomers who made endless cups of tea and coffee, delicious cakes on offer and the church buzzed with people. The soggy Ride and Striders came in for a rest and many for a chat. One elderly cyclist refused a cuppa and cake as she had just been so regally welcomed at St Francis (well done the other end of the Parish!). She just wanted a sit down and a chat. All the Open Doors visitors that I met fell in love with our church and some had travelled quite a distance to find us. The eight or nine couples who came for the wedding fayre were charming and seemed genuinely interested and the stallholders who I spoke to were very pleased with their day too.

The icing on the cake (sorry if that sounds a bit odd) for me was when Mary Bayliss arrived with a pile of lovely warm bacon butties at lunch time. She certainly knows how to spoil people on a cold wet Saturday. Not that it felt cold and wet in the church, the atmosphere was so warm and cosy. Yes it had worked and I was delighted to be proved wrong.

Rosanne Butler.

RECIPE

Roasted autumn vegetables
with Lancashire cheese

(Serves 2 as main dish)

A colourful and hearty vegetarian supper dish for autumn – made in one roasting tin.



Ingredients:

1 large butternut squash (1lb 5oz – 1lb 9oz in weight)

1 medium red onion

6 tbsp olive oil

1 large sprig fresh sage

1 large courgette

1 tbsp balsamic or sherry vinegar

100 g Lancashire cheese

Method

Preheat the oven to fan180C/conventional 200C/ gas 6.

Using a sharp knife, cut the squash in half and scoop out the seeds. Cut the halves into smaller pieces so you can peel them more easily. Chop the flesh into big bite-sized pieces – they don't have to be neat.

Halve the onion and trim the root end leaving a little on to hold the segments together. Peel and then cut each half into four wedges. Scatter the squash and onion in a large roasting tin so they have plenty of room to roast, drizzle 5 tbsp of the oil over and toss together.

Strip the sage leaves from the stem and roughly chop – you should have about 2 tbsps. Scatter the sage over the vegetables and season.

Roast for 20 minutes, stirring once halfway through.

Meanwhile, slice the courgette thickly and toss with the remaining oil. Remove the roasting tin from the oven and push the partly cooked squash and onion to the side. Put the courgette slices flat on the base and season. Roast for a further 10 minutes, until all the vegetables are tender.

Remove tin from the oven, sprinkle the vinegar over the vegetables and toss. Crumble over the Lancashire cheese. Toss lightly so the cheese melts a little and serve.

SYMBOLS FOR COWLEY PARISH



What pictures would you use to describe our parish to strangers? Geoff wonders if we might find a logo that tells a better story than our current one. Have you any ideas what we should include? Please let Geoff or the Parish Office know.

Cowley Parish Bike Rides
Usually the 3rd Saturday
of the Month



Let's go biking

Lesley Weston

MFHT ITEC DIP

Registered Aromatherapy Practitioner

Aromatherapy is effective for:

Pre Sport Performance
Post Sport Relaxation
Muscle Aches, Pains & Sprains
Deep Relaxation
Insomnia
Stress, Anxiety & Depression
Balancing Hormones

07725 267 321

lesleyw70@hotmail.com

facebook.com/holisticbodytreatments

Home-Based practice in OX4

Community Emergency Food-bank (CEF) 2015/16

I am pleased to report that in the period as follows CEF:

- ◆ Has fed in excess of 3,000 impoverished people which is broadly similar to 2014/15
- ◆ Distributed 33,971 items of food,
- ◆ Works with 30 committed volunteers as well as extra help in times of warehouse overload and during our move ably helped by students from Christ Church College
- ◆ Continues to be linked with the Oxford Food-bank, and now provides fresh food for our clients in addition to our food parcels,
- ◆ Is linked with additional CEF café at Littlemore Baptist Church which opens between 10-11.30 on Thursdays,
- ◆ Ran a successful Poetry and Music evening in April 2015 and made £1,500
- ◆ A member of staff went on a sponsored walk from Brighton to London via the Isle of Wight and raised £4,947.
- ◆ After having received free warehouse accommodation over the past three years through the generosity of Neilson UK we had to move out as they were selling the site. We purchased and in February installed a large portable cabin at the back of St Francis Church at a cost of £33,000. Although this has been a large capital outlay we believe it far outweighs the cost of renting space in Oxford. It has already proved to be a huge asset to the smooth running of the foodbank
- ◆ The reasons why people resort to the services of CEF remain complex and varied: inter alia, gaps in benefit, coming out of prison, gambling, drugs and alcohol, divorce, desertion, and job loss remain obvious reasons.

An independent consultant was recently asked to review the operations of CEF and report to the Trustees. He concluded that "The Trustees and volunteers are highly committed, enjoying the informality and flexibility of CEF's working environment."

CHRONICLE

Editorial Team- Sally Hemsworth, May Morgan, Nicki Stevens

Deadline for the next edition:

Wednesday 26 October 2016

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

The Editorial Committee in no way accepts responsibility for goods or services supplied by our advertisers.

Sat 1st October
 @ St Francis Church 4pm

Pet service



Crafts



Bring your pet(s) or just yourself, come for a blessing & together Celebrate the gift of animals that are in our care.

with



FREE
 Pizza and Chips



Do not be afraid



All Souls

Fancy dress party

Friday 28th of October
5:30-7:30pm

@ St Francis Church, Hollow Way
 (£1.50 each **FREE** under 4's)
 Please book before the 21st Oct
 Rev Skye - 434160

Film Club at the Centre

Our club continues to flourish thanks very much to the wonderful volunteers who serve coffee, tea and cake before we start, and our brilliant projectionist. It seems the recent glitches were mainly due to a faulty bulb in the projection box, so Dave Stanley, very ably assisted by Geoff, has replaced it and all is now well in the projection department. So much so that the clarity and definition of the picture last month was better than it has ever been.

Our members enjoyed their September club night and all agreed that "84 Charing Cross Road" was a delightful film. As is our policy this month's film is a complete contrast though it is a very British production. "The Imitation Game" was voted the "Best British Film of the Year" for 2015. It is based on the incredible true story of

Alan Turing who during the darkest days of World War II helped to crack the Enigma Code at Bletchley Park. It is an intense thriller of how Turing, brilliant mathematician that he was, coped with the task in hand and his difficult personal life. Benedict Cumberbatch stars alongside Keira Knightley and a very talented supporting cast.

Rosanne Butler



FRIENDS OF ST JAMES OLD SCHOOL

STRIKE UP THE BAND - a fundraising concert with Jubilee Brass Saturday 8 October, 7.30 at St James Church

The concert to be held in St James Church on 8th October will be quite different from those we have staged in former years. It will not be a "Last Night of the Proms", nor a patriotic event to honour our Queen, nor a commemorative concert like the one which marked the beginning of World War One. Right. So if it will not be any of those, what will it be?

The Jubilee Brass Band are planning an exciting programme of (predominantly) music from the stage and screen. Familiar tunes played in their own stirring style ending the concert with a jolly good singalong to songs from "The Sound of Music", ABBA's song book and more. It promises to be a great evening, one not to be missed, even if "Strictly" is on the TV! Do come along and enjoy an evening of fun and song.

£10 adults, £5 children - tickets available now from Lesley Williams and Rosanne Butler

Invite your friends

FRIENDS OF ST JAMES OLD SCHOOL

STRIKE UP THE BAND

a concert with

JUBILEE BRASS

Saturday 8 October 2016 7.30pm

St James Church, Beauchamp Lane, OX4 3LF



***songs from the shows
and a singalong***

Tickets £10

Rosanne Butler
Membership Secretary
Friends of St James Old School
01865 453 257

Lesley Williams
Chair - Friends of St James Old School
07982 439 828
oldschoolcowley@gmail.com



www.cowleyteamministry.co.uk/The-Parish/St-James-Old-School



Established since 1919

We have been providing electrical services to both domestic and commercial customers for 96 years, from the smallest of repair such as changing a light bulb, to fault finding, new installations, testing and full rewiring.

Call or email our friendly team for further information, to book an Electrician or for your free no obligation quotation

Tel: 01865 794433 • Email: sarahw@lindars.net

Unit B • 74-77 Magdalen Road • Oxford • OX4 1RE • www.lindarselectricalcontractoroxford.co.uk

A WELCOME AT THE CATHEDRAL

We are lucky, you know to have a beautiful and totally unique building as our Mother Church. As a cathedral welcomer I am always proud when visitors from all over the world express their pleasure and delight at what they experience there. These visitors find it intriguing to learn that its uniqueness lies in the fact that it is the college chapel of Christ Church whilst at the same time holding its place as the cathedral for the huge Diocese of Oxford.

On the second and fourth Monday of each month, if you felt inclined to turn up between 12 noon and 2 pm, you would find standing at the West Door someone from our parish to welcome you. Because it is endowed by one of the richest colleges in our university there is no charge to enter, unlike many other great cathedrals in both the UK and overseas. There are also, free of charge, leaflets which offer you a brief guide around the building explaining some of the delights you will encounter. These delights are many and varied but personally I love the

wonderful stained glass windows with examples from the late medieval period up to the Victorian era.

Of course it is not a museum, though I have to admit some of our visitors treat it as such, but a place of great spirituality. On the hour most days, prayers are said for people all over the world ending with The Lord's Prayer.

The cathedral not only has welcomers on a Monday but all through the week. Naturally it is closed sometimes during the day for special services but at all other times up till 4.30 pm visitors are most welcome. Even if you know it well it is always a lovely place to meditate and pray. If, however, you have not yet experienced its glorious architecture, monuments and (as I mentioned before) beautiful stained glass do find time for a visit. After all it is your cathedral so let's celebrate it.

Rosanne Butler

Music Books for St James Choir?



Our Church Choir is such a blessing. I arrived in November last year being told we had a choir who were created to help us learn new songs of worship. It is rare that a choir is set up with such a clear intent. They are doing such a brilliant job! Week by week they lead us in hymns and songs old and new. They inspire us with anthems and help us to gather as family in the throne room of God. BUT their success has led to a challenge. The repertoire of music has grown. To this point, under license, music has been photocopied. The number of sheets has grown and at this moment we use 4 books and some externally

sourced music (The Source 1,2,3 & The New English Hymnal). Buying some Music books will significantly help his problem but will be expensive. The choir has 10 members and hymn books often cost £25 a piece. So what can we do about it? Please help us seek a way forward. Church finances are very tight. This is first a topic of prayer. Where is God leading us with this? . It may be that we need to set up a fund to try to cover this significant cost? Do please chat with me and other members of the church council about what God is saying to us about this. Most of all let us celebrate, and give thanks for, the voices that come as a gift from God. For the scripture tells us: Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth. (Psalm 96 vs 1).

SUNDAY SERVICES

ST JAMES CHURCH, BEAUCHAMP LANE

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

ST FRANCIS CHURCH, HOLLOW WAY

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

MID-WEEK SERVICES & MEETINGS

Morning Prayer	7.45am 8am	Mon, Wed, Thu at St James; Tue, Sat at St James
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	2-4pm	Prayer Space—St Francis
	7.00pm	Cowley Parish Healing Service St Francis (1st Thursday)
	7.30pm	Local House of Prayer, 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
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
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

The Parish Office in St James Church
Centre is open:

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

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

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

Team Rector:

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

Team Vicar:

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

Self-supporting Ministers

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

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

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

Churchwardens:

David Stanley Tel: 776602
Norah Shallow Tel: 765199

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

St James Church Centre Manager:
Chris Woodman Tel: 778078

Hall Bookings:

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

Cowley Chronicle—Editorial Team:

Sally Hemsworth, Nicki Stevens,
May Morgan
Articles to be emailed to:
chronicle@cowleyteamministry.co.uk