

# Churches Within Our Deanery

## St Clements, Oxford

### Old Church

The old church at St Clements was sited where the roundabout is now at The Plain, and was used until the new church was built, around 1828.

John Henry Newman became curate in 1824 and due to expansion of the area between 1821 and 1824, when over 300 houses were built, he preached to an overfilled church with only room for 250 worshippers.

### New Church

This church was to be bigger and away from the noise and bustle of traffic. It was built during 1827 - 1828 by John Hudson in Hacklingcroft Meadow, an area given by Sir John Lock. Daniel Robertson was the designer, a man who later went on to design the Clarendon



Building in Walton Street.

~~In 1876 refurbishment was carried out when the West Gallery was removed and the pews and~~

## Ride & Stride 2017

On the 9<sup>th</sup> September 2017 the annual Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust (OHCT) Ride & Stride will take place. As usual the Cowley Parish will be participating in this event and we are looking for R/Striders, sponsors and Welcomers. We already have 1 person who has signed up to be a R/Strider. If you would like to be a R/Strider, the sponsor forms are on the table at the back of the Church.

If being a R/Strider is too strenuous for you and you would like to help please consider sponsoring someone, the names of the R/Striders will be in the link on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September. We are also looking for Welcomers so if you can spare an hour to welcome the R/Striders to our Church, there are some remaining slots on the rota and we would be grateful for your support.

Thanks to everyone for supporting this event, remember the Parish will get half the sponsorship money back.

June Smith

## DO THE NIGHTINGALES STILL SING AT HILL END?

For thirteen consecutive years (and three times later in my career) I had the fun, joy and great pleasure of taking groups of young people out to camp at Hill End. To my mind a week out in the fresh air, sharing a dormitory, helping with the day-to-day organisation added to the amazing learning opportunities which is one of the best experiences a youngster can have.



Each time we took our pupils from Cowley St James School I tried to choose a different topic to study. Hill End offers so much.

One year we studied the weather, setting up a weather station and, using air pressure, wind directions and cloud formation, issuing a daily weather forecast. From butterflies, grasses, fungi, pond dipping and much more I learnt so much along with my group of 10 to 11-year-olds. But the year that we “did” birds and their songs was one which contributed to real research for the staff at the camp and even Oxford University’s Natural History Unit in Wytham Woods.

I had already a pretty good knowledge of the call of woodland birds thanks to my husband Frank who is quite an expert on the subject, so we set out, my group and I, to use our ears and eyes to identify as many as we could. One bright youngster noticed that in the heat of mid-day the birds fell quite silent. So it was decided that we ought to try to record the dawn chorus. (Like most teachers I had already anticipated this, taken with us the right equipment and hoped that someone might suggest it!)

So, what time should we wake up? How would we be able to creep out of the dormitories without disturbing everyone else? Where would be the best place to record? Such a lot of exciting problem solving. The time we chose was 4 am since it was in mid-summer. Those who wanted to take part suggested that I should creep into the dormitories and give them a shake from their sleep and that the willing candidates would hang their socks on the end of their beds so that I would wake the right people. The site we chose was an area of concrete that had once been some kind of building high up the hill very close to the lovely woods near Wytham.

Armed with blankets (it gets pretty chilly at that time in the morning even in June) and a reel-to-reel tape recorder about seven or eight children and I walked up through the dewy grass to our chosen spot. With notepads and torches to record the exact times of the morning that we switched on the tape we settled down at 4.30 am just as the sun was rising. It was a magical experience.

We recorded for about ten minutes each half hour until (if I recall) about 7.30 am. I then took my little group down to the kitchen by the Green Dragon (Hill End campers will know where that is!) and made them hot chocolate drinks. Of course the other campers were by then arriving to start thinking of breakfast.

“How did you get on?” we were asked but at that point we did not know. It was only later in the classroom that we played our tape through to listen to the bird songs we had recorded. What a sensation we caused when the staff who work at the camp recognised the glorious songs of nightingales on our tape. There had never been evidence of these dear little birds in the woods there and we had proved their evidence through their song. The tape was handed over for the experts to appreciate once we had finished with it and I often wonder whether there are still nightingales singing in the woods above Hill End Camp.

Rosanne Butler

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## Film Club at the Centre

There have been two film club evenings since our last report, both of which have been very much enjoyed by members. The first in July featured “A Walk in the Woods”. The stars, Robert Redford and Nick Nolte played widely contrasting characters which contributed to some great amusing moments. Their adventures based on a real walk through the Appalachian Mountains in America also allowed for a series of encounters with some strange characters along the way.

The August showing was, by contrast, the classic musical “Gigi”. Although it was released in 1958 it has stood the test of time with some wonderful songs and a delightful story.

These two film evenings have contributed

well over £100 to parish funds thanks to our generous members.

For September we have planned another tried-and-tested classic – “The Sting”. The whole film demands concentration in order to fathom out how the clever deception is executed. Easy on the eye Paul Newman and Robert Redford star in this film which won seven Academy Awards including Best Picture. It is basically a comedy and one which we hope our members will enjoy.

We still have a few vacancies on our membership list so if there is anyone who would like to come along to a friendly film evening once a month (and bring a partner or friend maybe) they would be more than welcome.

Rosanne Butler

## RECIPE

September is the month for apples and plums. The following (from *Cakes, Bakes, Puddings and Prayers* by Susan Over) seems most appropriate at this time of year.



### TUMBLE-DOWN CAKE

The crumbly topping adds interest to this cake, which could also be warmed in the microwave and served as a pudding with custard or clotted cream. It will keep in the fridge for three to four days wrapped in foil, or could be sliced and frozen.

#### Ingredients

##### Cake:

- 175g (6oz) butter at room temperature
- 175g (6oz) caster sugar
- 1 teaspoon finely grated lemon zest
- 3 medium eggs
- 225 g (8oz) self-raising flour.

##### Crumble Topping:

- 2 large eating apples
- 75g (3oz) butter or margarine
- 110g (4oz) plain wholemeal flour
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 50g (2oz) demerara sugar

#### Method

1. Preheat oven to gas mark 4/180°C/350°F. Grease and line a loose-bottomed 20 cm (8") round cake tin.
2. Cream butter, sugar and zest together until light and fluffy
3. Beat eggs together, then gradually add to the mixture with a small amount of flour, to avoid curdling.
4. Fold in remaining flour and spoon into tin, levelling top with the back of a spoon.

5. Peel, core and finely slice the apples and arrange on top of cake mixture.
6. Rub butter or margarine roughly into wholemeal flour and cinnamon to give chunky crumble mix. Add demerara sugar and sprinkle over apples.
7. Bake for 1 ¼ hours until golden. Cool in tin for a few minutes, then leave on a wire rack until cold.

Makes 8-10 slices.

Lord, we know that sometimes we are likely  
to tumble down in our walk of faith,  
Thank you that you catch us when we fall  
and set us back up on our feet.  
Help us to lean on you and allow  
your guidance and strength  
to lead us through the pitfalls of life.

Amen

Claire Ewers

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# Una's Corner

## MIXED PACKAGE

Michael Spence was an NSM in the parish when his wife Beth was our curate. I am in touch with Michael, an Australian, his wife Beth was American. Sadly Beth died after they went to Australia and Michael has since married again. He and his new wife have two sons and are very happy. His older children, Beth's children are grown up now and are doing well. Michael asked me to pass on his best wishes to anyone who remembers him and his family.

I am also in touch with Susy Pavelin. I am sure there are a number of people in the parish who remember her. She suffered very badly from ME, or Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. She now lives in Scotland where she used to have a gardening job. The ME is now much worse and she can no longer hold down any sort of work but she does do some voluntary work when she is well enough. She particularly asked me to pass on her love to anyone who remembers her.

## GREEN BEANS

My father was not a Do It Yourself man. He hardly knew the difference between a hammer and a screwdriver and was much too intelligent to find out in case he was asked to use one. His excuse was that he would not break another man's bread bowl. He did his work and earned his money and he did not think it fair to deprive a man of his money by doing jobs around the house.

We had a reasonably large garden but my father did not garden. I remember that we had three gooseberry bushes which although they were never pruned or anything did very well. We also had a laburnum tree and a yellow leaved bush growing up a fence. There were also some sadly neglected rambler roses which were always very prolific. There was a shed and at the bottom of the garden were rabbits and chickens. This was during the war and the austerity afterwards and they were for eggs and food. There were also masses and masses of Michaelmas daisies. The front garden was grass and flowers and my mother tended that. The garden was heavy clay.

Every Good Friday morning Daddy did his gardening. He would summon the three of us, I was the middle one between two boys, and he would stand on the path while we collected the bean poles from behind the shed. Under his instructions the three of us erected the bean poles in exactly the same place as they went every year. No compost or fertiliser was ever used. Next he would instruct us to dig a hole one on each side of each bean pole, he told us exactly the size and depth of the holes and watched closely from the path. With great ceremony he would then proceed along the rows dropping one bean into each hole, he then retired to the path and instructed us on how to fill in the holes and tamp them down. Next we had to water the beans – this was the best bit. Daddy was ARP Warden for our area; he was also in the Home Guard

and used to spend nights on fire watching duties. Because he was warden we had the stirrup pump in our sideway. We used to fill the bucket with water, the stirrup pump was a contraption which stood on the ground and had protruding pieces from the base on which to place the feet, a large handle which was hard work. There was a hose into the bucket and a long hose the other side. One of us would pump up and down like mad while the other two directed the hose at the beans. We kept changing places because the pump really was hard work.

When we had cleared it all away then my father would retire to the house to rest.

All through the season we used to get out the pump and keep the growing bean plants watered. My father used to inspect his plants from time to time and report to his friends on the progress of 'his' runner beans. We always had a good crop and Daddy used to brag about his wonderful runner beans.

I am sure Joan will be horrified, planting the same crop in the same place year after year and no compost or fertiliser?

This story reminds me of another happening. My husband was a keen gardener and would have agreed with Joan about crops. I remember he used to keep some of the beans on the vines until they were large, dry and hard. These were then shelled and the beans put into an ice cream box for next year's planting. The box was put on the top shelf of our solar room as we called our conservatory, and there they sat through the winter. We had louvre windows each end of the solar room and on a day when they were open there was the sound of machine gun fire. We went out in time to see our three cats streaking across the garden. One of them liked sleeping on that top shelf in the sun and had obviously knocked the box off the shelf.

The beans had fallen down the open louvres and the noise was deafening.

We did not see the cats for several hours.

My father was very well known in Cowley and his family had lived there for generations. He was born in nineteen hundred and one, in January two days before Queen Victoria died.

Una.

## **Shaun Guard**

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## SAVE OUR STAG BEETLES: TOP TIPS FOR GARDENERS

1. Create a log pile: One of the major problems facing stag beetles is a lack of rotting wood to lay eggs in or near, and for larvae to feed on. By creating a log pile (or a log pyramid, if you fancy a challenge!), you can provide stag beetles with habitat for the future. Log piles are also great habitat for other invertebrates and they in turn provide food for hedgehogs and birds.
2. Leave dead wood in your garden: Leave old stumps and dead wood alone, and these provide the perfect habitat and also a food supply. If you want to make the stumps more attractive – try growing a climbing plant such as clematis up it.
3. Reduce dangers: be vigilant when mowing your lawn and be alert for predators; try and scare away magpies and keep your own pets indoors during warm evenings when stag beetles are flying. Also, make sure any open water has an exit point, and if you see a dead-looking beetle in water, please take it out – they often revive!
4. Record your sightings: Let PTES know where you've spotted a stag beetle via the Great Stag Hunt! Sightings are key to finding out where populations are thriving, in need of help, or non-existent.

Visit [www.ptes.org/stagbeetles](http://www.ptes.org/stagbeetles) to find out more, including how to build a log pile or pyramid, ID guides so you know a stag when you see one, and to record your sightings.



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## A GREAT DAY – 13TH MAY 2017—ST JAMES ANNUAL PLANT SALE

When I got to the hall on this exciting day everything looked splendid. There was a marvellous array of plants, cakes, bric-a-brac and raffle, all so well organised by our very own Joan Coleman, with lots of help to pull it all together. I looked around and wondered where I could fit in.

Then I saw June Smith was looking very busy so I helped her. During the course of the afternoon we noticed that one young man with his family was returning to us with his hands full of lovely plants. More and more he came back so we had a running total. He seemed really pleased to be with us, he told of last year, 13<sup>th</sup> May 2016 the day his baby son was born. Later when he was able to get to us, he found almost everything had been sold. He spoke of his disappointment and that he had been waiting three months to visit to make sure he had a good choice of plants. He also asked about the various plants he had chosen and how to care for them.

There must have been 6 or 7 trips to his car to load up. I told him I thought he must be our customer of the day and we would be very pleased to welcome him back in 2018.

The quality of the plants etc. on sale were second to none. Congratulations to all who worked so hard to make it the success it most certainly was.

Now for next year!

Pat Chambers

*Apologies to Pat – this article should have been in the July/August edition.*

# The Lye Valley North Fen, 2017

## Update from Friends of Lye Valley (FoLV)

See the map of the reserve, all of which is a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) known as the North Fen with a central section SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest- of national importance). Much more detail available on the Friends Group website at: <http://www.friendsoflyevalley.org.uk/> . Habitats present range from dry limestone flowery banks to bramble, hawthorn and blackthorn scrub, woodland and most importantly, wet spring-fed calcium-rich alkaline fen areas (now the rarest habitat in all England). This last habitat is also extremely rare in all Europe. Small ponds and shallow pools of all sizes are within the fen area. The last three years have seen big changes with habitat restoration stimulated by the BBOWT Wild Oxford Project, working in association with landowners Oxford City Council & FoLV.

### The Slade Entrance – limestone wildflowers & pollinators return!

A few years ago this dry limestone soil entrance was dominated by nettle, bramble, scrub, mile-a-minute climber and horseradish. Two years of work from the Friends Group on removal of all this and re-seeding with native local limestone-loving wildflowers have resulted in the attractive flower mix you see with Pollinators of all sorts are now favoured. Soon the entrance will be gated to prevent unauthorised vehicle access after several arson incidents. A disabled parking bay will remain. You will see one cherry plum bush has been left because this is favoured for egg-laying by the rare brown hairstreak butterfly.

### The Fen Areas – biodiversity hot spots of international importance

On the valley sides all the way down is a spring line at the junction of the porous limestone above and the Oxford Clay below. Alkaline spring water high in calcium has been emerging for thousands of years and in places 1m depth of peat and tufa (lime) has built up produced by the continuous flow. Grazing by horses used to maintain biodiverse short flowery fen but when this stopped 100 years ago reed, scrub and trees took over. Now the reed is controlled by cutting and raking several times a year by the council and volunteers. The SSSI has 22 plant species rare in Oxon including three species of orchids, the most important being the large population of marsh helleborines found in only two other Oxon fen sites. A vast diversity of insects breed in the fen, with many rare species, especially the spectacular soldier flies with their bright patterns like uniforms.

### The larger ponds

These were dug just south of the SSSI fen in the late 1980s. They became heavily invaded by reed, effectively disappearing. Work by the Freshwater Habitats Trust enabled the removal of reed and choking vegetation from 5 of them resulting in open water again. Recent volunteer work has involved removing shading scrub and trees and cutting the surrounding vegetation short. Drainage pipes have been removed and dams all along the boardwalk enable the ponds



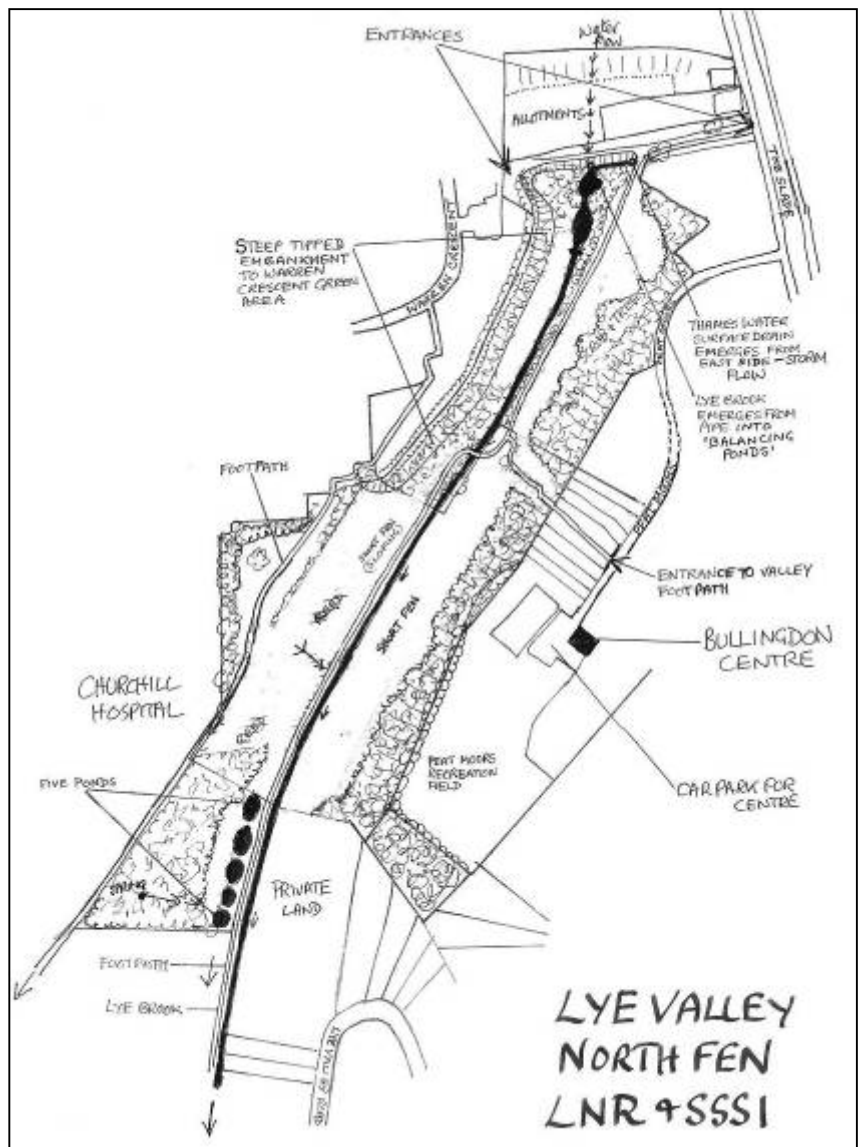
to retain a healthy high water level. They are now home to a large population of frogs, smooth newts, toads and are a great place to see damselflies dragonflies and, if you are lucky, a kingfisher!

### Site problems and issues

- ∅ Flash flooding from storm road run off drains – fen peat bank erosion
- ∅ Trees shading and sucking water from fen
- ∅ Drying springs-reduced flow, catchment loss
- ∅ All above result in drying fen
- ∅ Water pollution of springs possibly from leaky sewers
- ∅ Habitat isolation – site too small to support species populations

### Future projects and plans

- ∅ Limestone leaky bund across brook at valley head– stop flash flooding and recreate natural shallow stream
- ∅ Other small natural material dams in brook to raise water level, rewetting fen
- ∅ Continuing restoration of eroded fen along banks of stream
- ∅ Removing more trees from spring-line and below – retain water in fen
- ∅ Create more small shallow warm pools for fen invertebrates
- ∅ Extend boardwalk & extend fen restoration
- ∅ Reduce isolation by restoring pockets of fen between two SSSIs (north and south fen)
- ∅ Improving footpath access down from Peat Moors and top path, Churchill side
- ∅ Longer term work with Highways, Planning and other authorities to reduce/solve pollution and increase/restore rainfall infiltration in catchment.



# FROM DOORSTEPS

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[www.viva.org](http://www.viva.org)

Befriending struggling families in Oxford



This month sees the launch of H2O (Here to Help Oxford), a pilot scheme for befriending struggling families in East Oxford.

Parenting is full of challenges, and we want to be able to hold out a hand to parents who are feeling isolated, stressed or finding it difficult to cope. We are partnering with a local school and local churches in order to do this. If your church would like to get involved, please get in touch!

We are still looking for volunteers. Could you give up to two hours a week, for a minimum of six months, and be prepared to help a family realise their own strengths as well as be changed yourself? We will give you training and regular support.

If you are interested, please [email](mailto:h.barr@viva.org) Hannah at Doorsteps [h.barr@viva.org](mailto:h.barr@viva.org) or call her on 01865 811 660.

Collaborate with us for stay and play

Following the closure of Children's Centres across Oxfordshire, Doorsteps is committed to provision for under-5s. Our dream is to start a stay and play for East Oxford which brings together other services, such as opportunities to meet health visitors, breastfeeding clinic, and other signposting...essentially a one-stop-shop for under-5s care and needs!

There is enthusiasm for the project and there are already certain things in place, such as a venue. What we are looking for are people who are willing to partner with Doorsteps in some way to make this dream a reality. If you would like to be involved in any way – as a volunteer at the stay and play itself, helping to get the project off the ground, or able to offer any support or advice – please do get in touch! Please contact Hannah at Doorsteps on [h.barr@viva.org](mailto:h.barr@viva.org) or 01865 811660.

Do you run a toddler group or provide activities for under-5s and their parents/carers? We would love to hear from you. Are more families coming to your sessions after the closure of children's centres? If so, what challenges and opportunities does this bring? What support do you need to respond effectively to these challenges and opportunities?

In partnership with the Diocese of Oxford and Oxfordshire County Council, Doorsteps is

planning gatherings in north, central and south Oxfordshire to discuss these questions as well as offer support and training to local church-based toddler groups. Confirmed dates are:

- Thursday 21 September (evening) – North Oxfordshire
- Tuesday 10 October (evening) – Oxford City
- Tuesday 17 October (afternoon) – South and Vale

*Venues to be confirmed.*

Email Hannah at [h.barr@viva.org](mailto:h.barr@viva.org) to register your interest in attending these events.

## GROUP HOLIDAY

Following the response to the idea of a Group Holiday, we visited Plaistow Coaches, based in Wheatley, and met Barbara of Plaistow Coaches and Gordon (Gordon is one of the coach drivers for the firm but also runs Athena Holidays, using Plaistow coaches). We were very impressed with the suggestions made, and asked if Gordon could see whether a holiday in Eastbourne would be possible in September 2018.

Gordon has ascertained that it would be possible to book the Cumberland Hotel in Eastbourne. The departure day would be Monday, 10 September 2018, 4 nights with a maximum of 12 singles on a Dinner, Bed and Breakfast basis. The hotel is only able to agree 12 single rooms and there would need to be discussion on whether anyone is willing to share a twin-bedded room.

The cost would be £339.00 per person based on a minimum of 30. At the moment this does not include excursions which would add to the cost. Three excursions could be arranged, or two excursions with a free day, but this can be discussed further in due course. A £50 deposit per person would be required at some time, but we need more people to sign up to the holiday.

The ideal would be for 30 people to indicate they would like to take advantage of the holiday plus a reserve list! But unfortunately we have not yet reached the target of 30!

PLEASE CONTACT PAT OR SALLY IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE HOLIDAY OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS FURTHER.

Pat Chambers and Sally Hemsworth



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# An island, seaside parish

In December, it will be two years since I was licensed to my new parish in Bembridge on the Isle of Wight. In some ways the time has flown by; in others, it feels as if we've been here for years already. Oxford traffic is a distant memory (I walk around the parish and only take the car out to the Crematorium or for meetings elsewhere) and there's the enormous joy of being able to walk on the beach every day. It's good time to reflect, to pray and to plan.

Bembridge is a very large village (effectively a small town) on the very eastern tip of the Island – if you imagine the Isle of Wight as a diamond, we're the right-hand point. Before the late 1800s it was just a small collection of farms and isolated cottages for fishermen, together with a windmill that is now in the care of the National Trust. In 1874, an embankment was built across the harbour and a railway branch line added, which helped tourism and commercial life in the village. Very soon, there was a large hotel and a golf club (both patronised by Queen Victoria) and a smart sailing club. Boat building firms grew up around the harbour, large Victorian and Edwardian villas were built to house the families who spent the summer enjoying all that the village had to offer, and by the 1920s, there were regular articles in magazines like *Tatler* reporting on costume balls and society weddings.

Today, Bembridge is a village that still attracts visitors who are keen to sail, to walk along the beach exploring rock pools and visiting the lifeboat station, or to stay in the large 'leisure hotel' that offers entertainment and activities, but it's also home to a population of about 4,500 people. We have a Church of England primary school, a Methodist and a Roman Catholic church as well as the two Anglican churches that I am responsible for; we're lucky to have local shops that provide all that you could need, as well as several cafes, pubs and restaurants; there are three nursing and care homes and several retirement complexes; and of course, housing ranging from multi-million pound estates on the coast to retirement bungalows and social housing. It's a real community filled with people of all ages and backgrounds – and that's what makes it an exciting place in which to live and minister.

Like clergy everywhere, my week is filled with visiting parishioners, taking school assemblies and midweek services, meetings, preparation and the inevitable paperwork. I'm lucky to have a good team of church wardens, volunteers, two retired clergy colleagues and a Reader who is also our music director, and I'm grateful for them all. Recently, we've had an amazing flower festival, provided refreshments for visitors to the annual village Street Fair, welcomed our Archdeacon and a

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visiting choir to our Patronal Festival and are looking forward to the Bishop's visit in mid-September. I'm keeping up with chaplaincy duties for the Army Cadet Force, Bembridge RNLI (we just celebrated 150 years of the village lifeboat), the Sailing Club and the Yacht Club, and the local branch of the RBL, as well as enjoying the privilege of taking baptisms, weddings and – inevitably, in a village with a significant number of elderly people – funerals. Part of my job involves working with the Diocese as an Assistant Director of Ordinands, with particular responsibility for encouraging vocations and looking after candidates for ordained ministry on the Isle of Wight. It's good to look outwards beyond the parish and help to equip the Church for the future.

I think very fondly of the friends that Mark and I made in Cowley and in Oxford; your support and encouragement helps to underpin all that I do in Portsmouth Diocese. I pray for you regularly; will you pray for my ministry here too? And I can recommend the Isle of Wight as a lovely place to take a holiday!

With love, Amanda.

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## In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost

Almighty Father, I thank Thee for watching over me through the past night. Keep me this day from all danger in body and soul. Help me by Thy Holy Spirit to do Thy will, to fear and love Thee above all things. Make me careful to speak the truth, and give me a gentle and obedient spirit. Bless my father and mother (my brothers and sisters, my relations) and all in this house. Bless my country and Church. Make me to be daily a better and more holy child, and bless me now and for ever. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Revd George Moore

Researched by Les Hemsworth

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## OPEN THE BOOK : the new term

We are JAM 'just about managing' the three assemblies a fortnight with our reduced team so this is our latest appeal for some new team members to share the joy of story-telling – alternate weeks in one or more of our three schools, an hour each time to meet, prepare, tell/enact the story along with some children, clear up and plan the next time:

Mondays:	08.45	St Christopher's, Temple Road
Tuesdays:	10.00	Church Cowley St James, Bartholomew Road
Thursdays:	10.00	St Francis, Horspath Road

Why not come and observe in one of the schools to see if it fits your style – it's a great mission statement

We will meet on Monday 4 September, 9.30 in the Ranklin Room to talk through the coming term and particularly the first couple of weeks' sessions – come for a chat there.

Talk to/contact: Geoff or Lesley Williams or Jill Ling or Joan Coleman.

**ST. JAMES CHURCH**

**CHRISTMAS GIFT AND  
CRAFT FAIR**

**Saturday 4th November 2017**

10.00 am to 2.00 pm

St James Centre, Beauchamp Lane, Cowley

*Enjoy refreshments while you shop*

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

## CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 2017

Friday 9 – Saturday 19 December

Please read this again! Still nothing to add to last month's report, apart from confirmation of the theme, so we will just keep you involved by telling you that the planning is about to take a step up: we have the dates, an outline of the programme – although we have still to review the opening times - and the core organising team - although as usual we would *love* to be joined by at least a couple of new people – particularly someone to spend time on social media and websites to get the word out to Oxford and the world. And someone with persuasive sales skills who might enjoy approaching companies for sponsorship (there's an information pack provided). Neither of those role holders would need to attend meetings if they could not or did not want to!

The theme is set as Journeying (Mary and Joseph, the Holy Family, the Wise Men, pilgrimage, refugees, personal journeys, the journey of life.....)

The next planning meeting will be on Wednesday 13 September, 9.30-10.30 am in the Ranklin Room



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# DIARY DATES TO REMEMBER

## Mothers' Union

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

18 September 2017 – Talk by Revd Mark Oxbrow  
St James Church Centre

## Women's Institute

Monthly Meeting is on 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of month  
from 2 – 4.30 pm

20 September 2017 – Presentation on Music of  
London and a Harvest Bring and Buy Sale  
St James Church Centre

## Gardening

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

## Film Club

Friday, 8 September – "The Sting"

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

Saturday, 9 September 2017

Ride and Stride

Open Doors

Wedding Festival

St Francis Church Committee

Sunday, 10 September 2017, at 12.15 pm

St Francis Church

Monday, 11 September 2017

Walk from St James Church Centre

Meet at 2.15pm at St James Church Centre

Cowley Festival of Christmas Trees 2017

Next Planning Meeting – Wednesday, 13

September 2017, at 9.30 am

St James Church Centre

St James Church Committee

Sunday, 17 September 2017, at 12 noon

St James Church Centre

Mission and Social Planning Meeting

Tuesday, 19 September 2017, 7.30 pm

88 Temple Road

Decorating the church for Harvest

Saturday, 23 September 2017 at 10 am

St Francis Church

Harvest Thanksgiving

Sunday, 24 September 2017 at 10.30 am

Parish St Francis Day Celebration

Sunday 1 October, 10.30am service

followed by a shared lunch

St Francis Church

REMEMBER: Tuesday lunches commence  
on 5 September 2017

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# SUNDAY SERVICES

## ST JAMES CHURCH, BEAUCHAMP LANE

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

## ST FRANCIS CHURCH, HOLLOW WAY

10.30am Parish Eucharist  
2<sup>nd</sup> 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

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

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### Team Rector:

The Revd Canon Dr Geoffrey Bayliss  
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### Churchwardens:

Christine Woodman Tel: 778078  
St Francis : Vacant

Deputy Wardens  
Margaret Martin Tel: 718532  
Nick Dewey Tel: 07952 524664

### 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  
Articles to be emailed to:  
[chronicle@cowleyteamministry.co.uk](mailto:chronicle@cowleyteamministry.co.uk)  
Paper contributions to the Parish Office.