

Dear Friends...

As I write this letter to you I am preparing to interview for our next Team Rector. I am nervous because I want the day to go well, I want the candidates to feel peaceful, looked after and to enjoy their time with us. I imagine they are even more anxious than I am! We invest so much of ourselves in the things we care about - they become part of us! Of course by the time this is printed we will know who is coming. All the emotions we are feeling now will seem a long time ago!

But it won't be emotion or time wasted.

Without the efforts of the many who volunteered to help with the interviews, without the details - flowers on the tables and homemade cakes, without the excitement and welcoming new faces - the day wouldn't have been as successful!

The hard work does reap rewards. And it isn't just interviews that we need to work hard on; all the events we do here in Cowley are dependent on how hard we plan, prepare, advertise and pray. We know the more we invest in the event and spend of our time and energy then the more likely the event will be a success.

On the 16th of May we have our Plant Sale in the St James Church Centre and I am reminded of the Bible reading in 2 Corinthians 9:6. 'The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully'. I imagine Joan and others have been preparing for the event for some time by planting extra seeds and taking cuttings of mature plants, keeping them safe on every work surface available in their homes for the 16th where all the extra bounty will be sold to raise funds for

church. As we sit in our gardens, enjoying the rare moments of sunshine we may look around and be grateful of all the work we have put into our gardens earlier on as the flowers bloom and summer begins to appear in all its colour. Where we have sown bountifully, we now enjoy the rewards.

But our bible reading isn't about our material gain - that thinking that if we give more we will receive more. It's about our spiritual return!

If our events are only about fund raising and our own material needs; if they are inward-looking, then we have missed the point of what church, community and being a child of God is about! All of us need to ask - do I invest in my relationship with God? Do I invest my time and energy in worship and prayer? If this is something that you would like me to pray or talk with you about, please do let me know and ring the office or my direct line.

I've been in the parish for almost three years this coming month and I've noticed that we aren't very good at focusing on ourselves, and our relationship with God - investing in our spiritual lives - as much as we do with events and social gatherings. This month my prayer for you is that you will feel liberated to know that there are times when we need to know it's OK to be selfish and realise that we do matter; God cares and our lives are precious; we are worth investing in.

'The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully'.

Skye

Chronicle

May
2015

Editor's Letter

Dear Readers

Some of us remember that wonderful day, seventy years ago, when the church bells rang out all over the country to mark the end of a long war which had affected us all. Well, on the 9th May when we in Cowley are going to mark that anniversary, the bells will ring out from the tower of our lovely parish church. While as many of us as possible are going to gather for a VE day tea party, teams of ringers from various parts of Oxfordshire will be competing in the Oxfordshire Ringers Guild. So do come along and hear them, join in the tea, sing-song and games. We thought it would be fun to share any items of WW2 memorabilia so if you have anything – photos, newspapers, etc please bring them along. (I, by the way, have my mum's wartime recipe book!) If you have, somewhere, tucked away a board game such as Ludo to keep the children amused please bring that too. We shall serve tea from 4 pm and hope to end by 6.30 pm so that we can go home and watch the big concert being held in London, on the TV.

As I write this letter excitement is growing in the parish at the forthcoming selection of our new Rector. Of course, by the time you receive your Chronicle his or her name will be known. I have been checking how many clergy we have had at St James in the 55 years since I first worshipped there, and I think the total is eleven. Each new one has brought new ideas and new challenges to the parish so I am, like you (?) looking forward very much to the next phase of life in the parish.

I cannot write my letter this month without commenting on our incredible 2015 spring. Hasn't it been beautiful? On Easter Sunday the church looked like "fairylane" with the trees in

glorious blossom and the daffodils a'growing and a'blowing in big clumps. Is this the harbinger of an extra special summer, I wonder? And while we are on the subject let's hope that the weather is kind for the parish exodus to the seaside on 30th May.

Life is full of coincidences, I find, and this month has been no exception for me. Hugh Mackay, our latest interviewee for The Chronicle, and I were almost half-way through our interview when it transpired that he and my son, Rob, were fellow students in the sixth form at Cheney School in 1991. As a mum or a dad you always hope that your teenagers are as well-behaved as possible when you are not around, don't you? So I was very pleased to hear from Hugh how much he thought of Rob. Sorry, readers, don't want to boast but it made me very happy.

When I was a young child my parents taught me never to make promises I could not keep and I have tried to stick to that maxim ever since. I do hope (and pray) that the same can be said for all the promises we have had thrown at us in the last few weeks by the leaders of the political parties. If they manage to keep only half of them we shall all be living in paradise in the next few years!

Our next big challenge in the parish is Christian Aid Week. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could break the record of our giving this year? Let us try, next week, to spare a little bit more cash for the wonderful work Christian Aid does all over the world. With so many disasters and human need they can use all the help they can get, can't they?

God Bless

Rosanne

A letter to the Editor

I too have many happy memories of Temple Cowley Library. My mother was an avid reader, always took her share of books out, making regular visits to the library, a time to catch up with her friends – Mrs Humphreys from Church Hill Road, Mrs Cotterell from Knowles Road, and many more (I am not certain how the “Silence” rule applied when they were there!). When I was available, I would accompany my mum to the library, I would always turn right into the children’s library and rarely, until much older, would go into the adult library. I spent hours, cross legged on the floor even though there were tables available, reading all sorts of books, both fiction and non-fiction. Oh happy times.

Sally Hemsworth

COWLEY WOMEN’S INSTITUTE

The Cowley WI celebrated in April. Some members took part in the various festivities held to mark the progress of the WI Centenary Baton on its journey through Oxfordshire. We then had our own celebration for our 30th anniversary. We held a Lunch party, followed by our monthly meeting when we were entertained with a Sing-A-Long and enjoyed delicious iced birthday cake.

It is back to business for our next meeting on Wednesday, 20th May at 2 pm, when we shall have a gentle exercise session, and we will discuss a Resolution about Carers which will be debated at the National Annual Meeting being held at the Royal Albert Hall the following month. We are holding a Garden party on 17th June.

Cowley WI meets on the third Wednesday in the month, at 2 pm at the St James Church Centre, Beauchamp Lane. Come along – a welcome awaits you.

Ann Withers

President, Cowley WI

HEALING AT ST JAMES

Healing takes place in St James every Sunday morning during Holy Communion in St Luke’s Chapel.

Members of the congregation, who are in need of a sympathetic ear and prayer either for themselves or a relative or friend enter the Chapel to receive comfort from one or two volunteers who are also members of the congregation, what is said in the Chapel is completely confidential.

Could you be one of those volunteers? We do need more. If you were on the rota you would probably be required about once every 4 weeks maybe even less.

You do not need qualifications. All you would need to be is patient, sympathetic and a good listener.

Alan Howell and Margaret Martin

CRAFTS AND FLOWERS AT ST JAMES CHURCH

SATURDAY, JUNE 13TH AND SUNDAY, JUNE 14TH

As it is two years since we held a Flower Festival at St James it seems a good idea to think about staging one this summer. Several members of St James belong to the Florence Park Flower-arranging Group so it seemed appropriate to invite the members of that group to participate along with some of our friends. The theme we have chosen is "Music through the Ages" which gives us plenty of scope.

Having started planning for the Flower Festival the idea came of incorporating an exhibition of some of the crafts produced by members of our congregations to be displayed at the same time. Rosanne Butler kindly undertook to co-ordinate the craft displays and has identified a wide range of talents.

With such a diversity of skills available we should be able to put on a really worth-while show.

We shall, of course, be serving refreshments – tea, coffee and cakes – so will be grateful for donations of cakes. Stewards to greet our visitors and 'tea-pourers' will be needed. Lists for cake donation and duty rotas will appear nearer the time.

Please support this venture by offering to help in some way.

Margaret Martin

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A prayer for the older person:

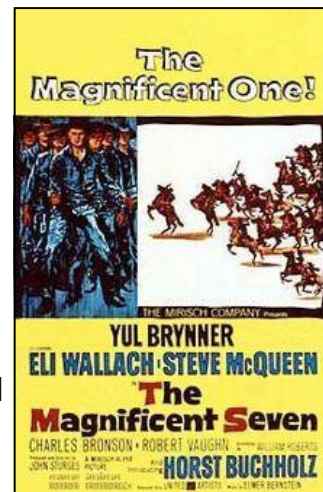
God, grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked, the good fortune to run into those that I do and the eyesight to tell the difference.

Film Club at the Centre

Because we are a club we welcome suggestions from our members as to films they would like to include in future programmes. In April we chose "West Side Story" at the request of several people. Of course, not every film suits every member and so it proved with this one. Our audience was a little smaller than of late but no matter the story was lovely, the singing and dancing superb and the music magnificent. Again members' donations made up a useful profit for parish funds.

"When are we having another western?" some of our members asked a couple of months ago. The answer is "in May". On 8th of the month we are showing one of the most iconic westerns of all times – "The Magnificent Seven". Based on an ancient Japanese story "The Seventh Samurai" it tells of a group

of Mexican banditos who ride the countryside terrorising simple village folk. One village decided to fight back and approached a well-known gun-man to help. He (played by Yul Brynner) gathers a group of like-minded characters and they ride to the aid of these people. Amongst the stars are Steve McQueen and Charles Bronson. It has some pretty violent scenes but is a story of good triumphing over evil, the oppressed rescued from oppression. With a happy ending, including a touch of romance, it should appeal to most of our members.



MOTHERS' UNION NEWS

Whilst trolling through by-gone copies of Cowley Chronicle it came to our notice that a monthly Mothers' Union Corporate Communion was held regularly in one of our three churches. The present Committee decided that it was a pity that this had been allowed to lapse and have also decided to revive it. On the first Tuesday of each month the service will be held in conjunction with the weekly noonday communion in St James Church. Skye who is a Mothers' Union member will officiate and after the service we may, if we wish, take advantage of the Tuesday lunch served in the Church Centre.

The April branch meeting was held on the nearest Monday to St George's Day when members enjoyed a celebratory lunch to recognise our patron saint. The Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer, when we pray for the leaders and members of our link dioceses in Africa and Papua New Guinea, coincided with our lunch so we ended our meeting with this. We also sang the St George's hymn which is to be found in the old Ancient and Modern hymn book.

The speaker for our May meeting on the 18th of the month will be Jim Godfrey, former verger and now Visitors' Officer at Christ Church Cathedral. He is a lively young man with a good sense of humour so his talk will be, we are sure, both interesting and entertaining.

The Greenhouse gets a Make-over

As I write there are two men working on my elderly greenhouse. I lost a couple of panes of glass from the roof when we had some strong winds a few weeks ago and there are also a couple of damaged ones. Most of the metal clips are failing now and the panes of glass are slipping. I can cope with replacing glass on the sides but trying to reach the roof is pretty dangerous for me! Last year it was great to see the Morning Glory flowers showing well as they grew out of the gaps but it is not good to have more ventilation than needed!

We are still waiting for the fence, all along the other side of the garden, to be replaced. Bags and bags of ivy have been pulled off the old fence by yours truly and we have a large bare area where the boring shrubbery has been removed. My aim to create a colourful border has been put on hold until we get the new fence. There are plants in pots waiting to go in and it is getting late to sow grass seed on the area which is to be lawn.

My other half has done very well this spring to dig the entire allotment in record time – and – he's dug in manure too! He is halfway to clearing the separate area that held our raspberries but this is hard work as the soil got compacted between the rows. I bought new canes in the autumn that I planted elsewhere on the plot and they are just starting to show. I won't get much fruit this year and I can always go to the pick-your-own. I shall be up there very frequently over the next month as I love asparagus. Nothing beats gathering the spears in the field and into the pot as soon as you get home!

Some of the veg sown on the allotment is starting to show but we have had some very dry weather recently. Bring on the rain! My peas look good and I have managed to put up the netting bedecked with shiny, fluttering CDs before the pigeons get nibbling. I don't know if it is an old wives' tale, but they say that peas get eaten by mice as they swell prior to germinating in the ground. I sprinkled out-of-date Olbas oil on the row to deter these critters, anyway.

Of course, I have had to clear out the greenhouse this morning and it surprises me just how many pots and trays I have with stuff for the Plant Sale. Don't forget Saturday 16th May. We are open from 10am until 1pm. I always bring home something new. I hope that you will find something to add to your garden and that you bring lots of plants to be sold. With only a couple of weeks to go I am having my usual panic about whether my offerings will have grown enough and what prices I can put on them. I also must get the banner out and change the date on it. The Plant Sale is always a great social occasion so do come and bring your friends!

Joan Coleman

BINGO

Since the 6th April it has been my great pleasure in answering the request to be the latest Bingo caller. I find the participants to be very cordial and amicable, with an attendance of between ten and twenty since my tenure (figures per week). You would be very welcome to come along and join in – it is very enjoyable

Gerald Ives

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR CHURCHES

Extract from Stanley Gibbons' article in Cowley Chronicle February 1954



A gift of two slabs of marble from the Catacombs at Rome was received by the Parish in 1929. One of these slabs is inserted in the centre of the altar in St. Francis' Church. Consequently we may feel that we have a very direct connection with the early Christian Church of the days when it was persecuted and driven underground by the Roman Emperors.

When we offer our worship in the Holy Communion service we can be mindful that the priest at the altar in our Church sets down the chalice on a stone which could have been the silent "witness" of similar worship nearly two thousand years ago.

On this particular tablet of stone, five small crosses have been carved, one in each corner and one in the centre. These are to remind us of the five wounds of Our Lord; in His hands, His feet and His side. One of the closest followers of Jesus, our own St. Francis, received these marks in his own body. These stigmata, as they are called, show in an outward way the wonderful identity of character between St. Francis and His Lord and Master.

The Superior of the Society of St. Francis, Father Robertson, made this the theme of his sermon when he came to preach at the 21st Anniversary St. Francis-tide Festival in 1952. He showed that these five stigmata of St. Francis could be likened to the five marks of a Christian character-TRUTH, PURITY, CHARITY, HUMILITY, and FAITH IN GOD-each of which, if found in us, mark us, and make us into the likeness of the five-fold wounded Christ.

Les Hemsworth

PRAY

THINK

PRAY

VOTE



The Reality of sin and hope in Holy Week

Holy week this year was a little different for me. On Maundy Thursday I began to receive reports of a terrorist attack in Garissa, northern Kenya. At first the reports were sketchy, coming on Facebook from Rev. Francis Omondi who works in that area, then later in the day we learnt that 147 students had been killed and a further 150 injured at the university. They were the victims of an attack by El Shabab.



Several of you in the parish will have met Francis Omondi who has stayed here and worshipped at St. James on at least two occasions. On the last occasion he spoke at the morning service about his work in northern Kenya. His first message to me on Maundy Thursday read, "Today 2 April was to be our school closing day. We at Garissa Academy were to gather with guests from Nairobi and Garissa for our prize giving for excellent academic performance of last year. Three miles away from us at 4:30am Alshabaab gun men struck! Garissa University is under hostage. There has been a

stand-off between police and KDF forces and the hostages (mainly students in one of the hostels) and masked gunmen since that time. Our friends and relations in the university are holed in their houses and speaking by phone we are told that there is gun shots sounds continuously. There are several killed already and a number injured but we will know the full extent of the damage once the place opens. Pray with us." We now know that many more were to die before the attack was over.

But there is also hope. Francis is now working with the families of those who died and has launched an appeal to help them. In the same region another Faith2Share associate continues to work in a refugee camp for Somali refugees. His name is Livingstone (quite a good name for a missionary!) and his work aims to build trust between Christians and Muslim people as a contribution to peace in the region.

Do please pray for Francis and Livingstone and their families working in such a dangerous area.

Mark Oxbrow

COWLEY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

19 May 2015

Commencing at 8.00 pm

TALK:

William Gill—Victorian Explorer and Spy
an illustrated talk by Liz Woolley

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

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Extract from the Cowley Parish Magazine, August 1891

Reprinted January 1958 in The Cowley Chronicle

ST JAMES CHOIR OUTING (1891)

Thursday July 17th was a red letter day for the Choir. By the liberality of the Vicar and Parishioners they were enabled to have a day's outing which they will never forget. Starting in a four-horse brake at 9.30am from Temple Terrace, and accompanied by the Vicar's Warden, Mr. Savage (the Vicar and Mr. Churchwarden Johnson being unavoidably absent) they had a pleasant ride to Thame. Here a halt was made for an hour, during which time the boys and some of the men showed their appreciation of the cakes, cherries, tarts and strawberries, kindly provided by Mrs. Harris, Mrs. Baker, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Thompson, Mr. Walton and Mr. Savage. The bugle was sounded, another start was made, and the 'Bugle Horn' a beautiful spot about 20 miles from Cowley, was soon reached. Here the boys were ready for more ginger beer, etc. After satisfying their appetites they amused themselves by inspecting the tea gardens, haymaking, cricket, etc., till 2pm. when the bell rang for dinner. Grace having been sung, full justice was done to the good things provided.

A short rest was necessary after dinner before the cricket match between teams captained by Mr. J. Hunt and Mr. J. E. Furmage began. Great fun was caused by Mr. Hunt's series of antics when Mr. A. Skinner with his first ball bowled Mr. R. Burborough, a professional player. In the end Mr. Furmage's side won by 12 runs. When the match was over, glees etc. were sung on the lawn, at the request of the host, Mr. Gardner. Tea was now ready, and as cricket etc. had made everyone hungry, it was enjoyed. After tea Mr. Furmage thanked Mr. Savage for accompanying and helping the choir. Mr. Savage in reply said it always gave him great pleasure to do what he could for the choir, and expressed his regret that the Vicar and Mr. Johnson were unable to be present.

A start for home was made at 7pm, and enjoyable as the morning ride had been, it was even more so returning. Another halt was made at Thame, where a repetition of the morning's performance took place. At 10.30pm home was reached, and the unanimous feeling was one of gratitude to those who had so kindly enabled them to have had the most pleasant day they had ever spent.

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Rosanne interviews Hugh Mackay

As soon as I opened my front door to this very tall young man with a warm smile and a lovely strong handshake I think I knew I was in for a couple of interesting hours. It was Nick Dewey who told me that Hugh was an interesting chap who would be good to interview and I am most grateful to him for the suggestion. I hope you will be too. Hugh is a man who tells everything like it is and what you see is what you get.

The son of a Congregational minister, he was born in Amersham and then grew up in Chinnor. At three and a half he was sent to prep school at Dorton House in Ashfold. At first a day pupil until he was eleven he then began to board. Even at the young age of two it was discovered that he had perfect pitch so very early on he joined the school choir. This meant a lot to him because he was a little boy with a club foot in a school which highly rated sporting skills. Instead he gained respect through his music. All his young friends were fans of Liverpool football club so Hugh decided he would follow the fortunes of Manchester United instead. He was allowed a poster on his bedroom wall and an MU mug!

Academically his favourite subject by far was English. He found refuge, being a quiet self-contained child, in reading. He has recently been diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome and believes that this accounts for his need to read challenging books. Like lots of boys he immersed himself in non-fiction and was also reading *The Daily Telegraph* regularly at the age of ten. His preferred fiction at the same age was the entire works of Charles Dickens.

His love of music began when he was very young and at the age of five he started piano lessons. He loved his weekly lessons at the weekends, when he was at boarding school. Sadly, though by this time he was being bullied at school not just, according to him, by fellow pupils but also by some of his teachers. Predominantly he was so harried by his maths teacher that he began to fail badly in other subjects too.

He was transferred, by his parents, to Millbrook House School when he was about thirteen, to be crammed for Common Entrance exams. Then his father died. Hugh describes this period of his life as his "lost period". Another

move to Shiplake College at Henley-on-Thames proved even more of a disaster when he told me that he was "bullied to oblivion". However in 1991 he joined the lower sixth at Cheney School in Headington, he and his mother by now were living in the area. He took French, Spanish and English at A level and things seemed better, no bullying there.

After gaining a place at Portsmouth University he was forced to leave after a short time diagnosed with clinical depression. His love of music came to his rescue. He began to play the piano again, moving on from Standard 5 to Standard 8 and he also met Arne Richards, an organist at SS Mary and John who introduced him to the organ. He had begun to worship at All Saints Church, Highfield in Headington. He was competent enough to play for evensong there but also sang in the choir. (I have to admit I don't quite know how he managed both and was unable to ask as by now our interview was in full flow!)

As a very small boy his grandparents had taken him regularly to St Barnabas Church in Jericho and he had grown to

love the place. He told me that it was while he was watching "Match of the Day" (a great favourite) on television in 1997 that a voice called him back to St Barnabas. Many of my readers will know how "high" the services are there, and soon Hugh had come to reject the idea of women priests. He joined Forward in Faith, a movement which coincided with his conviction.

He went to Walsall to read music at the University of Wolverhampton. Looking for a high Anglican church he rang the Diocese of Litchfield who suggested St Gabriel's church in Walsall. He told me it was while he was studying at Wolverhampton he fell in love with a young man, with whom he became inseparable. It was with much sadness he also told me that his first love is now teaching in the Philippines and "drinking himself to death".

As a mature student he joined the sixth form at Wheatley Park School and did AS French and music. By now in his thirties he was proficient enough to be playing organ music on a freelance basis. Whilst playing in London at St Andrew's, Willesden Green, he met Andrew, his present partner. Hugh and his mother took a holiday in Caen in France and whilst he was there

they heard that the Church of England had removed all barriers to the preferment of women to become bishops. For him that was the last straw and he decided to convert to Catholicism. It took time but he was received into the Catholic Church in 2010.

As part of his recovery process during his lost period Hugh set himself a project to learn Latin through the Open University. Having graduated with a higher education diploma to teach, he no longer just teaches music but Latin too.

So how did this unique young man become part of our parish? Well, he began filling in as a "stop-gap" (as he describes it) at the Oxford Crematorium. From 2011 he has been appointed as their regular organist and it was there that he encountered a certain vicar named Skye who was looking for someone to accompany the hymns at St Francis Church. He also plays for services at Willesden Green, gives piano lessons at home and singing lessons too.

His life is full of music and a love of football, but his faith as a Christian is the overpowering force in all he does. It has not been an easy ride for Hugh so far but he told me that understanding that he has Asperger's syndrome has given

him closure on past problems and a way forward

How would you describe yourself as a young child?

Quiet, determined, single-minded, a Christian.

Have you any never-to-be-forgotten memories of childhood?

Yes, my first visit to St Barnabas Church at the age of five

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

Vincent Packford, my organ teacher. But before that at Cheney School your son, Robbie, and his friend James.

Has your faith been with you since childhood?

Yes, I have never doubted

Do you have a treasured possession?

My father's memoirs

What is your opinion of present-day society?

Noise – we live in a noisy age – very loud music – everything today is geared towards noise.

If you could change something in a big way what would it be?

I would change the dependency culture. The idea that society

owes people, that really gets my goat.

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

My thirties. I found Andrew, began my job at the Crematorium and found a meaning to life.

How do you like to spend your leisure time?

I have a favourite TV programme – World Snooker (I love it). I also regularly watch “Match of the Day” and The Football League Show. I also listen to classical music on UTube and Facebook.

What plans do you have for the future?

I plan to stay in Oxford, still playing at the “Crem”. I shall take things as they come. I don’t want to uproot myself again.

THE COLOURS OF THE CHURCH

The colours of the ‘hangings’ in our churches will remain as they are until May 24th - Pentecost Sunday. At St Francis red will be used - the colour denoting the Holy Spirit. As there are no red hangings on Altar frontals at St James the gold set will still be used as this incorporates a red band – the priest will wear a red stole or one with appropriate symbolism.

For weekday services in the week after Pentecost green will be the colour in use but for Trinity Sunday, May 31st, we shall revert to the festival colours in both our churches.

Margaret Martin

Granny bought her little grandson a water pistol. When his father came to collect him from Granny’s house he turned to his mother saying “I’m surprised you gave him a water pistol, don’t you remember how I used to chase you round the garden with mine when I was his age?” “Oh yes” she replied with a smile, “I remember it very well.”

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 FOAL

O God! THE GRASS IS SO YOUNG!

My hooves are full of capers.

Then

why does this terror start up in me?

I race

and my mane catches the wind.

I race

and Your scents beat on my heart.

I race

falling over my own feet in my joy,

because my eyes are too big

and I am their prisoner:

eyes too quick to seize

on the uneasiness that runs through the whole world.

Dear God,

when the strange night

prowls round the edge of day,

let Yourself be moved by my plaintive whinny;

set a star to watch over me

and hush my fear.

AMEN

MISSION OF THE MONTH



One of the Missions the parish of Cowley supports in its annual Mission Giving is OYW.

Here is some info about what it does. Tony Beetham.

What OYW is

Oxford Youth Works is a Christian charity with over twenty five years of experience in youth and schools work and youth work training. We offer long-term relational youth work and professional-standard youth work training through our training arm, Oxford CYM. We are currently doing youth work within Oxford Spires Academy, Cheney School and St Gregory the Great School.

What work it does

Our youth work team go into school with John 10:10 as their prayer: bring life in all its fullness, wherever you can and in whatever ways you can. Over the past five years we have delivered mentoring projects, mountain biking clubs and trips, The Cupcake Club, the Knitting Club, several Book Clubs, several residential trips and numerous half term and summer holiday trips to a variety of places. We have enjoyed visits to East Oxford and city centre churches (and we're always keen to visit more!).

Sept 2015 we launched 'Explore: Youth Work and Peer Leadership', an NOCN qualification aimed at non-traditional Sixth Formers. 25 students started in September, and we have been delighted to see them grow together as a community, turn a corner in January, and really take ownership of their own ability to do good youth work and make a profound difference within their school community and the lives of the students around them.

We are particularly excited about our 'JOY' youth community, bringing together young people from various schools to 'explore the Christian way of life' together. In this context we have covered everything from stories about Jesus to how key Christian beliefs could help to shape our thinking around social media, how we use our mobile phones, and even football. The JOY community are developing a depth of relationship it is often very hard to find anywhere – they look out for each other, they listen to each other, they remind us if we forget to bring up the prayer, they bring their friends. This group has young people from a broad range of faith backgrounds and has more than doubled between Aug 2014 and Jan 2015.

We very much appreciate your prayer; the prayer of the local church is of a priceless source of encouragement and support! Please do get in touch if you'd like any more information about the work we do; contact hannahwoods@oxfordyouthworks.co.uk.

FLOWER OF THE MONTH—THE IRIS

When I was a small child my parish church was one dedicated to St Denys. The font was decorated with carved irises and it was explained to me that the church was built by the Normans, and that those irises were the national flower of France, St Denys being a French saint too.

It was the flower, the flag iris, which is supposed to have saved the life of the sixth century Frankish King, Clovis, who succeeded in conquering much of France under the Christian banner. God was said to have shown Clovis, trapped by the Goths at a bend in the Rhine, flag irises growing where the river was shallow enough to cross with his army and so escape. In gratitude he adopted the flower of the iris as his emblem and so it became the emblem of the succeeding kings of France. During the second French Crusade King Louis VII's banner bore the iris motif and so it became fleur de Louis which later was the fleur-de-lis.

With its close association with the River Nile it is not surprising to learn that Egyptian tombs and even the brows of their gods were adorned with irises but it may come as surprising to know that white examples were planted on Muslim graves as a symbol of mourning.

We know that the centre of the eye is called the iris but it is an interesting fact that that is the only part of human features which cannot have its colour changed.

However, back to the flower itself. With its trinity of petals (three curving upwards and three curving down) it has religious associations. It is especially dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The sword-like leaves are also part of the story since they were said to reflect Mary's pain at the

suffering of Our Lord and her defence against the Devil. In some parts of Britain the wild yellow iris is called the sedge and it is thought that it gets its name from the Anglo-Saxon word segg – a sword – because of its distinctive leaves.

The bearded iris, which used to be exclusively purple in colour, is the flower which we grow now in gardens and parks. Through hybridisation it can be found in a wide range of colours from golden brown, through yellow, pink and into a pure white. This seems particularly good as the Goddess Iris, in ancient times, was the goddess of the rainbow. Her rainbow was said to connect heaven to earth forming a bridge from those on earth to their departed loved ones.

To cultivate bearded iris successfully it is important to plant their rhizomes very shallowly so that the tops are above the earth. This way enables them to be baked by the sun whilst the roots grow down into the soil to seek nutrients and water. They are plants that love the sun. To see them in their splendour I suggest a trip to The Oxford Botanic Gardens where there are lots of gorgeous colours of irises on show.



DIARY DATES TO REMEMBER

Mothers' Union

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

St James Church Centre

Speaker on 18 May—Jim Godfrey, Visitors' Officer,
Christ Church Cathedral

Women's Institute

Monthly Meeting 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)

St Francis Church Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, 3rd May 2015, at 12.15 pm

Film Club

Friday, 10 April 2015 - "The Magnificent Seven"

St James Church Centre,

commencing at 6.30pm with coffee and cake

Time to Celebrate – 70th Anniversary of VE Day

Saturday, 9 May 2015, at 4 pm

Bring-and-share tea party. St James Church Centre

St James Church Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, 10th May 2015 at St James Church Centre

Christian Aid Week

10 – 16 May 2015

Plant Sale

Saturday, 16th May 2015, at St James Church Centre

Sunday Lunch

Sunday, 17 May at 12.30pm

St. James Church Centre

Come and enjoy a full cooked Sunday lunch with
other members of the parish for a very reasonable
price. Open to all but PLEASE BOOK IN ADVANCE
(by Wednesday 13 May) by calling the Parish Office
(01865) 747 680

Cowley Local History Society

Talk: Williams Gill—Victorian Explorer and Spy, an
illustrated talk by Tony Hadland

8pm at United Reformed Church, Temple Road
Tuesday, 19 May 2015

Roy Godwin – an Evening of Worship & the Word

7 pm at Mill Farm Barns, Stanford in the Vale
Thursday, 21st May 2015

Cowley Festival of Christmas Trees 2015 - First planning meeting

Friday, 22 May 2015, 09.45 am in the Ranklin Room,
St James Church Centre

Parochial Church Council Meeting

Sunday, 24th May 2015, at 12 noon

St James Church Centre

St Francis Church Committee

Sunday, 7 June 2015 at 12.15 pm

St Francis Church

Crafts and Flowers at St James Church

Saturday, 13th June 2015 and Sunday, 14th June 2015.

St James Church Committee

Sunday, 14 June 2015 at 12.15 pm

St James Church Centre

Christian Aid Quiz

Friday, 26 June 2015, at 7 pm

St James Church Centre

Parochial Church Council Meeting

Sunday, 19 July 2015, at 12 noon

St James Church Centre

Afraid, alone, in pain

Be the answer to Loko's prayer this Christian Aid Week.



This Christian Aid Week, you can help transform the lives of women like Loko.

From 10-16 May, churches the length and breadth of Britain and Ireland will come together to pray, campaign and raise money to improve the lives of people like Loko.

Every year, 100,000 volunteers demonstrate God's love for the poor by taking part in house-to-house collections for Christian Aid.

This fantastic witness is a chance to take the mission of the church into your community.

Loko's choice in life is simple: 'If I can't collect firewood, my children will die.'

Four times a week, in a remote corner of Ethiopia, Loko makes a back-breaking eight-hour trip to gather wood. It's a task she dreads, but she steels herself to do it because if she doesn't her children will starve.

She prays to God as she walks. 'I ask him to change my life and lead us out of this,' she says.

Just £5 could give Loko a loan to start her own business buying and selling tea and coffee, freeing her from her desperate task and allowing her to spend more time caring for her family.



Find out how you can play your part at www.caweek.org



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ROLE DESCRIPTIONS OF VOLUNTEERS

Cowley St James Bell ringers

This month our practices and Sunday ringing have continued as usual, and with nothing out of the ordinary to report, it seems a good opportunity to say a few words about who the St James bell ringers are.

We currently have eight ringers. Our tower captain is Paul Brown, and he has been ringing since the new band was formed about five years ago. He keeps us all in order and teaches any new ringers who come and join us. He is also our Steeplekeeper, which means he is responsible for tower maintenance issues. Margie Craig is our deputy, and she has responsibility for child protection and first aid (and also makes wonderful pastries for our get togethers). Jamie Brown is Paul's son, and his enthusiasm is infectious – he sometimes comes in early to clean the tower so it looks nice when we have visitors, and has started a 'memory wall' of photos of the current band since it's formation. Jenny Barson has been with us for three years, and is a keen ringer when she is not on one of her many travels around the world. She always returns with some great stories to tell. Charlotte Furneaux has been with us for a year and a half, and returned to ringing after a long gap, having learned as a child. Despite having recently moved away from Cowley, she still likes to join us for practices and on Sundays whenever she can. Roy Grant has been with us for about a year now, and when he isn't ringing with us, spends much of his time working for the RSPB, and in fact this Sunday when he arrived to ring had already been up since dawn doing bird surveys. Iris Geens has recently joined us and has astonished all of us with how quickly she is picking things up. Finally there is me – Lindsay Powell, I am the Tower Correspondent, so I keep people informed of events, and organise ringers for weddings.

If you would like to know more about bell ringing, or our practices, please get in touch, we would love to hear from you. Details of how to contact me are below.

Lindsay Powell

St James Cowley Tower Correspondent

Email: secretary@oxfordcitybranch.org

Tel: 01865 777486

IT'S QUIZ-TIME AGAIN!

Do you like to have fun whilst helping to raise money for an excellent charity? Well, if so, do put Friday, 26th June in your diaries. It is time for our annual Christian Aid Quiz. As ever it will be in the Church Centre at 7 pm and cost £3 to enter. Soft drink and lots of nibbles will be on offer. If you like to lubricate your team with a bottle of wine you are, of course, at liberty to bring one. In order to raise further funds there will be a raffle. Do let friends and families know and make this a great evening for a great cause



RECIPES

After a very "meaty" month in April we thought we had better give our vegetarian friends a couple of treats. However, you do not have to be exclusively vegetarian to enjoy these!

Vegetable Paella

- 4 fl ozs olive oil
- 2 large onions, thinly sliced
- 2 cloves garlic, crushed
- 1 large red pepper, de-seeded, pith removed, thinly sliced
- 12 ozs long grain rice
- 1 pt vegetable stock
- 4 large tomatoes blanched, peeled, de-seeded, thinly sliced
- 4 oz frozen (or fresh) green beans
- 3 oz frozen(or fresh) peas
- 2 celery stalks, trimmed and chopped
- 18 black olives, halved and stoned
- Salt and black pepper
- 2 oz slivered almonds (optional but nice)

Soak rice in cold water for 30 minutes and drain

In very large saucepan heat oil over moderate heat

Add onions, garlic and pepper and cook, stirring, until the onion is soft and golden. Stir in the drained rice and cook for 5 minutes. Pour in the stock and turn up heat to high till liquid is boiling. Turn down heat and add all the other ingredients except the almonds. Cover pan and simmer gently for about 35 minutes until rice is tender and all the liquid has been absorbed.

Turn paella on to serving dish and sprinkle the slivered almonds over the top.



Vegetable Rissoles

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 4 oz red lentils | 1 large onion, finely chopped |
| 1 celery stalk, trimmed and finely chopped | 2 small carrots, scraped and grated |
| 2 oz cooked green beans, finely chopped | 2 oz fresh white breadcrumbs |
| Salt and plenty of ground black pepper | 1 teaspoon dried mixed herbs |
| 3 oz dried white breadcrumbs | 3 eggs |
- 2 fl oz vegetable oil

Soak the lentils overnight then cook them till they are soft. Drain thoroughly.

Put lentils, all the vegetables, 2 of the eggs, fresh white breadcrumbs, salt, pepper, herbs in mixing bowl and stir everything together well.

Set mixture aside for about 30 minutes for the flavours to merge.

Beat the remaining egg in a shallow bowl. Spread the dry breadcrumbs on a large plate. Using your hands shape the rissole mixture into 8 small balls, then gently flatten them. Dip each one in the beaten egg, then coat them with the dry breadcrumbs.

In a medium frying pan heat the vegetable oil and when hot gently lower the rissoles into the pan using a fish slice. Fry for 10 minutes on each side taking care not to burn them.

These can be served with a crisp salad for a low calorie meal or with chips for a naughty but nice one.

Plant Sale

**St James Church Centre
Beauchamp Lane**

Saturday 16 May

10am to 1pm

bedding and herbaceous plants

vegetables and herbs

house plants

PLUS

home make cakes + jam,
marmalade, chutney + raffle
+ bric-a-brac + refreshments



CHRONICLE

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

Deadline for the next edition:

Wednesday 20 May 2015

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.

BOOK OF THE MONTH

Wychwood

The Secret Cotswold Forest

By Mollie Harris

Illustrated by Gary Woodley

If you are fond of nature and wild life this is just the book for you, especially as it is situated in our own county of Oxfordshire. It is well researched and beautifully presented and illustrated.

Access to it has always been limited and restricted, hence the title 'The Secret Forest'. Originally the Hunting Ground of several of our members of Royalty where outsiders were not welcome, this has remained in private hands, which has not made things any easier. On the more positive side, this privacy has meant that rare animals, plants and trees have been able to flourish where in other areas they have been destroyed. This is an area of outstanding natural beauty and scientific interest. By obtaining special permission to walk freely in Wychwood, along with her illustrator, over a period of a year, Molly Harris has completely opened up this area for us, in all its seasons. Thus we are privileged viewers of much that has remained unseen for several centuries.

The people of the village of Leafield close to the forest were granted special permission to walk in the area on one day in the year, on Palm Sunday. They used to make a bee-line for a special pool and spring, which was supposed to contain Holy Water. Also three local villages were able to hunt in the Forest on one particular day, and kill one deer each, which was then cut up and distributed amongst all the villagers. On the whole people have obeyed these restrictions faithfully and there have been few poachers trying to break the rules. This included times of poverty when few could afford meat in their diet. We can only be grateful for that.

This is a delightful book.

John Shreeve

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THE YOUNG ANGLER

I 'spect you wonder where I've been
With my little jar and net
I've been along the river
To see what I could get.

I only went for tiddlers
And what a lot I've got
My mum she won't believe me
Cause I've dropped the blinkin lot

I've had a smashin day though
I'll tell you if you like
I left at nine this morning
And I went there on me bike

I sat down by the river
With me net a-dangling in
I slipped into the water
And got soaked right to the skin

I took off all my clothes
And laid them out to dry
My feet was really filthy
I had mud all in my eye

My mum she shouted as I went out
Bring a frog home if you dare
I put one in the pastry bowl
I didn't think she'd care

Its like when I had some maggots
And put them in the jug
My mum she didn't notice
And put them in Dad's mug

You should have seen his face
When he took a great big swallow
I sneaked out of the door
But he began to follow

He gave me such a hiding
One I won't forget
I don't know what he'll say
When he knows I'm soaking wet

Our Mum will spoil my day now
She'll say "Come on have a bath".
The thinG I dislike the most is that
She'll say it with a laugh.

She'll get me in the tub
And she'll scrub my neck so clean
Oh when I think about it
I'll wish I hadn't been.

Maida Simmons

SIGNIFICANT DATES IN MAY

On 4th May 1780 the first Derby horse race was run on the Epsom race-course. It was so-called because it was inaugurated by the 12th Earl of Derby.

In 1885 on 8th May Sarah Ann Henley attempted to commit suicide by leaping from the Clifton Suspension Bridge in Bristol. However her skirt and petticoat acted as a parachute slowing her fall. She landed in the mud of the River Avon with only a few bruises! (This is not really a very "significant date" but it is great fun and we could not resist it!!)

The General Strike ended in Britain on 12th May 1926. The strike which involved all of Britain's essential services was the first in British history. It had started at midnight on 3rd May that year.

On 18th May 1888 the horizontal disc record developed by Emile Berliner was demonstrated for the first time to the public. Formerly records had been cylindrical.

War Time Petrol rationing in Britain ended on 26th May 1950.

The Duke of Windsor, the abdicated King Edward VIII, died in Paris, aged 77 on 28th May 1972.

COWLEY IS A FAIRTRADE PARISH : we will serve and use as many fairly traded items as possible in our catering and cleaning



Ed and Jill Ling write...

Ed and I heard the shocking news that our eldest daughter Beth had breast cancer on 24th January; we remember the date clearly because we had just returned home from celebrating the 2nd birthday of our grandson with our middle daughter and her husband at their home in London. It had been a lovely Saturday and we anticipated telling Beth all about it later that evening as we chatted together on Skype, as Beth and her husband and children live in Ecuador, a little too far to come for the party! As expected she wanted to hear all the details of the day and how little Jake had enjoyed her present to him, then suddenly the mood shifted as Beth and her husband Ossie looked very serious. They explained that the weekend before Beth had felt an uncomfortable lump in her breast and had seen the doctor on the Monday. Each day that week she had had different tests carried out and breast cancer was now confirmed. She would start receiving chemotherapy once surgery to insert a device for receiving the drugs had been carried out and they expected this to be by the end of the following week.

We were stunned but had so much to be grateful for:- Ossie, a doctor, had researched breast cancer for his PhD; the oncologist was a family friend; Ossie now works for Roche in the diagnostic side of things and is up-to-date with all the latest drugs and medicines; the hospital is modern and has a fantastic reputation; and we worship a God who heals! Even more amazing was the fact that my sister, Ann, and I had booked flights to visit Beth. We had followed 'an instinct' and gone ahead and booked the flights even though our husbands didn't want to go as Beth was due to bring the children over to the UK

for their school holidays in June. I was very pleased that I had been able to use my air miles to book free flights for me and then had realised that I needed a new passport with new photo. That was all arranged and we were ready to go. The date we were flying out? Feb 4th - International Cancer Awareness Day! God seemed to be letting us know that He knew before we did everything that we would need before we knew we needed it!

There are no direct flights to Quito from Heathrow, so 24 hours after leaving Oxford we were seated in Ossie's car heading to their apartment and hearing about Beth's surgery and the first chemo. Amazingly this was only 2 and a half weeks after Beth had first gone to the doctor with her suspicions!

Our visit with them was 2 weeks long and we were amazed by Beth's remarkable progress. A visit to the oncologist declared the tumour reduced by 80% approx and although Beth's hair started coming out by the handful after that first chemo we were all buoyant! Ossie shaved Beth's head as she was so uncomfortable and we all tried experimenting with different scarves and head gear; the children especially enjoyed dancing around with 'Mummy's hats' on!

Sadly time came for us to leave but we were assured by Ossie's parents that they would be there to look after Beth and the children. We were also so aware of the many, many prayers being said for Beth from family and friends. Thank you for praying for her. I didn't know it then but in less than 3 weeks I would be back in Quito because Beth developed the dangerous condition - Sepsis - a week after her second cycle

of chemo. Praise God that Ossie's prompt action in getting her to hospital, plus the wave of prayer for her healing saved the day!

So, we wanted to say a huge thank you for praying for Beth and encourage you to continue to pray. She is soon to have chemo number 4, and after 6 cycles of chemo the mastectomy is planned, then more drugs and possibly radiotherapy. It's a long

road still to travel though of course God could heal her completely at any time or again through the use of modern medicine. He is Sovereign; He is Lord.

Beth is writing a blog, which can be found at www.caringbridge.org/visit/beth.ling.

Thank you again

Ed and Jill Ling

Roy Godwin, from Ffald-y-Brenin Wales, is speaking:

Kingdom Come

an evening of Worship and the Word

- Thursday 21st May
- 7.00pm for refreshments
- 7.30pm start time
- Venue: Mill Farm Barns, Stanford in the Vale, SN7 8NP

The world may go from bad to worse but the Kingdom of God is breaking in. Our troubles are momentary but they are preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison. 2 Cor 4:17. What a privilege to be a child of God and to participate in the coming Kingdom.

We do hope that you can join us at Mill Farm Barns on 21st May.

Do feel free to bring your friends and wrap up warm - it's a large barn!

Ed and I will be going and can organise lifts for any other people who would like to go. Last year Howard, May, June, Alison, Will, Caroline, Nicki, Ed and I went to hear him at the church in Stanford and it was a wonderful evening! Absolutely packed out!

Roy wrote 'The Grace Outpouring', which is the story of what is happening there in Ffald-y-Brenin and about blessing others through prayer. One of the initiatives from his work is a prayer movement called 'Local Houses of Prayer', which is what a small group of us do every Thursday evening in the church.

You can see more at <http://www.ffald-y-brenin.org/>

I have 2 copies of the book if anyone wants to borrow one.

Jill Ling

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting was held on Sunday, 19 April 2015, after a soup and fruit lunch in aid of Christian Aid. The meeting appointed the following:

Church Wardens:	Norah Shallow David Stanley
PCC Members:	Pat Chambers Sheila Collett Vicky Hall Gerald Ives May Morgan Marko Noerenberg John Shreeve Rosalind Ware Lesley Williams
Treasurer:	Joan Coleman
Secretary to PCC:	Sally Hemsworth
Electoral Roll Officer:	Lesley Williams
Independent Examiner (Accounts):	Maureen Thomas
Deanery Synod:	Nick Dewey William Hartley Margaret Weller Chris Woodman

The Sidespersons for St James and St Francis Churches were also appointed.

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

The Annual Congregational Meetings of both churches are at the beginning of May, so details on membership will be in the next edition of The Chronicle.

Sally Hemsworth

SAINT OF THE MONTH—SAINT PHILIP & ST JAMES

“Phil and Jim” as these two wonderful saints are called in parts of Oxford are so often an almost indivisible duo that this month we are telling their joint stories and their association with one another.

James, the Less, was an apostle and is usually identified as a friend of a younger brother of Jesus, also named James. His father was Alphaeus and it is traditionally said that his mother was one of the women who stood at the foot of the Cross. He was a quiet and unobtrusive man but a devout follower of Jesus. It is widely believed that he is the author of the Epistle of St James in the New Testament. He described himself as a “servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ”. His epistle is full of wisdom encouraging people to resist temptation, guard against prejudice, be friends with the world and resist the urge to boast. In 62AD he was sentenced to death by the Sanhedrin. He was to be stoned but was clubbed to death with a fuller’s club. He is linked to St Philip by the fact that they were probably companions in many of the events of Jesus’ life.

Philip was born in Bethsaida, in Galilee, as was James. He became an early disciple of Jesus possibly through the teaching of John, the Baptist. It was he who persuaded Bartholomew to follow Jesus. He was a much more forthcoming disciple than James. For example he was one of those who protested to Jesus when he told the disciples to sit the crowd of 5,000 down on the hillside and give them something to eat. Philip also spoke up asking Jesus to show them the Father which elicited the reply “He that sees me sees the Father”.

Another story directly associated to Philip is when a party of Greeks asked him to take them to Jesus. They approached Philip and Andrew. This supposes that to “outsiders” he appeared to be quite close to Jesus. He was also in the upper room with the other disciples at Pentecost.

There is a tradition that his daughters were supposed to be movers and shakers in the Early Church but there is no real evidence of this. There is, however, much more likelihood of him taking the Gospel to Phrygia. He died and was buried in Hierapolis probably by crucifixion. His body was taken to Rome where there are records of his relics being reunited with those of St James, the Less, in the basilica of the Twelve Apostles. In Christian art Philip is usually depicted clutching loaves of bread in memory of his presence at the Feeding of the Five Thousand.

St Philip and St James share 3rd May each year as their feast day

FAMOUS HYMNS AND THEIR STORIES

Fight The Good Fight With All Thy Might

John Monsell

Despite its first line, this is not a Christian battle song in the style of Onward Christian Soldiers. Rather it is an injunction to faithfulness and steadfastness. Each of the verses is based on lines from the Epistles. This hymn which first appeared in 1863, is the work of the Rev. John Monsell. Born in Ireland and educated at Trinity College, Dublin, he was ordained into the Anglican Church in 1834. He published more than 300 hymns. He believed that hymns should be more fervent and joyous. "We are too distant and reserved in our praises", he wrote. Fight the Good Fight has been sung to a variety of tunes over the years.

The last two verses are particularly meaningful and helpful:

Cast care aside; Upon thy Guide
Lean, and His mercy will provide;
Lean, and the trusting soul shall prove
Christ is its Life and Christ its Love.

Faint not nor fear, His arms are near;
He changeth not, and thou art dear.
Only believe, and thou shalt see
That Christ is all in all to thee.

John Shreeve

A young man was walking through the park and he saw a little old man dangling a fishing line into the ornamental pond. He asked the old fellow what he was hoping to catch. "My dinner" he replied. "Come on" said the young man, "You'll be here all day without any luck, I'll take you over the road to the café for some fish and chips and a cuppa". After lunch the older man thanked him. "That's OK but do you ever catch much out there?" the young man asked. "You're the third one this week" came the cheeky reply.

NEWS FROM ST FRANCIS



We were on the whole happy with our Easter Services at St Francis, after all the planning and preparation. To highlight a couple, the Good Friday Stations of the Cross, attended by the faithful few, was a most moving and solemn time, as indeed it should be. Our Easter Eve Service with its powerful symbolism of light against darkness went well. The lack of wind meant that we had no difficulties with our Easter fire outside the church, and the lighting of the Pascal Candle.

The surprise event over Easter was the inter-denominational Palm Sunday walk, complete with donkey. This was entirely down to Skye's efforts and we know that it was well supported much to her delight. St Francis church was absolutely packed at the end of it, and we were hard put to find enough tables and crockery to accommodate everyone. It was a most happy and joyful occasion for everyone who attended.

Our usual faithful little band of helpers turned up on Saturday morning to clean and decorate our church for Easter Day. They all work very well together in a harmonious and happy band,

with excellent results. We were very much impressed with the children's

Easter Garden which was full of colour and light.

Now we are faced with our Annual Church Meeting with its appointment of Committee Members, and its review of our achievements over the past year. We hope that this will get good support.

Our Festival of Pentecost is not so far off with all that it stands for. Those of us who took part in our Lent course have already taken a long hard look at the first Pentecost with its dramatic tongues of fire and multiple conversions to repentance and baptism. We pray for the work of the Holy Spirit in our parish over the coming year.

We give thanks to all those who helped to make Easter special in our Parish.

John Shreeve

SEASHELLS

We are desperate for additional help for short periods on Tuesday mornings:

For setting up the room for the session from 9.30 to 10.00

To join the rota to serve tea/coffee and refreshments to Mums, grandparents and carers 10.00 to 11.00. You would join an established team of very dedicated people.

The children are absolutely delightful and it is a very rewarding time. Please give it some thought.

If you would like to know more and think you may be able to help, please speak to May Morgan

May Morgan

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
Rosanne Butler	Alternate Thursday mornings at 10.00am St James Church Centre, Ranklin Room
Josh & Claire Hordern	Thursdays at 8.00pm, often at 55 Glanville Rd joshuahordern@hotmail.com
Joel Denno	Thursday at 7.45pm at The Vicarage, Don Bosco
Helen Beetham	Alternate Friday mornings at 10am

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:

Vacancy

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 Dr Amanda Bloor
Tel: 01865 208221

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:

Rosanne Butler Tel: 453257
Sally Hemsworth, Nicki Stevens,
May Morgan
Articles to be emailed to:
chronicle@cowleyteamministry.co.uk