

A SHORT HISTORY

It was the **Reverend Georgie Moore** who first saw the need to establish a school for the children of the parish of Church Cowley. The original Cowley St James School sat beside the Norman church of St James, in what is now Beauchamp Lane, in the centre of the medieval settlement. It was opened in **1834**, pre-dating the reign of Queen Victoria by 3 years.

The school was attended by industrialist and philanthropist **William (Billy) Morris** (later Lord Nuffield) throughout much of the 1880s, when children would have remained at the school until the age of 14 or 15.

At this time the parishes of Church Cowley and Temple Cowley were still villages distinct from the City of Oxford. Ironically, it was in no small part due to Morris that the area experienced such rapid growth in the 1940s and 50s and that there was then a need for a larger school.

It was the success of the **Morris Motor Company** that drove the demand for homes for the workers in his factories to be built in the wider Cowley area and it was on what became known as the Airfield Estate that the new Church Cowley School (the Airfield School) was built less than half a mile from the original school, in Bartholomew Road in 1958. Demand for school places meant that both schools remained in use until **1975** when the original school finally closed its doors to pupils who were all to attend the renamed **Church Cowley St James C of E Primary School** from that point onwards.

The building remained in use for some time as a Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) but has been empty since 2004 – and now needs much love and repair.



FRIENDS OF ST JAMES OLD SCHOOL

Our aim is to support the redevelopment of the St James Old School, Beauchamp Lane, Cowley, Oxford for community use and ensure its future

Contact and information

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

ABOUT US

The 'Friends of St James Old School' was established in May 2015 to demonstrate our commitment to the old school at the heart of Church Cowley, by raising funds for its refurbishment and development through grants and donations

The volunteer committee is led by

Chair	Lesley Williams
Vice Chair	Eva Sommer
Treasurer	Richard Mohun
Membership	Rosanne Butler

Membership is by annual subscription

£10 for individuals
£20 for families (2 adults and all children U16)
£50 for groups and organisations

Payment can be made in cash
OR cheque to 'Friends of St James Old School'
OR on line sort code : 30-98-97
account : 33416268

Benefits

By your membership, you are contributing to the renewal of the much loved building that was once at the centre of Church Cowley's life. As a Friend, you will receive first hand updates on developments and have priority invitations to all events. If you want to be more actively involved, please let us know!

ABOUT ST JAMES OLD SCHOOL

The building next to **St. James Church**, which used to accommodate **St. James Church of England** school, is not legally part of the parish and is administered by an independent trust, the **St James Cowley Old School Trust**.

The three trustees - the Rector and two church wardens - are currently considering how the partially derelict site can be best used to serve the needs of our community, with the support of a steering group of interested people from the parish and locality and, as from May 2015, the **Friends of St James Old School**.

The trustees and steering group have consulted, discussed and investigated a range of options over the last several years : an early years centre, a primary free school, a family life skills centre, a social enterprise start up hub – and then were excited to believe that the building could return to its prime purpose and the first proposal : **provision for Church Cowley St James School's 2 and 3 year olds** – only to find that the government capital grant for disadvantaged 2 year olds has now finished and we have run out of options. The Trustees are minded in line with their responsibility, to sell the site to the highest bidder – presumably for housing.

But with former pupil **Dame Maggie Smith** having recently joined the 'Friends,' we intend maintaining the group to promote the school's heritage, whatever befalls.