

ELECTORAL ROLL 2016

The Parish electoral roll is under revision: confirming current membership, removing any folk who have moved or sadly passed away and adding active new members. This is also the opportunity to check that all the contact details you have given us, which are held securely, are still current: mobile phone numbers and e-mail addresses particularly have a habit of changing!

The roll should represent those aged 16+ who attend either of our churches on a regular basis and/or contribute financially or with their time or talents to the life of the Parish; it is a 'membership' list of those who truly love and actively support Cowley Parish, St James and/or St Francis church, in whatever ways they can.

If you have newly arrived with us during the past twelve months and wish to make this statement of belonging, or have been here for a while but never until now committed, please take an electoral roll form from the table behind the main door (St James), in the lobby (St Francis) or contact Lesley Williams, Electoral Roll Officer.

Return the form to the labelled box or direct to Lesley Williams at St James church or posted to 9 Wykeham Crescent, OX4 3SD by Sunday 20 March (Palm Sunday)

The revised roll will be displayed for checking from Sunday 27 March (Easter Day) and corrections may be made up to the time of the APCM but no new names may be added until the end of the meeting.

Questions about the process should be addressed to Lesley, Sally Hemsworth, Geoff or Skye.

Lesley Williams

Parish of Cowley - Electoral Roll Officer

MOTHERING SUNDAY

On the fourth Sunday in Lent for many, many years we in England have celebrated Mothering Sunday. In recent decades the title Mother's Day has superseded the old one. However in the Church we still mark it as a special day when we thank God for our mothers and all they have done for us.

The tradition goes back into the mists of time when young children were taken into service or apprenticeships and lived in the homes or other accommodation of their masters and mistresses. These young people would only be given a couple of hours off each Sunday but one in the year to attend church. The one day when they were free from dawn to dusk was the least inconvenient one for their employers, namely the middle of Lent.

Young apprentice gardeners and farm hands could leave their tasks at a low ebb of the

spring. Young kitchen maids and housemaids could take time off as no house parties would happen during Lent and many other apprentices would be given leave too.

Most of these youngsters would be up before dawn to walk home to a mother longing to hug and spoil them after a year's separation. What could she prepare as a treat for her dear daughter or son? A rich fruit cake, perhaps for family tea. This is the beginning of the traditional Simmel cake which is now part of the present day Mothering Sunday treat.

What could these young people take as a token of love for their mothers? As they walked the country lanes spring flowers would be growing in the hedgerows especially primroses. A posy of these would be the answer.

A happy Mothering Sunday to all our Cowley mums!

News from the Bell Tower

Earlier in February we had our annual bell ringers AGM. Paul, our Tower Captain decided to stand down as he is unable to commit so much time any more, although he is still joining us whenever he can, particularly on Sunday mornings. I would like to say a huge thank you to him as without his dedication, there would not still be a band ringing at Cowley. Paul will also continue to be our Steeple Keeper, which is a huge relief, as none of the rest of us fancied climbing the ladder to the trapdoor in the ringing chamber roof. Thank you Paul and we all look forward to continuing to ring with you whenever you can make it.

I have now taken over as Tower Captain, and handed the Tower Correspondent reins to Mary Bayliss, who I am sure you all know. We are all grateful to her for taking this on when so new to our band, and it has been a real blessing to have her join us as a ringer.

Becoming the new Tower Captain is a daunting task, and the moment I accepted the role I was incredibly worried I would not be up to the job. I was very touched that Geoff welcomed me to this role with a blessing a couple of Sundays ago. With a sense of support from both the band and the wider church community, I took a deep breath and told myself just to get on with it. One of the issues I want to get on with first is recruitment – yes I know I keep on nagging you all to join us, but if we don't recruit new ringers we will eventually cease to have a band. At present we are only managing fortnightly practices, and often miss Sunday service ringing. Before we recruit though, I need to make sure I am confident and experienced enough to teach. To this end I will be attending the Teaching Bell Handling module with the Association of Ringing Teachers in April. I have also been invited to be a helper on the Bristol and Gloucester Diocesan Guild training day in March. After this, I will have an experienced mentor work with me while I teach a new ringer from scratch. I hope this will hone my skills and give me the confidence to move forward in teaching, thus ensuring we have a band ringing at Cowley for many years to come.

Cowley played host to a branch ringing practice to coincide with the snowdrop weekend earlier this month, which saw a good turnout of both Cowley ringers, and ringers from other towers around the City, including Marston, Iffley, Headington and St Aldates. Everyone was very grateful for the tea and cake which was being provided by the Snowdrop weekend helpers, as it was a particularly cold day. Our practice night continues to be Thursdays from 7.30 – 9pm and we welcome visitors, whether interested in learning to ring or just curious to see what we do. Please do check first though as the practices are not held every week. My number is 01865 777486.

Lindsay Powell



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FROM THE ARCHIVES

COWLEY

CHURCH & HOME MAGAZINE

March 1893

On Thursday Week, the parish tea took place in the Temple Cowley Schools, when 180 sat down to tea. The following ladies provided trays:-

Mrs Moore, Mrs Lindsay, Mrs Hitchings, Mrs Witherington, Mrs Jackson, Mrs Mare, Mrs Parker, Mrs Allen, Miss Hurst, Mrs Polley, Mrs Harris and Mrs Baker. After the teas, the choir sang some glees and songs. The students of Wycliffe Hall occupied a pleasant hour. Mr. Rowlands read an instructive piece, and Mr. Arnold sang a good song. But the greatest amusement of the evening was a farce, given by Mr. Rudman and the students from St. Kenelm's, which amused the audience very much. Both Mr. and Mrs. Rudman contributed greatly to the delight of the audience.

The Vicar, after thanking the ladies for providing such an excellent tea, and those who had contributed so largely to the enjoyment of the evening, went on to say that the money which had been paid for admission was to be devoted to the fund for supplying their excellent parish school with books and apparatus. Those in the parish with means had shown a most excellent spirit in giving so willingly such a good tea, and others who were not present had promised money. The parish churchwarden and Mrs. Pether, of Bartlemas, had sent gifts, and another lady who was not present had sent a sovereign. This was a clear indication to his mind how generous their friends had been; they had fed 180 excellently, and there was enough food left (for the children who attend the schools) for 180 more. He felt that the task would not have been difficult to supply as many

more, if the rooms could have received them. It was seven years since they had their last parish tea, and he saw signs of great improvements taking place. Even sin and misrepresentation struggled hardest at the end, but these in the run of life would be certain to lose the race. Only work that reason told us was permanent was worthy of the name of Christian. With the improvements there was still an element of mischief, but it must be evident to every person who had sufficient intelligence to pass the fourth standard of their elementary schools that this in their parish was dying out. He begged them to stand by the Church in her struggle to provide elementary education for the children of the poorer classes in this country. The Church did not wish to interfere with those who dissented from her, but she did wish to provide for those children whose parents desired a religious knowledge as well as a secular one for their children. The rooms in which they were assembled, and which had but recently been erected, were proof of the vitality of those who were attached to the English Church, and he could only assure them that nothing but real necessity on the ground of poverty would close their schools. The steady work of the Church would in the long run succeed over the noisy political agitators, who were careful not to spend their own money, and showed by their past history that they were not really interested in the welfare of their children.

Some provisional dates and times for Easter Events:

Do please check times and details on our web site and notice sheets as we get closer to Easter

20 March Palm Sunday

St James 4 pm (TBC) Churches together Palm Sunday Procession

24 March Maundy Thursday

St James Centre 7 pm Maundy Thursday meal and reflections

25 March Good Friday

St James Centre 10 am till 11 am Good Friday Family Reflection and Crafts
 St James 12 noon till 2 pm Prayers at the Cross
 St Francis 4.00pm

26 March Easter Saturday Easter Eve - Sunset is at 6.27pm

St James 7 pm Lighting of the Easter candle, and redressing the Altar. With soup, song and Hot dogs
 St Francis 8 pm Service of light

27 March SUNDAY EASTER DAY

St James 8 am Traditional Language
 St James 10 am FAMILY EUCHARIST
 St Francis 10.30 am FAMILY EUCHARIST
 St James 1.45 pm Asian Anglican Living Church: Followed by a time of fellowship in the Church Centre



You are invited to a
 Good Friday Family Reflection and Crafts
 On Good Friday, 3rd April 2015
 At 10am
 at the St James Centre, Beauchamp Lane

Everyone is welcome to join us- but we ask that all children are accompanied by an adult
 For further information please contact Revd Geoff Bayliss on 01865 778596 or
rector@cowleyteamministry.co.uk

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The Culprit is found!

I have some clumps of snowdrops just outside my living room window - great to see in the depths of winter. However, last year, and also this, the flowers seemed to disappear as soon as they showed. I now know what has been happening since I saw a wren in the act of nibbling! It is rare to spot these delightful little birds and, I suppose, even rarer to catch one in the act of denying me my snowdrop flowers.

Actually, these clumps are rather overcrowded and I will be splitting them up and spreading them around the garden as soon as I can while they are still "in the green".

I have ordered my fruit trees for my south-facing back border with the new fence behind. They should arrive pretty soon and they will be bare-rooted. As I will be planting where a large laurel hedge has been for over 40 years, I will be giving the roots of the new trees a sprinkling of mycorrhiza to help them get established. These fungi form a symbiotic relationship with plant roots, increasing their surface area so nutrients can be taken up in greater quantities and also provide some disease resistance. I will not be enriching the planting holes with rich compost though, as this would not encourage roots to spread further. I don't want them rocking in the wind with roots growing round and round in a small space.

Around these trees, this season, I am going for annuals that I will direct sow ensuring I get colour, scent and, especially, nectar for the bees. I would like to go for wild, i.e. native, flowers but I am afraid I would have to have some exotics, like sunflowers, too. I hope to encourage any local hedgehogs to deal with my slug problem. As it is I will have to go for some beer traps anyway, containers of beer sunk into the ground and covered with a tile or slate to encourage the critters to hide under and then find the delights of whatever brew is cheapest and drown within. I will give them a try as I don't want to go down the chemical, slug pellet, route.

I have started seed sowing in my little electric propagator. This next couple of months will be filled with more seed-sowing, pricking out and potting on. All this in preparation for the Plant Sale on Saturday May 14th. I do hope that some of you will be doing the same so we have a great display for sale on the day.

The wet weather has been against much work on the allotment, but as soon as my Other Half gets going, I shall be down there. The first job I need him to do is to dig a bean trench so annual weeds and crop remains can be placed in there to provide the moisture for our runner beans to do their best.

I am currently trying to tidy up the garden, shed and greenhouse in preparation for the new season but, today, I have been forced indoors by a cruel and lazy (one that goes through you instead of round) wind. Can't wait to really get going!

Joan Coleman



EASTER FUN DAY
Saturday 19th March
At St Francis Church, Hollow Way
 **10.00am – 2pm**
Lots of Easter craft activities,
Egg Hunt! *Story telling, face painting,*
St Francis Cafe, Easter Raffle,
Hotdogs & Hot cross Buns, & lots more!
£1:50 per child includes crafts and snack, 50p per adult -
Free under 4



COWLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Cowley WI socialized in December. A Christmas Coffee Morning was hosted by one of our members, and we held a Christmas Party with fun, games, quizzes and a splendid tea including, of course, Christmas cake.

We welcomed 2016 by armchair travelling to see behind the scenes at Blenheim Palace and learnt about some of the vast amount of work that is carried out to maintain the Palace, its contents and the grounds in good order. We were also told about some new attractions, and that, apart from the one exception of Christmas Day, Blenheim Palace is now open to the public on every day of the year.

An inadvertent double-booking of the hall in the Church Centre could have been a disaster, but the problem was speedily resolved by the Rector who, quite rightly, decided that the blood transfusion session should go ahead in the hall, and he promptly offered the use of a room in the Rectory for the February meeting of the WI.

On a rainy afternoon our group met in the dining room for an illustrated presentation about the National parks of England and Wales. We also held a cake stall and discussed nominations for the new Committee in preparation for our Annual Meeting, which will be held in the Ranklin Room at the Church Centre, at 2 pm on Wednesday, 16 March.

We are very grateful to the Rector and Mrs Bayliss for their generosity in allowing us to hold our meeting in their dining room.





Our meetings are held in the Church Centre at 2 pm on the third Wednesday of the month (except August and December), and we have a varied and interesting programme planned for meetings and social events in the coming months. Do come: join in the fun and make friends. A warm welcome awaits you.

Ann Withers

President, Cowley

WI

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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
2nd Sunday All Age bring n/share lunch

MID-WEEK SERVICES & MEETINGS

Monday	10.00-11.30am	Little Stars Playgroup— St Francis
	2.30pm	Parish Mothers' Union— St James (3rd Monday)
Tuesday	10.00am	Seashells Toddler Group— St James
	12.00pm	Eucharist—St James
	12.30pm	Tuesday Lunch Club— St James
Thursday	2-4pm	Prayer Space—St Francis
	7.00pm	Cowley Parish Healing Service St Francis (1st Thursday)
Friday	2.00pm	Bingo—St James

HOME GROUPS

Leader	Time/Venue
Connie Uren	Alternate Tuesday afternoons at 2.30pm St James Church Centre, Ranklin Room
Friends of St Francis (John Shreeve)	2nd & 4th Tuesday afternoons at 2.30pm St Francis Church
Mark Oxbrow	Alternate Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm Mark's home, 13 Annesley Road (just behind the Rose Hill Coop). Enquiries to Mark at 01865 461953
Rosanne Butler	Alternate Thursday mornings at 10.00am St James Church Centre, Ranklin Room
Catherine / William Hartley	Thursdays at 8.00pm, Catherine Hartley 07792 104448 William Hartley 07751 939092
Joel Denno	Thursday at 7.45pm at The Vicarage, Don Bosco Close
Helen Beetham	Alternate Friday mornings at 10am St James Church Centre, Ranklin Room

The Parish Office in St James Church
Centre is open:

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

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

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

Team Rector:

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

Team Vicar:

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

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St Francis Church/St James Church:
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