



Chronicle

April 2021

From the Editors

Sally Hemsworth and Nicki Stevens

We do hope you find the April edition of the Chronicle an interesting read although some of the articles are on difficult subjects.

However, hopefully you will find the roadmap out of lockdown a useful and reassuring article and also knowing that the Ministry Team and PCC have been busy beavering away despite the quietness of life these last few months. It is such good news that we have the Faculties for the Toilet and Digital Projection projects at St James Church.

Joan has given us good additional information on growing Sunflowers – by the time you read this hopefully your seeds will be planted? We look forward to having progress reports over the next few months.

It was lovely to have some additional contributors this time – many thanks for taking the time to do these articles.

Thank you to those who help distribute the Chronicle – we have been able to do so many more paper copies because of this.

Sally and Nicki

MOTHERING SUNDAY

On Sunday, 14 March St James Church celebrated Mothering Sunday with another lovely outdoor service in the churchyard. This was the third time we had celebrated outside during the lockdown.

The morning was dry and sunny, a little chilly, but everyone who attended was well wrapped up with thick coats, gloves and a few wearing cosy hats.

There were around 40 who came together with Gemma and Mark with Geoff presiding and Mary in charge of the music.

A number of people from the congregation took part in the service. Elwira Lubos read from Samuel, Chris Lee led some of the liturgy, Alison Lockhart read the Gospel and Geoff prayed with the Intercessions. Little bunches of daffodils were handed out towards the end of the service and those who attended felt something very meaningful had come out of the gathering. To see our friends face-to-face was very special.

We are looking forward to the next service in the churchyard and with the better weather coming we may not have to wait too long.

Stay safe and well

Chris Woodman

A word from the Rectory

Come And Eat

Unlike so much of Europe we are heading forward with hope for the reopening of community, the beginning of a return to normality. Yes, we need to be careful.

Yes, we are not yet out

of the woods, but the wonders of science, and the amazing work of the NHS, mean we have plans for easing lockdown. We do have so much to give thanks for. Below are a few of what I think may be our 'road markers'. Road markers of a call to come and 'Eat Of The Kingdom'.

I hope that by the time this article goes to print and is circulated we will be able to start some small groups meeting outside. Tea, Coffee, and biscuits in the churchyard with just 6 people gathering. By the 12th of April, I hope that these numbers will be able to increase, and by the end of the month, Saturday 24th April, our monthly Gardening group should be able to resume. Our first wedding of the summer is booked in for April

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. 46 When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

Matthew 13: 44 & 45

17th. It will be small but beautiful.

By the 17th of May, I hope that we may be able to restart, in some way or another, our Tuesday lunches. Yes, we will need to keep our distances, but we will work hard to rebuild that sense of connection and community that defines us. The fine tuning of all of this will depend on announcements and how sensibly we approach matters.

Throughout lockdown we have worked to maintain an open Church. We are so thankful for the team of volunteers who have enabled this to be possible. Wednesday afternoon continues to be a time when people can come to Church for private prayer. I do hope we will have enough volunteers to enable that to continue.

Jesus paints a picture of the Kingdom of God (Matt 13: 44/45) which includes treasure and pearls. It is an image about people searching for the riches in life. As we come and eat of all that is good in the Kingdom of God, we encounter those riches. Jesus tells us that in his kingdom relationships are reset, that we can find forgiveness of sins and discover how to forgive others. We are told that we come as we are and are given new clothes - the clothes of Jesus. We find again a family that we have always belonged to but have often ignored- the family of Jesus. We are given eternal life that shapes the way we live today and the future. So come eat of the table, eat of the Bread drink of the wine!

May God bless you this Easter

Rev'd Geoff Bayliss
Rector



Benson Cottage

RECIPES

Celebration Cake
Extract from the SeeSaw
Calendar for 2021
Grief support for children
and young people in Ox-
fordshire



Preheat the oven to 180C/160C Fan/Gas 4.
Grease and line with baking paper two 20cm
sandwich tins.

Cake:

Crack 4 eggs into a large mixing bowl, add
225g caster sugar, plop in 225g sifted self-
raising flour and 2 tsp of baking powder.
Add 225g butter at room temperature.
Mix all the ingredients together with a
wooden spoon or electric mixer until com-
bined.

Divide the mixture evenly between both the
tins - and make sure you scrape the bowl.
Bake the cakes on the middle shelf of the
oven for 25 minutes. Keep an eye on them
and check how they are doing after 20 min-
utes. Poke the centre with a cocktail stick or
skewer to make sure they are cooked
through.

Use an old butter knife around the edge and
tip them out onto a wire rack to cool.

Once completely cold, spread one cake with
double whipped cream, and the other with
good quality strawberry jam. You can use
buttercream filling if you prefer – up to you.

Buttercream icing and decoration:

Beat 500g sifted icing sugar and 110g sof-
tened unsalted butter together. Gradually
add a little milk to get a smooth consistency.
Add colouring of your choice. Carefully
spread the buttercream icing all over the
cake.

Now get creative and decorate the cake how
you want. Michelle used macaroons, me-

ringues, marshmallows, milk bottles, mini
mushrooms,
white sprinkled
chocolate but-
tons and chips.

Serve with a
glass of bubbly
and celebrate.



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**Kate Reid MCFHP MAFHP
07952127534**

kate@nurturefootcare.co.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Easter Bonnet & Games Zoom Tea Party
Saturday 17 April 2021, 4:00-5:00

Spring Sale
Saturday 24 April 2021, 10:00-12:00
Rectory front garden

Christian Aid Week 10-16 May 2021

Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Saturday, 15 May 2021, 12 noon
By ZOOM or attendance at St James Church
Centre

Puddings and Poetry on Zoom for Christian
Aid
Saturday 15 May 2021, 7:00

Plant Sale
Saturday 22 May 2021, 10:00-12:00
St James Centre car park

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 10-16 MAY 2021

Together we STOP this climate crisis.

Every envelope - every gift - every challenge can change lives.



It seems as though much of the week will again have to be 'virtual' but Christian Aid has produced specially designed 'delivery only' envelopes which allow us to stamp, print, label or write on the envelopes to tell supporters where to drop their donation. The drop off points could be our churches, homes or local shops.

With delivery only, there's no need to knock on doors to collect and we could cover more homes in Cowley. We'd really like to give that a try – our daily exercise for Christian Aid. A volunteer street sign-up list is now available at church but for those still not attending, please phone or email Lesley Williams to say you are up for it.

An alternative possibility is that we all deliver to just 12 immediate neighbours, the envelopes labelled to be delivered back to us..... let Lesley know if that would be possible for you.

For on-line givers, there will also be a virtual envelope – details on how to use that will be included next month

PUDDINGS AND POETRY

A Zoom event for Christian Aid Week Saturday 15 May, 7.00 pm an idea borrowed from our Mothers Union (thank you) but in this case held at home : we'll all enjoy showing - and eating - a favourite pudding and then read a favourite poem. Suggested donation to take part is £5 – payment method yet to be decided!

If regulations allow, we will also have a simple CHRISTIAN AID LUNCH as part of the APCM – Annual Parochial Church Meeting – at 12.00 pm that same day, Saturday 15 May 2021.

And, if all goes well and 21 June really is the full release from C-19 restrictions date, then an end of June QUIZ AID evening may be our first Parish back to being a reality event! Please put Friday 25 June, 7.00 pm in your diary NOW!

CHRISTIAN AID is celebrating its 75 years and has launched '75 Years of Hope – put your faith into action through daily reflections and challenges' running until Christian Aid Week.

Lesley can provide you with a copy.

Lesley Williams 01865 779 562 07982 439 828 lesleyjwilliams@btinternet.com

A little primary school girl was drawing a picture and her teacher asked her what it was meant to be. "God," was the reply. "But no one knows what God looks like," said the teacher. "They will in a minute." The girl answered.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

I have been listening to some marvellous music or watching videos on my computer - sometimes videos of singers. One in particular was a 93-year-old lady singing with her daughter a gospel song called 'One day at a time'. It's a lovely song. If you don't have a computer in the house, don't worry. the message is simple ...try to live only one day at a time.

Now that you are back to school and mummy and daddy are trying to do their normal work, I hope that we will be able to do many of the things we did before school time had to be changed. There is only so much that you can do in one day, so enjoy it. You might have some days that are not always interesting. I do too. But every day is different. The sun shines more often than you think. If it shone every day you might find that boring.

We are very lucky in our house. We still have a fireplace and chimney that works although we do not have a fire in it very often. But the firesurround has a lovely rough finish with the stones made into a pattern. It was built by a relative who was a very skilled stone mason who had worked on many of the colleges. We designed the pattern for the stones that were specially shaped and fitted by him and when it was finished he told me that the front of the fireplace would give me a new picture every day of my life! I did not quite understand what he meant. This was only a stone fireplace after all. He explained.

Every day the sun will cast the shadows different by a small amount and if there wasn't any sun, the light on the stone face would look slightly different, so it is unlikely that I will ever see it *exactly the same colour or shadow* ever again. Each day it will almost look the same but there will be a little difference. He also said that I should be

gentle with it and give it a monthly gentle brush. I should give it a spray with water and polish the smooth stone mantelpiece with a wax polish to prevent it showing any water stains, just the same as washing my face to keep it clean! After more than 50 years it still looks like new! Yes, you do need to look after things made of stone.

I have often thought about his words of wisdom, that every day is different even though it may seem that it is going to be the same as yesterday. If we take one day at a time each one can be different and never boring.

Enjoy your day today but look after yourselves.

Uncle Ben

Easter Bonnet & Games Zoom Tea Party

Saturday 17 April 2021, 4:00-5:00 pm



Following the very successful Valentine's Zoom tea party in February, we're partying on-line for Easter, with a competition for the best 'bonnet', an easy Easter quiz and some more silly games which will of course have to involve chocolate and eggs. All ages invited!

Please sign up with Mary Bayliss and we'll get the party pack and the necessary Zoom link to you.

Telephone: 01865 778 596 or
m.bayliss41@btinternet.com

COWLEY MOTHERS' UNION

Every St George's Day in April for at least ten years now our branch has celebrated our patron saint with a delightful lunch followed by prayers, readings and business. We have also invited friends and fellow members from other branches. However, sadly, this year as we all know, because of 'lockdown' that was not possible. As members will have seen from their 'Focus' magazine, the MU annual Wave of Prayer has been set for the week in which St George's Day falls.

Last year, when we were also in lockdown, we chose to pray at a particular time so that our Wave of Prayer could be a corporate one. So I suggest that we do the same this year. I will be sitting quietly with the text in my 'Focus' at 3.30pm on Thursday 22nd April and would find it a great joy if my Cowley Branch members were doing the same. Please join me if you can.

Rosanne Butler

LOW TRAFFIC NEIGHBOURHOODS (LTNS)

aiming to reduce traffic, improve air quality and road safety, encourage walking and cycling

The Low Traffic Neighbourhoods' modal filters are now installed and causing much discussion and not a little anger and frustration from some residents but mostly from drivers expecting to deliver or pass through.

Everyone can access their home and business by vehicle but we do have to drive a longer way round to reach it and plan our routes carefully. Most of us now have a much quieter neighbourhood but some roads are experiencing extra traffic, especially Church Cowley Road, Cowley Road, Westbury Crescent.

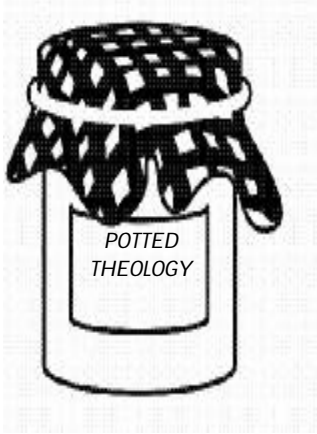
In spite of one nationally reported ambulance incident in the first weekend of the scheme, the emergency and refuse services are confident they also can reach houses needing them.

There is a six-month trial, during which traffic will be carefully monitored and changes made if the results prove disastrous. You are encouraged to participate in a continuing consultation during those 6 months. There will then be another consultation and a further 12 months before the decision is made whether the system should be permanent.

City Councillor David Henwood is being particularly active in listening to residents and recommending some immediate changes

[The Cowley Low Traffic Neighbourhoods continuing consultation page is live.](#)

The consultation page for the Cowley LTNs is open until 3rd September, so residents can have their say on the future of the schemes. A decision will be made after 6 months on the next steps Oxfordshire County Council news story: <https://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ltn-cowley-area/> Cowley LTN consultation page: https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti/Cowley_ExperimentalLowTraffic/consultationHome Video explaining the Cowley LTN plans: <https://youtu.be/0IAadC114HE>



‘*descending to the Dead*’

THE ROMAN

I believe in God the Father almighty;
and in Christ Jesus His only Son, our Lord,
Who was born from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
Who under Pontius Pilate was crucified and buried,
on the third day rose again from the dead,
ascended into heaven, sits at the right hand of the Father,
whence he will come to judge the living and the dead;
and in the Holy Spirit, the holy Church,
the remission of sins, the resurrection of the flesh,
[life everlasting].

I am always happy to work with questions. In the last few days I was given the title question. It stirred me to write a response and I thought it might be worth sharing. Indeed, I wondered if the chronicle might have space for a ‘POTTED THEOLOGY’ corner? It will be nothing complex and I think best arise from questions that are raised. Then it becomes not the general rambling of the rector but questions you have raised.

Over the weeks building up to Easter we have been studying the Apostle’s Creed. It is one of the early creeds (statements of the faith of the Church) and is very similar to an earlier creed (The Roman Creed written AD341). These creeds are written to give clear guidance in a world that had heresies developing. Slowly the creeds grew in length as they laid down central teaching and addressed the heresies of their time. There are some other creeds listed on this web site (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Christian_creeds).

The Apostle’s creed focusses on God the Father and Jesus. At the time of writing it was heresies around this relationship, between Father and Son, that were most challenging. The Church had not yet described the relationships between Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Those challenges were yet to come!

What stirred the above question was someone noticing the words ‘Jesus suffered under Pontius Pilate and was buried, He descended to the dead’. Some of the very first heresies challenged the central Christian belief that Jesus was fully human, and suffered a fully Human death. At the time of Jesus’ death some Israelites claimed that he had not died at all but appeared to be dead. Others

later claimed that he was not fully human but only God pretending to be human, that Jesus only pretended to die. That Jesus did not suffer the pain and all else that went with a Roman execution.

Scripture tells us that a Roman soldier pierced the body of Jesus whilst he hung on the cross. John 19.4 records '*Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water*'. This piercing at the time is very significant, today it is seen by scientists as evidence of death: the blood separating into plasma and red cells.

He descended to the dead. So why did Jesus descend to the dead? You will find different people have different understandings about this. In the space and time we have here, I can only give you a brief outline of my own belief.

Throughout the whole of Old Testament history there is, what I see as, clear teaching about forgiveness and restoration. In Old Testament times if you want forgiveness, you take a sacrifice to the temple where its blood is shed. There are no humans without sin and therefore each one of us needs the salvation that comes through Jesus; *for the consequence of sin is always death* (Romans 6 23 Proverbs 10:16). The blood of the innocent sacrifice of Jesus washes away the effect of the sin of the sinner.

As Christ died on the cross, he was the ultimate sacrifice for sin. His blood shed on the cross washes away the effect of our sin. For the sacrifice of one (Jesus) to take away the sin of all, something special needed to be in place.

Why was the death of Jesus special? Why was his death different from any other man? Traditional Christian understanding is that Jesus was without sin. He was the only human that had ever lived and not sinned. He was the new Adam (1 Corinthians 15:22). Jesus with no debt to pay, could pay for the sins of a broken world. The package of 'true death' required the complete separation of Jesus from God the Father (Matt 27:46). In consequence Jesus needed to go to the place of the 'dead', to truly die. Without the stain, and hold of sin, the place of the dead could not hold onto him and after 3 days he bursts out. Yes, you will want to ask more questions linked with what happened at that point, but those are beyond this response and may need to wait until a later time.

So, I wonder if you have any questions that I might address? If so do get them to me and we can see what we can do! I don't promise to answer all of them in the Chronicle but it is so good to talk about our faith!

Every blessing

Geoff



Shaun Guard

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DEBT

It is interesting that two articles outlining help and advice for people with financial problems were received at the same time as the articles for From the Archives were selected. Debt is not a new problem, and it is good to see that help can be obtained from Christians Against Poverty (CAP) and the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB).



It is interesting that the article from the Citizens Advice Bureau about debt and the ways help can be obtained arrived about the same time as the story of Charlotte who had a great deal of help from CAP – Christians Against Poverty in Oxford. Her story is inspiring as you can see from the following:

“The truth is I never really felt like a CAP client. Meeting Kate, my Debt Coach, and Deirdre, the volunteer from church, was like gaining two new friends, which is so heartwarming to look back on. My journey to debt freedom has been so comforting, smooth and reassuring. Due to a marriage breakdown, debt and not being close to my parents, I felt isolated. I had a constant feeling of ‘I cannot cope’. CAP took that feeling away.

There have been many challenges, and the pandemic didn't help, but there was always someone there on the other end of the phone, and no question was too big to ask. During the lockdown, my church was closed, but the vicar made it possible to listen to the service in other ways. She also arranged weekly prayers and Zoom group chats. Going to church and having faith that ‘everything will be okay because God loves you’ has helped me on many occasions. It gives

me reassurance that someone is looking after me.

Deirdre and Kate played a big part in my life, and I'm so lucky to still be in touch with them, even after becoming debt free. There have been many occasions where we would meet up for a walk or go for a coffee, and the ‘listening ear’ is still there. My life is much happier and the love and support that I've received has been truly amazing. I can easily say that my smiles are natural now, instead of pretending, as I felt embarrassed over my debt. CAP made that happen, and your support makes CAP happen! My heart owes a lot to you. It has made me appreciative of what I have. And that is one of the reasons I volunteer at Waste2Taste, a zero-waste catering service in my local area. It's making a difference and giving back. If we could all do a little something, I believe the world would be a kinder place. What I've learned from this journey is that debt can happen to anyone, and that kindness, love and support is out there, even though it can be difficult to see it at times. CAP, the church and my friends have given me the strength to sail through the storm. Always remember that after the rain comes a rainbow, and after the storm comes the sunshine. Have faith.

*Love
Charlotte
xx*

Telephone: [0800 328 0006](tel:08003280006)

Email: info@capuk.org

Address: [Jubilee Mill, North Street, Bradford, BD1 4EW](#)

Charity registered numbers: 1097217 (England and Wales), SC038776 (Scotland).

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CAP is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.





Don't despair! Citizens Advice can help you with debt

When bills start piling up and multiplying, vague fears can turn into a paralysing panic for people experiencing money troubles. Turn to Citizens Advice, which has eighty years of experience in pulling people back from precipices. Your burden might seem overwhelming and impossible to resolve but in reality there is a lot you can do to turn things around.

Start by assembling your bills and make an overall list, with relevant details like dates when payment is due. Sort the bills into priority debts (rent and mortgage arrears, Council Tax, gas and electricity, tax and National Insurance – and see <https://www.citizensadvice.org/debts-and-money> for a complete list) and non-priority debts (water rates – your supplier can't cut you off – credit card debts, unsecured loans, hire purchases etc). Take the priority debts first and contact your creditors. Don't be afraid of this step. Many companies will be expecting you to get in touch, saying on the bill itself "We know that paying a bill can be difficult" or "Affected by Covid-19?" – and providing a telephone number or web link. Approach them with a constructive attitude, tell them you are actively tackling your debts and perhaps ask them to suspend interest charges while you do so. They also might be amenable to letting you defer payment or pay smaller amounts over a longer time period. Ask about any special reductions – for example, the Warm Home Discount Scheme for electricity supplies (see www.gov.uk for more information).

If you need to compose a letter or email to a creditor, you don't have to start from scratch: you could copy or adapt a template letter from the Citizens Advice website. One especially useful letter asks creditors to give you more time.

If your circumstances have changed you might be able to claim benefits, or extra benefits. Citizens Advice runs a Help to Claim programme (call 0800 144 8444) and can guide you through all the stages. The Turn2us website at <https://www.turn2us.org.uk> will tell you what benefits you might be able to claim, and has details of grants available to those on low incomes.

If you have an overdraft, talk to your bank. In the coronavirus age many banks are making concessions and charging no interest on overdrafts up to a certain amount. Contact your district council about a possible Council Tax reduction. And think creatively about ways of increasing your income. Could you rent out a spare room in your house, for instance?

Talk to a volunteer at Citizens Advice (call Adviceline free on 0800 278 7907, Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm) or through webchat ("chat with us online about debt") Monday to Friday 8am to 7pm. Appointments in person are not available at present.

SAFEGUARDING IN COWLEY PARISH

As a Parish, we are committed to the Christian care, nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children and all adults but particularly those who are vulnerable in any way.

So we ensure that our policies and practice on the selection and training of all those staff and volunteers with any responsibility within the Church are in line with safer recruitment principles, including the use of Disclosure and Barring Service criminal records checks where applicable.

We intend that St James and St Francis churches will be safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is a culture of 'informed vigilance' as to the dangers of abuse, including domestic violence and bullying.

We will challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust in our churches

We follow statute, guidance and recognised good practice in all our safeguarding procedures and check that all users of our premises agree to do so too.

It is now 3 years since we introduced the Diocesan training programme for all those Parish volunteer roles requiring it - and that training must now be renewed. We hope many of you will be able to follow the course individually at home on-line but, when C-19 regulations allow later in the year, we will again be offering group training at St James Centre.

All those who require it should have received an email and attached letter from me with details of how to access the on-line courses; those without e-mail access should have had the letter delivered.

The 'Basic awareness' course (formerly called C0) has been revised and is much more accessible. It is required for all volunteers with person-facing roles in our churches but is also open to anyone who thinks they should understand more about what we mean by 'safeguarding' in the church context.

Those involved in any of our children's work and pastoral care must take the 'Safeguarding Foundations' (formerly C1) – also an individual online course but which we will later offer as a group session.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility – *please be sure to report anything you observe that worries you about someone's wellbeing whilst at church or on-line.*

It is just as important during this strange time when life is so different; the situation throws up its own safeguarding and welfare issues. Please remain aware.

Lesley Williams 01865 779
562 07982 439 828

safeguarding@cowleyteamministry.co.uk



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Prayer Space

O risen Lord, who in your first appearance to Mary was mistaken for the gardener:

be present with us, in all our mistakes and uncertainties.

O risen Lord, who appeared to your dejected disciples on the road to Emmaus, and opened to them the scriptures so that their hearts burned within them:

be present with us and set our hearts on fire with love for you.

O risen Lord who gave your distraught followers the assurance of healing and forgiveness:

be present with us and bring together all Christians in peace and harmony.

O risen Lord, who mindful of the needs of Your disciples, prepared a meal by the Sea of Galilee:

be present with us, and make yourself known to us in all acts of hospitality and sharing.

O risen Lord, who in your final appearance On the Mount of Olives, lifted up hands of Blessing on all people:

be present with us, and grant that our prayers today may be taken up into yours on behalf of all the world.

Church of South India

Wherever we are, we live in God's family. When our families are broken by circumstance and pain, He reaches out to hold us in His arms, piece by piece He makes us whole again, and in His loved-filled hands we are transformed.

So Lord, help us to build relationships

In all the corners of our hearts.

To be like you, to love like you,

to heal brokenness and restore wholeness in families worldwide. Amen

Mothers' Union

Christian care for families

Residents' Parking

Now that we are going to need to have new parking restrictions in Cowley for residents, there is no need to panic or to use up your six-month allocation of resident's parking permits for those good folk who deliver your groceries, carry out 'carers duties' or similar short term visits.

Residents may apply for a RESIDENTIAL CARERS CARD which is free of charge. This is issued to the resident who loans it to the 'carer' for the visit to place in their car that should be parked in a designated parking area. The time limit is 3 hours and is free of charge. Proof of residence should accompany the application form. Full details may be obtained from 01865-815649 or preferably online from

parking@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Nonny Muss

A WARTIME CHILDHOOD

(Part 8)

Very soon after being admitted to the little village school in Northmoor the Easter holidays were upon us. When we returned for the summer term there was much talk of Ascension Day. Obviously for a little girl who had not quite reached her fifth birthday the word ascension was something of a mystery. However, I did get to know that it meant going to church and then having the rest of the day on holiday.

When Ascension Day arrived, unusually we were told to take our places in school whilst keeping our coats on. The register was called and then we lined up out in the playground in a two-by-two crocodile ensuring that we held tight to our partner's hands. My partner was Margaret, the little girl I sat next to. When all was ready we marched out of the school gate, across the road (devoid of any kind of traffic) and along the path to the side gate of the churchyard.

On arrival at the big oak door of the church, the vicar, who appeared to me to be very elderly, met us and led us up the aisle to the pews. I was completely mesmerised. We little infants were seated in the front row, with little legs dangling, and the other age groups filed into the pews behind with the eleven-year-olds at the back. Our two teachers sat behind them so that they could keep a weather eye out for any misbehaviour. Mrs. Farrow, the vicar's wife, sat at the harmonium and we sang a hymn, though for the life of me I can't remember which one. Then we sat down, and the vicar stood at the front and told us a story of Jesus going back to heaven. I sat and gazed around at the lovely old church and was completely hooked. This wonderful place was where I wanted to be, I wanted to know lots (and lots) more.

Back at school after the lovely little service, it

was school milk time before we could go home for the day. Milk time was very important for children in those wartime days. Our milk was delivered every day from Mr. Smith's farm up the road. Mollie, the milk girl would carry the crate of small 1/3 pint bottles up the playground and put them on the table in the lobby. We always knew when they were arriving because they made a very noisy rattle. The milk was lovely and creamy with a layer of real cream on the top. We knew just where it came from, even knowing the herd of cows and the field they were grazing in. During the winter our teacher would bring the bottles in and stand them in the grate to warm in front of the fire. If we wanted to, we could bring in a spoonful of Ovaltine or Bournvita in a twist of paper and sprinkle it into our warm milk. Gorgeous! The tops of the bottles were sealed with a waxed cardboard lid with a perforated disc in the middle for your paper straw. These lids were much prized, as they could be washed and dried and used to make nice little woolly balls.

Anyway, while Margaret and I were happily drinking our milk on that Ascension Day I went into raptures over our visit to church. She then turned to me and said, "You can go to church every Sunday morning if you want to. I do. I go with my big sister." Well, what a revelation!

As soon as I had run up our lane and dashed in through our cottage door I cried, "Mummy, Margaret said that you can go to church every Sunday morning if you want to." Her reply was, "Well, do you want to?" "Oh, yes." I sighed.

And so it was that my wonderful years of churchgoing began. In my best dress and new Clarkes' sandals (with clean socks, of

course) I met Margaret and her sister Barbara, just before the church clock struck eleven. In we went and were seated in pews at the side of the church. I loved every moment of it, even if I didn't manage to find the hymn num-

bers or understand all the big words of the prayers. All that came later as I grew, but I know now that God had called me and I wanted to follow.

Rosanne Butler

Opus Dei

I have decided to write this after reading the appeal in the last Chronicle for more articles. I thought of calling this John's Jottings, but that sounds a little lame. So, I hit upon Opus Dei for two reasons. Firstly, when I was studying Latin at school friends of my mother would ask her what I was doing for 'A' Levels. When she told them one was Latin, they would often say "Well, that's useless when you want a job", or words to that effect. But now the two words at the top of this are useful - I'll let you find out for yourself what they mean. There is Google or a Latin dictionary.....

Secondly, over the last year or so, I have found out that children are being taught something about the Romans, even at primary school. So another reason to learn Latin (especially for their parents!)

At the same time, I wanted to write something a bit more serious about God. The topic I have picked is vocation. Here again, Latin is useful. The word vocation comes from the Latin 'vocatus' (this means 'called'), which, in turn, comes from 'voco', I call. So, I believe we are all 'called', each and every one of us, whoever we are. We do not have to be called to be a politician, a doctor, or a priest; each of us has a calling, whatever our situation is. But the most crucial question is, which voices are we listening and paying attention to? There are Siren voices and many opinions to be heard all around us - in the shops, in our street, on the radio, the television, and on the internet. Also, however, we can listen to voices and messages in church, from Christians on the radio, by reading and studying the Bible (in whichever translation you choose), and in prayer. Also, lastly, the messages we absorb most form our thinking, goals and attitudes and, finally, our ways of behaving.

Any questions?

Have a Happier New Year.

John Booty

Book review

You Should Have Known

by Jean Hauff Korelitz - a thriller

Grace Sachs is a happily married therapist with a young son. She is highly thought of in her profession and knows everything about women, men and marriage. But how well does she know her own husband? An addictive read with frightening revelations about him, many of which are very disturbing.

Chris Woodman

Let the sunshine in!

Easter Sunday is a day to think of the future and of new growth, so it is appropriate that it is the day we decided that the sunflower seeds, given with the last issue of the Chronicle, are to be sown.

I hope you have had them ready for Easter Sunday and have sown them, one to a small pot, watered and left them to do their thing somewhere warm and light. If you have not sown them yet, then get a move on! You will need to acclimatise your seedlings to outside conditions before setting them out into open ground. Beware of slugs and snails, though, as young sunflowers are particularly tasty to them!

We shall be asking you to measure your highest plant with a visit from our judges to the tallest ones to see who has grown the one reaching furthest into the sky! August 31st is judging day.

It would be great, if you have a front garden, to see giant sunflowers growing there brightening up the parish and making passers-by smile.

Spring is now with us and I have continued to sow seeds and to nurture seedlings to grow on and be ready for the Plant Sale. They are filling the greenhouse. I also have potted on some perennials that needed dividing and my collection of filled pots gets bigger. They are congregating in lots of corners in our back garden.

On the allotment, my "Other Half" has been digging over ground in readiness for early potatoes. It is a tradition that potatoes are planted and parsley should be sown on Good Friday. Which is strange considering the day. The fact that the day could vary by a month makes this idea a poor one if the ground is cold and wet in March. I think you should follow your instincts and wait for whenever the ground feels warm. An Old Wives Tale about

parsley is that it will only grow where the woman "wears the trousers" in the household. I have no problem. Say no more!

My favourite tool for weeding the garden borders is an old kitchen knife. Admittedly it still involves bending but you can cut roots and dislodge the plant without the strain of tugging. Admittedly, this does not solve the problem of dandelions and bindweed which will grow again from cut roots, but a regular visit with knife and bucket, for the tops, will keep them at bay. The debris is destined for the brown bin and not the garden compost.

The contents of last year's compost bin is rich and black and I have used it to mulch my fruit trees and rose bushes as well as using it to pot on those perennials. All good stuff!

Finally, another shout out for small pots, if you have any to get rid of, and those plastic trays of 6 in which commercial bedding is often sold, 95 Crescent Road is the place to take them!

The Plant Sale is on Saturday 22nd May and will be held in the Church Centre car park. I am looking forward to it. I hope you are?

Joan Coleman



LAPTOPS

Your laptop may have got too slow for your use, but I take old, unwanted laptops and make them usable again. I wipe all the data off the hard drive using a special piece of software and then make the laptops function like a Chromebook. The laptops should not be more than 10-12 years old. They need to have a Windows 7 sticker on them or something newer.

Since the end of the lockdown two schools have benefited from laptops I have restored: John Henry Newman Academy (27 laptops) and Aylesbury Vale Academy (18 laptops). Both schools have lots of vulnerable and needy students.

Originally, the reclaimed laptops were to enable children to follow online lessons at home. Now I am hoping to improve the availability of Laptops more generally at the school, to support disadvantaged and vulnerable children.

I will try to investigate the need further after Easter but both the schools above need more laptops.

www.henleystandard.co.uk/news/caversham/159860/ pupils-love-learning-again-thanks-to-donated-laptops.

Göran Lennartsson, Eco-Recycling Coordinator & Maths Teacher Contact:
eco.recycling@oratory.co.uk



**Plant
Sale**



**Saturday 22nd May
10am -12 noon**

**St James Church Centre
Car park – Covid safe
Beauchamp Lane
Cowley
OX4 3LF**



CHRONICLE

Editorial Team- Sally Hemsworth, Nicki Stevens

Deadline for the next edition:
Monday 19 April 2021

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

Paper contributions should be left at Parish Office for the attention of Sally. The Editorial Committee in no way accepts responsibility for goods or services supplied by our advertisers, errors and omissions excepted.

25 March 2021



St Clement's
Parish
Property

New day support venue for the homeless and vulnerably-housed opening in Oxford

The Oxford Winter Night Shelter is delighted to be working with St Clement's Parish Property to set up a new day support centre to offer respite, hospitality and encouragement to those who are homeless and vulnerably housed.

Through discussions with partner agencies, the Oxford Winter Night Shelter has established that there is a real need to provide support and companionship to members of the community, as the feelings of isolation and loneliness have increased during the Coronavirus pandemic. The new day centre, known as the "Living Room", will provide support in a small and friendly environment to its guests, specially targeting those who may feel more able to engage in this setting. The Living Room will operate with high staff-to-guest ratios in order that the guests can be given the attention that they need to ensure a positive experience. The Oxford Winter Night Shelter will work closely with agencies to obtain referrals to the centre and to provide joined-up support.

The Living Room is to be based in the St Clement's area in a property owned by St Clement's Parish Property, with purposes including the relief of those in need within the local community. It is hoped that the Living Room will be able to open its doors during the summer 2021. The next few months will be spent in refurbishing the venue and finalising the operations.

The Oxford Winter Night Shelter was set up three years ago to provide overnight accommodation to the homeless and rough sleepers of Oxford during the winter months. Due to the restrictions imposed by the Coronavirus pandemic it has not been able to operate the shelters this winter. Rough sleepers are being given temporary accommodation under the "Everyone In" initiative. When it is possible to do so, the Oxford Winter Night Shelter intends to reopen its doors, whilst continuing the Living Room operation.

The Oxford Winter Night Shelter operates due to the dedication and expertise of its volunteers, the continued generosity of its donors and the support of the churches across central Oxford and wider afield.

Mary Gurr, Founder and Chair of the Oxford Winter Night Shelter and Chaplain to the Homeless says:

“I am delighted the OWNS is able to work in partnership with St Clements and with our partner organisations. It is hoped this new initiative will address issues of loneliness and isolation and provide sanctuary and practical help to some of the most vulnerable and needy people in our community.”

Reverend Rachel Gibson, Chair of St Clements Parish Property says

“St Clement’s Parish Property Trustees have been delighted to work with OWNS and its other partner churches and organisations since it began. We’re really pleased that we’re now also able to help in setting up the new day centre, which we hope will provide a warm welcome, companionship and support to its guests.”

If you would like more information and would like to support this initiative, please visit www.ownsoxford.org.uk.

MEMORIES

After reading Rosanne’s wartime childhood article, it is most peculiar how someone else’s story can set off at least an hour or so of memory recall.

One evening as a child in 1939 when going to bed my Mum told me I was going to school the next day. I had no idea what 'school' was and can't remember what I *thought* 'school' was at that time. Next day my lovely Dad, who incidentally had volunteered for the Army, was off to Portsmouth that very week for training and said he would take me down to St Christopher’s School on his crossbar and I foolishly anticipated a pleasant ride for a short while only to discover I had to stay for hours at this place. I’m ashamed to say according to Dad that I collapsed in a massive tearful tantrum and he just handed me over to the teachers and was asked to leave and come back at 12 o'clock.

Within the week transport came to pick him up and I only saw him once again before he was injured at Dunkirk, then torpedoed on his way to the Far East and was then a prisoner of war on the Burma Railroad till being released in 1945. An Oxford Police Officer drove Mum down to the docks to meet the ship bringing them home and at first she walked past Dad just not recognising him in the condition he was in. His first words were 'Alice! You've got lipstick on, it suits you'. It was three weeks before they let him home. He lived until he was 87 and never spoke of his imprisonment to ANYONE! Even now, I think of him every day with a love still so strong and kiss his photo on my shelf.

Pat Sansom

CAMINO DE SANTIAGO for Traidcraft Exchange <https://traidcraftexchange.org/what-we-do>

As previously announced, I'm signed up to join a group walking the final 115km of the full 772 km Camino, from Sarria to Santiago de Compostela in north west Spain, over 5 days hopefully in the first week of October.

We are in training and fundraising mode already; Traidcraft Exchange has set up a fundraising virtual walk for anyone accepting the challenge to walk 100km during April – the walking/running will be real, logged on the Strava app; it's virtual in that it's not in northern Spain but wherever we are across the UK or elsewhere!

As I'm already walking far more than 100 km (62 miles) a month – (165 miles March) I've upped my personal target to 320km (200 miles)

Traidcraft Exchange brings people together to fight injustice in trade and help protect the world's poorest communities against climate change. It's their mission to use the power of trade, rather than aid, to create lasting solutions to poverty. They are the partner charity of Traidcraft, the fair trade company.

The specific project this 100 km in April will support is 'Regenerators Appeal' : working with those struggling on the front line in the fight against climate change. <https://traidcraftexchange.org/regenerators>

There are various ways of donating to my sponsorship:

1. Through my Facebook giving page <https://www.facebook.com/donate/252363499818620/10218647109636043/>
Facebook pays all the processing fees for you, so 100% of your donation goes directly to the charity and my total.
2. If you don't use/like facebook, you can still give on line at <https://traidcraftexchange.org.uk/100km-in-april> but please let me know if you do that so the amount can be added to my fundraising total
3. If you don't do online giving at all, I have a standard paper sponsor form but if you are not coming to church yet, let me know by phone what you wish to donate and whether you can gift aid it - and you can eventually give me cash or a cheque!

The exciting news is that ALL GIVING BETWEEN 8 MARCH and 7 JUNE will be matched/doubled by the Government through UK Aid so donating sooner rather than later would be a real bonus!

4. AND ALSO if you would like to accept the 100 km in April challenge yourself, it's not too late to sign up on line <https://www.facebook.com/TraidcraftExchange> and join me walking, here in Oxford - either actually with me or on your own routes, in your own time, at your own speed. Whichever of those you choose, any sponsorship you earn or donation you make will count towards the £1,300 I'm committed to raise by October. I've set a £500 target for the April walking. It's FREE to take part and you also get a free 100km in April tee-shirt!

However you are able to support me, thank you!

lesleyjwilliams@btinternet.com 07982 439 828 01865 779 562

MODERN SLAVERY: ASIOX

Anti Slavery Initiative Oxford
Friday 9 April, 7:00-9:00 on
Zoom

Special guest Kevin Hyland OBE, who was the UK's first Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner from 2015-2018, will be sharing some of his extensive experience in tackling slavery and human trafficking, and inspiring us to understand how we can make a difference right where we are to the lives of survivors and how we create communities where slavery cannot thrive.



Kevin Hyland, OBE, the first Independent UK Anti Slavery Commissioner, will be sharing from his extensive experience

and inspiring us to understand how we can make a difference right where we are. You won't want to miss it!



The situation in Oxfordshire:

People are often surprised that there should be slavery in our county, but it is prevalent in the city of Oxford as well as in the market towns. The following figures are based on what is known to be happening in Oxfordshire alone, with data from January 2019 until end February 2021. The figures have been provided by an agency with which ASIOX works:-

179 victims were identified, of whom 161 were UK nationals

80 were female, 99 were male

Age range was from 6 years to 85 years

Types of slavery and exploitation and number of cases:

- 68 County Lines drugs distribution
- 45 cuckooing - where criminals prey on individuals and take over their homes to run their activities there, often engaging vulnerable people in that activity
- 20 criminal exploitation - includes forced pickpocketing, begging, shoplifting, storing weapons or storing/selling counterfeit goods
- 18 sexual exploitation
- 13 financial exploitation - debt bondage, finances controlled by others and financial scams
- 9 forced labour - agriculture, construction, cannabis farms, nail bars, car washes, restaurants
- 5 domestic servitude
- 1 child sexual exploitation

You are invited to join this meeting to find out more about the big picture and to ask your questions.

Book free at <https://www.asiox.org/post/join-us-for-an-inspiring-talk-by-kevin-hyland> and you will be sent the Zoom link

Mission Giving in 2020

£2,100 has been allocated by the PCC being equal to 5% of the Planned Giving in 2019. The PCC agreed at its meeting on the 25 March 2021 that the following seven organisations should be given grants:

Archway Foundation - £350

Anyone of any age can experience loneliness and at any point in their lives. Based in the Oxford area, The Archway Foundation is a charity that connects people with others via a diverse group of empathetic and diverse volunteers many of whom have experienced loneliness themselves. During lockdown, this work has involved regular contacts by phone.

BeSpace - £350

BeSpace is a Christian charity based in Oxfordshire that equips local churches to facilitate prayer and reflective spaces in schools and other areas of the community. We are passionate about seeing every child, young person and adult have space to pray or reflect in their daily lives.

Church of the Holy Family, Blackbird Leys Project - £175

To support the efforts to replace the inadequate current building.

Innovista – Thrive - £350

Innovista live and work in three Oxford estates: Barton, The Leys and South Abingdon. It exists to grow life changing leadership in hard to reach and unlikely places. It does this through identifying, equipping and developing young people in leadership to change their own futures and that of their communities.

St Mary's Church, Barton project - £175

The existing iconic 1958 church building will be refurbished inside but its distinctive shape and character will remain the same, with the major work involving a single-story extension to the south and north sides. There are plans for a brand new welcome area on the south side and a further extension on the north side with kitchen, toilets and space for meetings and our ever-expanding children's ministry.

The Icolyn Smith Foundation - Oxford Community Soup Kitchen - £350

Serving take-away meals in lockdown, Wednesdays and Saturdays at the Asian Cultural Centre, Manzil Way. Christian-led, it aims to aid relief of financial hardship amongst people living or working in the Oxford area by providing hot food and clean dry clothing.

Viva – Doorsteps - £350

An initiative that, after research, found the five major issues facing local children, young people and families to be: unstable family life and struggling parents; low self-esteem; lack of vision or aspiration for life; difficulty entering employment and household poverty. Their work is twofold: on-the-ground project work and empowering and equipping churches in their work with children and young people.

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Feb 1939

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WALTON STREET,
And Windmill Road, Headington. Tel. 2914.

Feb 1939

Personally Speaking

A message from Kieron Rowley, ordinand at Ripon College, Cuddeson

Dear friends at St James and St Francis: thank you so much for your warm welcome to me while I was on placement with you this year. I have learned a lot and will carry these lessons forward into my future ministry. I hope you have a blessed and holy Easter; may you all feel the presence of God this Holy Week. I hope as this lockdown begins to end you will be able to return to some sense of normal life in your work and worship; I shall keep you all in my prayers. Thank you for having me and God bless.

From Alison Lockhart

lockhart836@btinternet.com 07503 667 046

A request for household items for clients with whom I am working: a small kitchen type dining table, a fridge and a mattress. If anybody has any of these items available, looking for a new home, please contact me.

REPORT FROM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Three PCC meetings have been held this year – 9 February, 25 February and 25 March 2021

At each meeting Joan Coleman has presented the financial position of the Parish, and at the meeting on the 25 February 2021 there was a detailed discussion on the 2020 accounts.

These were then inspected by an outside body and the accounts were accepted, without any changes, at the PCC meeting on the 25 March 2021. The PCC is very grateful for the huge amount of work Joan Coleman does. This year, in addition to paying bills, she has been very busy applying for the Government grants the Parish is entitled to under the COVID regulations. All in addition to growing plants and organising the Plant Sale which is going to take place in May.

Mission Giving is continuing, and details of the grants given are shown elsewhere in The Chronicle.

Other matters which have been discussed include:

1. The work of the Ministry Team and ideas on how things will be run with a reduced number of ministers. The PCC is extremely grateful to the way the Ministers have worked during the COVID pandemic, supporting church members over the last year, and finding different ways to hold services and communicate with them. The Team has recently been joined by The Revd Max Brutsystem. The Architect is obtaining estimates for the toilet and these should be available on, who helps at the 8 am service at St James. He is a self-supporting minister. The PCC has agreed that the Rector should try to find more self-supporting ministers to help in the Parish especially as Richard Chand has moved to Essex, and Gemma Beesley is leaving the Parish at the end of June. It is unlikely that another curate will be in post for at least a year and there has not been a replacement for David Benskin.
2. The Bishop's Mission Orders for Grace Church and the Asian Anglican Living Church (AALC). The BMO for Grace Church is in place, but the one for AALC is still under discussion.
3. The PCC has reviewed and agreed the following policies – all of which are available on church noticeboards:
 - Safeguarding Policy
 - Parish Mission Prayer and Giving Policy
 - Health and Safety Policy
 - Data Protection – Cowley Parish Audit Data
4. Church Matters:

At St James Church the Faculties have been received for the provision of a toilet and the digital projection shortly. This will allow applications for grants to be made. In addition, a new notice board has been provided at St James Church which makes it easier to change the information on show.

There have been no Church Committees since the pandemic. The PCC is now responsible for appointing sidespersons (rather than the APCC) and the following were recently agreed by the PCC:

St James Church
Rosanne Butler
Pat Chambers
Joan Coleman
Valerie Goodall
Alan Howell
Christine Knevet
Christine Lee
Margaret Martin
John Simmons
June Smith
Carmelyne Strzelecki
Margaret Weller
Lesley Williams

St Francis Church
Sheila Collett
Shirley Costar
Jane Coutache
Gwen Denny
Esme Forbes
Faith Hunter
Lyn Lord
Elwira Lubos
Norah Shallow
Maureen Stone
Andrew Swallow
Elsie Tshabalala
Elaine Ulett

5. The Annual Church Meeting/Annual Parochial Church Committee is planned for Saturday, 15 May 2021. It will be held at 12 noon in St James Church Centre and on ZOOM.

Sally Hemsworth
PCC Secretary

SUPPORT PHONE NUMBERS

NEEDING ADVICE OR HELP? or just want to talk?

SOME USEFUL LOCAL NUMBERS:

Citizens Advice:	08082 787 909
Oxford City Council:	01865 249 811
Oxfordshire Mind:	01865 247788
Red Cross <i>coronavirus support line</i> :	08081 963 651
Samaritans <i>available 24/7</i> :	116 123
The Archway Foundation:	01865 790 552
Mental Health helpline <i>available 24/7</i> - NHS Oxford Health:	
Adults:	01865 904 997
Children/young people:	01865 904 988

Have you been receiving a lot of scam calls on your phone, some of them quite scary? If you are concerned about them, you can obtain help by:

- phoning 03450 700 707 – that's a special department set up by the police *OR*
- Silver Lines, open 24 hrs for assistance on 08004 708 090 - this is a charity set up by Esther Rantzen, primarily to assist those elderly people in need of assistance and who live alone and are in fear of being abused.

Roadmap out of lockdown: Cowley Team Ministry

A possible route forward?

Government framework	CTM consequence
<p>Changes on 29 March</p> <p>Social contact The evidence shows that it is safer for people to meet outdoors rather than indoors. And this is why from 29 March, when most schools start to break up for the Easter holidays, outdoor gatherings (including in private gardens) of either 6 people (the Rule of 6) or 2 households will also be allowed, making it easier for friends and families to meet outside.</p> <p>Business and activities Outdoor sports facilities such as tennis and basketball courts, and open-air swimming pools, will also be allowed to reopen, and people will be able to take part in formally organised outdoor sports.</p> <p>Travel The 'stay at home' rule will end on 29 March but many restrictions will remain in place. People should continue to work from home where they can and minimise the number of journeys they make where possible, avoiding travel at the busiest times and routes. Travel abroad will continue to be prohibited, other than for a small number of permitted reasons. Holidays abroad will not be allowed, given it will remain important to manage the risk of imported variants and protect the vaccination programme. The government has launched a new taskforce to review global travel which will report on 12 April.</p>	<p>Tea in Churchyard can restart again up to 6 people Funerals number set at 30</p>
<p>Step 2 - not before 12 April</p> <p>Business and activities Step 2, which will be no earlier than 12 April, will see the opening of non-essential retail; personal care premises such as hairdressers and nail salons; and public buildings, including libraries and community centres. Indoor leisure facilities such as gyms will also reopen (but only for use by people on their own or in household groups); as will most outdoor attractions and settings including outdoor hospitality venues, zoos, theme parks, and drive-in cinemas. Self-contained accommodation such as campsites and holiday lets, where indoor facilities are not shared with other households, can also reopen.</p> <p>Hospitality venues will be allowed to serve people outdoors at Step 2 and there will be no need for customers to order a substantial meal with alcoholic drinks and no curfew, although customers must order, eat and drink while seated ('table service'). Wider social contact rules will apply in all these settings to prevent indoor mixing between different households.</p> <p>Events While funerals can continue with up to 30 mourners, the number of people able to attend weddings, receptions and commemorative events such as wakes will rise to 15.</p>	<p>Tea in Churchyard can continue with extended numbers Rule of 6 continues Churchyard gardening restarts (6 people) on April 24th Tuesday Lunches can restart outside with strict social distancing of households Weddings can restart with 15 guests Wakes/receptions set at 15 Funerals number set at 30</p>
<p>Step 3 - not before 17 May</p> <p>Social contact As part of Step 3, no earlier than 17 May, the government will look to continue easing limits on seeing friends and family wherever possible, allowing people to decide on the appropriate level of risk for their circumstances.</p> <p>This means that most legal restrictions on meeting others outdoors will be lifted - although gatherings of over 30 people will remain illegal. Indoors, the Rule of 6 or 2 households will apply - we will keep under review whether it is safe to increase this.</p>	<p>Tea in Churchyard can continue with extended numbers Rule of 6 continues Churchyard gardening restarts on April 24th Tuesday Lunches can restart with strict</p>

<p>As soon as possible and by no later than Step 3, we will also update the advice on social distancing between friends and family, including hugging. But until this point, people should continue to keep their distance from anyone not in their household or support bubble.</p> <p>Business and activities Most businesses in all but the highest risk sectors will be able to reopen. In all sectors, COVID-Secure guidance will remain in place and businesses may not cater for groups bigger than the legal limits. Indoor hospitality will reopen - and as in Step 2, venues will not have to serve a substantial meal with alcoholic drinks; nor will there be a curfew. Customers will, however, have to order, eat and drink while seated.</p> <p>Other indoor locations to open up in Step 3 include indoor entertainment venues such as cinemas and children's play areas; the rest of the accommodation sector, including hotels, hostels and B&Bs; and indoor adult group sports and exercise classes. The government will also allow some larger performances and sporting events in indoor venues with a capacity of 1,000 people or half-full (whichever is a lower number), and in outdoor venues with a capacity of 4,000 people or half-full (whichever is a lower number). In the largest outdoor seated venues, where crowds can be spread out, up to 10,000 people will be able to attend (or a quarter-full, whichever is lower).</p> <p>Events Up to 30 people will be able to attend weddings, receptions and wakes, as well as funerals. This limit will also apply to other types of significant life events including bar mitzvahs and christenings.</p> <p>Review of social distancing Finally, before Step 4 begins, the government will complete a review of social distancing and other long-term measures that have been put in place to cut transmission. This will inform decisions on the timing and circumstances under which the rules on 1 metre plus, the wearing of face coverings and other measures may be lifted. This will also inform guidance on working from home – which should continue wherever possible until this review is complete.</p>	<p>social distancing of households Weddings can have 30 guests Wakes set at 30 Funerals number set at 30 Little Stars and Sea-Shells reopen Return to services at both St Francis and St James most Sundays</p>
<p>Step 4 - not before 21 June Social contact By Step 4 which will take place no earlier than 21 June, the government hopes to be in a position to remove all legal limits on social contact.</p> <p>Business, activities and events We hope to reopen remaining premises, including nightclubs, and ease the restrictions on large events and performances that apply in Step 3. This will be subject to the results of a scientific Events Research Programme to test the outcome of certain pilot events through the spring and summer, where we will trial the use of testing and other techniques to cut the risk of infection. The same Events Research Programme will guide decisions on whether all limits can be removed on weddings and other life events.</p> <p>As we move through each of these phases in the roadmap, we must all remember that COVID-19 remains a part of our lives. We are going to have to keep living our lives differently to keep ourselves and others safe. We must carry on with 'hands, face, space'. Comply with the COVID-Secure measures that remain in place. Meet outdoors when we can and keep letting fresh air in. Get tested when needed. Get vaccinated when offered. If we all continue to play our part, we will be that bit closer to a future that is more familiar.</p>	<p>26th June Open the doors Garden Party in Rectory/carpark ? collective act of worship 27th?</p>

ELECTORAL ROLL – ANNUAL REVISION

It is of course not a full year since the 2020 APCM and electoral roll update – because of Covid-19, the APCM was held in October – but for 2021 it's back at its rightful time in the spring – 15 May, so we are once again reviewing and revising the Parish Electoral Roll.

We remove any members' names who have sadly died, moved away or with whom we are no longer in contact and are happy to add new parishioners who wish to register their commitment to the life of the Parish.

The official wording: All persons who wish to have their names entered on the Parish Electoral Roll are requested to apply for enrolment on the form available from both churches, the Parish office and from Lesley Williams, Electoral Roll Officer, to be returned not later than Saturday 24 April.

You will then be entitled to attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting and to take part in its proceedings but of course you can also be added to the Roll at any time during the year.

The revised Roll will come into operation on Saturday 1 May, when it will be available for checking for accuracy.

Under the Church Representation Rules any lay persons are entitled to have their names entered on the roll if they—

- (i) are baptised and aged 16 or over;
- (ii) have signed a form of application for enrolment;

and either

- (iii) are members of the Church of England or of any Church in communion with the Church of England being resident in the parish or (not being resident in the parish) having habitually attended public worship in the parish during the six months prior to the application for enrolment;

or:

- (iv) are members in good standing of a Church (not in communion with the Church of England) which subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity declaring themselves also to be members of the Church of England and having habitually attended public worship in the parish during the period of six months prior to enrolment.

The statutory Church of England form gives us solely your name and address but it is our custom to ask you to complete a Parish subsidiary pro forma giving us some personal details, to aid our communication with you, including telephone and e-mail address, if applicable, and an emergency contact in case of accident or illness. In line with GDPR (data protection) requirements, all these details are of course held securely and will only be shared with Parish Officers on a need-to-know basis. You can request that they are removed at any time. All details are held for 6 years and then destroyed.

Please let me know if you have changed any of your contact details – home address, phone, e-mail, emergency contact person – during the year.

contact Lesley Williams – Electoral Roll Officer

Telephone: 01865 779 562 07982 439 828

Email: lesleyjwilliams@btinternet.com



From the Archives

APRIL 1937

EASTER

My dear Friends,

As I write Easter Day is approaching – that wonderful triumphant victory of our Lord Jesus Christ, whereby He gave the assurance of the ultimate victory of right over wrong and opened to us the gate of everlasting light. But again, as I write, before Easter Day stands the Cross whereby alone that victory could be won.

The trouble is that most of us want the victory, but do not want to face the Cross. Yet without the Cross there can be no victory. We want a religion that is easy and makes no demands upon us, and yet which will produce those ideals for which Christ died – righteousness and justice, truth and peace, freedom and happiness, love and goodwill among men. But it is no use, these things can only be won in the world by following in the steps of Jesus Christ, and those steps must lead to the Cross before they are attained.

“Whosoever dost not bear his own CROSS, and come after Me, cannot be My disciple”.

A religion that has no Cross in it is not the religion of Christ, and therefore is not Christianity. It will not produce those things for which Christ died, and which we know the world needs, and for the accomplishment of which He founded the Fellowship of the Christian Church.

The Coronation is drawing near. Our King and Queen will not only be crowned, but they will also be consecrated to the service of God and their country.

If we want to build up “Jerusalem in England’s green and pleasant land”, we must be ready to consecrate ourselves afresh to God and our country – to build up here the Kingdom of God. And to do this we must be ready at the same time to face the Cross – that is, to be ready at all cost to ourselves to serve God and follow Christ.

Your affectionate friend and Vicar,
Maurice H. Beauchamp

FINANCIAL THOUGHTS & ADVICE FROM 1964

AUGUST 1964

THOUGHTS ON SHOW FLATS

To buy or not to buy, that is the question. Whether 'tis nobler in the end to purchase the chairs and tables of a previous owner or by hiring - purchase them-to buy-to hire –to own.

Thus might the noble Bard have written if he had taken Hamlet to see the show flats on the Cowley Centre. There he would have seen the urgent question “to buy, to hire, to own.”

Here would he have been faced with the vision of a future of endless weekly payments, until

perhaps he might have felt "he himself might his quietus make with a bare bodkin."

"A £70 suite from 10/- a week" read the encouraging advertisement: yes, but how about the bed, the dining suite, the cooker, the washing machine, the carpets, the curtains, the fridge? – "To buy, to hire, to own."

It is indeed some question, when one actually tots up the real weight of the millstone round the young married couple's neck, if they furnished a house or flat as the shops suggest. Not a mere 10/- a week, more like £10.

"To buy, to hire, to own." Can it really be unthinkable to patronise the second-hand shops or the columns of the local paper so that newly-marrieds can start off life without the constant nagging worry of all that H.P.?

DEMONS DISGUISED

The old demons of Envy and Gluttony now squat disguised as that most deadly of enemies, the H.P.-debts you cannot meet because your eyes were too big for your stomach, or rather because you felt there could be nothing worse in life than to have to start married life with second-hand furniture, when all your friends had the newest and best of everything.

"To buy, to hire, to own." Could it be that one of the reasons that some marriages never seem to start off on the right foot is because the newly-weds have to give more time to paying off the H.P. and working overtime to make enough money, than they give to each other?

It is all a question of what you want most: a marriage where husband and wife are the most important or where that vast and costly suite in the front room matters more than everything else put together.

SEPTEMBER 1964

TACKLING A PROBLEM

Oxford City Council Project at Sunnyside Mansions

As wages and salaries increase, we are able to buy more modern furniture, fridges, washing-machines and cars. We clothe and feed ourselves and our children better than ever before. And we expect everyone else is doing the same-or could be if they were sensible.

But what of those with little money? Increasing prices mean that they can buy less and less. There is less for food, less for clothes, less for household things, less for children- just as their neighbours are spending more on these very things.

A mother's tiredness, or a child's cry of "Why can't I have a new bicycle?-Jean next door has got one", leave such families wide open to the temptation of a door-to-door salesman, a visit to the betting shop, or a few drinks to escape from it all.

The Oxford City Council has been anxious to help families that have got into serious difficulties-financial or otherwise-especially where this has led to the loss of their homes or the likeli-

hood of the break-up of their family.

Chronic illness might be the last straw to a low-income family and equally marriage difficulties can be followed by an uphill battle to make ends meet, and this may end in some kind of final crisis.

Full-Time Workers

Sunnyside Mansions has been bought by the City Council as a place where some of these families can live for a short or long period. There will probably be two full-time social workers employed by the Children's Department living in a flat there, to befriend and guide these families, with a view to enable them to return to the community as self-reliant people.

In addition to the Warden's flat, there will be five independent flats, so arranged that even the largest family could be accommodated. The families will pay rents in the normal way.

The aim is that these families should be integrated into the area and not shut away in Sunnyside Mansions. The children will go to the local schools, the men will continue in their normal jobs, and it is hoped that all members of the families will be welcomed in the churches, clubs, and other local activities.

This is a community problem which can only be solved by us-the community. Our higher standards of living are continually making life harder for others.

Let us help them to get on their feet again by accepting them as our friends, and our children's friends. Perhaps one of us will be the next to need a bit of help ourselves!

SEPTEMBER 1964

COUNCIL'S CONCERN FOR FAMILIES IN TROUBLE

The Housing Committee decided in 1959 that legal pressures alone were not adequate for dealing with Council tenants in rent arrears, and employed a social worker to help families in serious difficulties to get out of trouble. A second social worker was appointed later and then at the beginning of this year, both were transferred to the Children's Department, so that all the City's Child Care officers and Family Case-Workers could work on one team in one department. While legal pressures are still widely used by the Council against those who do not pay their rent, positive help is also available.

Families with children, who are homeless, or are likely to become so, have also caused concern to the City's councillors and officials. Under the National Assistance Act, the Welfare Department was bound to provide shelter for any family that was literally homeless, though husbands were not accommodated. But as the Welfare Department's main concern is the care of the elderly and handicapped, the care for homeless families has now been transferred to the Children's Department.

Researched by LEH

CHURCHES OPENING FOR WORSHIP from 6 December

Holy Communion in one kind only

8.00am St James Holy Communion

10.00am Sunday Worship—*recorded—access from website*

10.00am St Francis Holy Communion

PRIVATE PRAYER IN ST JAMES CHURCH

Wednesday 2.00—4.00 St James

**ALL OTHER ACTIVITIES
SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER
NOTICE—FACEBOOK DAILY
PRAYER TAKES PLACE
MONDAY—SATURDAY 12
NOON,**

**LOCAL PROGRAMME NOT OPERATING AT MOMENT—
LOOK OUT FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

MID-WEEK SERVICES & MEETINGS

Morning Prayer	8.00am	Tue, Thu, Sat at St James; Mon at St Francis
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	7.30pm	Local House of Prayer, St James

HOME GROUPS

Leader	Time/Venue
Friends of St Francis (Katherine Reed)	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

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.

Contact details: Tel: 01865 747680
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Chris Woodman Tel: 778078

Hall Bookings:

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