

Bedding plants Perennials Herbs Salads Tomatoes Chillies

Plant Sale

Saturday 21st May

10-1pm

St James' Church Centre
Beauchamp Lane, Cowley

OX4 3LF

Refreshments, cakes, raffle ... and lots more plants.....

Chronicle

May 2022

From the Editors

Sally Hemsworth and Nicki Stevens

The Chronicle is coming out on the 1 May – a memorable day, especially in Oxford. If anyone goes to Oxford to join in the celebrations could they please tell us about the experience – this year will be special after the non-events caused by the pandemic.

You will see that there is an appeal for more people to become Committee and PCC members – please consider volunteering. These bodies are important to the Parish and members are needed to ensure the voice of the congregations are known. The Annual Parochial Church Meeting is being held on the 14 May – You could come to the Big Brunch in the morning and stay on for the APCM (not a long meeting)?

The next Parish Walk is on Monday, 9 May 2022 – 12 noon at the Randolph to take the bus to Wolvercote for lunch at Jacob's Inn and then walk back to Oxford along the canal. If you do not feel like walking, join us for lunch and meet the walkers – just let Sally Hemsworth know in advance so seating can be booked.

The Easter services were well attended, and the display in St James Church from the Art and Faith team was admired by all. The paintings, the fine embroidery and other crafts show that we have some very talented people in the Parish.

We have not put anything in about the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations – and our next Chronicle comes out in the middle of that Bank Holiday! However, we would love to publish your memories of the Queen's long reign so that we can make the June edition a real celebration issue. In the meantime, watch out for the notices on what the Parish is arranging.

Our usual plea – ideas for articles, book reviews, recipes, jokes, cartoons are very welcome. Oh dear, this is a repeat of last month's sentence – but it is really important to have input from you.

Nicki and Sally

Link to online giving!



We have put a new button on our web site! Our supporters can now make one off payment online. It will take you to the 'give a little' web site where you can decide how much you would like to give. You can also scan this image and go straight there!



<https://givealittle.co/campaigns/49eef694-09d1-4ee3-8810-6ac86d972e6c>

A word from the Rectory

Finding Spiritual Restoration

It is perhaps not surprising that in this Easter season my mind returns to the resurrection stories!

These last months have been tough for us all. All a bit of a roller coaster. The government's move to lift legal restrictions and encourage us to get on with life has, whilst seeming risky, seems to be working. Yes, large numbers of people are catching Covid, but in general, for most, symptoms are manageable. But where is it that our future lies? Will we be restored by re-establishing the patterns we had before all this started?

There is a national pattern. It is difficult to nurture others when we feel a great need for our own nurture. As a result, many are finding it a struggle to offer their time and energy to help others. So where will that 'nurture' we all need come from?

In some of his recent talks Bishop Steven has suggested we turn our eyes to the Emmaus story for inspiration. He does this recognising that earthly striving and goal setting on its own will always fall short; Recognising our '... help will come from the Lord who made Heaven and Earth' (psalm 121).



The story of the Road to Emmaus is told in Luke chapter 24. In this narrative, there are perhaps 4 signposts that show how our life with God brings refreshment. Each tells us something about how we might find some restoration, but also how, if we stand in Jesus' shoes, we might help others.

On Easter Day, two disciples are heading away from Jerusalem. They have witnessed Jesus' death and are down hearted. They meet up with the resurrected Jesus on route, but do not recognise him.

Sharing heart ache: In the early part of the journey, Jesus asked 'What are you discussing' and they give a full account. They take time to talk of their challenges. Talking to God about our challenges is a really important step to moving forward. The Bible is clear, we need to talk to God. We need to pray



Listening to Scripture: On the second part of the journey, Jesus unpacks the scriptures. He uses the narrative of the Bible to speak of the challenges. Now days, it is so easy to ask which bits of the Bible talks about any area of life. We can simply google them. Or we can discuss them with trusted Christian friends. How do our travellers speak of their encounter with scripture? "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" That burning was a rekindling of the knowledge of God's power within them.

➤ Encountering the Sacraments: For our two travellers the 'breaking of bread' is an eye-opening moment. It is as they meet Jesus, at His table, that their eyes are opened! We need to take seriously the sacraments Jesus has given us. Our assumption should always be that meeting Jesus, and others, in a sacrament, will make a difference. Gathering as God's people has always been, and will always be, a powerful part of our journey to wholeness.

➤ Being Willing to change and witness to our experience: The last stage of the Emmaus Road story finds the travellers going back to Jerusalem and talking about their experience. Luke starts his record with the disciples slowly heading in the wrong direction – away from Jerusalem. As the day ends, we find them returning, with haste, to tell the other disciples about their discovery. *"There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon."* This description reminds me of part of Psalm 23 – *cup runneth over!*

We know, as Christians, we are not the fixers. Jesus is the one that can do that. We believe that, if

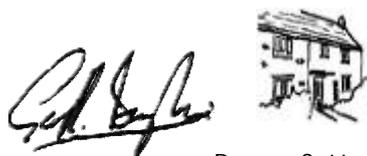
we look at Jesus, we will find patterns that will lead us towards that life in fullness that he wants for each of us. The pattern we see on the road to Emmaus gives us some tools to unpack 'our help comes for the Lord'.

What does it suggest?

- Sharing heart ache:
- Listening to Scripture:
- Encountering the Sacraments:
- Being Willing to change and witness to our experience:

Our spiritual restoration as individuals, and as the Church, will not come from our endeavour alone, but through the transforming power of God. As we turn to him, our strength and vigour and ability to serve others will also return. For our hope is in the Lord who made heaven and earth!

Amen



Benson Cottage

FAIRTRADE - where are we with it as a Church and Parish?

The PCC has now agreed unanimously to confirm our determination to work harder at Fairtrade Parish Status, as we declare we are living by the Kingdom principles of caring for those who produce, process and transport our food. So we have now rebooted our fairtrade commitment!

We confirm that we will stock the kitchen only with those fairtrade products which are readily available in the shops so *all such donations to kitchen supplies should be Fairtrade, please*

Any non-Fairtrade donated items of goods which are readily available in the shops will be graciously received but passed on to the Community Emergency Foodbank



CHILDREN'S CORNER

English customs are very difficult to understand and learning proper English even more difficult. Oh yes it is! I grew up in this country, but when I had to learn another language at school I found that some English words had several different meanings and it was only then that I could see that students and visitors from other countries could have difficulties. And in addition customs are different. What we thought was the usual thing to do at a particular time of day/week/or time of year would have been different in their country. Of course, when I had the opportunity to go abroad I found out for myself how difficult things can be for a visitor.

It's not only that the Americans or Europeans drive on the wrong side of the road. They have Mother's Day at a different time.

Americans generally use the fork as a 'shovel' and 'shovel' the food into their mouths, and many seemed to me to appear bossy when I was young. Yes, customs differ in every country so if you are going to travel abroad at any time, find out what is the custom to follow in that other country. Watch others, but do not stare, especially if you are a guest. And if you are ever invited to a 'posh' meal with loads of knives and forks, work from the outside of the setting, changing to the next pair for each course. And if you travel to China *present your passport* with two hands in a very formal manner. They are VERY fussy because they consider you are presenting yourself to their Head of state, with your passport. My grand-daughter found this out when she visited.

On one occasion I was a guest at a dinner. We

were visiting a very good Chinese restaurant, in London, with many courses, but only one set of cutlery, and a set (pair) of chop-sticks. Half-way through the meal, at about the sixth course my fork and spoon were removed while I was chatting to my neighbour and I was left with only the chopsticks! Everyone, apart from myself, thought it was great fun and expected me to be unable to continue with the meal, but I accepted the challenge and just carried on.....slowly picking up the food with the chop-sticks held very firmly between the fingers on my right hand for the remainder of the meal. No-one knew it was the first time that I had eaten this way.

Old style courtesies are never criticised.

Opening the door for a lady or guest is good manners, or even helping a slow old gentleman to cross the road should not be overlooked. It was the custom and still is in my book. But it may be necessary for you to say 'I'll lead the way', if you are showing a visitor where to go. Men wear hats in church in many countries and ladies wear veils and long dresses. Other religions ask that you remove any leather shoes or sandals. There are countries where it is usual and customary for the man to lead and for his wife and family to follow three or four paces behind. And *always behave yourselves in public places*.

Many customs have a long history and deserve respect. It's amazing what you see, and hear, if you stay still and quiet in any public place for just a short while. Take care, live learn and be thankful.

Uncle Ben

MOTHERS' UNION NEWS

In Lent it has been our tradition for years to devote our meeting to quiet reflection, so we held to that this year though we are no longer a branch but a diocesan prayer group.



We welcomed as our speaker Abi Griffin who focussed her session on the deeper meaning of The Lord's Prayer. With a partner, we were each given a phrase to think about, discuss and write our own prayerful thought on it. This was a most rewarding session.

As ever, we were led in prayer and contemplation by a member – and this month our churchwarden, Chris Woodman was that member. She led this part of the meeting and also read from Reverend Stephen Cottrell's thoughts on Christ's crucifixion.

We always enjoy a cup of tea, biscuits and a chat – sharing a happy social time together.

Rosanne Butler

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
Age UK—new telephone service for older people	01865 411288

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.

RECIPES

Rhubarb cake (can be used as a dessert

(A Sainsbury's recipe)



Ingredients:

- 300g rhubarb
- Juice of ½ lemon
- 165g self-raising flour
- 175g unsalted butter, softened, plus extra for greasing
- 175g caster sugar
- 3 large free-range eggs
- 2 tsp vanilla extract

For the topping:

- 25g unsalted butter
- 2 tbsp self-raising flour
- 1 tbsp caster sugar
- 2 tsp ground ginger
- 1 tbsp icing sugar, to dust
- 4 tbsp crème fraîche, to serve
- 2 tbsp clear honey, to serve

Method:

1. Preheat the oven to 180°C/gas mark 4. Grease a 23cm square cake tin and line with baking parchment.
2. Trim the rhubarb and chop into 3cm pieces. Place in a bowl with the lemon juice. In a separate bowl, beat together the flour, butter, sugar, eggs and vanilla extract. Fold in half the rhubarb and spoon the mixture into the bottom of the tin, spreading it out with a spatula. Scatter over the remaining rhubarb.
3. For the topping, rub the butter into the flour, then stir in the sugar and ginger. Sprinkle over the cake mixture and bake for 40-50 minutes. Leave to cool for 10 minutes, then remove from the tin. Dust with icing sugar, then slice into squares. Serve warm or cold with crème fraîche, drizzled with honey.

Chocolate Silk (serves 2)

(from Cakes, Bakes, Puddings and Prayers by Susan Over)

Ingredients:

- 60 ml (2fl oz) milk
- 1 heaped teaspoon instant coffee granules
- 50g (2oz) plain chocolate
- 50g (2oz) milk chocolate
- 1 egg
- 1 scant tablespoon brandy or whisky (optional)
- Whipped cream and grated chocolate to decorate

Method:

1. Chop chocolate into small pieces.
2. Heat milk and coffee together in a small pan or microwave until just below boiling point.
3. Pour milk mixture into blender and add chocolate.
4. Blend for about half a minute.
5. Separate egg and add yolk and spirit to mixture. Blend again until smooth.
6. In a large bowl, whisk egg white until stiff, then fold in the chocolate mixture until well blended.
7. Pour into individual glass dishes and chill for at least three hours.
8. Decorate with whipped cream and flake before serving.



A WARTIME CHILDHOOD

(Part 19)

May is the month when the new spring grass begins to grow in the meadows and it is time for the first cut of silage. The grass is lush and full of nutrients and if it is carefully stored will provide good fodder for the livestock throughout the winter months.

Now I don't know whether farmers these days use molasses to help preserve their precious silage, but they certainly did during the years of the Second World War.

In those years we children in the village school who lived close by would go home in the middle of the day for a bite of lunch, and those children who came from 'way over the fields would bring a snack and sit in the little lobby/cloakroom to eat it. I had plenty of time to run home to my mummy for lunch and be back in time for afternoon lessons.

Opposite our school gate was Mr. Florey's (the farmer) rickyard, where we would watch the day-to-day activities of the farm going on. One spring day when I returned from lunch, I was surprised to see a big group of children – not in the playground – but on the other side of the road by the fence into the rickyard. I went over to join them and asked what they were doing.

It turned out that one of the bigger boys had discovered that the big drum of molasses needed for the silage was just through the fence. What's more, the tap was within easy reach. You could put your finger through the gap and when the tap was turned, on you got a fingerful of the most delicious sweetness.

Now, it has to be remembered that we wartime children were pretty short of any kind of sweetness. Sugar rationing was in force and was much valued for cake, pudding or jam making. The sweet ration was almost a joke. (My mum used to buy me a Mars bar a week and cut it into seven slices so that I could have

one slice a day after my evening supper!)

So, when I was invited to join the children at the molasses tap, you can guess that I did! Not long after my first sticky treat the bell rang for afternoon lessons. Well, that was that.

But – *oh no it wasn't!*

Lessons had begun the following morning and all was quiet in the classroom as we tackled our sums.

A knock came at the front door. It opened and in strode the village policeman followed by My Florey. After a few words with our headmistress, she turned to us and said :

“Stand up all those who went over to Mr. Florey's yesterday and tasted his molasses.”

Oh – the shame! My little friend Margaret and I put down our pencils and stood up. There were about nine or ten of us standing there feeling very naughty. Worse was yet to come, because it turned out that in their haste to get back into school the day before, the boys who had turned on the tap had failed to turn it off. Overnight the big drum of expensive molasses had drained completely away. Not only that, but the sticky stuff had drained into the ditch and caused untold damage to the wildlife. I was mortified. And what if the policeman was to visit the homes of all the naughty children, what would my mummy and daddy feel about that?

Having a wise and compassionate headteacher made all the difference. She realised that we younger children were not to blame and were forgiven. The three older boys who were the leaders of the affair didn't get off so lightly. Their parents had to find the money to reimburse the farmer and I suspect that they also had tanned bottoms as well.

Rosanne Butler

READERS' LETTERS & ARTICLES

Three Lovely Things

Last winter my trusty old "Shopper" bike finally gave up the ghost. It was pretty ancient when I bought it second-hand many years ago, but with baskets front and rear, it was ideal for local shopping trips.

It had gone to the bike shop on Iffley Road for a puncture repair, but Gareth, the guy in charge, phoned me to say that they were very sorry, but they couldn't let me have the bike back as it was too dangerous to ride! The frame was rusted through – that's how ancient it was!

Oh dear! What to do without a bike?? My family and friends were looking out on social media for a reasonably priced second-hand bike – and we put a request in The Link as well.

In the meantime, I needed to get to 'Hobby Craft' on the Botley Road as they had a half-price offer on small jam jars. So instead of cycling there, I had to take two buses. On arrival, a staff member greeted me with the usual pleasantries and of course, being a rather chatty person, I told her the tale of my 'deceased' bike and having had a more complicated journey as a result. She listened patiently to my tale and calmly announced "I've got a bike I no longer use, and you can have it"! As she was insistent and didn't want anything in payment for it, I gave her my contact details. So that was the *First* Lovely Thing of this story.

Then I asked her where the jam jars were, as I'd heard they were on 'special offer' and was

stocking up – as I'd made so much marmalade recently for our Church Craft Fair.....to which she looked at me and said "Are you a Christian? I am as well." *Second* Lovely Thing.

A few days later, Grace came over from Abingdon to deliver the bike and we had a good chat over a cuppa. It transpired that she was only working at Hobby Craft as a temporary measure, as her main work was lecturing on various subjects at Oxford Summer Schools.

Then the *Third* Lovely Thing was that last summer she had worked at the same organisation that Tom, my son-in-law works for, and yes, they knew each other through e-mails! What a small world!

Thinking about it, there's a *Fourth* Lovely Thing in that Grace's bike is *far* superior to my small-wheeled Shopper – it's a Raleigh, with full-sized wheels and looks rather smart! Happy days!

Ruth Goodwin

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May Day Celebrations

by Ben Johnson

Many folklore customs have their roots planted firmly back in the Dark Ages, when the ancient Celts had divided their year by four major festivals. *Beltane* or 'the fire of Bel', had particular significance to the Celts as it represented the first day of summer and was celebrated with bonfires to welcome in the new season. Still celebrated today, we perhaps know *Beltane* better as May 1st, or May Day.

Down through the centuries May Day has been associated with fun, revelry and perhaps most important of all, fertility. The Day would be marked with village folk cavorting round the maypole, the selection of the May Queen and the dancing figure of the Jack-in-the-Green at the head of the procession. Jack is thought to be a relic from those enlightened days when our ancient ancestors worshipped trees.



*Morris dancers with maypole
and pipe and taborer,
Chambers Book of Days*

These pagan roots did little to endear these May Day festivities with either the established Church or State. In the sixteenth century riots followed when May Day celebrations were banned. Fourteen rioters were hanged, and [Henry VIII](#) is said to have pardoned a further 400 who had been sentenced to death.

The May Day festivities all but vanished following the Civil War when [Oliver Cromwell](#) and his Puritans took control of the country in 1645. Describing maypole dancing as 'a heathenish vanity generally abused to superstition and wickedness', legislation was passed which saw the end of village maypoles throughout the country.

Dancing did not return to the village greens until the restoration of [Charles II.](#) 'The Merry Monarch' helped ensure the support of his subjects with the erection of a massive 40 metre high maypole in London's Strand. This

pole signalled the return of the fun times, and remained standing for almost fifty years.

Maypoles can still be seen on the village greens at Wel-ford-on-Avon and at Dunchurch, [Warwickshire](#), both of which stand all year round. Barwick in [Yorkshire](#), claims the largest maypole in England, standing some 86 feet in height.

May Day is still celebrated in many villages with the crowning of the May Queen. The gentlemen of the village may also have been found celebrating with Jack-in-the-Green, otherwise found on the signs of pubs across the country called the [Green Man](#).



May Day traditions in southern England include the Hobby Horses that still rampage through the towns of [Dunster](#) and Minehead in [Somerset](#), and Padstow in [Cornwall](#). The horse or the Oss, as it is normally called is a local person dressed in flowing robes wearing a mask with a grotesque, but colourful, caricature of a horse.

In [Oxford](#), May Day morning is celebrated from the top of Magdalen College Tower by the singing of a Latin hymn, or carol, of thanksgiving. After this the college bells signal the start of the Morris Dancing in the streets below.

Further north in [Castleton, Derbyshire](#), Oak Apple Day takes place on 29th May, commemorating the restoration of Charles II to the throne. Followers within the procession carry sprigs of oak, recalling the story that in exile King Charles hid in an oak tree to avoid capture by his enemies.

It is important to remember that without 'The Merry Monarch' May Day celebrations might have come to a premature end in 1660.

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May Day hymn

Te Deum Patrem colimus,
Te laudibus prosequimur,
qui corpus cibo reficis,
coelesti mentem gratia.

Te adoramus, O Jesu,
Te, Fili unigenite,
Te, qui non dedignatus es
subire claustra Virginis.

Actus in crucem, factus es
irato Deo victima
per te, Salvator unice
vitae spes nobis rediit.

Tibi, aeterne Spiritus
cuius afflatu peperit
infantem Deum Maria,
aeternum benedicimus.

Triune Deus, hominum
salutis auctor optime,
immensum hoc mysterium
ovante lingua canimus.

We worship you, O God the Father,
we offer you our praise,
for you nourish our bodies,
and minds with heavenly grace.

We adore you, O Jesus,
you, the only begotten Son,
you, who did not disdain
to submit to birth in the Virgin's womb.

Driven onto the cross, you were made
the victim of God's wrath.
Through you, our only Saviour,
hope of life returned to us.

To you, Eternal Spirit
by whose breath was born
by Mary the Infant God,
be our eternal blessings.

Triune God, of all humanity
the great author of salvation,
this immense mystery
our tongues all cheer and sing.

If it's May, it must be Plant Sale Time!

May is upon us already and I am busy getting my contributions ready for the Plant Sale! I hope that Saturday 21st of May will bless us with some warm sunshine to show all our plants on sale at their best.

We will be holding the sale outside in the Church Centre car park again, opening at 10am and closing at 1pm. Apart from a little rain, it worked out very well last year. It does away with having to set up tables and cleaning the hall floor of compost and other debris afterwards and it gives more space for chatting over refreshments, a raffle and a cake stall inside.

We welcome helpers on the day: setting up from 8.30 am, advising buyers, displaying the plants and the clear up. Inspiration from Pat Chambers and Margaret Craig in totting up purchases before they arrive to pay, was a great idea and I hope we can do that again. We will be able to take contactless payments again too. Please let me know (ojcoleman@btinternet.com or 07935 963 634) or Chris Woodman of any help you can volunteer for.

We do, of course, want any contributions of plants for the sale as well as cakes for a cake stall and raffle prizes for a raffle. I hope our kitchen crew can do their usual amazing catering.

They say that changes happen on a daily basis in a garden at this time of year. I find that it is certainly true. Seedlings pop up overnight and others suddenly need pricking out. The buds on the wisteria bulge and then extend and the flowers are already with us!

With warmer days and with sunshine, it is wonderful to get out in the garden and May

2nd – 8th is National Gardening Week! As I write, there is no rain in the forecast for the next couple of weeks, which is a bit of a worry. I now can carry heavy watering cans and the potted plants I am nurturing outside are being watered using that stored in our four water butts. However, they won't last very long. I water seedlings using tap water as I cannot guarantee the water butt water is free from nasties.

There does not seem to be much danger of frost either in the forecast, thank goodness. I now have the most tender seedlings coming up and being pricked out and this is stretching the capacity somewhat of the greenhouse, shed and lean-to. I even have cucumber, courgette and pumpkin seedlings in the bedroom! Overwintering geraniums and fuchsias and others have been put out in a sheltered spots to make some room and here's hoping that Jack Frost will not cut them down.

On the plot, the bean poles are installed and runner beans sown. I know that rows of small seeds will need watering to get them going as the ground is very dry. Broad beans are coming up as are the early potatoes. We certainly don't want a frost now!

We have an orchid growing in our lawn! It looks like a Common Spotted. Orchids take a few years to flower from seed and I wonder how the seed got here. I will look forward to any flower. On the feet of human, animal or bird? The nearest ones I know about grow in Cowley Marsh, so not far to come.

See you on Saturday 21st!!

Joan Coleman

JOHN SHREEVE'S ARTICLES FROM PAST CHRONICLES

Compassion for the Sick

March 2009

Whilst we are always pleased to be visited by our own parish clergy when we are sick and in hospital, they are very busy people and their time is often limited. It is therefore worth remembering that the Church of England is thoroughly committed to chaplaincy work in our hospitals and funds a number of clergy in our local hospitals whose job is visiting the sick on the wards and caring for their needs.

Marlene and I had first-hand experience of these people when she was in the JRH. for over 2 months last year. We found all of them totally dedicated and committed to their work and very much self-effacing and undervalued. They are very reliable and discreet, and not at all intrusive. Their prayerful and friendly presence breathes new confidence and comfort to many patients who are awaiting major operations, and very anxious about their illnesses.

With more and more of our ageing congregation having to have a spell in hospital - we ought to use this service more readily. They can be reached through the ward staff, or a message can be left in the hospital chapel which is in the main corridor of the JRH. As Christians we ought to avail ourselves of their kindly care and not be ashamed to acknowledge our faith, and trust in God during difficult times.

John Shreeve

Latest news from Cowley Women's Institute:

Our first meeting of this WI year got off to a brilliant start. Wendy Sharp, Jackie Melsom's daughter gave us a talk about her mother's life as a dance teacher in Oxford. Jackie played a large part in the local community putting on shows and raising funds with her Dance School. I am sure it involved a lot of hard work but I think a great deal of fun was had.

After the talk Wendy who was also a Dance teacher got us all joining in with a simple dance routine. We had great fun trying to remember which is our left and right.

We were ready for our Tea and Birthday cake. Cowley WI celebrated our 37th birthday this month.

Our next outing is to the Oxford Bus Museum at Hanborough. We will go by train from Oxford, a train journey is always exciting even if it only takes 7 minutes.

The talk at our meeting on May 18th is cake decorating with Karin Quarterman. Karin is going to show us how to make a rose, and we are all going to have a try. This will be fun and probably quite sticky.

Please come along if you would like to, we are always happy to see visitors and make new friends.

Kathy Hulcup
Secretary Cowley WI

St James' Old School

'THE HUT'

The Second World War saw an influx of young evacuees escaping from the terrible danger of the London Blitz and arriving in Cowley. They were welcomed into the care of local people – *but what to do about their education?*

The little school of St. James', next door to the parish church simply did not have enough room, – nor did St. Christopher's – so a new solution was required.

The City Council managed to secure a deal with the Church of England to sell them a plot of 'glebe land' at the top of Beauchamp Lane next to the Cowley Vicarage. On there, they built a prefabricated 'Hut' with two classrooms, a little cloakroom and a small kitchen. A toilet block was built at the back with one cubicle for the teachers. Into this building went the infant and lower junior age groups.

After the Little Londoners had left, St. James' School continued to use 'the hut'. Father Whye held his Sunday School sessions in there and meetings such as the Mothers' Union met there on a regular basis. The building was estimated to last for about ten years.

So, when I was welcomed on to the St. James' School staff in early 1960, 'the hut' was well past its predicted sell-by date and in need of renovation. At a school staff meeting soon after I arrived, the Headmaster, Mr. Alexander, read out a letter he had received from the City Education Department asking if the school wanted to keep the building because if not, it would be demolished. As there were only four of us on the staff, the problem was would any of us be able to teach a class up there?

Well, Miss Bullock (infant teacher) definitely was not moving: our new member of staff, Miss Locke (middle juniors) was in her probationary year and had to be monitored by the Head: Mr. Alexander (top juniors and headmaster) could not move, as 'the hut' had no telephone. So that left me, (lower juniors) and I simply *loved* the idea. So, in September 1960 I began several very happy years "up the 'ut" as the children called it. We were also able to use it for our school lunches.

It was the most perfect venue for a happy teaching experience – so quiet and exclusive. The children did not lose touch with their peers in the main school, because at morning break we would walk down the hill so that I could join my colleagues for coffee and my pupils could join in with the playground games. And of course, they all waked up the lane at lunchtime. In the afternoons we had our break at the hut which boasted a small play area, just big enough for a rounders pitch and also an area of grass too. Between us and the Vicarage, there was a row of shrubs and a few trees which the children called "The Wood". (They loved it when I gave

them permission to play in “The Wood”).

The hut was given a complete refurbishment. The roof and windows were fixed and new coke stoves installed in each room. They laid new cork lino throughout and it was stipulated that “Mrs. Butler must not wear stiletto heels at anytime”. So I had to go out and buy some high-heeled mules to wear whilst teaching!

After a while, our Parent-Teacher Association came up with the idea of a swimming pool for the school. They worked hard to raise the funds and eventually a pool was installed on the grassy area outside my classroom. What fun we had when the fire-brigade arrived in spring to fill it and in the autumn to drain it.

That pool was very well used, even though we kept our regular Friday weekly spots at Temple Cowley Swimming Pool too.

As the dear old school began preparing to transfer across to Church Cowley School, the number of pupils shrank and I moved to another teaching post. However, the hut continued to be used extensively by the church. New green chairs for adults were bought (those very same chairs are now in use in St. James’ Church Centre) and meetings, fetes and all kinds of activities were held there. One of the rooms held a long-running, excellent pre-school nursery.

After about forty years it became obvious that it really had reached the end of its life and it was pulled down.

By then plans for our beautiful new Church Centre were well on the way. I am very pleased that if I had not agreed to teach there, the parish would have lost its dear old hut and all the fun and games we had there.

Rosanne Butler

Please note that more will be forthcoming on ‘The Hut’ and that this month’s ‘From the Archives’ features an article from 2001, which mentions the era of the hut and the plans for the new Church Centre building.

Les Hemsworth



Shaun Guard

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THE CHURCH YEAR EXPLAINED



EASTERTIDE - Forty Days with the Risen Christ

May is the season of Eastertide, the period of forty days between Easter and Ascension Day which falls this year on 26th May 2022.

It may seem crazy to call it Eastertide when Easter is clearly over, but if you look into your diaries, you will find the Sundays are numbered Easter 1, Easter 2 and so forth. These are forty days when the Risen Christ appeared again and again to his disciples, following this He strengthened and encouraged his disciples and at last opened their eyes to what the Scriptures had promised about the Messiah. Jesus also told them that as the Father had sent *Him*, he was now going to send *them* – to all corners of the world as witnesses.

ROGATION-TIDE 23rd – 25th May 2022

Rogation means an asking – for blessing on the seed and land for the year ahead. It is appropriate in any emergency, war, plague, drought or foul weather.

The practice goes back to when the Romans invoked the help of the gods Terminus and Ambarvalia. In those days, a crowd moved in procession around the cornfields, singing and dancing, sacrificing animals and driving away winter, with sticks. The point was to rid the cornfields of evil.

In about 465 the Western world was suffering from earthquakes, storms and epidemics. So Mamertius, Bishop of Vienne, aware of the popular pagan custom, ordered prayers to be said in the ruined or neglected fields on the days leading up to Ascension. With this decision, 'Beating the Bounds' became a Christian ceremony.

Rogation-tide arrived in England early in the eighth century and became a fixed and perennial asking for help of the Christian God. On Rogation-tide, a little party would set out to trace the boundaries of the parish. At the head marched the bishop or the priest with a minor official bearing the Cross, and after them, the people of the parish, with schoolboys and their master trailing along. Most of them held slender wands of willow.

At certain points along the route – at well-known landmarks like a bridge, stile, or ancient tree, the Cross halted, the party gathered about the priest, and a litany or rogation was said – imploring God to send seasonal wealth, keep the corn, roots and boughs in good health and bring them to an ample harvest. At one point, beer and cheese would be waiting.

In the days when maps were neither common nor accurate, there was much to be said for 'Beating the Bounds' – still very common as late as the reign of Queen Victoria. Certainly parish boundaries rarely came into dispute, for everyone knew them!

Spring Equinox

In March we had the vernal (Spring) equinox in the northern hemisphere. What does this mean, exactly? Well, according to the UK's National Physical Laboratory, the astronomical events closely related to the four seasons of Spring, Summer, Autumn, and Winter are the equinoxes and the solstices.

The equinoxes occur in March and September, when the Sun is 'edgewise' to the Earth's axis of rotation, so that everywhere on Earth has twelve hours of daylight and twelve hours of darkness.

The solstices occur in June and December, when the Earth's axis is at its extreme tilt towards and away from the Sun, so at mid-day it appears in one hemisphere and at its lowest at the other.

These four events repeat every 'tropical' year (365 days, 5 hours, 49 minutes), so they become later by about six hours, or (if there has been an intervening leap day) earlier by about 18 hours, from one year to the next. They are not equally spaced in the year, because the Earth's orbit around the Sun is elliptical, *not* circular.

*The Vernal Equinox this year was on the 20th March 2022. - LEH

BESIDE THE SEASIDE - a daytrip to Weymouth on Tuesday 5 July

Pat Chambers is hanging on to this booking in the hope of adding just a few more ozone lovers – round up some friends!

Departing Cowley 9:00 - 9:30, then leaving Weymouth to return 4:00 – 4:30 pm

£25 each if there are 30 travellers will cover the cost – a reduction if we can sign up more than 30!

Cash or cheque will be payable to Pat Chambers who will then draw a personal cheque for the coach company.

Everyone is welcome – friends, family, friends of friends etc - let's fill the 52-seater coach!

If this goes well, we will consider another trip to Eastbourne in August when school age children can also come

contact Pat 01235 799 717 pat.silverpolo@gmail.com or Brian Brown 07929 879 104

SAFEGUARDING IN COWLEY PARISH

We intend that St James, St Francis and the Anglican Asian Living Church 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 also agree to do so.

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

Lesley Williams 01865 779 562 07982 439 828 safeguarding@cowleyteamministry.co.uk

THE KILT AND SCOTTISH REGIMENTS

I gather that Uncle Ben has written a bit about 'customs'. Well, here's a bit about the kilt and Scottish regiments.

The kilt worn by Scottish regiments is 'fitted' to that soldier and if he dies on the battlefield, his kilt is returned to his family together with other personal items. It is considered to be his alone. Usually, Scottish regiments only recruit Scottish residents and preferably young men born in Scotland but a 'Southerner' can become a member of a Scottish regiment by joining the 'Black Watch' which has a dark green tartan. It belongs to no particular clan. The swagger of the kilt is the result of almost three times the amount of cloth that would be the waist measurement, allowing a double pleat and the rear of the inside rear waistline is carefully padded to suit the wearer. And they are very warm because they are made from best quality wool with designs for each clan (family) who originally sponsored the regiments.

During the second World war, Bill Killin, private piper to Lord Lovat became famous as the piper who marched up Sword Beach in France playing his pipes on D-Day together with the Cameron Highlander commandos. After the war he met a German ex-soldier who couldn't believe his eyes on the day and said that his gun jammed. Bill Killin lived to tell the tale. His pipes survived the war and are in the Dawlish Museum with another set that he used in France, in the Normandy Museum.

ANON

Film Club at the Centre

The April club meeting was a jolly affair, how could it *not* be – with that wonderful old film favourite “Easter Parade”? The evening began, as usual, with tea or coffee – this time accompanied by hot-cross buns, cheese scones and cake.

There’s usually a short interval for members to stretch their legs (or get another drink) but the film swung along so well that Sally (our projectionist) ran it without a break.

Next on our programme, for this month, is another tried-and-true favourite “The Eagle

has Landed”, starring Michael Caine, Robert Duvall, Donald Sutherland and Jenny Agutter. Based on the Second World War novel by Jack Higgins, it tells the story of a group of young German paratroopers dropped into England to assassinate Winston Churchill.

This film was chosen because we are showing it close to the 77th anniversary of V.E.day.

Further good news is that more enquiries have been made by people who would like to join our club.

Rosanne Butler

A good read

“Light Through The Cracks” by Joanna Watson contains ten true stories, united by a common theme: all of them feature ordinary people encountering God in extraordinary ways, in the toughest of life’s circumstances. Joanna knows the families personally and has written the ten stories from her heart and with prayer. A very moving book written with love and thanksgiving for the power of prayer to Our Lord.

Thank you to Jill Ling for lending me this book. Jill will be able to give you details of Joanna’s email address if you would like further information.

Chris Woodman

Prayer Space

Living God,
I praise you for the promise
that nothing can ever overcome your light.
I thank you that even when life seems dark
and hopeless, when I search but cannot
glimpse your presence and call yet cannot
hear your voice, still you are with me, the
fire of your love inexorably burning off the
clouds until the sun breaks through once
again, bathing me in its light.
May that knowledge sustain me
through the bleakest moments
bringing the assurance that
good will triumph over evil,
hope replace despair,
joy come after sorrow,
and life triumph over death,
even the darkest night turned to day.
All this I ask through Jesus Christ my Lord
Amen.

*Taken from Prayerfully Yours
By Nick Fawcett*

THOUGHTS

Footprints in the sand – (a follow-up)

Imagine you and the Lord Jesus are walking down the lane together. For much of the way, the Lord's footprints go along steadily, consistently, rarely varying the pace. But *your* footprints are a disorganised stream of zigzags, starts, stops, turnarounds, circles and departures and returns.

For much of the way it seems to go like this, but gradually your footprints become more in line with the Lord's, soon paralleling His consistently. You and Jesus are walking as true friends!

This seems perfect, but then an interesting thing happens: Your footprints that once etched the sand next to Jesus' are now walking precisely in His steps. Inside His larger footprints are your smaller ones – you and Jesus are becoming one.

This goes on for many miles, but gradually you notice another change. The footprints inside the large seem to grow larger. Eventually they disappear altogether. There is only one set of footprints – they have become one!

This goes on for a long time, but suddenly the second set is back. This time it seems even worse! Zigzags all over the place. Stops. Starts. Gashes in the sand – a veritable mess of prints.

You are amazed and shocked. Your dream ends. Now you pray: "Lord, I understand the first scene with zigzags and fits. I was a new Christian; I was just learning. But you walked on through the storm and helped me learn to walk with you."

"That is correct".

"...And when the smaller footprints were inside of Yours, I was actually learning to walk in Your steps; followed you very closely."

"Very good. You have understood everything so far."

"When the smaller footprints grew and filled in Yours, I suppose that I was becoming like You in every way."

"Precisely."

So, Lord, was there a regression or something? The footprints separated, and this time it was worse than the first."

There is a pause while the Lord answers, with a smile in His voice. *"You didn't know? That was when we were dancing!"*

ELECTORAL ROLL – checking and update 2022

The Parish Electoral Roll – the official ‘membership list’ for our churches – has been reviewed and updated in time for the APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting) on May 14th. ‘Membership’ allows you to stand for election to one of the Church committees and the PCC and to vote.

We have removed 13 names, through death, house moving or change of place of worship and received no new members, leaving 102 on the roll.

New names may be added after the APCM. There’s a simple form to complete which is available in both churches and should be returned to Lesley Williams – Electoral Roll Officer at Church or St James Centre. An additional form asks you to provide us with personal contact details and those of someone to contact in an emergency. All information is of course held securely under GDPR guidance.

PCC AND CHURCH COMMITTEES

Please consider becoming a member of either a Church Committee or the Parochial Church Council (PCC). These are the groups which help to run the church and ensure the views/concerns of the congregation are considered.

There are vacancies on the two Church Committees – St James and St Francis:

We would like nominations in by the 7 May so that these can be put to the church congregations on the 8 May.

In addition, there are eight vacancies on the PCC (we are allowed 12 members):

The PCC is legally the council responsible for the financial affairs of the church parish and the maintenance of its assets, such as churches and church halls. It also assists the clergy in the management of church affairs in the parish and promoting the mission of the church. As you can see new members are urgently needed to ensure the PCC can fully carry out its role. If you are interested nomination forms are available in the Churches.

The Annual Parish Meeting/Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) is taking place on 14 May 2022, at 12 noon, at St James Church Centre. PCC members are appointed at this meeting.

If you wish further information, please discuss with Geoff. I am also very willing to discuss any queries you have.

Sally Hemsworth

From the Archives

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

For a number of years now the PCC has been increasingly aware of the state of the Parish Halls and St. James' Hut in Beauchamp Lane. The Parish Halls were built in 1934 on land given to Fr. Beauchamp for this purpose. St. James' Hut was a 'temporary' school building, erected to serve the growing number of children needing primary school education in the post-war years.

Both buildings are showing signs of age and in need of costly renovation. The Parish Halls, once the centre of parish and community life, now find themselves rather isolated and little used by our congregation.

The PCC has taken the decision to seek permission to sell the Parish Halls and to use some of the proceeds to build a new Church Centre incorporating what was, until recently, the Scout Headquarters in Beauchamp Lane. These old stables are owned by the Diocesan and the Diocese has agreed to the PCC having a 125-year lease on the site. It is proposed to add on a suitably sized hall to the rear and to renovate and refurbish the existing old building to provide a second, smaller hall, meeting rooms and a parish office.

The development of this site will be in conjunction with converting Benson Cottage into a substantially larger Rectory. The present Rectory (St. James' House) site and the adjacent glebe land on which stands St. James' Hut will be redeveloped by the Diocese of Oxford for residential use.

The PCC believes that these proposals would greatly enhance our facilities within the parish. The proceeds from the Parish Halls would also enable toilets to be provided within St. James' Church and the St. Francis' Upper Room refurbished with easier access.

As with all such projects, the necessary planning applications and approvals will have to be sought which will all take time. When the project is completed the Church in Cowley will have buildings which will be of more practical use for the church and community which we are called to serve.

FROM THE OX4 FOOD CREW : MEALS ON MONDAYS

Pay-as-you-feel lunches for all *every Monday, 12:00 – 2:00*

FIRST MONDAY of each month : at the Ark-T Centre, John Bunyan Church, Crowell Road
along with a Community Hub Day

U5s soft play 9:30-11:30

chat, newspapers and games 2:00-3:30

at The Venue, Barns Road

10:00-11:00 Dementia information and advice - 1:1 benefits, housing and debt advice

ALL OTHER MONDAYS : at Flo's café, the Place in the Park, Rymers Lane

Pay only what you feel / can afford, with the option also of donating more / 'paying it forward' for those who are able – cash or card. All funds raised go towards helping the tackling of food poverty in OX4

No need to book – just turn up! www.ox4foodcrew.co.uk

OPEN THE BOOK telling scripted Bible stories in assemblies for our three Parish schools – an essential part of our mission to the children of Cowley

It's never too late to join the Open the Book team!

We normally have just enough storytellers for our three teams – but not if someone is away, ill, or just not available. We've had a challenging time as Joan Coleman, a core member of all three teams, has not been with us for a couple of months. More team members are urgently needed in each school for the future.

We are delighted that two members of Grace Church have joined us for Tuesdays at Church Cowley St James; we'd love some more for the other schools/days.

The commitment is for alternate weeks in each school but you can do as little or as much as you wish – usually two of us provide continuity by being in all three teams; the others are in just one

- alternate Mondays at 8:45 – arriving at 8:20 – St Christopher's School, Temple Road
- alternate Tuesdays 2:45 – arriving at 2:15 – Church Cowley St James School, Bartholomev Road
- alternate Thursdays 10:30 – arriving at 10:00 – St Francis School, Horspath Road

To learn more about what's involved, talk to Geoff – Lesley Williams – Joan Coleman – Jill Ling

PERSONALLY SPEAKING

Happy birthday to Sonica Tassell who reaches her three score years and ten milestone on 10 May.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK - 15-21 May 2022

Every gift Every action Every prayer Every one of us can
change lives



This Christian Aid Week, you can be one of the hundreds of thousands of our supporters who give, act and pray – stepping out in love for our global neighbours. With you by our side, we won't stop until everyone can live a full life, free from poverty and hunger.

From envelope collections to Big Brekkies to walking 300,000 steps in May, Christian Aid Week brings people together as one community helping those living in poverty to transform their own lives.

This Christian Aid Week (15-21 May), please:

- Give generously to help women grow crops that survive in the drought.
- Act and raise your voice for justice. Join our Loss and Damage campaign.
- Pray that families will stay strong during tough times of drought.

Together, we can turn hunger into hope.

Join us at caweek.org

In Cowley, we will be

- ∅ giving you all an individual CAW donation envelope
- ∅ inviting those who are able to deliver 'delivery only' envelopes in local-to-our-churches streets, which will be labelled, requesting the recipients to return them to St James Centre, St Francis Church or the deliverer's home – *lists are still available to sign up for that*
- ∅ having a stall in Templars Square – on Sunday 15 May, 1:30-3:30 with a tombola, games to play and buckets to collect donations *spot another list to offer tombola items and stall person time*
- ∅ holding a Big Brunch on Saturday 14 May, 10:30-12:00 – our first that's not on a Sunday between services so we hope it will attract many parishioners and friends as well as some neighbours – it will be followed by the APCM at 12.00
- ∅ asking our schools to hold a bucket collection or cake sale or whatever they will

- ∅ and inviting you to hold a morning coffee or afternoon tea at home with friends, at which you encourage them to donate – *please let Lesley Williams know if you will be doing that, in order to receive promotional material.*

AND LATER : this summer's CHRISTIAN AID QUIZ AID has changed date and format.

We're following the success of the Valentine Puddings and Quiz event on a Saturday afternoon, with craft activities for children and non-quizzing adults, toys for the little ones, allowing families and friends to have a fun time out together – and still be able to have Saturday Night Out!

Please ensure Saturday 25 June, 3:00-5:00 is in your diary for a Midsummer Quiz Aid, with a strawberry cream tea.

You are invited

christian aid **big brunch**

Saturday 14 May

10.30 – 12.00

St James Centre – Beauchamp Lane

bacon baps – scrambled egg – crumpets
toast – croissants – yogurt
fruit – tea – coffee – good company



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AUGUST 1970

CHRONICLE

Editorial Team- Sally Hemsworth, Nicki Stevens

Deadline for the next edition: Monday 23 May 2022

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.

GARDENING PARTY



HELP REQUIRED – COME AND BOOST THE NUMBERS LOOKING AFTER THE AREA AROUND ST JAMES CHURCH AND ST JAMES CHURCH CENTRE.

LAST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH (EXCEPT DECEMBER) – 9.30 AM ONWARDS AT ST. JAMES CHURCH CENTRE.

Come and have fun, fresh air and exercise as we prepare the St. James Church Centre garden for another beautiful spring and summer showing. If possible bring your own tools but some will be available. Both heavy and light work available plus coffee and cake.



Do you shop on-line with Amazon? If you do you may be able to help us raise a bit of money towards the toilet in St James Church.

Smile.amazon.co.uk is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on Smile.amazon.co.uk, the Smile.amazon.co.uk Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice.

We are listed as the charity: The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Cowley, Oxford



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SUNDAY SERVICES

ST JAMES CHURCH, BEAUCHAMP LANE

ST FRANCIS CHURCH, HOLLOW WAY

8.00am	St James
9.30am	St Francis
11.00am	St James

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

Email: office@cowleyteamministry.co.uk

Out of hours tel: 01865 778596

Website: www.cowleyteamministry.co.uk

MID-WEEK SERVICES & MEETINGS

Monday	10.00-11.30am	Little Stars Playgroup— St Francis
Tuesday	10.00am	Seashells Toddler Group— St James Church Centre
	12.30pm	Tuesday Lunch Club, St James Church Centre (numbers limited—booking essential. If interested con- tact Chris Woodman)

Team Rector:

The Revd Canon Dr Geoffrey Bayliss

Tel: 01865 747680 (o) 01865 778596 (h)

Email: rector@cowleyteamministry.co.uk

Self-supporting Ministers

Revd Canon Mark Oxbrow

01865 461953

Email: markoxbrow@aol.com

Revd Max Diaz Butron

mazdiazbutron@icloud.com

Churchwardens:

Christine Woodman

Tel: 778078

Maureen Stone

Tel 747950

St James Church Centre Manager:

Chris Woodman Tel: 778078

HOME AND STUDY GROUPS

Leader	Time/Venue
Friends of St Francis	2nd & 4th Tuesday afternoons at 2.30pm, led by Katherine Reed
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, 10- 11.30, but weekly during Lent. <i>Con- tact Rosanne 01865 453257</i>

Hall Bookings:

St James Church Centre, St James
Church, St Francis Church: Please
contact the Parish Office Tel: 747680

Cowley Chronicle—Editorial Team:

Sally Hemsworth, Nicki Stevens

Articles to be emailed to:

chronicle@cowleyteamministry.co.uk

Paper contributions to the Parish Office.

