

90 MILLION DISCIPLES

In his rector's letter last month Geoff encouraged us to reflect on whether we are Searchers, Disciples, Servants or Apostles – four descriptions that are used in the Bible for those of us who choose to follow Jesus and do things God's way. I hope you were able to see some signs of discipleship in your life, not forgetting the searching, serving and apostleship. A disciple is very simply a person who has decided to live their life alongside the Master, learning from Him, obeying Him, living the way He does. As Anglican Archbishop Michael Curry in the USA says, "living as Jesus People".

Jose lives in Santiago, Chile. Four years ago he read the Bible for the first time and was so struck by the quality of Jesus' life that he decided to live the rest of his life as much like Jesus as he could. He is a young artist working for an advertising business. When I met him last year he was using his skills to create "street art" to encourage others to ask questions about life, meaning and Jesus. (The one in this picture is by a fast flowing city river.)



If you are a disciple you are not alone. On current estimates there are 2.2 billion Christians in the world and 90 million of them are Anglicans – most of them in Africa. What you may not yet know is that the nine years between 2016 and 2025 have been designated as a global "Season of Intentional Discipleship" for Anglicans – a time to focus on how we live more closely to Jesus, living His way. Discipleship will be a key word for Anglicans for the next nine years.

I feel very privileged to be on the small group that will coordinate this "Season". We will be meeting later this month and I would like to ask you to pray for us. We are a very mixed group – just two from the UK (Bishop Stephen Cottrell and myself), a priest from Congo, an Archbishop from Malaysia, a youth worker from Zambia, a lay woman from the Pacific Islands, a female priest from New York and a few more – just 11 of us. Please pray for wisdom and a sensitivity to God's Spirit. We meet from 24-27 April. More importantly, pray that God will help every one of the 90 million Anglicans to be His disciple.

Last week I met a man in one of our churches who said he was nervous about what his colleagues at work would think if they knew he was following Jesus, trying to live like Him. In Pakistan I know a family who had to flee from their house because neighbours objected to them following Jesus and threatened violence. Being a disciple, following Jesus, has never been easy. Does that mean you will not choose this way? Or is Jesus so important to you that you will follow him whatever happens?

Mark Oxbrow

FROM THE ARCHIVES

COWLEY CHURCH & HOME MAGAZINE

April 1894

On Thursday, 22nd March, a tea was held in the Temple Cowley Schools, to bid goodbye to Mr. Bennett. Fifty of those who have attended the week-day services conducted by Captain Bennett, were present. The following is a short account of what took place:

"Captain" Bennett, who has been working under the Vicar of Cowley, is to leave in the course of a few days, and this week is the recipient of a gratifying testimonial. In making the presentation the Vicar said he thought it right to bear his testimony to the principal features of "Captain" Bennett's work. He was sure "Captain" Bennett would feel when he had gone, that he had done no mischief. There were not many teachers of religion who could honestly say that. "Captain" Bennett had been perfectly straightforward and truthful in his work with him, and he had been drawn again and again in sympathy towards him when evidence had reached him from residents in the parish that these qualities existed in his life. He need hardly say that those were rare gifts and very seldom to be found amongst the class to which Mr. Bennett belonged.

Those of them who heard Mr. Clifford, the hon. Secretary of the Church Army, when he gave a lecture in that room, on "Father Damien", would remember his description of Mr. Bennett and his work. He was, he said, a working man who had come to Cowley parish on a mission to the working men. Mr. Clifford struck him as the right man in the right place. He was a gentleman of culture, with the love of God and man in his heart. He understood the office and work of a clergyman, he is not led away from the real issue at stake in work of this kind, and he could say he was a most excellent guide for men like Mr. Bennett. Those of them before him had recognised Mr. Bennett's earnestness by the attendance of his weekly meetings, which had grown from three to 35 or 40.

They had had no secular inducements offered to them, and he thought it right to tell them that he had not given one penny to Mr. Bennett. He had paid his salary, and he thought it right to stop there. There had been no distribution of money through his hands in any shape or form. "Captain" Bennett had ever been ready to do what he told him; this again was an excellent spirit wherever it was found, for, as they knew, he was the responsible person for the English Church in that parish, and those that did not work in harmony with him had no right there.

"Captain" Bennett had taken an interest, in addition to the services which he held in the Schoolrooms, in the Reading Room, the Band of Hope, the Sunday Schools, and he had visited every house, he believed. Only a few days ago he read his notes, and he would tell them that he knew the tendency of his remarks with regard to every family in his parish. Every one of them knew that no man in England knew his parish better than he (the Vicar) did. He felt that they wished Mr. Bennett every good wish wherever he was sent to work, and that he was glad to meet them on this occasion to wish him God speed. Mr. Webb, one of the masters of St. Kenelm's, who was also a B.A. of Exeter

Deanery Synod Meeting

A meeting of the Deanery Synod was held at St James Church Centre on the 7 March 2017. The following items were discussed:

- ∅ There was a presentation from Jayne Ozanne who is the General Synod Rep who spoke on the recent vote on the issue of sexuality. Jayne pointed out that this was a joint discussion between Laity and Clergy in parallel more than about same sex marriage. Jayne's personal mission was to help bring the discussion of sexuality to the middle ground rather than the political extremes in the debate and spoke of progress in increasing the middle ground views on the subject. Jayne emphasised the importance of improving attitudes on the subject as many LGBT children of faith families do end up homeless to avoid forms of abuse. Lack of acceptance of LGBT children also leads at times to self-harm and suicide. Fortunately for us, it seems that the Diocese of Oxford is one of the most diverse and involved in the debate.
- ∅ Trevor Jones gave us a financial report showing that the General Account was in the black with only a small amount outstanding which was covered by donations. There was a slight forecast deficit for the year with a shortfall of £2,500. Churches should be encouraged to pay more if they can.
- ∅ Geoff, our Rector, promoted the new Joint Deanery website (that I would encourage all of us who have internet access to look at and to promote when the moment arises) www.oxfordanglican.co.uk. As well as much useful information of what is happening in Oxford and Cowley churches, it also has a sign-up form. Well worth a look at!
- ∅ Tim Stead gave us a presentation and said that Headington Quarry was looking for a children's worker.
- ∅ There was a presentation about making Oxford welcoming to asylum speakers and we were shown that a major initiative has been growing over the past few years called "Sanctuary Hosting" that provides, after a period of vetting, accommodation in people's homes for people fleeing from persecution abroad.

The initiative was set up in 2015. The demonstration in 2016 called "Refugees are welcome" promoted the hosting scheme. There were many volunteers and it was called a revolution of generosity. 55 new hosts and 34 people have been helped off the streets. Some of the stories that were told to us were heart wrenching and it was really great that this initiative was in operation.

Things we can do:

- ∅ Being a host
- ∅ Volunteers to meet guests and hosts
- ∅ Donations
- ∅ Provision of low rent properties

Homelessness: Bethan Willis, the Assistant Social Responsibility Officer for the Diocese of

Oxford presented on the growing homelessness problem. Within Oxford there may be a few hundred rough sleeping. The figure has doubled since 2010. 75% of those needing help were affected by addiction or mental health problems. Oxford is losing 130 hostel places. And some hostels are closing down entirely. Unlike historically, when relationship breakdown was the biggest contributing factor in homelessness, end of private tenancy has become the new main factor in making homelessness happen. Landlords do not give accommodation to those on housing benefit. The vulnerability is increased to the point whereby the national average deposit that is needed is £2000.

Things we can do:

- ∅ Report rough sleepers to OXSPOT
- ∅ Spend time with rough sleepers
- ∅ Give clothes, money, food and time to charities
- ∅ Work with others, for instance through WNS (Winter Night Shelter) and SWEP (Severe Weather Emergency Protocol)

Help that is provided:

Oxfordshire Credit Union + St Matthews (Interest free loans to help set up homes)

CRISIS (finance provision)

EMMAUS Oxford (Provides 36 hours work a week and accommodation)

Nick Dewey

Claire Ewers

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Plant Sale

Saturday 13th May

12.00 – 3.00pm

St. James Church Centre
Beauchamp Lane, OX4 3LF

Plants of all kinds including
perennials, bedding, house
plants, tomatoes and other
vegetables.

Plus:

Refreshments, homemade cakes
& preserves, raffle, bric-a-brac



Fund-raising in aid of St James' Church.

RECIPE

What's in Season in April – the following are listed on the web:

Asparagus, broccoli, jersey royal new potatoes, lettuce & salad leaves, purple sprouting broccoli, radishes, rocket, samphire, spinach, spring onions, watercress, wild nettles
Bananas (Windward), kiwi fruit, rhubarb
Basil, chives, dill, sorrel
Lamb, wood pigeon
Cockles, crab, langoustine, lobster, plaice, prawns, salmon, sea trout, shrimp, whitebait



While you are shopping for food in season, you might also like to shop for the following (an Easter treat – the pavlova at the Mothers' Union Quiz and Puddings evening were delicious so it may be that some of you have already got your favourite recipes!)

Easy Pavlova (serves 8)

Ingredients

4 egg whites
250g caster sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 teaspoon lemon juice
2 teaspoons cornflour
475ml whipping cream, whipped
6 kiwi fruits, peeled and sliced

Method

Pre-heat oven to 150 C / Gas mark 2
Line a baking tray with baking parchment. Draw a 23cm (9 in) circle on the parchment.
In a large bowl, beat egg whites until stiff but not dry. Gradually add in the sugar, 1 tablespoon at a time, beating well after each addition. Beat until thick and glossy. Overbeaten egg whites lose volume and deflate when folded into other ingredients. Be absolutely sure not a particle of grease or egg yolk gets into the whites. Gently fold in vanilla extract, lemon juice and cornflour.

Spoon mixture inside the circle drawn on the parchment. Working from the centre, spread mixture towards the outside edge, building edge slightly. This should leave a slight depression in the centre.

Bake for 1 hour. Cool on a wire rack.

Remove the parchment, and place meringue on a flat serving plate. Fill the centre of the meringue with whipped cream, sweetened if desired. Top whipped cream with kiwi fruit slices.

Tip: To keep your meringue from being flat and grainy, try beating egg whites until stiff but not dry. Overbeaten egg whites lose volume and deflate when folded into other ingredients. Also, when beating in sugar, beat in about 1 tablespoon at a time, beating well between each addition. Then beat until meringue is thick, white and glossy. Be absolutely sure not a particle of grease or egg yolk gets into the whites.

Lesley Weston

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Home-Based practice in OX4

Film Club at the Centre

Well, it just goes to show, if you show a film with a group of excellent actors but with a title that no-one has heard of you are going to get a record audience. And so it was with March's showing. "Plenty" was the film and a gripping one it was too. I even got to discuss its merits with one appreciative club member in the post office the following week! Donations were very generous too and we have banked over £90 for parish funds. Thank you so much generous members. Another thank you must go to Sally Hemsworth for standing in as projectionist while Dave Stanley took a well-earned little holiday.

The film for April is a happy-go-lucky musical "Hello Dolly", starring Walter Matthau and

Barbra Streisand. It is just the film for the Friday after Easter, 21 April 2017, and has three Academy Awards to recommend it.

It has a "U" certificate so if any members would like to bring along young friends who are on their school holidays they would be more than welcome.

Rosanne Butler



A Simple Explanation of Cricket

You have two sides, one out in the field and one in. Each man on the side that's in goes out and when he's out he comes in and the next man goes in until he's out too. When they are all out the side that's been out in the field comes in and the side that's been in goes out and tries to get out those coming in. Sometimes you get men still in but not out. When both sides have been in and out, including, not outs, that's the end of the game.

FRIENDS OF ST JAMES OLD SCHOOL



2 + 2 = 4

Victorian schooling

A talk by Liz Woolley,
Oxford historian and researcher

St James Centre
Beauchamp Lane
OX4 3LF

Friday 5 May 2017
6.30 refreshments for 7.00 – 8.30
£5 for the evening

no need to book

information from Lesley Williams
Chair - Friends of St James Old School
07982 439 828 oldschoolcowley@gmail.com
www.cowleyteamministry.co.uk/The-Parish/St-James-Old-School



Christian Aid 2017

OVER THE EDGE: Oh what a shame! The proposed St Mary Magdalen Church abseil to raise funds to be shared between urgent church roof repairs and Christian Aid is postponed until 2018 so we have lost that sponsorship opportunity and this enthusiastic abseiler will miss her annual 'fix'. She may have to do one at the JR hospital.

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT SUPER SOUP LENT LUNCH on Sunday 5 March launched our 2017 Christian Aid fundraising and raised £145, with a range of excellent home-made soups, cheese and fruit.



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2017 (May 14-20) has a focus on refugees, with the statement 'We've been there for refugees since 1945 – we're not turning our back now'

Good news! Templars Square has given us permission for a display stall and to shake buckets, to replace our door to door envelopes collection. Whilst the Christian Aid Coordinator will be sad not to spend several evenings knocking on doors in support of our refugee brothers and sisters, this will be a chance to meet more Cowley residents and shoppers and give them the opportunity to donate.

We obviously won't be there for all the week's opening times but please look out for a sign up rota to cover key shopping periods. It would be great if we could entertain shoppers with live music for some of the time..... suggestions of suitable buskers are welcome.

We will also have a supply of envelopes, which you could take to collect from family, friends and neighbours.

Also planned in CAW:

BIG BREKKIE: Sunday 14 May, 08.45 - 09.45, St James Centre

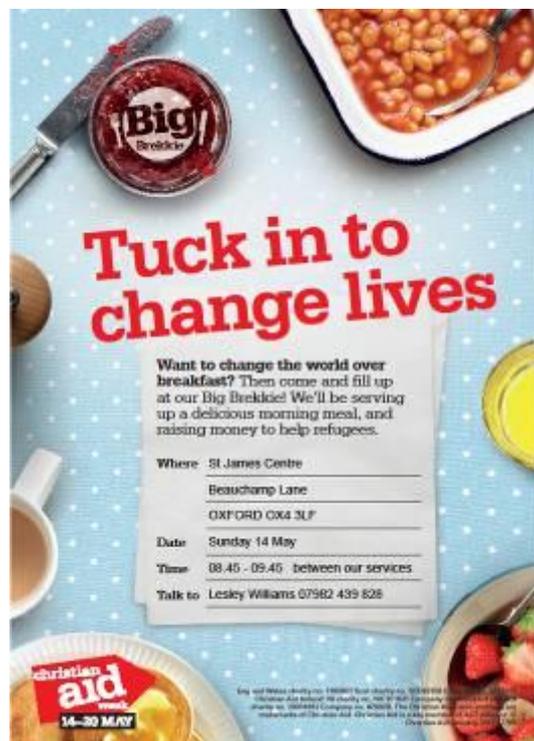
Bacon butties and fresh fruit added to the usual Sunday croissants, crumpets, toast, juice and tea/coffee.

COFFEE MORNING: Wednesday 17 May, 10.00, 88 Temple Road, hosted by Lyn and David Lord

Article from Oxford Diocesan Council - Christian Aid Week 2017

Sixty years ago, a generation of Christians decided they would not stand by whilst people suffered in refugee camps amidst the aftermath of the Second World War. Inspired by the teaching of Jesus Christ, they could not sit back while their neighbours suffered. They shared Jesus' outrage over injustice and were prepared to do something about it.

That dedication and generosity led to the creation of Christian Aid Week, which today unites 20,000 churches across the country that come together to achieve incredible things to continue to support our global neighbours in need, who are suffering through no fault of their own.



Today, tens of millions of people – fathers, mothers and children - across the globe are still fleeing their homes, and making dangerous journeys in search of safety. Christian Aid is not turning its back now, and continues to support refugees around the world, who are fleeing their homes due to conflict, war and disaster.



While the majority of today’s refugees seek sanctuary in poor countries, in 2015 some one million people crossed into Europe. With borders in Europe now closed, thousands of desperate refugees are finding themselves stranded in countries including Greece and Serbia – and in need of urgent help.



Nejebbar, from Afghanistan, fled her homeland after the Taliban announced they would kill anyone who worked for the government, like her husband Noor. They eventually sought refuge in Greece with their children, after a treacherous journey across the Mediterranean in a small rubber dinghy. The young family have left their home, family and friends behind, and now live with no certainty of their future, especially that of their children.

With the help of you, our supporters, Christian Aid and its global partners continue to provide support for refugees, like Nejebbar and Noor, with essentials including, food, shelter and job skills training, as well as advocating for policies to protect them and help them on the ground.

You can help to change the lives of refugees fleeing conflict and crisis this Christian Aid Week by donating online at www.caweek.org calling 08080 006 006, or texting 'GIVE' to 70040 to give £5.

Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust

The Parish is a member of the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust and can apply for places at these talks before they are advertised to the general public – the deadline for the following talks is 9 April:

Organs and Architecture with David Warr and Charles Mould, Friday and Saturday, 19 and 20 May 2017 @ £20 per ticket.

Stained Glass in Oxford with Sarah Brown of the York Glaziers Trust, Saturday, 24 June 2017 @ £20 per ticket

Wolfson Lecture, Sunday, 2 July with Gerard Russell @ £20 per ticket.

Contact the Chronicle team if you are interested.

REPORT FROM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

February and March was a busy time for meetings. Two Parochial Church Council Meetings were held. The reason for this was that it was necessary to look at the draft Financial Report 2016 before it went to be inspected (this we did in February), and then to accept the inspected accounts (this was done in March) so that the agreed Financial Report would be ready for circulation at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on the 30 April 2017.

Other things discussed at these meetings:

- ∅ Refurbishment of Entrance Hall at St Francis Church
- ∅ Faculty for a Porch on the CEF Storage Portacabin, at the rear of St Francis Church
- ∅ Faculties for a Memorial, New Ashes Area at St James Church and a longer period to consider the requirements for a digital projection scheme, again at St James Church
- ∅ Old School Building
- ∅ Stewardship Campaign
- ∅ Deanery Synod Meeting Report (a copy is included in this edition of The Chronicle)
- ∅ Anglican Asian Living Church
- ∅ Arrangements for the Revd Skye Denno's Farewell

In addition the Annual Congregational Meetings for St Francis and St James Churches were held, when the following people were appointed to be on the Church Committees for 2017/2018:

St Francis Church:	Chloe Clark	Sheila Collett	
	Shirley Costar	Nicholas Dewey	
	Faith Hunter	Elwira Lobos	
	Lyn Lord	Norah Shallow	John Shreeve
	Maureen Stone		
St James Church:	Pat Chambers	Joan Coleman	
	Sally Hemsworth	Jill Ling	
	Margaret Martin	Dave Stanley	
	Gordon Watts	Margaret Weller	
	Lesley Williams	Chris Woodman	

Notices have been posted for the Annual Parochial Meeting and for the meeting for the election of Church Wardens – both of which will be on Sunday, 30 April 2017, commencing at 12.15 pm at St James Church Centre. Forms are available at the churches for members of the congregation to nominate people for the posts of Church Warden (2 posts) and for the Parochial Church Council and the Deanery Synod. If you would like to nominate anyone for these positions, please do so using the appropriate form.

Look forward to seeing you on the 30 April 2017.

Sally Hemsworth
PCC Secretary



H2O (Here to Help Oxford) Befriend Project

A letter has been received from the new H2O (Here to Help Oxford) befriending project, which has emerged from Viva's Doorsteps initiative. Their 2015 research looked at how churches are responding to the needs of children and young people in Oxfordshire, with respect to poverty, vulnerability and the gaps between needs and interventions. They found that 'struggling families' was one of the most significant issues raised by families themselves as well as churches and professionals.

In response to this, they are in the process of establishing a befriending project in East Oxford. Their aim is to recruit volunteers, or family friends, to walk alongside families with primary school aged children who are struggling. Parenting is full of challenges, and we want to be able to hold out a hand to parents who are feeling isolated, stressed or finding it difficult to cope.

The following volunteer advertisement sets out what they require:

Are you a good listener?
Could you come alongside a local family?



We are looking for volunteer befrienders to join our pilot scheme walking alongside and supporting families with children aged 5-11 in East Oxford who are facing challenges. Could you give up to two hours a week, for a minimum of six months, to help a family realise their own strengths? It is likely to change you too!

We will give you training and regular support. If you are interested please contact Katy at Doorsteps on k.thompson@viva.org or 01865 811660.

Viva is an international children's charity passionate about releasing children from poverty and abuse. Doorsteps is an initiative of Viva which helps local Christians to work together to better support Oxfordshire's children, young people and their families

Their desire is that this project would be a partnership of local churches in East Oxford and Cowley. They believe working together is vital both to serve as a witness to the local community and in order to make the project sustainable in the long term. They would love our churches to consider being involved in this partnership and a meeting to discuss this further is being held on Thursday 6th April at 2pm. Is this something you feel you can help with?

SUNDAY SERVICES

ST JAMES CHURCH, BEAUCHAMP LANE

8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Sung Eucharist
1.45pm Anglican Asian Living Church
Sunday Lunch – the date varies so watch for notices

ST FRANCIS CHURCH, HOLLOW WAY

10.30am Parish Eucharist
2nd Sunday All Age bring n/share lunch

MID-WEEK SERVICES & MEETINGS

Morning Prayer	7.45am 8am	Mon, Wed, Thu at St James; Tue, Sat at St James
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	2-4pm	Prayer Space—St Francis
	7.00pm	Cowley Parish Healing Service St Francis (1st Thursday)
	7.30pm	Local House of Prayer, St James

HOME GROUPS

Leader	Time/Venue
Connie Uren	Alternate Tuesday afternoons at 2.30pm St James Church Centre, Ranklin Room
Friends of St Francis (John Shreeve)	2nd & 4th Tuesday afternoons at 2.30pm St Francis Church
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
Catherine / William Hartley	Thursdays at 8.00pm, Catherine Hartley 07792 104448 William Hartley 07751 939092
Joel Denno	Thursday at 7.45pm at The Vicarage, Don Bosco Close

The Parish Office in St James Church
Centre is open:

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

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

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

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Tel: 01865 747680 (o) 01865 778596 (h)
Email: rector@cowleyteamministry.co.uk

Team Vicar:

Revd Skye Denno
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Skye has Wednesday as her day off.

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