JOHN AND MARLENE SHREEVE'S ARTICLES FROM PAST CHRONICLES

Easter Thoughts

April 2010

On Easter morning Mary Magdalene finds the tomb empty. She is very upset and asks someone working in the garden where Jesus's body has been put. She thinks he is the gardener until he says, "Mary," but until that moment she had not recognised Jesus.

A few days later some of the disciples take a boat and go fishing in Galilee. Jesus calls to them from the shore but they do not realise who he is – they do not recognise him.

Two disciples walking the road to Emmaus meet a stranger. Going along with them he engages them in conversation and again it is Jesus, who is unrecognised.

I wonder why those close friends of Jesus did not recognise him straight away? I do not understand what made him different after the resurrection. Of course, Jesus is unpredictable in that he shows himself in whatever way he chooses. He shows us that life can be an unpredictable adventure and that he is in it with us even though we do not always see him, or do not always recognise him. He tells us to look for goodness in unlikely places and to find him in unlikely people. This means making changes in our lives. Someone said that change is one of the only two certainties in this world, the other being death.

Few of us like change; it can make us feel insecure. Most of us prefer the familiar. It is hard to make sense of some of the moral and political changes we are living through, just as it was for the disciples in their day, and it is difficult to see any good in many of them. But it is important to remember that Jesus is walking with us through the changes.

His presence helps us make sense of changes that come, even when it is hard for us to understand their purpose.

With Jesus, things make sense eventually, but without him in our lives they never will.

Marlene Shreeve



EASTER SERVICES at St James and St Francis:

Maundy Thursday 14 April

7:30 PM Holy Communion – streamed from St James. [The church will be open for private prayer following the service]

Good Friday 15 April

1:00 PM Worship – streamed from St James 2:15 PM Anglican Asian Living Church St James 4:00 PM Stations of the cross – from St Francis

Saturday 16 April Easter Eve

8:00 PM Service of light & resetting the altar – St James & churchyard

Sunday 17 April Easter Day

8:00 Holy Communion (Traditional) – St James

9:30 Holy Communion - St Francis

11:00 Holy Communion - St James

www.cowleyteamministry.co.uk/Facebook-Live



Streamed services will also have a live congregation in the Churches. Do join us if you wish



For more details phone Revd Geoff: 07759393023

Carers Oxfordshire are running a number of (free) workshops for carers of all ages. If you are a carer please use this facility. Contact <a href="matter-mat

A forgotten war, a diary and a remembered life

As war rages in Ukraine, Hugh Williamson remembers another war that engulfed Britain 40 years ago

There is a plaque, a 'Roll of Honour' above the pews in St. James, a beautiful Norman church in Oxford. It recalls the one hundred local men who fell in the two World Wars. One man, 'Hall, I', has an extra note by his name – 'Falklands'.



The Falklands war started 40 years ago, on April 2 1982. Those alive then may remember this last time Britain was under attack, even if the threatened territory was thousands of miles away, tiny islands off the coast of Argentina.

As another, hugely bigger war rages in Europe and we are flooded with images of death and destruction, a distant connection I recently discovered to this forgotten British war makes me reflect on the importance of remembering those killed in battle.

I recall feeling ambiguous about the Falklands. I was turning 18, I was against Maggie Thatcher, the Tory prime minister who took us to war, I agreed with those who said she did it partly for political gain, but I also felt awkward pride in our victory.

The politics of war comes to mind when I think now about the Falklands. Is that what the Ukraine war will mean in years to come? How do we hang on to the central meaning of people's suffering during conflict?

I had forgotten the Falklands war until I recently opened a blue hardback notebook. The book belonged to my mother, Barbara Williamson. She used it as a diary for a special time with my father, Rev Tony Williamson.

Tony was the Lord Mayor of Oxford from May 1982 for a year. The entries are mostly reflections on how she coped, juggling fulltime work, running our household, looking after us (at times annoying) kids and fulfilling her duties as Lady Mayoress.

An entry on 28 May 1982 catches my eye. This was only four days after the 'mayor-making' when Tony, a Labour Party local councillor and 'worker priest' with a manual job in a car factory, had been elected with pomp and ceremony.

"In the afternoon Tony went to visit the parents of Ian Hall in Barns Rd. He had been killed in HMS Coventry off the Falklands".

I'm struck by what is not said. How lan's parents felt. How Tony felt?

Looking on-line I find that Ian and I had much in common. We grew up a few streets apart, near St James, in a working class part of Oxford. We went to some of the same schools.

I don't recall meeting Ian, he was a bit older, but I feel drawn to finding out more about him to fill in the gaps in the diary:

Ian was a Weapons Engineering Mechanic on HMS Coventry, a destroyer, equipped with antiaircraft missiles, known as Sea Darts. He had been due a home visit but then at short notice his ship was dispatched from Gibraltar to the Falklands.

On May 25 1982 the ship was directed away from the main fleet, to act as a decoy to draw Argentinian aircraft. Then its radar system jammed and in mid-afternoon four Argentine planes broke through. The planes dropped three huge bombs onto the Coventry, blowing massive holes in the deep interior of the ship. That was where Hall was. "lan was working on (the) Sea Darts, in the weapons control section of the destroyer when it was attacked" the Oxford Mail reported. Within 20 minutes HMS Coventry had been abandoned and capsized. 170 sailors were picked up. 19 lost their lives.

Captain David Hart Dyke later recalled, incongruously, that during those 20 minutes, crew members sang "Always look on the bright side of life" from Monty Python's Life of Brian.

lan's parents, Peter, a cook, and Iris, a nursery worker had been calling a special navy number for several days, hoping for information. Then Gerald Cox, priest at St James church visited with the awful news. The following day, when Tony visited, the Hall's received a letter from lan, written weeks earlier. "I've got one up on dad", he wrote. Peter had also been in the navy but had rarely been called to action stations. For lan this was happening two or three times a day.

Iris told the Oxford Mail: "I would like to think that his death would be the last in this affair. We hope that he did not die in vain but we hope peace will be restored quickly". Peter said: "We never even said cheerio to him because he was sent straight from Gibraltar".

I find another diary entry.

Sunday 11 July 1982. In the afternoon Tony and I went to St James for a memorial service for Ian Hall. There was a good congregation, including an officer from the ship. The parish priest Gerald Cox conducted the service. Tony read the second lesson and gave the address.

I find no trace of Tony's address. But I find the Roll of Honour in the church.

lan had a twin sister, Alison. Through the Falklands' families' association, I send her an email. What are her memories of her brother, of this service, of this time in Oxford?

Nine months later, in April 1983, the Oxford Mail interviews Iris Hall again. She, Peter and Alison had made a commemorative visit to the Falklands. One passage resonates with events today.

"The island itself was a God-forsaken place – so bleak and desolate. If you thought they were fighting for that piece of land, it wasn't worth it. The only thing that makes it bearable is that perhaps it makes other countries realise they can't just walk in and take over".

I've received no response to my email to Alison. Yet I feel like honoring lan's passing, a kid from Oxford like me. The cemetery where lan is buried is 10 minutes walk from the busy shopping arcades we grew up near.

It is quiet when I visit, late afternoon. A warm sun on my back as



I look for the grave. I find it, one of the tallest on the gentle hillside, a black stone memorial to a life cut short.

I sit for a few moments on the grass nearby.

255 British and 649 Argentinian military personnel were killed in the Falklands.

Time has rolled on, other wars have brought more pain and suffering. But those who died are not forgotten.

Hugh Williamson is a writer based in Berlin. He is working on a memoir about his father, a worker priest in a car factory in Oxford. www.hughwilliamson.org



SAFEGUARDING IN COWLEY PARISH

Safeguarding features in Chronicle every month..... because it is so important and we must keep reminding ourselves that we will ensure a culture which keeps everyone safe in our churches and fellowship and ensures their wellbeing.

There is always some new information each month so please read it right through!

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 (DBS) Disclosure and Barring Service criminal records checks where applicable. The Church of England has revised its requirements for DBS checks for all those working with children, young people and vulnerable adults, and in positions of leadership, reducing the time between checks from every 5 years to every 3 – so we are part way through the necessary programme of re-checks and will contact all those who require one.

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. All leaders are now required to take a Domestic Violence awareness course and child exploitation has become high profile.

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.

Our re-training programme is at last underway: the courses are always available to follow at home on-line, for those able to do that, but group training at St James Centre, for the Basic Awareness course was delivered on Tuesday 1 March and will be repeated as necessary during April or May – there are several more people needing it. https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/

Following that, we will book a Foundation course, to be delivered face to face by a Diocesan trainer, probably on a Saturday morning. That is for anyone whose Parish role involves children, young people or vulnerable adults or is a leadership role.

We regret to admit that the Parish safeguarding group with clergy, church wardens and leaders of all our Parish groups *still* hasn't happened.....it is still in the Safeguarding Action Plan but it is so difficult to find a date possible for all those already busy people..... A doodlepoll is about to be launched

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

Film Club at the Centre

At Film Club our members are more than willing to see characters in their films suffer through thick and thin. They will follow them through 'hell and high water,' but they do like a proper outcome at the end, in other words – a happy ending.

Our film in March "A Handful of Dust" was not like that at all! We had the main female character reduced from a life of ease and luxury to poverty and in tears, whilst the main male character was left trapped in a remote area of rainforest with no means of escape! Oh Dear! All very unsatisfactory!

However, this month's film is quite a different story. "Easter Parade" is a colourful, blockbusting Hollywood production bursting with great songs and dance. It stars Fred Astaire and Judy Garland supported by Ann Miller and Peter Lawford and has a lovely, joyful ending. *That* should send our members home feeling happy.

The good news from our club is that our membership continues to grow. Four new people signed up last month and we are now past the halfway point of possible members. That does mean though, that we still have room for more people to join. Our programme is varied enough, we hope, to cater for a wide range of tastes and we are always open to suggestions for future films to show.

Rosanne Butler

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

We are definitely not achieving Fairtrade Parish status at present, even with the basic tea and coffee served in our churches and St James Centre.

Following a request from St James Church Committee, the PCC has now agreed unanimously to confirm our determination to work harder at it, 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 will be graciously received but passed on to the Community Emergency Foodbank.









The OX4 Food Crew presents...

MEALS ON MONDAYS!

Join us for a 'Pay As You Feel' lunch every Monday 12-2pm, at one of our community spaces in OX4, Oxford:

1st Monday of the Month: Ark-T Centre / Waste2Taste as part of 'Community Hub Days' Crowell Road, OX4 3LN

All other Mondays: Flo's the Place in the Park Cafe Rymers Lane, OX4 3JZ

Pay only what you feel or what you can afford anonymously. All funds raised go to helping us tackle food inequality in OX4.

No need to book, just turn up. All welcome!

For more information or to volunteer: Ox4freefoodcrew@flosoxford.org.uk or call 07729203016 www.ox4foodcrew.co.uk

















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. Joan Coleman, a core member of all three teams, is not with us for the rest of this term so more team members are urgently needed in each school both now and 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, Bartholomew 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

From the Archives

Yearbook 1967 (Part two)

COWLEY: The Lean Years

The transfer of the church to the college of Christ Church did not benefit the people of Cowley. Chaplains were normally provided from among the students, and most of them had little to do with their parishioners, for they lived in the college and performed the minimum of parochial duties.

There would be the services of Morning and Evening Prayer on Sundays, and Communion services six times a year for the "solemn festivals". They would catechise the children in Lent and occasionally on Sundays.

Among those who ministered in St. James' were Richard Robinson (instituted 1737), later Bishop of Armagh, William Coleridge (1815) later Bishop of Barbados, and Charles Langley (1823), later Archbishop of Canterbury. *(see footnote).

Partly as a result of this pastoral neglect, the number of communicants fell and in the first part of the 18th century there were between 30 and 50, and only about 20 in the latter part of the century.

In 1774 the curate reported that there were too many who absented themselves from public worship through negligence, chiefly servants and children. An entry in the Churchwardens' book in 1783 that people were not to be buried without leave of the minister and payment of a fee of 5/-, suggests past negligence.

In 1808, the incumbent estimated the congregation between 120 and 180.

The Saintly Years

Under the devoted and saintly ministry of Father Benson, things took a turn for the better. By 1854 he was living in Cowley among his people and had an assistant curate.

Two services were held on Sundays, and there was Mattins and evensong each day of the week. The congregation rose to 200, although, as he commented, it still did not bear a fair proportion to the population or the account of the "people's extreme indifference to religion, the want of comfort in the church and their distance from it".

Unfortunately for Cowley, Father Benson left the village in 1864 to concentrate on the needs of the suburb between Cowley and Magdalen Bridge, and in 1868 the new parish of Cowley St. John was carved out of the parishes of Iffley, Cowley, and St. Clements.

The Troublesome Years.

Father Benson's successors tried to enforce Church discipline and to administer the church charities strictly. This led to a period of bitter strife between parishioners and their parson.

In 1875, the Rev. James Coley was forced to resign because of his refusal to bury a notorious evil-liver, Frederick Merritt. The crowd at the funeral – which eventually took place 11 days after the death – included 40 or 50 navvies who broke into St. James' church with their picks. Some of the trouble seems to have been due to the character of the Rev. Coley, but by 1875 the congregation had nearly disappeared, the school was closed and the church was in debt.

Coley's successor was The Rev. George Moore. With his prestige as a boxer for the University, he was able to deal with the opposition!

In 1884 and 1885 there was more serious trouble over the 'Poor Charity' and the 'Bread Charity', and the "pugilistic parson" was summoned for a second time for assault in the churchyard.

There are many stories and legends told about "Georgie Moore", but one thing is certain; he restored the position of the parson, and his long ministry of over 50 years gave a much needed stability to the parish of Cowley.

The Last Years

In 1929, Father Beauchamp was instituted as vicar, and with the devoted partnership of himself and Father Whye, the church in Cowley met the challenge of the new industry and the vast growth in population.

It was not until Father Betton became Vicar in 1959, that the parish church no longer had the Vicar living near it.

(With acknowledgements to the Victoria County History)

*Please see the side of the Reredos in St. James' Church for the memorials which are carved into the marble. – (Les Hemsworth)

Priceless!

Heard in Church a couple of weeks ago: "Good morning, Betty, how are you? "Well, I'm 90 and still standing up!"

QUOTE: The only impossible task is the one you never begin. *Tony Robbins*



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK - 15-21 May 2022

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



Drought starves. It robs women of the power to farm and grow

food for their families. Now, for the first time in a generation, global poverty is rising. Covid-19, conflict and the climate crisis are pushing more of our global neighbours into a struggle for survival.

Women and men in Zimbabwe are hungry to provide a more hopeful future. Mums often skip meals to share with their children what little food they have.

One of these mums is Jessica Mwedzi. Drought makes every day a struggle for survival. Jessica is hungry. Hungry for a good meal. Hungry to earn a decent living. Hungry to provide a more hopeful future for her family.

'My children crave a good meal, but I can't provide it.' Jessica says. 'It pains me to send them to bed hungry.'

Your gift in Christian Aid Week could help Jessica grow drought-resistant crops. You could help her set up a water tap on her farm and learn how to grow food in the harsh climate. She'll turn her dry, dusty land into a garden of hope.

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-ourchurches streets, which will be labelled, requesting the recipients to return them to St

James Centre, St Francis Church or the deliverer's home – there will be lists to sign up for that by mid-April

- having a stall in Templars Square days/times and the stall activities to be confirmed

 probably a tombola and a game or two watch out for another volunteer list to
 sign
- 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 what they will
- and inviting you all to have a morning coffee or afternoon tea date 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. which allowed families and friends to have a fun time out together.

Please put Saturday 25 June, 3:00-5:00 in your diary for a Midsummer Quiz Aid, again with crafts, toys for young children and food delights, yet to be decided!

BESIDE THE SEASIDE

A daytrip to Weymouth on Tuesday 5 July

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

£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.

A quick response and settlement is needed.

Contact:

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

by Sunday 10 April.

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CHRONICLE

Editorial Team- Sally Hemsworth, Nicki Stevens

Deadline for the next edition: Monday 18 April 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.

SMILE

A welcomer was standing at the church door before a service and called out to a man passing by "Won't you come to church?" "No" the man replied. "It's full of hypocrites in there". So the welcomer called back "Well, we've got room for one more!"

WISE WORDS

Until you spread your wings you don't know how far you can fly!

Everyone needs a friend who is 'all ears'.

The best way to cheer yourself up – is to try to cheer someone else up!

Wrinkles should merely indicate where smiles have been.

In the depths of winter, I finally learned that within me there lay an invincible summer!

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



SUNDAY SERVICES

ST JAMES CHURCH, BEAUCHAMP LANE ST FRANCIS CHURCH, HOLLOW WAY

8.00am St James9.30am St Francis11.00am St James

The Parish Office in St James Church Centre is staffed by volunteers and is no

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.ul

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)

11.30, but weekly during Lent. Con-

tact Rosanne 01865 453257

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

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-

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

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Paper contributions to the Parish Office.

