

## It's no mystery really

She was born in Oxford. At the age of 16 she had to leave school and go to work because her father didn't believe in higher education for girls, besides which, the family could not afford to continue her education. She married an army doctor, Ernest Connor Bantry White, and they had two children, Claire and Jane. But when Ernest returned from the Second World War suffering mental health problems, she was forced to provide for her daughters and husband.

In her 40's she published her first novel, a murder mystery, *Cover Her Face* (1962), featuring Detective Inspector Adam Dalgliesh of New Scotland Yard. Her name is Phyllis Dorothy James, Baroness James of Holland Park, and you know her as the queen of crime writers, PD James. Her books have been made into movies and television series. She has received seven honorary doctorates from universities around the country, and a list of awards as long as your arm.

PD James was successor to the 20th-century literary masters who wrote from a Christian point of view. She writes in the grand tradition of writers such as Hilaire Belloc, G.K. Chesterton, C.S. Lewis, W.H. Auden, Evelyn Waugh and Flannery O'Connor. Her faith matters to her and she brilliantly allows faith to infiltrate her writing. She is an Anglican and a lay patron of the Prayer Book Society.

For Baroness James writing a great crime story is no mystery really. She credits God with giving her the gift of writing. "It is a gift. I never, ever feel it has anything to do with my cleverness at all. I feel it is a gift and when I am writing I feel that I can pray about it when things get a bit sticky and it comes right. It is not a thing I

often talk about but I feel this very, very strongly. Personally I feel that gratitude to God is the very heart of my faith, my personal faith .... I have no doubt that creativity comes from God, the great Creator - and I do believe that profoundly." ([www.anglicanplanet.net/interviews/2013/11/15/advent-2013-pd-james.html](http://www.anglicanplanet.net/interviews/2013/11/15/advent-2013-pd-james.html))

Each of us has gifts, given by God. In our lives we discover our gifts and then we have a choice to use them for good, or to use them selfishly. A murder mystery gives us an opportunity to see the dark side of human existence, contrasted with the good that comes from using for good the gifts we have. PD James seems to have the idea that we are all in need of redemption as we all have gifts that we can choose to use for God or for our own gain.

In her 90-plus years of observing human behaviour and society, Ms James believes that it is much easier to portray good than evil. Her novel and film of the same name, *The Children of Men*, looks at a society that has lost its way. Time has run out and human beings are unable to bear children. Infertility is used as a metaphor for society's loss of faith. It is a world in which people are desperately trying to find a way forward. Hope comes from the next generation discovering a child that is born to redeem the world.

In the season of Lent, we are called to examine our faith in God, to discover new hope in the work God is doing in our own lives, and to look for ways in which we can communicate and demonstrate that hope to the world around us.

HOWARD

# Editor's Letter

Dear Readers

I realise that people who "go on" about their holiday experiences can be incredibly boring but I hope you will forgive me if I share just one with you. I was far away on the north island of New Zealand a couple of weeks ago and decided there and then that you would like to hear about it. Frank and I visited a Maori Marae (village) situated on a beautiful lake, one of their special sites. As we drove into the village we noticed that a little church near the entrance had been badly damaged by fire. Next to their beautifully carved hall was a large cross declaring to the world, in case there was any doubt, that the Maoris are deeply Christian people.

The head Karanga (woman) came to speak to us about their way of life. She was fairly elderly (a grandmother) and had a lovely gentle way with her. She spoke about the fire in their small church, which was a case of arson, saying that their services would continue in the hall until they could rebuild their church. "Which we will do", she said, "Good always comes out of bad". There was no bitterness in her voice, just a faith in God that all would be well. I found this very moving.

We were also taught a lovely Maori song and I want to share the English translation with you:

There are three things  
That are most important  
It is stated in the Bible  
Faith, Hope, the most important is Love.

We have heard that quotation many times, haven't we. But here was a woman who lived her

life reflecting it to the full.

It is always good to have something nice to look forward to, isn't it, so I do hope that the idea of a parish outing on a Salters' steamer in May really happens. We have had some brilliant outings in the past to Wells, Gloucester, Weston-Super-Mare and others. All great fun. I still cherish the image of Gwen Ranklin on the front at Weston in a "kiss-me-quick" hat licking an ice-cream. Does anyone else remember that? Anyway, the river trip sounds great and the thought of it will help to dispel the gloom of this dreary winter.

I hope you are enjoying our extracts from Nan Davies' memoirs currently featuring in The Chronicle. We are printing them just as she set them down so I realise they are a bit "rambly". However, she was a very old lady when she wrote them. I find them fascinating and feel that we all should record our memories of the past for future generations. I love her memories of the old Nelson pub with its walnut tree in the garden, also the tale of Jimmy, the hunchback who used to walk all the way into Oxford and back on a Friday to deliver The Oxford Times to Cowley.

Finally, what a magnificent result the Christingle collections turned out to be, nearly £354 for The Children's Society. Well done us!

It is lovely to be back in the parish after a few weeks away. Looking forward to catching up with all the news.

God bless,

Rosanne

# 4th Cowley Brownies

It's a big year for Brownies this year, as they're celebrating their 100th birthday! There are celebratory events happening across the country, and the 4th Cowley Brownies are going to be very busy joining in the fun.

As a pack, the girls are working towards their Big Brownie Birthday Challenge badge. This badge has been specially created for the centenary, and encourages Brownies to look back over the last hundred years, and to look forward, thinking about what Brownies might be like in the future. The girls' have chosen their own activities, and we will be doing things such as having a meeting with no electricity as we think about what it would have been like for Brownies in the black outs of World War Two, inviting Rainbows and Guides to come spend an evening with us, and going on sleepovers with other Brownies from around Oxfordshire. We are also having fun with our Toy Maker badge, creating puppets and stuffed toys to share, and plan to do our Friend to Animals badge in the summer term.

Other activities we're looking forward to include baking, team games, card making, and a lot of game-playing and singing!

Helen Bray

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## Lent Course

*using Stephen Cottrell's book 'The Things He Carried'*

**for ALL AGES - weekly for 6 sessions**  
**@ St Francis Court in the Lounge**  
**Fridays 6:00 - 7:30pm**

March 7th  
March 14th  
March 21st  
March 28th  
April 4th  
April 11th

*starting with a soup and bread supper*  
*ending with prayer*

If you would like to order a copy of the book - £6.99,  
please let Skye know



# Cowley at the turn of the Twentieth Century

(from Nan Davies' memoirs)

Next door to the Coach and Horses was a real nice house which stood in its own ground, a Mr Doubleday lived there and was a Weights and Measures Inspector, next door was another nice house where a Mr Mackfail and his two spinster sisters lived, and I think he was the first man in Oxford to have a radio set which enabled him to get contacts from practically anywhere and exchange news; he was a very clever gentleman as he made the set, he had been to College and had learned engineering also other things. After his house were two very unusual cottages that had little high windows but you had to go round to the back for the doors. Mr Johnson had a Market Garden here but no house. He grew vegetables and you would see him loading them on his cart to sell. From there right past what is now Clive Road was open fields both sides of the road but Organs yard was and still is there today.

Now returning back to Temple Road there was a much smaller Congregational Church than the one there today, as a big garden belonging to the two cottages came down to Pyle Road and in the centre of the road stood the old Stocks tree.

Any notices were stuck round the trunk. Behind that was John White's Farm, a nice old place with an old garden, a big walnut tree and a sycamore tree – still there today I think – a big barn and spare ground. There was then a house where Miss Hitchings lived and later on allowed Dr Hutchings to have his surgery there, transferred from Mrs Hansford's front room. Next came another nice old house, where a family named Higgins lived for many years, later to become the home of Mr and Mrs William Morris. Next to

that a sweet little Chapel which belonged to the Military College which had been a Boys' College but had been vacant for a long time.

Now we have reached Barracks Road corner (now Hollow Way) and the College went all round the corner until it reached a big field, then Mr Church's cycle shop and a sweet shop as well as two more houses then a little lane which went into Hurst's garden in the next road, another big piece of spare land to Silcote Lane, now Salegate Lane, fields and plots all round this area. No Fernhill Road, Oliver Road or Wilkins Road.

So Cowley had one field for their football. Mr Charlie Bevercome was the organiser, a very nice man. Past Silcote Lane was another big plot owned by a Mr Pipkin who grew vegetables and had several fruit trees on it. Later he had a nice house built, where he lived with his wife and daughter. Then came another big house where a Mr and Mrs Payne lived. They had a big family, a big garden which is still there today, but Mr and Mrs Payne and nearly all the family have now gone.

Another field stretching to Crescent Road round the corner until it reached Junction Road, across the road the small Catholic Church, run entirely by monks. Opposite there, Mr King, the milkman, such a nice man. His mother used to bring the milk to our doors in two buckets with a yoke across her back to balance them, 2 measures 1 and ½ pints. We took our jugs to the doors and she always put in a drop extra in case of any spilling over.

## RECIPES

### Marmalade Bread and Butter Pudding



6 slices of white bread

*(I use whatever I happen to have, so gluten free should work OK)*

2 oz margarine

2 tbsp marmalade

Make into sandwiches.

Spread margarine on top and cut into small triangles.

Place in greased tin or dish.

Whisk together:

10 oz whole milk

2.5 ozs double cream

3 eggs

3 ozs sugar

And pour over sandwiches.

Sprinkle with:

Grated zest of large orange

1 oz candied peel

1 level tbsp. Demerara sugar

Bake for:

### **COWLEY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

Tuesday, 18 March 2014  
commencing at 8.00 pm

### **TALK: East Oxford 1850-1914**

### **An Illustrated talk by Liz Woodley**

At United Reformed Church, Temple Road, Cowley  
Annual Membership fee £18 (OAP £16)  
Visitors welcome £3 per meeting

### Serbian Fish Pie

2 lb haddock (or other white fish) skinned, filleted and cut into small chunks

2 oz, plus one teaspoon, butter cut into small pieces

5 large potatoes, peeled and thinly sliced

4 big firm tomatoes sliced

2 teaspoons paprika

1 teaspoon flour

8 ozs lean rashers of bacon cut into small pieces

4 ozs button mushrooms sliced

8 fl ozs sour cream

For marinade:

2 fl ozs dry white wine

1 large onion chopped

1 crushed clove garlic

! few fennel seeds

1 teaspoon lemon juice

1 teaspoon finely chopped parsley

Make marinade by mixing all ingredients and pour over pieces of fish in a shallow dish. Leave for one hour.

Grease large baking dish with butter. Lay layers of potatoes in dish dotting each layer with butter.

Lay tomatoes on top and sprinkle flour and paprika over.

Bake this in a moderate oven for about ½ hour until potatoes are just tender to a sharp knife.

Remove from oven and keep warm.

Turn oven up to hot (Mark 5, 190C). With slotted spoon transfer fish to the dish sprinkle bacon and mushrooms over and bake for about 15 minutes. Reduce heat to warm (Mark 3, 170C)

Pour over the soured cream. Return dish to oven and bake for a further hour until fish is soft and flaky. Serve immediately.

# DIARY DATES TO REMEMBER

## Mothers' Union

Monthly Meeting on 3rd Monday of month from 2.30pm.

Cowley Parish Church Centre

## Women's Group

1st and 3rd Monday of the Month from 7.30 – 9 pm

Cowley Parish Church Centre

## Women's Institute

Monthly Meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of month from 2 – 4.30 pm

Cowley Parish Church Centre

## St James Café at Cowley Parish Church Centre

10am—1pm

The last Saturday of each month

## Coffee Morning at St Francis

Saturday 8th March 2014 , 10am—12pm

Art and Spring (Bring your own paints or use Skye's)

## Friends of Lye Valley

Two-Hour Litter Pick

Saturday, 8th March 2014, 12 – 14.00

Meet at top of the footpath off The Slade

## Film Club

Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2014, commencing at 6.30 pm with coffee and cake

"Made in Dagenham"

Cowley Parish Church Centre

## Cowley Local History Society

Tuesday, 18th March 2014 at 8 pm

Talk: East Oxford 1850-1914

An Illustrated talk by Liz Woolley

United Reform Church, Temple Road

## Parochial Church Council

Monday, 17th March 2014 at 7.30 pm

(Change of date)

Cowley Parish Church Centre

## St James Old School

Visioning Meeting—Meeting planned for Saturday, 22 March 2014 cancelled,

New date to be announced

To Celebrate 60 years as organist - Brian Tidy

Champagne Buffet 5.30 pm/Concert 7.00 pm

Saturday, 5th April 2014

St James Church Centre/St James Church

## Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday, 6th April 2014, commencing with a

Christian Aid Super Soup Lunch at 12.30 pm

St James Church Centre

To Celebrate 60 years as organist - Brian Tidy

Songs of Praise Service, St James Church

5 pm Sunday, 6th April 2014.

## Christian Aid Week

11<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> May 2014

## Cowley Festival of Christmas Trees 2014

First planning meeting

Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2014, 10am in the Ranklin Room.

### *Please note Additional Dates throughout the year:*

To help raise funds for essential repairs to

St. James' Church a home-made cakes and puds stall is planned. These will take place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month to carry over into Wednesday and will be held in the Church Centre.

If you enjoy baking and would like to help by baking a cake 2 or 3 times a year on a rota basis Chris Woodman or Margaret Weller would be pleased to hear from you.

# MOTHERS' UNION NEWS

At the Annual General meeting in January the main business of the afternoon was the election of the committee. John Shreeve agreed to continue as our branch leader and was welcomed by members. He was also thanked for the work he had done throughout the last twelve months to carry the branch forward. May Morgan agreed to continue as the branch administrator (which means she does all the photocopying and all the other little jobs which keeps us ticking over). Rosanne Butler agreed to continue as branch treasurer and presented the balance sheet for the last year! The rest of the committee consists of Marlene Shreeve, Betty Mitchell and Betty Canterbury.

We were pleased to note that Howard has now joined us as a member. It is well-known that branches who have the support of their rector or vicar tend to continue to flourish. To have both

Howard and Skye as members is such good news.

The February meeting concentrated on preparation for The Women's World Day of Prayer. This will be held this year at the Cowley United Reform Church on Friday, 7th March, at 2 pm. The service is not exclusively for Mothers' Union members but for anyone who wishes to join in this huge wave of prayer for the women of the world. This year the country featured is beleaguered Egypt an area which certainly needs our prayers.

In March we shall spend a quiet afternoon in prayer and contemplation as we have traditionally done for several years now. Lent is a time for us to share our thoughts and faith together.

As Treasurer it is my task to remind those members who have not yet done so that the annual membership subscriptions should be paid.

**A parish priest advised an elderly parishioner that she really should be giving consideration to the hereafter at her time of life. "Oh I do it all the time" she replied, "I go into a room, open a draw and think to myself, "Now, what am I here after?"!"**



# OPEN

## MIC NIGHT

Starts 13<sup>th</sup> Feb



7-9pm

### Projector Room St Francis

More info:  'Open Mic Night 7-9'

FOR STUDENTS and like-minded folk!  
MUSIC, POETRY AND THE ARTS

## NATURE'S RESURGENCE

Amongst all this furore of protracted wet and windy weather it is hard to imagine Spring coming again, yet buds are beginning to sprout on trees and bushes, and our brave little snowdrops have been brightening up the scene as their little white blossoms tremble in the wind.

Bulbs are beginning to sprout and birds beginning to nest. Nature has a way of bouncing back and recovering from setbacks. Spring is not sudden in this country as it is in some parts of the world. It is more gentle and gradual, but non-the-less delightful, with its new life and colour. We have a wealth of wild flowers and plants to lighten our days, and once they start to appear our countryside will be transformed.

Sadly most of them are unknown and unrecognised by our present generation. In past times country folk used to vie with one another as to who could find the earliest blossoms. They know the most likely places to look, and they had their own favourite country names for the flowers and plants. They also knew those that could be used for simple remedies for sickness and ill-health. No NHS in those days and people often could not afford to go to shops to buy patented medicines. People had their own favourite recipes for making up their potions, often passed down from generation to generation.

They were glad to see the arrival of Spring and so should we be.

John Shreeve

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## THE MATHS OF GETTING OLDER

It is a well-known fact that the only time in our lives when we enjoy getting older is during our childhood. We get so excited that we tell people our age in FRACTIONS! "I'm four and a half" we declare with glee, or "I'm six and a quarter!" Do we ever hear anyone say "I'm forty-two and a half"? Never.

Even as a teenager getting older is great. A fourteen year-old will tell you he's nearly sixteen or at seventeen she'll be an adult of eighteen. And then ... that important day when you become twenty-one. And then ... before you know it you have turned thirty (turned? Like sour milk?). The next big number is coming up when you find yourself pushing forty. Hold on,

let's put on the brakes.

Soon you are reaching fifty and half your life has gone. Perhaps you will make sixty (if you're lucky!) You are now travelling at such a speed that you hit seventy with a kind of a bang. After that it's a case of "hitting" things day-by-day like next weekend or a planned holiday. Into your eighties you might reach a lunchtime date with a friend. By the time you get into your nineties things start to reverse, "I'm just ninety-two" you say. And then a strange thing happens. If you make it to a hundred you get back to the FRACTIONS. "She's one hundred and a half" you might hear someone say!

# News from Film Club at the Centre

Poor February Film Club! Like so many things that happened during the past soggy month it fell a victim to a pouring wet night. One member, at least, stood just inside the door at the Centre and water simply poured off her. The attendance was the smallest yet, despite Chris Woodman and Margaret Weller providing coffee, tea and cake, Dave Stanley doing his regular stint as projectionist and Pat Chambers and Brian Brown hosting the evening. Thanks to them all for their loyal support. I understand that the "funny film" was not all that amusing either (rather dated humour) so not the best of nights.

However, there are lots of really good films coming up so I do hope that our club will continue to flourish. The film for March has a good reputation though several of our members have not yet seen it. It is called "Made in Dagenham" and has some excellent British stars featured especially Bob Hoskins, Miranda Richardson, and Sally Hawkins. It is described as inspiring and funny – think of "The Full Monty" with Mary Quant mini dresses. I for one am really looking forward to it.



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## REAL EASTER EGGS

We will be supplying Real Easter eggs for you again this year with three choices: £4 for a Fair Trade milk chocolate egg, a 24 page Easter story book and a pack of Swiss chocolate organic chunky buttons. A charity donation is made from each sale. There are three crosses on the front of the box and under the lid there is a quote from the Bible - the resurrection text from Mark chapter 6.

Also available is a £10 special edition egg with an olive wood holding cross from Bethlehem, an Easter message, an extra thick Belgian chocolate gold foiled egg (180g) and a Meaningful milk chocolate bar with a hint of natural orange (100g). The box has gold foil highlights and Celtic crosses.

And also there is a sharing box (400g) containing 20 mini-eggs on which the foil reads 'The Real Easter Egg. Christ is Risen' with 20 copies of the Easter story 8 page booklet. We will have those available at £1 per egg/booklet.

You can order for yourself on line – [www.realeasteregg.co.uk/order-eggs](http://www.realeasteregg.co.uk/order-eggs) or buy in local Fair Trade shops or we will source and deliver them to you, if you wish. The order form is on display in both churches and at St James Centre or contact Lesley Williams - 01865 779562, 07982 439 828 or [lesleyjwilliams@btinternet.com](mailto:lesleyjwilliams@btinternet.com).

# FLOWER OF THE MONTH – THE CROCUS



Many years ago whilst walking through woodland near Burford I came across the most amazing sight. It was autumn and there on a sunny bank was a patch of purple crocuses the like of which I had never seen. I did not even know what they were but after some research I discovered they were saffron. They are some of the most valued and most sought after plants in the world and they have been right through history. So why am I telling you this in March? Well, because I chose the crocus for our flower this month, the jolly little spring species which are said to begin flowering on Valentine's Day and continue until the middle of this month.

Krokos was the Greek name for the saffron crocus but there is a lovely legend about our spring variety. The Greek god, Zeus, and Hera made love on a mossy bank so passionately that the heat of their ardour made the bank burst open with a carpet of crocuses.

The first spring crocuses were sent to England from France by Jean Robin the curator of the Jardin du Roi in Paris. John Gerard the famous herbalist in the Elizabethan era described them as a novelty. He talks about the "new" colours of white and "a perfect shining yellow colour, seeming from far off to be a hot glowing coal of fire". He also writes that "lovers of plants" will have the purple crocuses in all their gardens.

Crocuses grow from corms which are actually thickened stems. The settlers from the Old World took them with them to America to brighten their gardens. They are widely cultivated in America today. It was said that those original corms were lucky to make it

across the Atlantic Ocean as those wooden sailing ships had colonies of rats and mice. Crocus corms are favourite food for rodents. Those of us with grey squirrels in our gardens will bear witness to this, the little rascals! The other danger which our crocuses face is birds who find the petals of the yellow ones irresistible.

Back to those autumn saffron, its name came originally from the Middle East in ancient times, "za-faran". In the Middle Ages the crop was measured in ounces and was more valuable than pure gold. It was even used in some illuminated missals instead of real gold leaf. In 1589 a story was told about a pilgrim who attempted to steal some saffron by making a hole at the top of his staff and tried to smuggle the root into England risking his life to do so. He got away with it but it was dangerous stuff. Conviction for adulterating saffron carried a death penalty and in Germany in the fifteenth century a man, Jobast Findeker was burnt alive along with his bags of impure saffron.

The rich used it for flavouring but taken in excess it could cause problems. One lady of Trent was "almost shaken to pieces with laughing immoderately for a space of three hours which was occasioned by her taking too much saffron".

The powder is made from the stigma in the centre of the flower and you need four thousand of these to grind into one ounce. I had no idea when I saw those lovely autumn crocuses that day just what a treasure I had found. I often wonder if they still grow in that woodland. Sadly I am no longer at liberty to wander that way so I shall never know.

# FOOD BANK

CEF faces a huge increase in demand for emergency food. CEF has fed 3,031 people in 2013 which is a 70% increase from the previous year. You may have read in the media that right across the UK the demand for emergency food is steeply rising. The reasons for the rise in the number of claimants are complex and it is not just because of welfare reform as is sometime alleged. In fact, in the unlikely event that the provision of welfare benefits was to be substantially increased, the need for charities like CEF would continue unabated because no government of any stripe could create a system of relief that caters for the many human dramas such as prison, gambling, drugs, desertion, gaps in benefit provision, sudden job loss, and unforeseen misfortune - that afflict families.

At the present we have a surfeit of tea and pasta in the warehouse. All other foodstuff we are happy to receive as long as it is within its sell by date.

Whatever the reasons for the huge increase in demand, CEF has to expand its operations to bring relief to the poor in Oxford just to stand still. This involves additional substantial resources in terms of volunteers, food and money. In essence support for CEF translates into direct aid for the poorest of the poor in Oxford.

Due to the increase in numbers of people coming to the food bank, we inevitably have to supplement the shortfall of food donated by purchasing food from a Cash and Carry. If you would like to donate by giving cash please write a cheque to C.E.F. and send it to C.E.F. PO Box 41 Woodstock OX20 1WN. If you were able to set up a standing order we would be happy to send you a form. Also if you are a UK tax payer we will ask you to complete a Gift Aid Form.

Jane Beynon

## **COWLEY PARISH OUT & ABOUT**

**Oxford – Abingdon  
Boat trip - May 2014  
*Sunday 17th or 24th tbc***

### **THE PLAN**

**meet at 12:00 for a picnic lunch and games on  
Christ Church Meadow**

**then a Salters cruiser trip to Abingdon**

**free time to walk, shop, visit the  
museum or just chill by the river**

**then bus or taxi back to Oxford**

**BOAT COST: adult £12:80, child £6:80**

# COWLEY PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

The PCC met on the 19<sup>th</sup> February 2014. The main items under discussion were:

**The 2013 Accounts:** These were presented in detail and, with some minor alterations, it was agreed that the Accounts should be put forward for inspection. Joan Coleman was thanked for the clear way she presented the accounts to the PCC, and for all the work entailed in preparing them.

**The PCC were delighted** that only £700 had been used from the reserves during 2013, but it appreciated that additional money would need to be raised during 2014 to ensure sufficient funds were available to meet increased costs. This would be discussed with the congregations later in the year.

**The 2014 Budget:** There was discussion on what should be included in the 2014 budget, and this will be prepared for further discussion at the PCC meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> March.

**Fabric work was required** in both churches. St James Church was looking into the refurbishment of the back of the church, and St Francis wanted to repaint the outside of the church and improve the kitchen.

**The PCC agreed** that 5% of the total Planned Giving in 2013 should be given, which amounted to £2,573.40. This will be put to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in April.

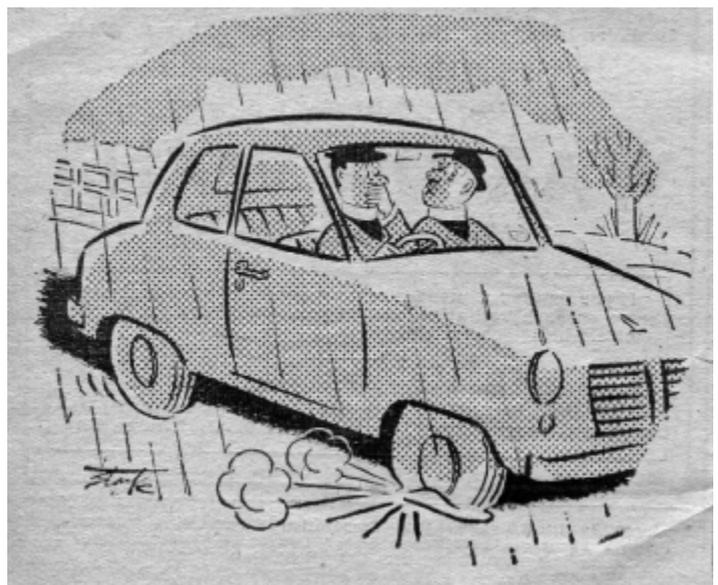
**Work is required** on the Bell Tower at St James Church: More information had been required by the DAC, but it was hoped that the Faculty would be granted shortly.

**There was discussion** on PCC and Committee dates during 2014, and it was agreed that all meetings should be held over a soup lunch on a Sunday. The new dates will be published shortly.

**A report is being prepared** for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on the activities of the different groups attached to the two churches, and this should be available in both churches before the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

**Nominations for Church Wardens and PCC members** are required to be put to the APCM, and notices have been put up in the churches, with nomination forms. In addition, please give thought to membership of the Church Committees which meet soon after the APCM meeting.

Sally Hemsworth



**WE HAVE NO CAPTION FOR THIS CARTOON!**

**A FIVE POUND PRIZE WILL BE GIVEN TO THE BEST CAPTION** (final decision by The Chronicle Team).

# NEWS FROM ST FRANCIS

We have been looking forward at St Francis as we made our plans for Lent and Easter. And we have been looking back at our recent All Age Services, how they went, and how people reacted.

We have been looking back even further and we recalled with thankfulness the life of our beloved Suzanne Withell who died recently. Her daughter thought that she may have notched up as much as 60 years of devoted service to our church. Her contribution in terms of giving, of planning, and very devout worship, was considerable, and we all owe her a great deal. Although her life was not easy, due to an accident she was widowed very early in her marriage, yet she retained no bitterness. She always came over as a very thoughtful and peaceable personality, who got on with everyone. She had a great love of nature, and

her garden in which she kept bees, was a joy to her. She involved herself

with the Guide movement and served as Brown Owl to the young Brownies, where she endeared herself to all concerned, and is remembered with affection. I do not think that we shall see her like again, and her loss to our church and community leaves a gap that will be hard to fill.

However, we have to move on and we are grateful to Skye and our church team for the fact that more families are being drawn into our congregation. This is good progress and something to value.

John Shreeve



## HOW IS YOUR LOCAL KNOWLEDGE?

Each month we are going to challenge our readers to identify a Cowley landmark. Our roving photographer, Les Hemsworth, will choose a local view to get you thinking.

Answer next month.

*Last month's answer:  
Bandstand, Florence Park*



# Rosanne interviews David Lord

In all the years (at least 30) that I have been interviewing people for our regular Chronicle articles I can honestly say I have never found a bee-keeper. That is until this month. To be honest, if I had not gone up to St Francis Church to visit their crib festival at Christmas, I would not have known that we have a bee-keeper on our doorstep. I bought some of his gorgeous honey (no, this is not going to turn into an advertisement) and I was completely hooked.

However, it was not until I sat by David and Lyn's cosy wood-burning stove the other evening that I also found out that he has had more hobbies – and still has – than anyone else I know. But about that later, let's meet this quiet man.

David is very much a local boy, born in East Oxford. He grew up in Bullingdon Road just round the corner from where Frank and I bought our first little home. David is sure that we would have seen him as a small boy pedalling his little red tricycle past our gate but I really do not remember that! He declares he had a lovely childhood with his loving parents and two older brothers packed into their small terraced house. He was not very keen on school, he just realised it was "necessary" as he loved learning things. He attributes the fact that he learnt to read quite

early on to bribery from his mum and a love of Enid Blyton adventure stories. He got along fine at East Oxford primary though because he was good at maths. He discovered early on that when it came to football he had "two left feet". As a consequence he was always placed in goal. Cricket was never his game; he found it far too slow.

His happy hunting grounds along with his big brothers and his schoolmates were the fields down Jackdaw Lane, between Iffley Road and the river. It was a place to play adventure games, make camps, light fires and enjoy those wonderful years of childhood freedom.

By the time he had reached secondary school, also at East Oxford, he would sometimes "bunk off" on a sunny day. However he did come into contact with a teacher from Sri Lanka who taught English. This gentleman also offered to teach the boys judo down at the University Sports Club in Iffley Road and David jumped at the chance. He did well reaching Blue Belt standard. I was just going to say that was hobby number one but I forgot to mention his passion for stamp collecting, shared with his dad, grand-dad and big brothers. He still has his prized stamps, by now a large collection.

At the age of eight he began to learn the cornet with Oxford Silver Band and although he only persevered with it for about three years he did learn to read music, a skill he really values. He also learnt to play the piano, had lessons for about three years and has kept his love of key-board instruments alive ever since. Tucked away behind the big armchair in which I sat on that stormy evening was a fine key-board. David plays quite often for pleasure. He even admitted that, while Lyn arranges flowers occasionally in St Francis Church he tinkers away on the beautiful little organ.

When he left school, he told me, there were plenty of jobs around for a youngster and he was lucky enough to have an uncle who worked in printing. He arranged an apprenticeship for David at the Holywell Press in Alfred Street. He carried on with his studies, on day release, in Reading. He travelled by train until, aged eighteen, he had saved up enough money to buy a second-hand Morris Minor. He loved working at Holywell Press, a small firm where everyone knew everyone else and he was given much support.

Of course the car gave him scope to wander farther afield and it was then that he took up darts over at The Star at

Stanton St John. Probably more importantly, he and his mates would drive over to the Bridge Hotel at Wheatley for their weekend disco nights. Obviously, these trips were to meet girls and that was how David met the love of his life, Lyn.

After learning the many technical skills in printing he left the small firm in Alfred Street to take up a managerial role in the very large establishment of Nuffield Press. He found the whole set up daunting at first dealing with a printing works run more like a busy factory. His technical knowledge by now was good so there he stayed for a long stint.

David and Lyn were married in June 1981 and moved into their first home in White Road, Cowley. They had lovely neighbours many with whom they keep in touch. In fact Lyn and Libby Chase (one of those neighbours) could be described as best friends. Two baby sons completed the Lord family in the eighties, James arriving in 1986 and William in 1988. Soon the family had outgrown their small home so a move to their home in Temple Road was arranged. It was about this time that Robert Maxwell lost his life and so Nuffield Press was under new management. The style was tough, efficient but not really David's style. However before long the firm downsized to a smaller factory

in Abingdon. This presented a new working life for him. It involved trips to Germany to acquire new machinery, also training his staff to use it.

His final move almost brought his working life to full circle as he moved, as production manager, to a small printing firm in Maidenhead. He told me, "It felt family". Then after 7 years he took early retirement.

That, however, does not draw a line over new ventures in the life of this man. Until recently he has been a keen, competitive sailor. He gave it up, though because as he explained it is "an all-day event". By the time you have reached the venue, set up your boat and clothing, raced and then the whole process in reverse that takes a whole day out of family life.

Not so with keeping bees. Fascinating little creatures, he was introduced to them by one of our former vicar's wife, Clare Tomlinson. After she and John left our parish Lyn and David kept up their friendship and on a visit to their home David made acquaintance with Clare's bees and was hooked. He now has five hives, shared with William and they produce some lovely honey.

But there is another new hobby taking shape as I write, namely the piano accordion. David is at the moment completely absorbed in the process of

learning the intricacies of his new instrument. Lyn is quite enigmatic about it all, though she does enjoy his sessions on the keyboard. Do you know I even got the impression that there are a lot more challenges out there and I describe them as challenges because David is not a man who does things by halves – as he said he is a man who loves to learn.

\*\*\*\*\*

How would you describe yourself as a small child?

Happy, competitive

Has your faith been with you since childhood?

I enjoyed going to Cowley Road Methodist Church with mum. Then I started Sunday school and I never liked that word "school". I think if I had been allowed to just go to services I would have kept going but I did not. I do believe there is something big out there which cannot be explained.

Is there anyone who has had a strong influence on your life?

One teacher, called Dr Johnson, taught at East Oxford Primary. His maths were far in advance of their time but he made them so simple. He even taught us the binary system early on.

Do you have a treasured possession?

I have got a little tin, full of childhood mementoes, things

like my proficiency badges and so on.

What is your opinion of modern society?

If people would give more thought to what they do they would probably consider the other person's point of view.

Which part of your adult life has given you the most satisfaction?

All of it.

If you could change something what would it be?

I would have liked to have stuck with my music more.

What plans do you have for the future?

I want to be here but we will have to wait and see. I would like my solar and electric panels to show decent returns.

## IT'S FAIR TRADE FORTNIGHT: February 24 – March 9 GO BANANAS

Over the past 10 years, the typical price of a banana in the UK has nearly halved, whilst the cost of production has doubled. Foncho thinks this is unfair. And so do we. He has travelled from his banana farm in Colombia to the UK for this Fairtrade Fortnight, to ask Vince Cable to investigate unfair supermarket pricing practices and act to protect the producers of the UK's favourite fruit.

Stick with him by signing our petition.

Dear Rt Hon Dr Vince Cable MP

Cheap bananas are threatening farmers' futures.

In the last 10 years, a bitter price war has seen the UK supermarket sector almost halve the price of loose bananas while the cost of producing them has doubled. This is trapping many of the farmers and workers who grow them in poverty.

This cannot continue. We call on you as Secretary of State for Business to urgently investigate the grave impact of unsustainable supermarket pricing practices and act to protect the millions of poor farmers and workers who grow the UK's favourite fruit.

Yours sincerely,

Albeiro Alfonso 'Foncho' Cantillo  
Colombian

banana farmer



## SIGNIFICANT DATES IN MARCH

Concorde made its maiden flight on March 2nd 1969. It flew out of Toulouse in France.

On March 7th, 1876 the first telephone received its patent. Alexander Graham Bell was its inventor.

Charles Cruft, the general manager of a dog biscuit firm decided to advertise his products in a spectacular way. He inaugurated Crufts Dog Show in London which was held on 10th March in 1886. Crufts is still going, stronger than ever.

In 1977 on March 12th Egyptian president Anwar Sadat said he would not allow a single inch of Arab land to stay under Israeli occupation.

Transport Secretary, Paul Channon, started the machine which began the boring of the Channel Tunnel at Dover on March 17th, 1989.

In 2004 on March 29th the Republic of Ireland became the first country in the world to ban smoking in all workplaces, including bars and restaurants.

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## News from St Christopher's

January and February seem to have flown by! We are still awaiting the start of our new build. We are looking forward to having a block of 4 new classrooms and group rooms, which will be built on our current KS2 playground. There will also be a new kitchen and servery so we will be able to cook and provide our own hot school meals at long last.

As from Feb 1st, we are now an Academy, part of the Oxfordshire Diocesan School Trust (ODST). There should not be any visible changes to the school, the staff and the daily routines of the children. The main difference is in the administration and it will provide us with opportunities to access support and development/training for the staff.

We now have a school Twitter account. Those of you who use Twitter may like to 'follow' the account on @StChrisNews. There will be regular tweets with updates on school events and information. This is a new venture for us, which was suggested by the Parents' Committee of the Governors, and hopefully a useful way of

spreading information and communicating with parents and friends of the school.

The children enjoyed their annual 'post-Christmas' treat of a visit by a theatre company with the pantomime, Sleeping Beauty. They were all encouraged to join in. Even our youngest children, who were experiencing live theatre for the first time, enjoyed booing the baddies and singing all the songs.

Quite a few of our children have taken part in sporting events with other local primary schools at Oxford Spires Academy. We entered the Cross-Country running event for the first time this year. The children really enjoyed the experience – maybe it was the fact that they got completely covered in mud! The year 2 gymnastics team was really successful and gained first place. The children all received some lovely certificates and their achievements were celebrated in assembly time.

Sheenagh Broadbent  
Deputy Headteacher  
St Christopher's Primary School

# Spring marches on!

I have got myself some new wellies! My old ones had no tread left and one had sprung a leak. So one step forward to the beginning of the gardening year.

I grew up with wellies, living on our family dairy farm. I am afraid it was mud but mainly cow muck in the yards even though they were cleaned daily. We had a huge vegetable garden to keep us supplied, which was my Mum's province. She passed on her love of gardening to me and all of my four siblings and three of us cultivate allotments now. The other two have large gardens and Jill even has a poly tunnel in hers! My Dad was also a keen gardener, once he retired, and never had time when he was farming, except the year my youngest sister was expected. He descended on the veg garden with tractor and plough, "to save Mum work", and made a right old mess of the lawn where he turned round! Mum was livid.

I have my seed potatoes chitting, eyes up, and I have put the shallot sets in modules to begin their growth because the ground is just too wet yet to start any sort of cultivation. The lawn at home, never a monoculture of grass, has a significant covering of moss due to the heavy rainfall. I am so glad that we live up on the hill. I dread to think what the allotment holders off the Botley Road see on their plots once the floods have receded. They also had water pumped onto the site to keep the road open. I should think that any winter crop or perennial fruit bush or tree would have died. It must be heart-breaking.

We have been harvesting parsnips, flat-leaf parsley, leeks and turnips on our allotment over the winter and the purple sprouting broccoli is

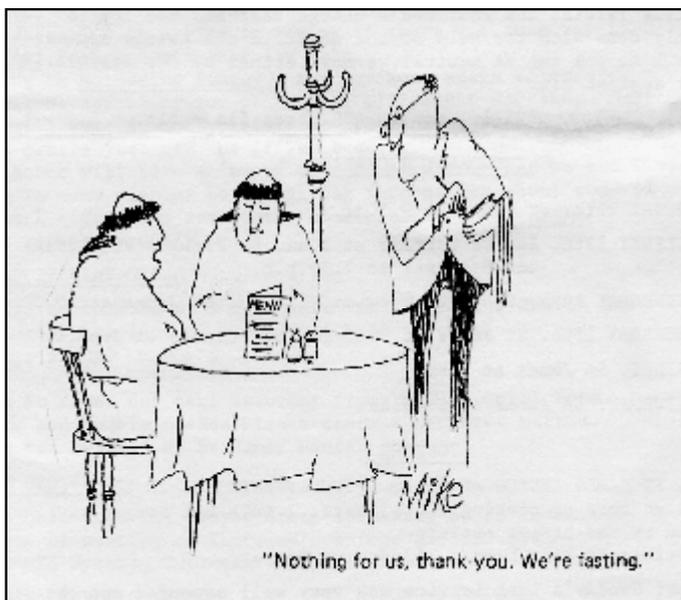
now cropping. We have just finished our stored onions and shallots but we still have quite a few potatoes.

I will be going through my seeds, ordered and received before Christmas, to decide what to get started in the small electric propagator. Time marches on and I have to be ready for the Plant Sale on 17th May.

The greenhouse has been cleaned out and new panes put in where the glass was broken in the gales, and so is ready to go.

In the garden I have been doing some tidying, when my back allows, and am thinking about remodelling one section where a *Garrya elliptica* has gone mad. Loved for its long tassels in January, it is too big and I didn't get much of a show this year. After bird nesting time, I shall get my son, Tom the tree surgeon, to get rid of it as well as other shrubs and a self-sown hawthorn. I would like more roses, perhaps a fruit tree, some clematis. I will let you know about progress.

Joan Coleman



Gala Concert and Champagne Buffet

# Cowley Times

Celebration Edition

5 April 2014

## Concert to Celebrate Brian Tidy - 60 years organist

Brian Tidy has been organist for 60 years at St James Church in Cowley.

He is our king of the keyboard, professor of the pipes and master of music. Brian began as organist at St James Church April 1, 1954.



In 60 years Brian has played more than 3,000 church services and 400 weddings.

*Piano à Deux* ("Britain's Got Talent 2012") will perform at a gala evening celebration honouring Brian at St James, Beauchamp Lane in Cowley.

**Saturday 5 April**

- 5:30 Champagne Buffet
- 7:00 Concert with *Piano à Deux*

**Tickets just £10**

**Call 01865 747 680**

**Sunday 6 April**

**5:00 pm**

**Songs of Praise  
Service**

**St James Church  
Beauchamp Lane**

**St James Church, Beauchamp Lane**

# FROM THE ARCHIVES

Extracts from The Cowley Chronicle, July 1973.

## COWLEY RESIDENTS DECIDE TO FORM ACTION GROUPS

Cowley's grass roots are stirring. Last month two local residents' associations were started, one at Temple Cowley, the other based on the Wood Farm ward. Temple Cowley's 55-member Association grew out of a meeting called last year to oppose a plan to build a block of flats in Crescent Road, and the threat of speculating builders continues to occupy its attention.

Traffic is another problem of the area. Several firms have moved into Crescent Road, increasing the number of vehicles using, and parked in, the road, which is scheduled as a residential area. The Association feels that everything possible should be done to control traffic in the area, especially taking into account the concentration of schools there – Edmund Campion, the two St Christopher's schools, and Temple Cowley. Three children have been knocked down in Temple Road recently.

But as well as the particular issues already recognised, the Association's committee is sure that there are many other ways in which the area could be improved, and that there are people with ideas who feel powerless to put them forward, but who could be encouraged by an Association which would help them to do so.

The "Wood Farm Area Action Group" is faced with different problems, but as at Temple Cowley, Mrs Colleen Gorman, who called the group's first meeting is sure that it is not so much a case of people lacking ideas as lacking the confidence to promote them. The big

new council building project at Slade Park presents the local community the chance to be involved in its planning from the start, and a first priority, the group thinks, is the provision of a community centre – "followed by a park and swimming pool."

Mrs Gorman is particularly concerned that there should be close liaison between planners and councillors, and that there should be a forum for planners, councillors, and local residents to discuss amenities in the ward, and to encourage real local participation in council decisions.

Both the Temple Cowley Residents' Association and the Wood Farm Action Group have the support of local councillors and are, of course, non-political. The Chairman of the Temple Cowley Association is Mrs E. Green, 11 Crescent Road, and of the Wood Farm group, Mrs C Gorman, 18 Dene Road.

*KFA Moves KFA Moves KFA Moves KFA Moves*

### **Dance Based Keep Fit Class with Barbara**

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Wednesdays 10.30 – 11.45 am

Improve your energy levels, muscle tone and flexibility  
Come and enjoy the friendly, fun atmosphere

This class most suited to active 50+

Please bring a mat/towel

**First class ½ price**

### **Dance Based Fitness Class, Lean Machine, Cowley – Tuesdays 7.30-8.45pm**

For further details of both classes phone Barbara  
07752626642

KFA Fitness through movement, dance and exercise  
[www.keepfit.org.uk](http://www.keepfit.org.uk)

# PARISH OF COWLEY ELECTORAL ROLL

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

The formal notice (form SG2) about the revision of the roll was posted on Sunday 2 February 2014, two months before the annual Parish meeting on Sunday 6 April, in both churches and the Church Centre.

If you enrol on the Parish Electoral Roll, you become a voting member of the Church of England and so help to ensure that the PCC, Cowley Deanery Synod, the Oxford Diocesan Synod and the General Synod are fully representative of the Church's members.

If you have newly arrived with us during the past twelve months – or, for whatever reason, you missed enrolling last year - and wish to make this statement of belonging, please take an electoral roll form from the table behind the main door (St James), in the lobby (St Francis) or contact Lesley Williams, Electoral Roll Officer. Return the form to the labelled box or direct to Lesley

Williams at church or posted to 9 Wykeham Crescent, OX4 3SD by Sunday 2 March

The revised roll will be displayed from Sunday 9 March (*correction from last month's Chronicle*) for you to check and any amendments may be made up to the time of the APCM

but no new names may be added until the end of that meeting.

Questions about the process should be addressed to Lesley, Howard or Skye.

We will soon also be seeking nominations for Church Wardens, Deanery Synod representatives and Parochial Church Council members, all of whom will be elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

## ST JAMES OLD SCHOOL

The visioning meeting to be led by Sir Christopher Ball, announced as Saturday 22 March, is to be deferred, as Howard will be away that day.

Watch LINK for an announcement of the new date

In the meantime, please pray for guidance that we find the vision and for local people to come forward to support the project.

If you or anyone else you know is interested, be ready to sign a list and watch this space next month for more details.



Would you love to lose weight, be supported by a warm welcoming group and be part of something amazing?

Come and join us and make your weight loss dreams come true!

Cowley Slimming World  
St James Church Centre  
Beauchamp Lane

Monday nights 5pm and 7pm Sessions

Call Rachel on 749852 or 07764844994

## CHRISTIAN AID - SUPER SOUP LUNCH GO OVER THE EDGE LIVE BELOW THE LINE

A Christian Aid Super Soup lunch will be held prior to the Parish (APCM) Meeting on Sunday 6 April. All are welcome, whether staying for the meeting or not. You will be asked to sign up in advance to help with catering and make a suggested donation of £5 to Christian Aid on the day.

Those who like physical challenges could 'go over the edge' and abseil from the tower of St Mary Magdalen Church, Magdalen Street, Oxford, OX1 3AE on Saturday 8 March. Abseils will be running all day with individuals given their own time slot. It costs £15 to register and you are asked to raise a minimum sponsorship of £60. You have to be 11 years old to take part but there's no upper age limit!. Register on line at [christianaid.org.uk/abseil](http://christianaid.org.uk/abseil) or call 01865 246 818 or email [sclay@christian-aid.org](mailto:sclay@christian-aid.org). Lesley Williams couldn't resist the chance to get her annual abseil 'fix' and has signed up again. She will be paying for the pleasure but you

can sponsor her if you wish: [www.justgiving.com/Lesley-Williams-Oxford](http://www.justgiving.com/Lesley-Williams-Oxford)

'Live below the line' is back, with the challenge of eating on less than £1 a day for 5 days. It is really an awareness raising exercise but can also be sponsored with one of the charities involved being Christian Aid. This year, it is not necessarily a set week so the challenge can be accepted at any time during April/May/June.

Lesley Williams is definitely committing to another go, although probably making up her own rules again, and would be glad to hear from anyone else who will do so. Maybe we could undertake it during Christian Aid Week, May 11-17 – collecting door to door for world poverty projects when hungry oneself would have any extra significance.

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**One sunny spring morning at the end of the Sunday service the vicar decided to take a walk and see who was out and about instead of coming to church. She found a teenager sitting on a seat in the park. “You weren’t at church today, Michael,” he said “why was that?” “Oh, it was such a lovely day I didn’t want to be cooped up in a church came the reply. “Now, Michael, don’t you want to go to heaven?” “No, I don’t.” “Well, I’m ashamed of you”, replied the vicar. “Oh, sorry vicar, I thought you meant right now”, said the boy.**

# Church @ the Centre

For almost 3 years we have been offering an alternate service several times a month at 10:00 am in the St James Church Centre. We called it "Church @ the Centre" because it was held in the Church Centre, but also, and perhaps even more importantly in my mind because we want to make Church at the Centre of our lives. The Church in this sense refers, not to the institution, or the authoritarian leadership, nor to a building (however lovely it may be) but, to the *ecclesia* or the gathered people of God.

Church @ the Centre was and is, a gathering of God's people, of any age, or education, or ethnic background, who want to know and be known by the Word of God, who want to celebrate being a part of the body of Christ, who desire to enter into worship that is empowered by the Holy Spirit, in a way that speaks into the lives of people as they live them today. C@tC was designed to help us to fulfil our vision of our Church, "To live out God's purposes for us, to make Christ known in Cowley and to raise up a new generation to love and serve The Lord."

Those who have been leading Church @ the Centre met before Christmas and again in the New Year to think and pray about the future. Putting on an extra Sunday morning service was having a toll. So we decided that we would begin to meet once a month at 4:30 in the

afternoon in the Church. The emphasis is on coming together as God's people, listening to God's word, encouraging one another and entering into worship that will allow the Holy Spirit to be present in our lives. The service style is very informal, the worship songs speak to today's lifestyle and difficulties, and allows ministry to take place. We meet again on 16 March at 4:30 in the St James Church for those who seek to make our gathering "Church @ the Centre" of our lives. Please do come.



**SPRING CLEAN 2014**  
Saturday 8 March

## Come & Join Us!

### FRIENDS OF LYE VALLEY

is organising a

## TWO-HOUR LITTER PICK

time

12:00 – 14:00

date

8 March 2014

place

MEET at the top of the footpath off The Slade. We will work south along Lye Brook, meeting Lye Valley Residents Association, who are working north from the other end, for a photo shoot and group hug. Bring gloves and wear wellies, as it may be muddy.

please contact

Terry 07816 853098 or Keith 07855 426060









# SAINT OF THE MONTH—St Catherine of Bologna

This saint Catherine is not to be confused with the Catherine who died a terrible death of torture by a chariot wheel. This Catherine was born a privileged child, daughter of a local justice, and educated to a high level as rich young medieval children were. She shared her lessons, mainly in Latin and the art of illuminating, with the daughter of a Marquise of the area. She grew up to be a beautiful girl, highly talented in art, and could have married the prince of nearby Rimini. Instead she dedicated her life to God taking on the full vows of a religious life.

After her father's death she joined an order of nuns in Ferrara and for five years lived a life of deprivation. She also went through agonies of uncertainty about the future of the order. Meanwhile she worked as the convent's baker for several years then became the mistress of the novices. She was an inspired writer and wrote a treatise to aid in their training. At this time in her life she had visions of the Virgin Mary who on at least one occasion offered her the Christ Child to caress.

Her order was inspired by the work of St Clare (a childhood friend of St Francis) and her "poor Claires" as her sisters were called. Catherine's order in Bologna flourished and grew gaining great reputation for their work in helping the poor. The overwhelming attraction of Catherine was her gentleness and kindness.

She kept the stories of her visions very private, instead preaching a message of love!

By the time she was fifty her health began to fail mainly due to the stringently strict life-style she had been devoted to. She knew she was dying but she preached a wonderful sermon to her community in which she said that love was the most important thing in life. "It is impossible to please God without it, bear each other's burdens, forgive any wrongs committed, enduring with inexhaustible patience whatever results from differences of temperament" was her final message.

She died on 9th March 1463 and it was said that after death she looked as beautiful as she had at fifteen. After her burial it was also said that miracles happened to those who made pilgrimages to her grave. She was exhumed and her body moved to the convent chapel at Bologna. All through her life she had found comfort in her painting and her many minatures are still preserved in the convent where she spent much of her life. Two of her larger paintings are housed in Italian museums, one in Bologna and one in Venice. She is one of the patron saints of artists (along with Fra Angelico) and her saints day is on 9th March, the day on which she died.

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## A Book for Lent?

Many people (including me) like to have a special book to read during Lent. One that sticks in my mind from the past is TV cook Delia Smith's Feast for Lent, which I believe is still around 30 years later! There is an enormous range available today – either through searching the internet, newspapers, or looking in a bookshop such as St Andrews Bookshop, or Blackwells in Oxford, that has a special display of Lent books which you can browse to help you choose.

Here are a few titles, all modestly priced at less than a tenner for several weeks' reading! Two by Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Chelmsford, formerly Bishop of Reading, are *The Nail*, in which you hold in your hand a nail that was used to crucify Christ, a deeply moving and personal journey through the Passion story; and *The Things He Carried*, a journey to the Cross, Meditations for Lent & Holy Week.

Then the present Bishop of Oxford John Pritchard is one of the contributors to *Reflections for Lent 2014*, with a short bible passage and a collect for each day. Another new Lent book is *Looking through the Cross* by Graham Tomlin, which is the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book 2014, and considers how life appears when viewed through the cross of Christ.

Then what about a new BRF Lent book *Welcoming the Way of the Cross* by Barbara Mosse on how creating space for rest and renewal can be part of a Lenten discipline, making space to be open to God, to ourselves and to each other? I think this may be my choice for this year, but do explore what is available and choose a book for Lent 2014 which is right for you.

Tony Beetham

## St James Café

We had another successful cafe in February.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us for the last two months, but we still need your help, we need you to spread the word and tell all your friends and neighbours. Please put the last Saturday of the month, 10 – 1 pm, in your diary and come along and enjoy the refreshments and company.

In addition to refreshments, we have lots of different stalls from cakes, jewellery, books and cards. There are a few tables left if anyone would like to book a table. They are £5 each. Please contact the Parish Office on 01865 747680.

Any profits we make are going into the fund for the refurbishment of the vestry at St James Church.

Vicky Hall

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## CHRONICLE

Editorial Team- Rosanne Butler, Sally Hemsworth, May Morgan, Nicki Stevens

Deadline for the February edition:

Wednesday 26 March 2014

If possible, please send entries by email to Sally at [chronicle@cowleyteamministry.co.uk](mailto:chronicle@cowleyteamministry.co.uk)

The Editorial Committee in no way accepts responsibility for goods or services supplied by our advertisers.

# Bellringing News

On the 15th February we hosted a Saturday afternoon practice with ringers from Iffley and Marston attending. These practices are always a wonderful opportunity to ring something a bit more challenging. Roy, the tower captain at Marston, showed us some new exercises to assist with our bell handling skills, and all of us had the opportunity to push ourselves out of our comfort zones with the assistance of the experienced ringers. We were also invited to join the Garsington ringers on their practice night. Three of us from Cowley attended, and it was lovely to meet the Garsington ringers, who were very welcoming. One of the pleasures of visiting other towers is discovering how different each set of bells are. We were all extremely challenged by the Garsington bells, which have a long draught. This means that the distance between the ringer and the bell is especially large, and requires very precise bell control. If you don't pull your rope completely straight, there is a lot of rope to wave alarmingly around in the bell tower. At the start of the evening, we were fairly nervous, but by

the end had relaxed and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. I also attended a practice at Kidlington, which has eight bells, and the heaviest in the Oxford branch, which was very good experience for me.

We haven't had enough ringers to ring for the last two Sunday services, but hope to be back up to full strength soon. Roy, our learner is progressing very well and we hope to welcome him to Sunday ringing in the not too distant future. It was with great sadness however, that we had to say goodbye to Margaret Weller, who has been ringing at Cowley since the band started up again. We will miss her a lot, and hope she will pop in to see us from time to time.

Please feel free to come and see us at a practice night. If you think you might like to learn to ring, or if you are just curious about what we do we would love to see you on a Thursday 7.30 – 9pm.

Lindsay Powell

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## FILLING STATION' MEETING/LOCAL HOUSE OF PRAYER

The wet and windy evening of Wednesday, 12th February saw 10 of us from St James' venture out from the street lights of Cowley into the dark lanes of Stanford in the Vale. After negotiating an alternative route as the A420 was closed (due to a fatal accident we learnt later) we searched out the village hall only to be told that because of such high numbers of people turning out on this grim night, the meeting had been switched to the church. We eventually found the new venue and squeezed into an already packed building. The air of excitement was tangible! People were everywhere and we eventually found ourselves seated on hastily found chairs crammed up against the altar, but we were the lucky ones as many others had standing room only and stood at the back for the entire length of the meeting.

The reason why so many faithful prayers and intercessors had turned out on a filthy evening to the monthly 'Filling Station' meeting ([www.thefillingstation.org.uk/category/stanford](http://www.thefillingstation.org.uk/category/stanford)) was to hear Roy Godwin speak. Roy and his wife Daphne can be found in Pembroke at the Christian retreat centre called Ffayld-y-Brenin (look at [www.anglicanrenewalministries-wales.org.uk/main/magazine/issue33/RGodwin.htm](http://www.anglicanrenewalministries-wales.org.uk/main/magazine/issue33/RGodwin.htm)) and Roy has written a fantastic book 'Grace Outpouring'.

The meeting started with worship and everyone joined in with great enthusiasm. There was a deep sense of hunger for the presence of God and then Roy started to speak, expressing his excitement about King Jesus and asking us all to continue worshipping by singing 'O come let us adore Him'. Roy then explained his vision and

experiences of the Kingdom of God breaking into local communities as ordinary people have personal encounters with Jesus and spontaneous, unexpected healings take place. One of his many stories was of a church where a service was taking place and Jesus was being exalted and suddenly the road outside became very busy with traffic. Eventually one of the worshipers went outside to investigate the sudden increase in noise to discover that someone driving past the church had suddenly been healed, news of this quickly spread and more and more people came with all their various ailments, all to find themselves healed!

Roy and Daphne have discovered a prayer movement they call 'Local House of Prayer' (LHoP) which has spread rapidly all across this nation and around the world. Small groups of people pray for their communities that the dynamic rule of God might break out in the locality, setting people free and bless their communities in the name of Jesus.

All too soon the evening came to an end. Roy prayed for various conditions that healing might occur and then prayed for each one of us present (probably about 300 people) that we would each become dis-satisfied with our average type of life but have the vision and tenacity to passionately love the Lord Jesus and to seek after and hang onto Him.

If you would like to be involved in a LHoP, a small group of us meet every Thursday evening in church for an hour to pray along Roy's guidelines. We'd love to have you join us! 7.30 - 8.30.

Jill Ling

# SUNDAY SERVICES

## ST JAMES CHURCH, BEAUCHAMP LANE

8.00am	Holy Communion
10.00am	Sung Eucharist
Every 3rd Sunday at 4.30pm ( <i>in church</i> )	Church at the Centre
Every third Sunday	Sunday Lunch

## ST FRANCIS CHURCH, HOLLOW WAY

10.30am	Parish Eucharist
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## MID-WEEK SERVICES & MEETINGS

Monday	8.30am	Morning Prayer—St James
	10.00-11.30am	Little Stars Playgroup— St Francis
	2.30pm	Parish Mothers' Union— St James (3rd Monday)
Tuesday	8.30am	Morning Prayer—St Francis
	10.00am	Seashells Toddler Group— St James
	12.00pm	Eucharist—St James
	12.30pm	Tuesday Lunch Club— St James
Wednesday	8.30am	Morning Prayer—St James
	7.30pm (alt wks)	Women's Group—St James
Thursday	8.30am	Morning Prayer—St Francis
	7.00pm	Cowley Parish Healing Service St Francis (1st Thursday)
Friday	2.00pm	Bingo—St James
Saturday	10.00am-12pm	Coffee Morning, St Francis (2nd Saturday)

## HOME GROUPS

Leader	Time/Venue
Skye Denno	1st Monday of month, 7.30pm at Skye's home
Connie Uren	Alternate Tuesday afternoons at 2.30pm St James Church Centre, Ranklin Room
Friends of St Francis (John Shreeve/ Skye Denno)	2nd & 4th Tuesday afternoons at 2.30pm St Francis Church
Mark Oxbrow	Alternate Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm Mark's home
Rosanne Butler	Alternate Thursday mornings at 10.00am St James Church Centre, Ranklin Room
Helen Beetham	Alternate Friday mornings at 10am

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, and is open most office hours.

Contact details: Tel: 01865 747680  
Email: [office@cowleyteamministry.co.uk](mailto:office@cowleyteamministry.co.uk)  
Out of hours tel: 07501 908378  
Website: [www.cowleyteamministry.co.uk](http://www.cowleyteamministry.co.uk)

### Team Rector:

Revd Howard Thornton  
Howard has Friday as his day off

### Team Vicar:

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

### Associate Priest

Revd Richard Chand  
01865 701948  
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### Non-stipendiary Ministers

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01865 461953  
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Revd Dr Amanda Bloor  
Tel: 01865 208221

Revd Gordon Hickson  
Tel: 07713 688079

Revd Tony Beetham  
Tel: 01865 770923  
Email: [tonybeetham1@supanet.com](mailto:tonybeetham1@supanet.com)

### Churchwardens:

David Stanley Tel: 776602  
Norah Shallow Tel: 765199

Deputy Wardens  
Margaret Martin Tel: 718532  
John Shreeve Tel: 717987

### St James Church Centre Manager:

Chris Woodman Tel: 778078

### Hall Bookings:

Church Centre: Pat Sansom Tel: 778516  
St Francis Church/St James Church:  
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