

# Dear Friends...

A few days ago, in a small French provincial town, a 14 year old school girl was on her way home from school. She was weighed down with two heavy bags, one full of sports equipment and in the other her school books. At the bus stop she and two other Muslim girls stood slightly apart from the others, joking and laughing. It was only after they had jumped on the bus that she realised she had left one of her bags, the one with her books in, outside the shop by the bus stop. Jumping off the bus at the next stop she ran quickly back to recover her bag only to find the street closed off by armed police. A man standing there told her a bomb disposal team had been called. It appeared, he said, that a terrorist had left a package outside a shop and the whole area had been evacuated. Slowly it dawned on this young girl that she was the terrorist and her school books, the bomb!

What has happened to our society that we are so frightened of a school bag? What made the shop keeper describe this young Muslim girl to the police as a 'terrorist'? Why did most of the school pupils stand apart from their three Muslim class mates at the bus stop? The terrorist threat is real, but how do we deal with it? We learnt last month that a whole new fleet of anti-terrorist helicopters are to be based at Benson. In France numerous buildings now have permanent armed guards. Is this the answer?

Terrorists are not new. There were terrorists in Palestine when Jesus taught there. In fact at least one of his disciples was recruited from a semi-terrorist group, the Zealots. In his ministry Jesus faced violent opposition. On one occasion a whole crowd tried to stone him to death. In the end Jesus died a violent death, not at the hands of terrorists but at the hands of leaders who feared those they called 'rebels' or 'terrorists', the political and religious rulers.

In December I was privileged to attend a meeting at the United Nations headquarters in New York which was addressed by Miroslav Volf, a Croatian Christian theologian who lived through the Balkan wars of the 1990s. In his challenging address he made the point that it is extremely unlikely that we will ever reach a point where all human beings believe the same things or want the same things. It is part of being human to be different. In fact that is part of the richness of being human, we are part of an amazing tapestry of humanity – black, brown and white; Muslim, Buddhist, Christian and secular; pessimists and optimists; conservatives and radicals; those that enjoy classical music and those who hate it; even those who want women bishops and those who think it is evil!

Having pointed out how different we all are Miroslav went on to say something surprising. He said, "Jesus never told us

# Chronicle

February  
2015

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to make our enemies our friends, he just told us to love our enemies." Jesus was a realist, he knew that we will always have enemies, or at least those we find it difficult to get on with. That's just life. But the challenge is to "love our enemies", to "do good to those who persecute you". Jesus did not quite say, "when men draw cartoons and ridicule your faith, reach out to them and love them" but he might have said that last month. Personally I was very moved to see so many Muslim people in France holding up signs saying "Je suis Charlie" – reaching out to the very people who had insulted their prophet. How

wonderful it would have been to see the headline "Je suis Muslim" on the next edition of Charlie Hebdo ... instead of another insulting cartoon of the prophet.

"Love your enemies, do good to those who persecute you", that sounds like an interesting anti-terrorist policy, and I guess it might, in the long run, be much more effective than helicopters and armed police. Trust Jesus to come up with a good idea ... but why do we not take Him seriously?

Mark

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## Editor's Letter

Dear Readers

2015 and lots to look forward to! "Such as?" I can hear you saying. Well, there is hopefully a new rector for the parish (Hooray), there's a General Election (ugh), there's a new royal baby (nice) and then there's the centenary of the Women's Institute (see later in The Chronicle), the seventieth anniversary of VE Day (which will not go unnoticed) and also all the parish plans which seem to get more and more as times goes by. I recall when the highlights of the Parish were our summer fêtes and the big joint Christmas party for the three churches held in the old Parish Hall. Do any of you have memories of these? It might be fun to print some of them in the coming issues of The Chronicle.

So what's coming up for us? There are our Snowdrop Weekends, which are almost upon us, we have a super-sized Flower Festival with an art and craft exhibition in the summer and of course, next year's Christmas Tree Festival. Now that we

know that the theme is going to be "The Twelve Days of Christmas" for the latter it gives us plenty of time to start collecting artificial pears, swans, geese, cows (for the milking maids) to say nothing of a partridge to sit on the top. By the way, I wonder if our talented knitters are going to actually knit eight little cows for instance?!

While we are on the subject of the Tree Festival isn't it great that we were able to donate so much to the two charities, Seesaw and Rosy. If you contributed cash at any of the events thank you. You must be so pleased that your cash has gone to such good causes.

I was hoping to report on Florence Park Community Centre's pantomime for you, as I did suggest that we could support them in last month's magazine. However, when I tried to get tickets for the show a week or so ago I was disappointed to hear they had completely sold out. Disappointing for me but

great news for them. I am hoping to get a review of the actual show soon.

Going back to the news of our art and craft exhibition I am helping Margaret Martin to set it all up and I shall soon be looking for all kinds of painting, photography, needlework, craftwork, etc, produced by our talented parishioners. Please let me know if you would be prepared to lend any of your work to put on show. I promise that the exhibition (in the Church Centre) will be stewarded at all times so there will be no risk of losing anything.

Calling all our readers who enjoy a quiz evening! We have one coming up on 20th February run by the Mothers' Union. The refreshments comprise of gorgeous puddings along with coffee, tea and soft drinks and there is always a raffle. Christian Aid will also soon be asking us to organise a quiz for their excellent cause. No date has yet been fixed for that so we will let you know as soon as possible.

Do you love rummaging through a bric-a-brac stall for bargains? Well, May Morgan now runs a stall on each last Saturday of the month at the St James Café mornings. She had some excellent stuff last

month so you might find just what you have been needing for ages on February 28th or even stuff you did not even know you wanted! Besides which the café serves superb cakes. Blow the post-Christmas diet?

With spring just around the corner it will soon be time to take cuttings in the garden and pot them up ready for our big Plant Sale. Planting seeds to sell as seedlings is also a good idea. Our our ghardworking parish treasurer, Joan Coleman, who writes reat gardening articles for the Chronicle, will soon be letting us know which Saturday to put in our new diaries for the sale. She has been organising it for about five years now, getting us to try out all sorts of different plants in our gardens and raising funds to keep our parish funds ticking over.

So you see, readers, 2015 is going to be a really action packed year!

Looking forward to sharing some of the fun with you (there's hardly time to get away on holiday, is there?)

God Bless  
Rosanne

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## BINGO

Why not join us for a game of Bingo on Friday afternoon in the St James Church Centre.

Join a friendly group to spend 2 hours playing. There is a nice cup of tea, a raffle and time for a chat at half time.

We start at 2 pm and finish at 4 pm. Please give us a try.

If you would like more information please contact me.

May Morgan



## HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR CHURCHES

*In this new series of photographs by Les Hemsworth we hope to reveal little gems of detail in the different architectural aspects of our churches. We hope our readers might find these images interesting and look for the real thing when next in church.*

*This month's picture is of the central inverted boss on the organ at St James Church (above where Brian sits)*



*Last month's answer:*

*Old Manor House Entrance Oxford Road*

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## A CHILD'S PRAYER

Lord, make us glad for every day  
For all the fun that comes our way  
For work and games and trees and flowers  
And wind and sunshine, snow and showers

For houses and the busy street  
For family and friends we meet  
For everything we see and do  
Is good – because it comes from you

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## Godspell — at the New Theatre, Friday 5 June 2015

Following the critically acclaimed sell-out success in London's West End, the show is returning to the UK in a one-of-a-kind production, with a brand new, modern day rock score that features Light of the World, All Good Gifts and Day by Day.

This timeless tale of friendship, loyalty and love has touched the hearts of countless theatregoers all over the world - now you can join in the celebration as a spectacular ensemble stirs your soul, raises your spirit and lifts you right out of your seat.

If you would like to join a theatre group to see this wonderful show (do you remember when we produced it in the Parish Hall?) watch out for the sign-up sheet or contact Lesley Williams 01865 779 562 [lesleyjwilliams@btinternet.com](mailto:lesleyjwilliams@btinternet.com).

## HELPING MUM

Hey, Mum I love it when it's Saturday  
And I'm at home with you.  
I always like to help you 'cause  
You've such a lot to do

I could help you peel the spuds mum  
Hey Mum what did you say  
I know I dropped the bowl mum  
But the cat got in the way

I like to help you with your jobs mum  
I could do the washing up  
I know I dropped the teapot  
And broke the blinking cup

Mum can I have a biscuit  
Mum why don't you listen to me  
That's all you wanna do mum  
Is sit and drink your tea

I've got a good idea mum  
When all your work is done  
We could go down to the park mum  
And have a lot of fun

Mum do you remember  
Didn't them men shout  
When I took that little ball mum  
And chucked it all about

Well how on earth did I know  
That it was called a Jack  
If I had known mum  
I would have chucked it back

I promise if you take me  
I won't do that again  
Oh Mum look out of the window  
It's coming on to rain

Hey mum will you make some cakes  
And let me lick the bowl  
Oh Mum I've touched your washing  
And my hands are as black as coal

I love it when it's Saturday  
You love me don't you mum  
Only why do you always say  
I wish Monday would hurry up and come

I know your getting cross now  
Your face is oh so stern  
Oh mum I didn't mean to  
I just gave the knob a turn

I only turned it once mum  
It points to heavy soil  
Will it really matter  
If your woollies start to boil

Mum can I have a biscuit  
Or perhaps a drink instead  
Oh I know the answer  
Shut up or go to bed

Maida Simmonds

*KFA Moves KFA Moves KFA Moves KFA Moves*

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

St Francis of Assisi Church  
Hollow Way, Cowley, Oxford OX3 7JP  
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)

## FLOWER OF THE MONTH—PRIMROSE

With our winters becoming milder by the end of February pretty little wild primroses will be showing through the leaf litter in woodlands and hedgerows. The name comes from *prima rosa* “the first rose”, and has close connections to spring and all it stands for. The name is also associated with the Latin word *primavera* (spring) and the “primrose paths” of our youth. The first encounters with romance were called the primrose years by Victorians possibly because the pale yellow wild flowers peep shyly between their leaf rosettes, just as a demure young girl, in our great grandmothers’ days would be expected to meet her beau.

*Primula vulgaris* (as is its Latin name) was described by John Ruskin as similar to new-born, yellow ducklings hiding behind their mother duck.

As pointed out by Charles Darwin in 1861 there are two types of flower, pin-eyed and thrum-eyed. The pin-eyed has its stigma standing above the stamens at its heart, the thrum-eyed has its stamens at the base of the petals. This is nature’s clever way of ensuring cross pollenisation as the insect passes by into the centre of the flower.

Of course the brightly coloured primulas which are so popular in our spring gardens are close relations of our native species. These came from China where they have been hybridized for so long that their wild specimens have become extinct. Others were collected from the Alps. By the nineteenth century florist societies of specialised breeders met all over England to display and discuss their new hybridisation specimens. The winners of these competitions

would achieve fame and fortune in the horticultural world. There were rigid rules about the velvety texture of the petals, the distinct colouring, no pin-eyes, far removed from the wild little woodland flower.

Going back to the pin-eyed flower, it was Darwin himself who noticed and remarked on how they were prized by the village children he met as they could be strung together to make a chain necklace, rather like a daisy chain. I find this story of the great man quite endearing because he did not just observe the great evidences of evolution but had time to watch children around him.

Bunches of primroses always bring Easter Day to mind for me. As a small child living in the Oxfordshire countryside we village children would gather them on each Good Friday to place around the foot of the font in church. The paste-pots they were arranged in would be carefully tucked into deep moss. The delicate perfume stays with me today



# DIARY DATES TO REMEMBER

## Mothers' Union

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

St James Church Centre

## Women's Institute

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

St James Church Centre

## St James Café at St James Church Centre

10am—1pm

The last Saturday of each month

Next open on Saturday 28 February 2015

## Coffee, Cake and Communion

Monthly meeting on 3rd Tuesday of month  
from 10.30 a.m.

With Rev Skye at the Vicarage, 27 Don Bosco Close  
(Tel: 434160)

## PCC Meeting—Section 12 Meeting

Friday 6 February 2015, at 6.30pm

St James Church Centre

## Snowdrop Weekends at St James

7/8 and 14/15 February

Saturdays, from 10.30 until 3.30pm

Sundays, from 2-4pm

## St Francis Church Committee

Sunday, 8 February 2015, at 12.15pm St Francis  
Church

## Film Club

Friday, 13 February 2015 -

“On Golden Pond”

St James Church Centre,

commencing at 6.30pm with coffee and cake

## St James Church Committee

Sunday, 18 January 2015, at 12.15pm St James  
Church Centre

## Cowley Local History Society

8pm at United Reformed Church, Temple Road

Tuesday, 17 February 2015

The Search for Oxford's Medieval Wall [An odyssey  
in pictures of the city's past]

An illustrated Talk By Roger Gelder and George Ross

## Mothers' Union Quiz and Puddings Evening

Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> February 2015 pm at 7 pm

St James Church Centre

## PCC Meeting

Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2015, at 12.15 pm St Francis  
Church

## PCC Meeting

Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2015, at 12.15 pm at St James  
Church Centre

## Cowley Festival of Christmas Trees 2015 - First planning meeting

Friday, 22 May 2015, 09.45 am in the Ranklin Room,  
St James Church Centre

*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.

# News from the North!

Greetings to you all in Cowley at St James! Sally has asked me to update you with how life is going up in Durham. The northern cold weather is certainly settling in now, but what a joy it has been to see beautiful Durham in the autumn.

I have now finished the year's internship program with Kings Church Durham. It was a fantastic year and I am so thankful for all that I learnt and the opportunities that I had to see God at work and His kingdom growing, and for the wonderful community of people there which is such a constant blessing. And I am so grateful for those of you who supported me both financially and in prayer through the year.

This year I am continuing to volunteer for Kings Church on part time basis as part of something called the Achor Community.

The Achor Community are aiming to make a contribution to Christian mission by being a positive social influence in the area, contributing towards community cohesion and building a flourishing community. As part of this we have two houses in the Sherburn Road area of Durham which is an area of social deprivation within the city.

The Achor project aims to:

- Establish intentional Christian community

- Serve the people of the Sherburn Road area

- Model missional Christian community

I live in a house on the estate with 3 other girls who volunteer for Kings Church and as part of this we have regular meals and pray together for the local community.

At the heart of the project is intentional Christian community, focussing on the importance of living and sharing life together, coupled with sharing

God's love in practical ways with the local community.

The Achor Community are involved in a variety of different community outreach activities in the area, and we are expecting these to grow and develop as we identify local needs and build relationships in the community. Examples of activities they are currently involved with include:

- Garden projects for people who are unable to keep on top of their gardens

- Visiting elderly and isolated members of the community, and assisting them with day-to-day chores e.g. shopping

- Family activities, including termly family fun days and Christmas events

- Engaging with the youth and children on the estate through kids clubs and detached "on the street" youth work.

It is a fantastic privilege to be involved in this project and such a joy to get to know all of the people and families on the estate and we are so thankful for the doors that are opening into peoples' lives and that we have opportunities to share Gods love with people on the estate.

It would be wonderful if you could pray for the following areas:

- That God would use us to be a light in the estate and enable us to practically serve people who are in need.

- For the upcoming Christmas events we are running in the area. We are holding a mini Christmas service in the community centre, with crafts and christingles and carols, as well as free present wrapping.

- For those on the estate who are lonely and



# FROM THE ARCHIVES

Cowley Chronicle, August 1962

## LOOKING BACK AT OLD COWLEY

A casual conversation with a few of the older residents of Cowley reveals a picture of a long disappeared country village. Before the modern estates, barley fields covered Rose Hill, and the mud up Crescent Road was always ankle deep at least and it was usual to climb the hill by holding on to the fence at the side to avoid the mud. It was a village of large houses occupied by families who were connected with Cowley Barracks or with the Military College just above St. Luke's. At Our Lady's School there was Colonel Lindsay and his Irish wife, who commented adversely on the boorishness of the Cowley people because they did not curtsey to her, as she was used to having the Irish do. Their daughter, Miss Ruby, was known as the 'beauty of Cowley'. Then there were the Whites, at White's farm on the corner of Temple Road, the Wests, at the Manor House, the Doubledays at the Elms, the Greenings at the farm in Hockmore Street and Colonel Stokes, an army doctor, at the Mansion on Hollow Way. The stables are now the surgeries of today's doctors.

Transport to Oxford was scarce. The horse trams started only from the present Regal and then it was a penny to Carfax. Some, especially the

children, preferred to walk and save the penny to spend on liquorice 'bootlaces', or on a pound of squashed dates to be eaten in the Marsh allotments on the way home. Horses could be shod at the Forge which was to the right of St. Luke's and lost animals were claimed from the Pound on the site of Temple Cowley Library.

Excellent ginger beer was made by 'Ginger Beer Polly', who lived at the thatched cottage in Temple Road. Three pubs stood practically shoulder to shoulder opposite the present-day St. Luke's, with the schoolmistress living in an adjacent house.

The soldiers provided colour and interest. On Sundays, the left-hand aisle of St James was filled with them and their red-jacketed band played in the churchyard before the service.

One last detail. The thatched cottage at the bottom of Beauchamp Lane used to adjoin a walnut spinney. Under the trees were the most beautiful snowdrops. In spring men were hired to pick them and to sell them and in this way the rent for the year was found. The cottage, not unnaturally, used to be called 'Snowdrop Cottage'.

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isolated especially over the Christmas period. We are planning to visit people on the estate who have no family on Christmas day. Please pray that God would lead us to those in need on that day.

That God would open peoples' hearts to hearing and receiving the gospel and that people would come to know Jesus!

Thank you!

Praying for much peace and joy for you all in Cowley.

Kim Hughes

NB Kim submitted her letter for the Christmas edition but, with apologies to Kim, we ran out of space.

## MESSAGES FOR THE MILKMAN – DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN HE CALLED?

From now on please leave two pints every other day and one pint on the days in between, except Wednesdays and Saturdays when I don't want any milk.

My back door is open. Please put milk in 'fridge, get money out of cup in drawer and leave change on kitchen table in pence, because we want to play bingo tonight.

Please leave no milk today. When I say today, I mean tomorrow, for I wrote this note yesterday.

When you leave the milk please put the coal on the boiler, let dog out and put newspaper inside the screen door. PS Don't leave any milk.

No milk. Please do not leave milk at No 14 either as he is dead until further notice.

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## ST JAMES OLD SCHOOL

Did you see the photo and article in the Oxford Mail on January 19, showing children from Church Cowley St James School preparing to start their gardening project in the playground of St James Old School? The work has been a little delayed but should be underway in the next few weeks: the children will design and build planters at school; they will be installed in the Old School playground and then planted up with flowers and vegetables and small trees.

We have also given the school some boarding on which to produce a mural to install on that horrible ugly end wall where the extension has been removed.

Meanwhile the Old School steering group has continued to meet and discuss our dreams for its use, the need for a business plan and sources of funding. We now have our local City and County Councillors involved and MP Andrew Smith is keen to help us. We are about to talk to the planning authorities for their advice on traffic, accessibility and other issues. And we must ensure it is properly watertight.

We also still need to sign up lots of interested people, particularly former staff and pupils, and anyone with a wish to invest money or time in the future of the much loved building. Rosanne Butler is compiling the list and contact details.

Our vision remains a 'family life skills centre' with a particular focus on nutrition, cooking and health but we do not know whether, in this age of austerity, either capital or revenue funding will be available to make it happen and sustain it. Can we do it?

Lesley Williams  
9 Wykeham Crescent  
OXFORD OX4 3SD  
01865 779 562  
07982 439 828

# News from the Bell Tower

One of my New Years resolutions was to work really hard at my ringing and try and improve as much as I could. I was able to get off to a flying start when I was asked to take part in a quarter peal at St Nicholas at Marston on New Years morning. The bells are a lovely light ring of six and I was very pleased to have been asked. The quarter peal went very well, and I look forward to having the opportunity to ring there again in 2015. At Cowley we had a busy run up to Christmas, ringing for two carol services and midnight mass as well as ringing for as many Sunday services as we could manage. It was truly lovely to ring for the Christmas tree festival again. The church looked so beautiful with all the trees lit up (despite the lights on our bellringers tree giving up on us).

Enthusiasm is very high this year, both in Cowley and at many of the other towers that make up the Oxford City Branch. To this end, there was a meeting in January which Charlotte and I attended, to plan various outings and training sessions. The result is a programme of events this year which provides opportunities for ringing nearly every weekend, from local extra practices, to a full day's tour of Essex. One of the upcoming events in February is a Ringing Up and Down course in Islip. Four Cowley ringers will be attending this. Ringing the bells up and down is very different from regular ringing, and there is so much demand for this, that the course is being run twice.

Oxford City Branch this year plays host to the Guild AGM. This moves round all the 13 branches each year, and is quite a large event, with up to 100 people from all over Oxon, Berks

and Bucks attending. The problem with this is that many churches do not have halls with kitchens attached which are big enough to accommodate this many. I would like to say a huge thank you to May and Pat for helping out by allowing this to take place at Cowley this year. Cowley is also playing host to this years branch six bell striking competition, so if you are in the vicinity of St James on the Saturday afternoon of either 9th or 16th May, please do stop and listen, as there will be some extremely high class ringing taking place.

We have a dedicated band of eight ringers at the moment, so can usually find enough of us to ring, but we also know that once summer arrives and the holidays are upon us, we will probably still struggle. Ideally we would like to have one or two more ringers so we could provide more reliable ringing all year round. I know I keep badgering you all, but if you would like to come along, we would love to see you. Practice night is Thursday at 7.30 – 9pm, or you can ring me on the number below to find out more.

Lindsay Powell  
Cowley St James Tower Correspondent  
01865 777486

## SEASHELLS/LITTLE STARS

Sainsbury's has started Active Kids again, so any vouchers would be gratefully received to allow us to get new things for the two playgroups.

You have always been so generous in the past - any vouchers should be given to May Morgan and she will sort out the rest.

**REAL EASTER EGGS** from the Meaningful Chocolate Company

Last year, in a national poll, the Real Easter Egg was voted the UK's favourite Fairtrade egg and more than a million Real Easter Eggs have been sold!

The Real Easter Egg is still the only Fairtrade egg with a copy of the Easter story in each box. There is also a charitable donation for every 150g egg sold. More than £140,000 has been donated from sales. Buying any of our eggs supports farmers and producers in the developing world by using Fairtrade chocolate.

In Cowley, will again be supplying the eggs. An order form will be available soon

Lesley Williams

**New Range for 2015**  
**Buy A Real Easter Egg Now**

**The Original 150g (RRP £3.99)**  
 Includes an Easter storybook/3ft Happy Easter Banner, a high quality milk chocolate egg (125g) and a pack of milk chocolate Chunky Buttons (25g).

**Peace Edition 280g (RRP £9.99)**  
 Contains a high quality milk chocolate egg (200g) and olive wood peace dove keyring from the Holy Land, a simple guide to the Easter story and an orange milk chocolate bar (80g).

**Dark 180g (RRP £5.50)**  
 Contains an egg made from premium dark Fairtrade chocolate (165g) with 3 dark chocolate mini squares (5g) and a simple guide to the Easter story.

**Out of the 80 million chocolate Easter Eggs sold each year, The Real Easter Egg is the only one with the Easter story in the box.**

The Real Easter Egg campaign aims to establish giving a Real Easter Egg as a tradition. To date we have sold more than a million eggs. The supermarkets still don't stock enough, so last year more than 300,000 were sent through the post directly to churches. So get your church to place an order, or visit a local shop or a supermarket.

**More than a million eggs sold!** To see who is stocking them visit [www.realeasteregg.co.uk](http://www.realeasteregg.co.uk)

**CHRONICLE**

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

Deadline for the next edition:

Wednesday 18 February 2015

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

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# FAMOUS HYMNS AND THEIR STORIES

The more I read and learn about our famous hymns the more I realize how valuable they are. They are like an international spiritual currency that we can draw upon whenever we like, to our eternal benefit. They transcend the boundaries of nationality, of language, of time and of denominations. As we sing them our spirits are lifted, our direction is restored, and our confidence renewed. This month's hymn is no exception. The writer is Irish, the tune is German, and the date is the mid-eighteen hundreds, although it does not feel that old. The words are really beautiful and well suited to the theme. You will all know it well. The first line is:

"O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness"

The author uses the analogy of the gold and incense of the wise men to give value to the spiritual gifts, which are more acceptable to God. For this reason it is often thought of as an Epiphany hymn – though of course it can be sung at any time. The opening verse is truly lovely and moves us straight away into the main theme:

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness  
Bow down before him, his glory proclaim,  
With gold of obedience and incense of lowliness  
Kneel and adore him the Lord is his name

So very early on we are given a set of values that we need to worship God in the right way. We are told not to be afraid of our inadequacies, and to lay down our burdens before him.

The author Rev John Monsell published over 300 hymns. One of his most famous is "Fight the Good Fight". Born in Ireland and educated at Trinity College, Dublin, he was ordained into the Anglican church in 1834 and became vicar of a church in Surrey. We should be truly grateful to him for giving us this memorable hymn.

John Shreeve

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## COWLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Our speaker on January 21<sup>st</sup> was Tony Eaton. He gave a very interesting talk entitled "Failed to Return" in which he told us about several famous people who had set out on journeys, especially by aeroplane and failed to return. Two of the most notable personalities he had researched were Amy Johnson who famously disappeared during World War Two over the Thames Estuary and Glen Miller, the bandleader, who disappeared over the Channel, again during the War on his way to France.

For our February meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> we are looking forward to a talk by Russell Cherry who is taking us (metaphorically speaking) around The Cotswolds.

This year not only is the whole WI movement celebrating its centenary but our own branch is marking thirty years of continuous membership. By way of celebration we are having a special lunch at the Church Centre in April.

As I have mentioned before, we are always looking for new members. If you are thinking of joining you will be made very welcome. Our monthly meetings in the Church Centre are at 2 pm on the third Wednesday of each month.

Jean Chilton

# Rosanne interviews Robert Esnouf

As you know we live in an area which is a world leader in medical research and much of that work depends on highly sophisticated expertise in computer analysis and recording. Don't worry readers, I am not about to blind you with science and nor am I going to try to explain exactly how this works (my school girl "O" level in physics would not be up to it!) but I am going to introduce you to a man who certainly could. Our interviewee, Robert, moved into our Parish with his wife, Iris, and son, Aidan, a couple of years ago and is very pleased with what he has found – namely a good school for Aidan, a lovely house backing on to the old churchyard, a great church in which to worship and really friendly folk in the area.

Born in Oxford and growing up in Kidlington you might think that he has not strayed far from his roots but I assure you that the in-between years from his childhood until the present day have seen him travel far and wide. His father, a scientist, and mother, who worked in editing, were convinced that good state education was right for their four children. So Robert plus his two brothers and sister began their schooling at Edward Field Primary School in Kidlington. Robert could already read before going into the infant department and soared away at maths, so it

became evident that he should move up into the junior department a year early. Thus it was that he was a year ahead all through his school years. He has admiration for his primary headmaster who spotted his brighter pupils early and planned extra-curricular challenges for them to give them the best chances. Robert thrived.

He moved on to Gosford Hill Comprehensive at 10 and told me he found it best to keep his head down especially as, at first, he was not very good at sport. All his best subjects were science based, computers featuring strongly in much of his learning and leisure time. He sailed through "O" and "A" level exams and secured a place at University College, Oxford.

His gap year, aged seventeen, he spent in Birmingham living in digs in a family home. Having worked at school on computer programming it was an obvious move to work with a Birmingham company compiling educational software.

Whilst studying at university for his chemistry degree and then for his doctorate in biology Robert became quite a sportsman. He played college cricket and also represented them at rowing. He told me how satisfying it was to become Head of the River for University College and then as part of the college eight carrying the old

boat in front of their many competitors and supporters before setting fire to it.

His first post after his second degree was in the University Laboratories working with computers. The main research was into the components of drugs for HIV. In 1993 he was invited to go to Japan to work with powerful X-ray units. He was living in Summertown at that time and whilst sitting in a pub with a friend, also travelling with him to Japan they came up with a real adventure: "Why don't we go overland?" So they did and it took nine weeks. On their way they reached Beijing in China and they discovered the extraordinary fact that all the restaurants in the city close at 6 pm – very strange (this I thought you might find useful next time you are in Beijing). After more adventures they reached Japan and dropped in on Hong Kong on the way home.

One big event occurred on the train from Ostend to Moscow. At the stop in Brussels two girls boarded. They were also travelling all the way to Moscow and that is a long, long way. Conversations soon revealed that they were going to Russia as part of their language studies. Apart from the fact that one of the girls, Iris, was very beautiful, having companions who spoke both English and Russian in Moscow

was very handy. Yes, you have guessed it, Robert fell in love with this lovely girl. When it was time to say goodbye she scribbled her contact number on a scrap of paper which he tucked into his wallet. Would you believe it, he still carries that little piece of paper in his wallet today.

Once back home he made contact with his young lady in Belgium and three years later went to work in Leuven University. He was there for three and a half years. Iris and Robert held their wedding in the beautiful town hall in Leuven several years later.

Robert's boss in the Oxford University Laboratories got into contact with him inviting him to return here as there was a post waiting for him. New premises had opened up on a site opposite the Churchill Hospital. Important research into biotechnology needed Robert's expertise. He and Iris came over and after renting an idyllic house on the banks of the Isis in Iffley they bought their first home (and car) in Forest Hill. They lived there for eight years and Aidan, their son, was born. Whilst living there Robert joined Stanton St John cricket club and played regularly for them whilst at the same time captaining the University (20 overs) evening matches. I wonder how Iris had time to wash his "whites" between matches!

With a growing son and several cats (I forgot to check how many) it became obvious that a bigger house was needed and that is

when they found their present home in Church Hill Road. Although they do not have a very large garden apparently the cats think they own the churchyard and roam at will.

Work at the laboratories gets more and more interesting as the computers become bigger and highly sophisticated. The discoveries into genetics which are changing medical science worldwide often begin with the work Robert is doing.

Aidan attends Church Cowley St James Primary School and Robert was elected as a parent governor. After Howard's departure he took on the role of chairman. Life for him is very busy. It was Iris who led the family to church at St James where she is now learning to ring in the bell-tower. They are feeling nicely settled here in Cowley, as I mentioned in my opening remarks, and hopefully will be with us for many years to come.

\*\*\*\*\*

How would you describe yourself as a young child?

Quiet and introverted, always academic but never really much of a hard worker.

Do you have any never-to-be-forgotten childhood memories?

Going on holiday with the family to Cornwall on the little hidden beaches, up on the cliffs and exploring rock pools.

Has your faith been with you since childhood?

It has waxed and waned depending on how things were going. Now it is more crystalised.

Do you have a precious possession?

My little piece of paper. It has been in my wallet for twenty-two years.

What is your opinion of modern society?

I worry a lot about the commercialisation of it all but I am constantly surprised by how people of all ages are really nice.

If you could change something what would it be?

Most often I would like to lengthen the day.

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

It would have to be now.

How do you like to spend your leisure time?

Swim gently, do a bit of cooking, cycling with Aidan – being a Dad. And I want to start travelling again.

What plans do you have for the future?

I am pretty confident I can get Aidan up and out. And when the time is right I would like to drive across America.

# SAINT OF THE MONTH—Caedmon

It is unusual to introduce a saint by his first name without “St” in front but Caedmon was known this way all his life and has been ever since. This is possibly because he was a simple man who possessed wonderful talents and used those talents to the glory of God.

He was born in Yorkshire in the early seventh century into a poor family. As quite a young boy he was sent to work on the farm of the monks of Whitby, an important Christian settlement. Caedmon had no education so was set to work herding the cattle. He would have slept in the byre amongst the animals and as a boy would have led quite a lonely life.

To while away his lonely hours he would sing to himself, making up songs about his life and the surrounding countryside. He also attended the regular services in the beautiful abbey where he heard the gospel stories and Latin chants. He learnt to love God and sing about Him but, of course, in his own vernacular, having no Latin. The monks heard him singing in his clear, beautiful voice and invited him to become a monk. He did and helped them to write down

his songs and poems. They then used them when teaching the simple folk about the Bible.

Apparently his songs and poems used a wide range of subjects – The Creation, The Exodus, the birth, passion and resurrection of Christ, the Last Judgement, Heaven and Hell. Only nine lines of one of his poems still exist, these reproduced in Latin by the Venerable Bede, that wonderful early Christian writer who lived in Jarrow, Northumberland and was almost a contemporary of Caedmon. Coincidentally Bede went to school in the very year that Caedmon died. Bede was seven years old and probably began as a little boy to learn his scripture from Caedmon’s lovely songs and poetry. It is through his writings in later life that Caedmon’s story was recorded. The monasteries and convents all over England used the songs and poems in their teaching at that time.

Caedmon foretold his own death accurately even though he had no severe illness and left behind a wonderful legacy. He died peacefully in 680 AD and his feast day is celebrated on 11th February.

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## THE COLOURS OF THE CHURCH

The Altar frontals, lectern hangings and priests stoles were changed after the First Sunday of Epiphany: the white at St Francis was superseded by the “all seasons” hangings and the gold at St James by green. On January 25<sup>th</sup>, when we marked the Conversion of St Paul, we reverted to the white on gold which remain in place for Candlemas – the Presentation of Christ in the Temple. After this for two Sundays the “all seasons” or green will be used. Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> February is Ash Wednesday marking the beginning of Lent, in both churches purple hangings will be used then and during Lent.

More changes next month.

Margaret Martin



# NEWS FROM ST FRANCIS

As we look back over our church services from Advent to Epiphany we feel that on the whole our planning worked, and what we offered was reasonably successful. Our Carol Service was better attended and our Christingle benefitted from being brought into the mainstream services. At our Christmas morning breakfast we saw one or two new faces and the return of one or two older ones. Our Christmas Eve Carols at the local pub was hugely popular, where old favourites were sung in front of a roaring fire, and we all enjoyed toasted crumpets afterwards. This is what in church circles is known as 'Messy Church' (not a happy phrase) and is on the increase right across the country. People today want the songs and the message but do not want the old fashioned church buildings and the heavy liturgy. In some ways this might work to our advantage with old country churches increasingly more expensive to maintain and with congregations declining along with income. Only time will tell. We managed to get some support on the organ at some of the services and that always helps.

We are grateful to Skye for all the hard work she puts into our programme and the special services she designs. Our experimental Epiphany party that we started last year, we repeated this year, and once again was hugely successful. People came from both ends of the Parish with a few outsiders as well, and enjoyed a really good time. There were plenty of cakes and sandwiches and biscuits to enjoy and people just enjoyed relaxing in one another's company and having a chat. The whole thing ended up with a good old fashioned Beetle Drive, something we have not had for a long time. This proved popular with young and old alike.

Now we have to move on in the church's calendar, and are beginning to think about Lent Courses.

John Shreeve



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## THE ADVENT QUIET DAY

This was held on the Saturday before Advent Sunday in St James Church. Devised and led by Helen Beetham it was an opportunity for people to spend a few quiet hours away from the hustle and bustle of Christmas preparations and meditate on the real meaning of the festival to come.

Helen had set up areas of the church with candles, chairs and tables with various aids to contemplation. Each area featured the four "getting ready" themes of Advent – The Patriarchs, The Prophets, John the Baptist and Mary. On each hour she led a short meditation and prayers and then people were left to listen to the lovely, appropriate, music and draw closer to whichever area attracted them.

It was a very special time, ending in the Eucharist led by Tony Beetham.

I hope that a similar day will happen in this coming year as those of us who experienced it found the whole concept quite moving.

# PARISH OF COWLEY ELECTORAL ROLL

It's that time of year when we review the Parish Electoral Roll, confirming current membership, removing any folk who have moved or sadly passed away and adding active new members. It is also the opportunity to check that all the contact details you have given us, which are held securely, are still current - mobile numbers and e-mail addresses particularly have a habit of changing!

The formal notice (form SG2) about the revision of the roll will be posted in both churches and St James Church Centre on Sunday, 15 February 2015, which is two months before the annual Parish meeting on Sunday, 19 April.

The roll should represent 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.

If you have newly arrived among us during the past twelve months 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 St James Church or post to 9 Wykeham Crescent, OX4 3SD by Sunday, 15 March.

The revised roll will be displayed from Sunday, 22 March and corrections may be made up to the time of the APCM but no new names may be added until the end of the meeting.

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

Here is the official bit which we have to announce: under the Church Representation Rules you are entitled to have your name entered on the roll if you: (1) are baptised and are aged 16 or over and (2) have signed a form of application for enrolment. Anyone who will turn 16 during the year may complete a form now and be added to the roll after their birthday.

Additionally you must be (1) either a member of the Church of England or of a Church in communion with the Church of England and (2) be resident in the parish or, if living outside the parish, have habitually attended public worship in the parish during the six months prior to the application for enrolment.

Of course, we will later 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.

Lesley Williams

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# Film Club at the Centre

Both the December and January club evenings were very well supported despite the latter being a wild and stormy one. After the light and fluffy nature of "Meet Me in St Louis", which incidentally was very well received, our January showing of "Inn of the Sixth Happiness" was much appreciated by members. It was the longest film we have shown so far but everyone was happy to see it through.

We have some very good films coming up this year thanks to the suggestions of members. This month, on 13th February, we are featuring "On Golden Pond" which won three Academy awards for best actor, best actress and best screen play. It is set in the beautiful countryside of America's

New England and stars Katharine Hepburn, Henry Fonda and Jane Fonda. Incidentally it is one of those rare films where real-life father and daughter play screened father and daughter characters.

Other films we have on our future programme include "West Side Story", "The Magnificent Seven", "Educating Rita" and "Ladies in Lavender".



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## SNOWDROP WEEKENDS AT ST JAMES

It must be over twenty years ago when the Church Committee at St James decided to open up the parish church and invite anyone and everyone to come and appreciate the carpet of snowdrops in our ancient churchyard and visit the church. Naturally this would include warm drinks (tea and coffee) and home-made cakes. And so began a tradition which has gone on year-on-year ever since.

The first aconites and snowdrops are coming out in St James Churchyard and we are planning the "Snowdrop Weekends" which give an opportunity for more people to discover this peaceful oasis.

The church will be open on Saturday, 7th and 14th February 10.30 am – 3.30 pm and on Sundays 8th and 15th February 2 – 4 pm.

Please support us by coming to see the flowers (FREE!) and having refreshments tea/coffee and cake, in church for which we ask a donation. This is an opportunity to meet the varied and interesting people who visit.

It might be that you are willing to be a welcomer on any of those days? Do let Margaret Martin know if you can. Or may

be you would like to donate a cake? Please help if possible as this is part of our parish outreach to the wider world. It is great fun meeting people who walk in and say "I was christened here" or "This is where we were married" and even "I was a naughty choirboy here".

Margaret Martin

Rosanne Butler

# ***PARISH REGISTER***

## **Baptisms:**

2 March 2014	Elizabeth Alexandra Isis Flemming
9 March 2014	Mariah Ann Parsons Emily Evelyn Elaine Graves Rhiannon Kim McConaghie
6 April 2014	Chloe Ann Clark
6 April 2014	Scarlett Lily Clark
4 May 2014	Faye Aleah Massey
4 May 2014	Bella Rose Massey
6 July 2014	Lola-Mae Holmes
27 July 2014	Melissa Rose Mentzer
3 August 2014	Annika Rose Webb
24 August 2014	Joseph Charles Vivian
7 September 2014	Bella Leanne Masters
7 September 2014	Elëna Louise Masters
21 September 2014	Albie Valentine Logan
5 October 2014	James Alan Pittaway

## **Weddings:**

1 February 2014	Jason Dudley and Sarah Maudsley
29 March 2014	Peter Knevett and Angela Musson
17 May 2014	Steven Flynn and Hayley Howells
28 June 2014	Lewis O'Neil and Sarah Mayo
23 August 2014	Aarron Layden and Tina Kietch
29 August 2014	Christopher Hermes and Lorna High
29 November 2014	James and Donna Baldwin (renewal of vows)

## **Funerals:**

1 January 2014	Jacqueline Porter
2 January 2014	Phyllis Mary Matterson
22 January 2014	Anthony Arthur John Joliffe
31 January 2014	Suzanne Withell
3 February 2014	Sydney Fenton
5 February 2014	Sylvia Guy
27 February 2014	Robert Henry Allen
5 March 2014	Jayden James Nash
13 March 2014	Stanley Giles
2 April 2014	Vera Joyce Hughes
4 June 2014	Mr Aubrey Maasz
6 June 2014	Margaret Giles
23 June 2014	David Hayden Cooper
13 August 2014	Bibi Susan Masih
3 December 2014	Rev Wazir Chand

## **MOTHERS' UNION NEWS**

Our Annual General Meeting was held on the 19th January with fifteen members attending. As usual we began with prayers. A summary of the 2014 business was agreed as accurate. John Shreeve gave a full and positive report as branch leader. When it came to appointment of officers John said that he felt compelled to relinquish his role but would continue to serve on the committee. The committee was elected thus: Administrator – May Morgan, Treasurer – Rosanne Butler, other members – Betty Canterbury, John Shreeve, Marlene Shreeve and Betty Mitchell. A decision was made to run the branch by committee administration as no member felt able to take on the role of branch leader.

The balance sheet was presented and accepted. Although the bank balance is not large a good working amount will keep the branch solvent. Discussion amongst members included the ways and means to recruit and possibly radically change the times of meetings. There is much for the Committee to tackle.

The forthcoming quiz and puddings evening later this month has unavoidably been changed to a different date. It will now take place on Friday, 20th February at 7 pm. We hope that a good number of friends and members will come along to enjoy the fun.

# WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE LYE VALLEY?

Plenty, is the answer FOLV, BBOWT, OCV and Oxford City Council Countryside volunteers have been working hard to improve and extend the fen by:

- Cutting down and raking away the reeds which choke our rare plants;
- Cutting back scrub which has encroached on the fen;
- Cutting down trees which shade the fen and prevent the native rare flowers, sedges and mosses from growing.

The boardwalk has been extended so that you can keep your feet dry while admiring the north fen and peering into the ponds.

You may have noticed how the path near the new house is churned up to mud. FOLV have asked the builder to leave it like that so that we can sow seeds of butterfly-attracting chalk grassland flowers. We've also asked him to help us clear away the alien garden escape shrubs (Russian vine – 'mile a minute' – and variegated cornus for example) which have little wildlife value so that we can encourage more local wildlife-friendly plants and bushes eg blackthorn (food plant of the rare brown hairstreak butterfly), and honeysuckle and wild rose – our beautiful scented native flowers.

The next BBOWT Wild Oxford work party in the Lye Valley is on Saturday 7 February 2015, 10–3pm – come along in your old clothes with a picnic lunch – tools, training, tea, coffee and cake provided. You don't have to come for the whole session – just front up when you feel like it.

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# Cowley Festival of Christmas Trees 2014

Our fourth festival with the theme of 'Angel Voices' was a happy success, particularly in raising £1500, £750 for each of our charities, ROSY & SeeSaw. Overall numbers visiting were down but last year they included all Church Cowley St James School. The concert with amazingly talented young people from the County Music Service was a great evening.

We still have to find ways of involving local businesses, more of the churches and schools and retirement/care homes....but we will continue to work on that through the year. If YOU have friends, family or contacts in any settings which could be invited to join us, please let us know.

For those who like data:

Results – Facts and Figures:

Trees:	2013: 42	2014: 39
Visitors:	2013: 1,287	2014: 794
Money (figures rounded)		
Income:	2013: £1,272	2014: £1,892
Expenditure (not covered by the Parish, donations and grants)		
	2013: £272	2014: £320
Donation to SeeSaw & ROSY each:	2012: £350	
	2013: £500	
	2014: £750	

We again acknowledge with gratitude many personal contributions of time, talent, equipment and other resources. We particularly value the support received from Templars Square staff and shops and Templars Shopping Park and look forward to developing a festival presence in both in 2015. Many thanks to all.

The one downside was the removal of 15 of the white correx boards, affixed to lamp and signposts, pointing the way to the church and with two of the quiz trail clues, from Beauchamp Lane, Rymers Lane and Between Towns Road – an annoying mystery.

So: the decision has been made to maintain the festival as an annual event and the dates are set for CTF5, beginning on Friday 3 December through to a closing Christingle (instead of carol) service on 13 December, but with the trees again remaining in the church over the festive season. We are investigating having a presence in Templars Square, hopefully in a vacant shop. The reception, concert, fun day, quiz trail and visits from the Parish schools will be repeated with a target of 50 trees and £1,000 each for SeeSaw and ROSY.

The first planning meeting for 'Let's light up Christmas 2015' with the theme 'The 12 days of Christmas' is set for Friday 22 May, 09.45 in the Ranklin Room. The steering group would, as usual, very gladly welcome new members – especially a publicity expert.

Lesley Williams

## NEWS FROM CANADA

I hope that all is well and that the New Year is going to be one filled with joy and hope. We had most of the family together for Christmas and New Year's Eve and Day. The Town of Canmore put on a very good fireworks display at midnight on New Year's Eve and we could watch it all from our living room window without having to go outside. It was -20 so that suited us just fine, although lots of people did gather at the park by the river for the show.

Howard

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## SIGNIFICANT DATES IN FEBRUARY

On 4th February 1962 the first Sunday colour supplement was published by The Sunday Times. It was widely expected that the whole magazine project would turn out to be a flop.

9th February 1964 saw Beatlemania grip America when around 70 million viewers tuned in to watch the four boys appear on the Ed Sullivan Show.

Nelson Mandela, South Africa's nationalist leader, was freed from prison on 11th February 1990. He had been in prison for 27 years for speaking out against apartheid.

It is widely known that 14th February is St Valentine's Day and yet who St Valentine was is not at all clear. He may indeed be an amalgamation of two holy men in early Christian times. Neither saint had any connection with romance. It was the early English poet, Chaucer, who named this day as the time when our native birds choose a mate and from that all the hearts and flowers have sprung.

22nd February marks the birthday of Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of the scouting movement, and co-incidentally his wife, Olave, who founded the Girl Guides. Scouts and Guides all over the world mark this date as Thinking Day when they bring to mind their great movement.

On 23rd February 1950 election results were televised for the first time.

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# BOOK REVIEW

'Miss Garnet's Angel' by Salley Vickers

Contemporary literature has discovered how enticing setting a novel either within the context of an art historical location, time period or linked to a specific artist/s and/or artworks (or all three!) can be – Dan Brown certainly has a great deal to answer for! To some extent this novel delivers on all fronts, as the majority of the contemporary narrative is set in Venice beautifully eulogising the city and its artworks; the other half of the novel retells the apocryphal religious story of Tobias and the Angel. As the novel progresses these two stories are intercut with one another.

I think this novel will appeal to many Cowley readers, as it is a gentle love story of a recently retired teacher, Julia Garnet, who goes against convention, finally rejecting her overly cautious existence to explore the joys of art, life and new

experiences in Venice. She becomes fascinated with the story of Tobias and the Angel and thus their story is explored alongside hers. However, do not expect a typical Hollywood happy ending, but instead enjoy the alternating representations of 20th century Venice and 8th century BC Israel. Furthermore be engaged by Julia's burgeoning self awareness and the awakening of emotions she thought beyond her at her time of life, as she falls in love with Venice, its people and its astounding art and buildings. This is a novel about transformation on a number of levels, one which I feel will transform you too, if not at least transport you to the glories of Venice and perhaps set you on your own personal road to an angelic epiphany.

Margaret Craig

## COWLEY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

17 February 2015  
Commencing at 8.00 pm

### TALK:

**The Search for Oxford's Medieval Wall**  
[An odyssey in pictures  
of the city's past]  
An illustrated Talk  
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# RECIPES

Two treats for Valentine's Day (or for a posh tea party!)



## Chokladkaka (from Sweden)

3ozs butter	1oz white breadcrumbs
6ozs sugar	2 eggs (separated)
1 teaspoon vanilla essence	6ozs sifted flour
1 teaspoon baking powder	3ozs melted milk chocolate
4 fluid ozs single cream	

Set the oven at 150°C or cook at gas mark 2.

Grease a deep round cake tin with a little of butter.

Sprinkle breadcrumbs into the tin pressing them on to the bottom and sides of the tin (fingers are best) In medium mixing bowl cream the rest of the butter with the sugar till light and fluffy. Beat in the egg yolks one at a time. Add vanilla essence. Sift in 2ozs of the flour and the baking powder. Mix and add about 1/3rd of the melted chocolate and the cream.

Add 2ozs more of the flour, more chocolate and cream a little at a time till all is incorporated.

In another bowl whisk the egg whites to form peaks. With metal spoon fold them into the cake mixture.

Pour mixture into prepared tin and bake for about 50 minutes or until a skewer inserted in the middle of the cake comes away clean.

Cook on cake rack. Serve if you wish with whipped double cream.

## Chocolate Pineapple Rings (from Germany)

5ozs butter	2ozs sugar
6ozs flour	3 tablespoons ground almonds
A dash of almond essence	8ozs dark cooking chocolate
1 to 2 tablespoons lukewarm water	10 canned pineapple rings
10 maraschino cherries	1 teaspoon cornflour

Set the oven at 190°C or bake at gas mark 5.

In a medium mixing bowl cream 4ozs of butter and all the sugar together till light and fluffy. Fold in the flour, ground almonds and almond essence. Then knead the mixture into a smooth dough using your hands.

Lightly flour a pastry board and turn dough on to this, then roll out the dough thinly. Using 3 inch pastry cutter cut 20 circles. Put these on a greased baking sheet. Prick the surface of the circles and bake for about 20 minutes till lightly browned. Cool on rack.

In a small saucepan melt the chocolate and remaining butter very slowly stirring with a wooden spoon. Add the lukewarm water to thin it slightly. Use this mixture to sandwich the biscuits together (10 rounds).

Drain the pineapple rings from their juice keeping a little of the juice for later. Spread the rest of the chocolate mixture on top of the biscuit rounds and put a pineapple ring on each. Put a cherry in the centre hole.

Put the cornflour and 4 tablespoons of juice in a small saucepan and bring to the boil, stirring all the time. Cook till mixture thickens. Allow to cool to room temperature. Brush with a pastry brush a little of the juice mixture over the top of the pineapple rings and cherries to make a glaze. Let this set before serving.



**St James Café**  
 St James Church Centre  
 Beauchamp Lane  
 10:00 am to 1:00 pm



**Saturday**



**28th February**

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**Snowdrop days**  
 Saturday February 7 & 14  
 10:30 am – 4:00 pm  
 Sunday February 8 & 15  
 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm  
 cakes and refreshments  
 family activities

**St James Church**  
 Beauchamp Lane - Cowley



Historic Cowley Parish church - open for you.

## A WORD IN DUE SEASON

As we have started another year that seems to be full of problems both national and international it is hard not to become concerned and anxious. And I am reminded of the time at the start of the Second World War. Our King, George VI, was making his first wartime Christmas Speech. He was anxious to reassure and comfort his people whom he knew were troubled and disturbed about their immediate prospects which did not look good. So he chose his words carefully with that in mind. He was looking for something to round off his talk which would stay in the minds of the people and help them. He suddenly remembered that someone had sent him a Christmas card with a piece of verse in it. So he looked it up, and, yes, that would do nicely. The words were as follows:

“I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year  
 Give me a light so that I may find my way  
 And he said to me put your hand into the hand of God  
 That will be for you better than a light  
 And safer than a known way!”

The next day the BBC was flooded with phone calls from people who wanted to know the origin of these wonderful words, and why they had not heard of them before, and who had written them. In actual fact they had been written over 20 years before, during the First World War, by a lady lecturer at London University, and had passed unnoticed.

Now they had really come into their own, at the right time and in the right place. “A word in due season”, as the bible puts it. Perhaps they can stay in our hearts during this difficult year of 2015.

John Shreeve

# 5th Cowley Guides



We ended 2014 by decorating our tree for the Christmas tree festival completing two badges involving Reindeers and Robins and having a Christmas party.

The Guides have started 2015 by working on two badges, Traditions of Guiding and Discovering our Promise. These badges involve learning knots (with string first and then strawberry laces for fun), knowing about carrying the unit flag, making promise fans, writing our own beliefs on cut out hands, bookmarks and much more.

For the term up to Easter we have planned pancake making, Chinese New Year, patrol led evenings, completing Go For It's and an Easter themed evening.

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## REPORT FROM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

The second part of the Section 11 meeting was held on the 17 December 2014, when the latest edition of the Parish Profile was considered and more amendments were suggested. The amended version of the Parish Profile was then sent to the Archdeacon requesting a Section 12 meeting, and this has been arranged for Friday, 6th February 2015, at 6.30 pm. It is hoped that at this meeting the Archdeacon will suggest the programme for advertising and interviewing for the Rector's post.

So, in the next edition of The Chronicle I hope to be reporting further on this – although I suspect the details will be in The Link before this

On a more light-hearted note, during the work being done on the archives, we found this jokey outline for The Perfect Priest from the Cowley Chronicle, May 1987 (from Catholic Sun, USA):

“Results of a computerised survey indicates that the perfect Priest preaches exactly 12 minutes. He frequently condemns sin, but never upsets anyone. He works from 8.00am until midnight and is also Caretaker. He makes £60 per week, wears good clothes, buys good books, drives a good car and gives about £50 weekly to the poor. He is 28 years of age and has been preaching for 30 years. He is wonderfully gentle and handsome. He gives of himself completely but never gets too close to anyone lest he be criticised. He speaks boldly on social issues but must never become politically involved. He has a burning desire to work with teenagers and spends all his time with senior citizens. He makes 15 calls daily on parish families, visits the house-bound and those in Hospital, spends all his time evangelising the unchurched and is always in his study when needed.”

Sally Hemsworth

# SUNDAY SERVICES

## ST JAMES CHURCH, BEAUCHAMP LANE

8.00am Holy Communion  
10.00am Sung Eucharist  
Sunday Sunday Lunch – the date varies so watch for notices

## ST FRANCIS CHURCH, HOLLOW WAY

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

## MID-WEEK SERVICES & MEETINGS

Monday	10.00-11.30am	Little Stars Playgroup— St Francis
	2.30pm	Parish Mothers' Union— St James (3rd Monday)
Tuesday	10.00am	Seashells Toddler Group— St James
	12.00pm	Eucharist—St James
	12.30pm	Tuesday Lunch Club— St James
Thursday	2-4pm	Prayer Space = St Francis
	7.00pm	Cowley Parish Healing Service St Francis (1st Thursday)
Friday	2.00pm	Bingo—St James

## HOME GROUPS

Leader	Time/Venue
Connie Uren	Alternate Tuesday afternoons at 2.30pm St James Church Centre, Ranklin Room
Friends of St Francis (John Shreeve/	2nd & 4th Tuesday afternoons at 2.30pm St Francis Church
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
Josh & Claire Hordern	Thursdays at 8.00pm, often at 55 Glanville Rd <a href="mailto:joshuahordern@hotmail.com">joshuahordern@hotmail.com</a>
Joel Denno	Thursday at 7.45pm at The Vicarage, Don Bosco
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.

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:

Vacancy

### 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.

### Non-stipendiary Ministers

Revd Richard Chand  
01865 701948  
Email: [richard@richardwchand@outlook.com](mailto:richard@richardwchand@outlook.com)

Revd Canon Mark Oxbrow  
01865 461953  
Email: [markoxbrow@aol.com](mailto:markoxbrow@aol.com)

Revd Dr Amanda Bloor  
Tel: 01865 208221

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:  
through Parish Office

### Cowley Chronicle—Editorial Team:

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