

# A New Day Dawning!

Not so much a Rector's letter, more a compendium of images!

New Ministries: God is so good. When I moved into Cowley I started praying for vision of ways we can build the 'Ministry Leadership Team' of Cowley Team. Who are these? These are people who lead services and activities that will help us nourish and grow Jesus' family. Leaders come in all kinds of colour, all shapes, sizes and ages. We are blessed with lots of people who take significant roles in leadership but we always need more! As part of an answer to this prayer God has brought us Mandy and Gordon Watts. Mandy has served for many years as a Reader (LLM) in the diocese of Coventry.



Some of their story can be found in this month's interview (see later in the Chronicle). Mandy is going to preach on the 25th of September at St James. Do help them settle in but beyond that look around and ask who else God is calling from our family to take a lead in this way. I am always happy to chat to people as they sort out what God is calling us to do.

A new Editor!



The Chronicle continues but we are still looking for an editor. Finding him or her to shape the next pages of the life of the Chronicle is important – somebody with faith, wanting to build the Kingdom of God

through good written communication. We are not looking for a large scale-writer but somebody who has a passion to get the story of Jesus and the church out into Cowley. We have a good team behind the Chronicle but we need a volunteer. Could that be you or the person sitting next to you? Have a chat with me if you have some ideas.

Church finances Later in this edition of the Chronicle there is an important article about finances. We do not need to panic but we do need to be prayerfully aware of the challenges. Do please read it.

Alpha 2016: Alpha as you have never seen it before.

The Alpha Film Series is emotive and epic in scale and scope. The crew have been all around the world, filming in Canada, UK, France, India, Hong Kong, Israel and New York. Nicky Gumbel and



two new presenters, Toby Flint and Gemma Hunt, walk us through the Alpha material in a way that everyone can relate to.

The episodes feature inspiring stories and interviews, as well as visual illustrations and motion graphics. This is a product reimagined for the next generation. Each episode lasts 30 minutes and then there is a chance to chat. Just come alone or bring a friend!



Benson Cottage

# Chronicle

September  
2016

# Editor's Letter

Oh dear, we do not have an Editor's letter as we do not yet have an Editor! Do you have ideas for the Cowley Chronicle – would you like to lead the very willing team who are still compiling the Chronicle? If you would like to meet Geoff, Skye and the team please contact Geoff, Skye, May, Nicki or Sally – a short meeting can easily be arranged.

In the meantime, we are always keen to receive articles from our readers and indeed the wider congregation – please email these to [chronicle@cowleyteamministry.co.uk](mailto:chronicle@cowleyteamministry.co.uk) or, if hand written, leave at the Parish Office for the attention of Sally.

## Your Parish Needs you!



Might you be the person God is calling to take the Chronicle on a new Journey? We need a **NEW EDITOR** to work with a well-established team for our Church Magazine from this August. If that is you or for further info, speak to our Rector or Vicar. **ASAP**

### FRIENDS OF ST JAMES OLD SCHOOL

## STRIKE UP THE BAND

a concert with

## JUBILEE BRASS

Saturday 8 October 2016 7.30pm

St James Church, Beauchamp Lane, OX4 3LF



*songs from the shows  
and a singalong*

Tickets £10

Rosanne Butler  
Membership Secretary  
Friends of St James Old School  
01865 453 257

Lesley Williams  
Chair - Friends of St James Old School  
07982 439 828  
oldschoolcowley@gmail.com

[www.cowleyteamministry.co.uk/The-Parish/St-James-Old-School](http://www.cowleyteamministry.co.uk/The-Parish/St-James-Old-School)



### FRIENDS OF ST JAMES OLD SCHOOL



## OUR BILLY, LORD NUFFIELD

A talk by Tony Boffin,  
guide at Lord Nuffield's  
home, Nuffield Place

St James Centre  
Beauchamp Lane  
OX4 3LF

Friday 23 September  
6.30 refreshments for 7.00 – 8.30  
£5 for the evening

*no need to book*

Information from Lesley Williams  
Chair - Friends of St James Old School  
07982 439 828 oldschoolcowley@gmail.com

[www.cowleyteamministry.co.uk/The-Parish/St-James-Old-School](http://www.cowleyteamministry.co.uk/The-Parish/St-James-Old-School)



# Mothers' Union News

Members will be pleased to know that the new programme for 2016/2017 is now ready and will be available for them at the next branch meeting on September 19th.

They will also, I am sure, be looking forward to the September meeting as we have a guest speaker who is an authority on many of the historic sites of Oxford. He is going to give us a talk on the wonderful stained glass windows of Oxford and is bringing coloured slides to illustrate his talk. As ever visitors to our meetings are always welcome so we hope that anyone in the parish who would like to join us will come along. We meet in the Church Centre at 2.30 pm and always close with a cup of tea, a biscuit and a chat.



Talking of tea, biscuits and chats I have to report that our 140th anniversary tea party was a great success. The focus of the afternoon was the chance to decorate a mug in whatever design you chose. Mary Bayliss was our guiding light having bought a big batch of mugs from Ikea and providing the special pens. The designs ranged from Mothers' Union badges to love hearts and bunting to butterflies. Once baked the designs are permanent and I must say I am very pleased with mine. By the way, the tea and cakes and friendly chat, the board games

Geoff produced for the children and the fact that Les Hemsworth acted as our official photographer all made for a very pleasant afternoon.



Another pleasant occasion we have planned is one of our ever-popular wine, cheese and poetry evenings coming up on the 16th September. All those who have been to one of these occasions will tell you what great, and unusual, evenings they are. We meet at 7 pm in the Church Centre and each person brings along a favourite poem to read. You do not have to read if you do not want to, someone else can do it for you. The wine and cheese supper is always very good too. We ask £4.00 if you bring a poem or £5 if you just come to be entertained. All the profits from this event go to a very worthwhile cause namely the Mothers' Union's outreach for disaffected families in the Third World.

One forward planning date for your diaries is the October meeting, 17th, when our speaker will be the ever-popular Mark Oxbrow.

Rosanne Butler

## Prayers from the Ark

By Carmen Bernos de Gasztold

Translated from the French and with a Foreword and Epilogue by Rumer Godden

### THE PRAYER OF THE ELEPHANT

Dear God,  
it is I, the elephant,  
Your creature,  
who is talking to You.

I am so embarrassed by my great self,  
and truly it is not my fault  
if I spoil Your jungle a little with my big feet.  
Let me be careful and behave wisely,  
always keeping my dignity and poise.  
Give me such philosophic thoughts  
that I can rejoice everywhere I go  
in the lovable oddity of things.

AMEN

TO ALL IN THE PARISH WHO DONATED THEIR 'ACTIVE KIDS VOUCHERS' THIS YEAR.

Although we only had about half the number of vouchers that we have had in previous years (people's shopping habits have changed) we still had enough to exchange for some very nice equipment, which included some baby rockers, a giant snakes and ladders game and some bean bags for junior church. We thank you all for your support and we look forward to collecting again next year.

Seashells will re-open on Tuesday September 6th at 10.00 am and continue to run through until Christmas. Little Stars at St Francis will re-open on Monday September 12th at 10.00 am and will also run through until Christmas closing at half term.

As always we would welcome anyone who wished to come along for a cup of coffee/tea and a biscuit and enjoy watching the children having fun.

Our renewed thanks to you all.

May Morgan and the Seashells Team

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## COWLEY FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS TREES 2016

10 – 17 December 2016

Theme: The Greatest Gift

fundraising for SeeSaw & ROSY

The countdown begins: the next planning meeting - to which anyone interested in being involved is invited – is on Friday 9 September, 9.30 in the Ranklin Room. But, if meetings really are not your thing, or you cannot make them in the day time, then you can still help us.

Our target is for 55 trees, up from last year's 48. If you are involved in any local group or business which would decorate/make a tree/mobile/picture – or you know a creative family or even an individual..... please put them in touch with us!

We would very much like to enrol someone who is good with social media, who can sit quietly at home/in the office/in the pub and regularly post updates about the festival.

And we also seek financial sponsorship, which last year raised £800 towards the £2,352 raised. Ask Lesley Williams for a letter and leaflet to hand to any companies with which you have a connection/influence.

*Lesley Williams 01865 779 562 07982 439 828*

# 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 is on 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of month from  
2 – 4.30 pm

St James Church Centre

## 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)

## Christmas Tree Festival Meeting

Friday, 9 September 2016

9.30 am St James Church Centre

## Film Club

Friday, 9 September 2016 – "84 Charing Cross Road"  
St James Church Centre, commencing at 6.30 pm with  
coffee and cake

Ride & Stride – St James Church & St Francis Church

Open Doors – St James Church & St Francis Church

Wedding Fayre – St James Church

Saturday, 10 September 2016

St Francis Church Committee

Sunday, 11 September 2016 at 12.15 pm

St Francis Church

St James Church Committee

Tuesday, 13 September 2016 at 7.30 pm

St James Church Centre

Mothers' Union Wine Cheese & Poetry Evening

Friday, 16 September 2016 at 7 pm

St James Church Centre

Parish Social Committee

Tuesday, 20 September 2016, at 7.30 pm

Vicarage, Don Bosco Close

'Our Billy' – Lord Nuffield

Friday, 23 September 2016, 6.30 for 7 pm

St James Church Centre

A talk by Tony Boffin

Friends of St James Old School

Annual General and Open Meeting

Saturday, 24 September 2016 at 11 am

St James Church Centre

Parish Sunday Lunch

Sunday, 25 September 2016 at 12.30 pm

St James Church Centre

Mission Giving 2016

Tuesday, 4 October 2016, at 7 pm

St James Church Centre

Strike Up The Band

Saturday, 8 October 2016, at 7.30 pm

St James Church

Parochial Church Council

Sunday, 16 October 2016, at 12.15 pm

St Francis Church

REMEMBER – Tuesday Lunches at St James Church  
Centre from 12.30 pm



**Harvest Services  
2016**

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>  
September**

St James Beauchamp Lane  
10 am

St Francis Hollow Way  
10:30

Supporting: **WaterAid**  
Water Aid  
and our Local  
**Community Emergency  
Food Bank**

[www.cowleyteaministry.co.uk](http://www.cowleyteaministry.co.uk)

The poster features a central graphic of a branch with green leaves and a circular logo containing the text 'Harvest Appeal 2016 Recipe For Life'. Logos for WaterAid and CEF (Community Emergency Food Bank) are also present.

# FROM THE ARCHIVES

COWLEY PARISH CHURCH

September 1893

The following sermon was preached by the Vicar in the Parish Church on the tenth Sunday after Trinity:- "My Kingdom is not of this world." *S. John xviii 36.*

*Extract*

I am led in connection with this subject to make some remarks on the approaching difficulties of the branch of the Church to which we belong.

There are two great dangers ahead – which we cannot treat with indifference – which we dare not explain except in plain and unmistakable language. We take the first. The Disendowment of the Church in this country. We are brought face to face with this. To disendow four dioceses is no greater sin than to disendow twenty-four. The Church has nothing to do with majorities, with the peculiar motives which men seem to associate with certain things. To take away money left for religious purposes, to spend it on repairing roads, building lunatic asylums, and cemeteries, is not only an outrage to the dead, but dishonest in the eye of that law which we as Christians profess. To allow those who constitute the majorities and whose only claim rests upon this assumption to handle, to divide, and re-arrange money which never belonged to them is a violation of the law of right. What is the property we hold most dear? It is surely the property affixed in our conscience, which we dare not insult if we think the religion of Christ can be propagated by means of this kind. No temporal power or use of force can permanently injure the Church. The sole cause of the attack made upon her is her wealth; it is not because she has abused her trust, neglected her work among human souls; it is because she has money, and that money is coveted by a dishonest spirit working in the minds of many in our day. The danger is near, it may be averted - anyhow, whatever the result of the political

forces which we see opposed may be, it will be a violation of the principle of right and wrong if the programme is carried out which is now proposed. I need hardly say that in my opinion every Churchman should speak out and not surrender one farthing of that money of which he is merely the custodian for the time. Our duty is to God and conscience in this matter. Men may slander us, call us evil names, throw filth at us, and these things may injure us in this world, but they lose their sting when we pass from it, and their weapons are ineffectual in the world to which we are going.

Another grave danger is the Education of the poor. The middle classes and the well-to-do can select their own schools. They can have their children taught religion as they desire, but we are threatened as regards the poor that a policy will overtake us that does not recognize any responsibility as regards religion. The State of this country has passed a law that every child belonging to the poor must be forced into our schools till he can have sufficient knowledge to prevent his being a dangerous citizen. From the commencement of schools for the poor, from their very birth, the English clergy have done more with the help of the laity who sympathise with them in this matter than any other body in this country. It is the case now. In nine parishes out of ten this is demonstrated in our day, but we are threatened that our work will be impossible; that threat is made not in an open, undisguised way, but in a subtle manner. We are commanded to make bricks without straw. We are to be bled to death, to be secretly

crushed, by those who wish to be called friends of education. If you will read the debate that took place during the last week when the education vote was taken in the House of Commons, you will at once perceive the grave danger of our position, because the chief speaker in defence of the policy which I think so full of mischief is a person who has lived in this parish. You know him well, you know his real and true policy, not his policy on paper. You know he is an enemy of every voluntary school in this country, and you will not be misled by a fine phrase, or zeal, or cant. I urge upon every Christian man the duty of obedience to his conscience in this matter. Do not be misled by those who have no record to show that they have done their duty in the parishes where they have lived. The clergy will fight for the rights of the poor in this matter, they will struggle on to give every poor man the opportunity of sending his child to a school where the secular knowledge is as good as any school in this country, but where religion has its proper place assigned to it. They will still give their time and their money for this end. They will not surrender unless the work is made impossible. Many of our statesmen see this, and feel the force of what I have said. They will act honestly to us; they will give us a fair field for labour. Pray for these men that they may have the necessary courage in the evil day that is now threatening

our country. Silently ask God whenever you pass an elementary school for a blessing on these men. Ever bear in mind that we wish children to be what in our better moments we know is the better life. We wish them to be good Englishmen, good and honest men, and the speaker of the text has told us that they only can be these if they are brought up in the fear of God.

Les Hemsworth

## GARDENING PARTY

Last Saturday of each month – 9.30 am onwards at St. James Church Centre.



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



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# PENNIES FROM HEAVEN



Healthy communities talk about the things that are going well and the challenges needed to be faced. Vicars need to do the same. With this in mind I need to be honest about our finances. The past years have had repeated overspends. Yes, we have had some significant projects and significant gifts but when these are taken out of the picture we find that the day to day running cost of the parish have exceeded the income.

If the figures I have been looking at are true they tell us we have had an average overspend of between £200 and £500 a month for at least the last 5 years. It seems likely that we could be heading for a similar overspend this year (the 2016 mark in the graph below runs up to our fifth month May). Yes we have a small amount of reserves. The amount has slowly decreased year on year. With a budget of over £120 000 a year these are small but significant challenges.

What does that equate to?

Increasing the plate giving by one-third in both churches

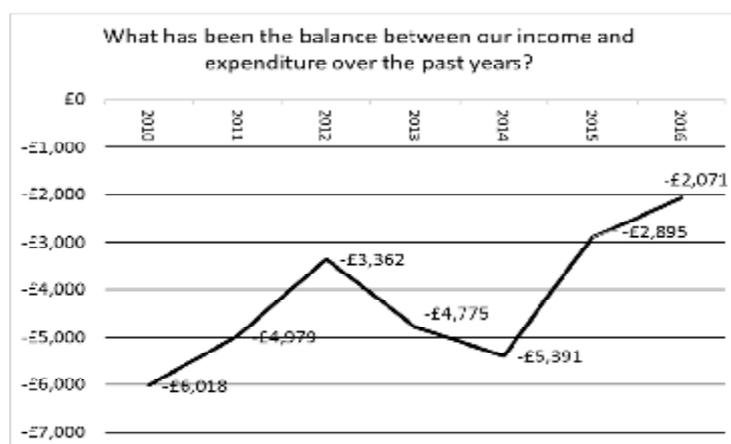
Cutting expenditure as much as possible (saving the pennies- as together they save the pounds)

Increasing the planned giving

Adding each week an extra funeral/wedding/burial of ashes etc.

Or no single response but a bit of them all

This last is really the solution. Our biggest bills each month are our clergy. Just about £57,000 was needed to pay our parish share last year. But every penny saved and every extra gift or fund raiser makes a difference. The Diocese runs an important and truthful advertising line: we have a generous God who has generous people. Do please help in any way you can. And thank you for all you do and all you give already.



Geoff

## VISIT TO EDWARD KING CHAPEL AT RIPON COLLEGE, CUDDESDON

About 25 people joined the trip to see the Edward King Chapel at Ripon College on 28 July 2016, and very good reports have been received on the outing – so much so that it was suggested by the afternoon group that more outings of this kind are arranged!

The inside of the Edward King Chapel is so beautiful and calm. The description in the guide says:

“The internal timber structure, which acts independently of the exterior wall, incorporates a series of 12m tall glulam columns which rise up to support the intricate interleafed timber framework and vaulted ceilings”

People said it was like an upside down boat and indeed these are the words of the architect:

“Our first architectural image was of a buoyant, tethered boat. Many ships in the Bible have been offered as the original nave. We thought of the one that held the disciples on the Sea of Galilee with Jesus asleep resting on a cushion in the prow. The community gathered in the chapel would mirror the expectant disciples”



When the morning party visited the sun was shining but the afternoon group were not so lucky. Even so, the chapel was light and airy - even if there was a panic when we could not find how to unlock the main door to return to our cars (although one member of the party had already found another way out!).

The lunch at the Bat and Ball, the local “pub” was extremely enjoyable. The tables had been arranged so that the whole party could sit within the same area and, although orders were put in at varying times, the food was delivered to most of us, piping hot, at the same time. Well done to the staff of the pub.

Now, what about the next outing!! A visit to Keble College has been suggested to see William Holman-Hunt’s famous painting “The Light of the World”. Has anyone any more ideas – please let the Chronicle team know.

Sally Hemsworth

# FRIENDS OF ST JAMES OLD SCHOOL - ANNUAL GENERAL & OPEN MEETING- Saturday 24 September 2016, 11.00 am at St James Centre

The Friends Committee is sad to admit that they have failed to develop a business plan for any of the several proposed uses of the building and the Managing Trustees (the Rector and Church Wardens) have therefore now put the site up for sale.

BUT the committee remains committed to maintaining the 'Friends,' albeit with revised objectives, in order to ensure that the heritage of the building is not forgotten in whatever its future use turns out to be.

We have £4,328 in the Friends bank account – from subscriptions, donations and 'The story of Cowley' evenings - which we propose using for a plaque on the building and/or a commissioned booklet about its history and/or....??? We are open to all members' and supporters' suggestions. We recognise that those who have paid a subscription anticipating that this would contribute to support for a new community use for the building, may wish to reclaim it.

If the heritage of the building interests you, please come to the Friends AGM and open meeting to contribute your views and ideas – let us know if you can make it so there is enough coffee and cake. Only Friends will have a vote on any decisions.

But at present we will continue to organise legacy and fundraising events and enthusiastically invite you to:

## 'OUR BILLY' – LORD NUFFIELD

Friday 23 September 2016, 6.30 for 7.00 pm, at St James Centre

A talk by Tony Boffin, a guide at Nuffield House, Lord Nuffield's home, and a regular speaker about our local lad around the County

£5 for the evening – refreshments available – no need to book

## STRIKE UP THE BAND - a fund- raising concert with Jubilee

Brass

Saturday 8 October 2016, 7.30,  
St James Church

Songs from the shows including a  
singalong

£10 tickets – available now from  
Lesley Williams and Rosanne  
Butler



# NEWS FROM ST FRANCIS

Skye, our Team Vicar, has been taking a well-earned rest recently and we wish her and her family well, and hope they have come back rested and refreshed.

We held a meeting of our Worship Committee recently, and reviewed past services and events. We also looked forward and made plans up to, and including, Harvest Festival. We have used this service in recent years to make young people more aware of the importance of the harvest to our country, and also of the need to care for the hungry and needy worldwide. All of the western nations need to be more generous

in sharing their resources. Our farmers are going through a very difficult time at present and need the support of the public in putting pressure on the supermarkets to give them a better deal.

We are grateful, as always, to our dedicated support teams who regularly work hard to 'put our church together' for the Sunday services, and also to the flower arrangers for giving us such colourful displays to lighten our building.

John Shreeve



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## SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

*RIDE & STRIDE for the Parish & Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust*

Sponsor any of our St/Riders for their exertions on Saturday 10th September:

Dave Stanley, John Booty, Lesley Williams, Jane Coutanche

*Sponsorship forms are in both churches - cash or cheques to Cowley (Oxford) PCC*

*HAY-ON-WYE TO IPSWICH WALK for the CEF - Community Emergency Foodbank*

Jane Benyon, founder of CEF, her husband and dog, Moses, are undertaking this 220 mile walk, 8th September - 4th October

*Sponsorship forms are in both churches - cash or cheques to The Community Emergency Foodbank*

*BEN NEVIS CLIMB for Target Ovarian Cancer*

Our former loved former church member Hazel Vivian was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in April. Granddaughter Emily De-Loyde, along with her Mum Maria, Dad Karl and brother Thomas climbed Ben Nevis last weekend, raising money for Target Ovarian Cancer. Any donations big or small will help research to detect the disease earlier - they have so far raised £705.

Donate on <http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Emily-De-Loyde>

Emily writes: Grandma has had chemo and lost her hair but is being very strong and is winning the fight. We had been planning to climb Ben Nevis as a family and so Thomas and I decided we wanted to raise money at the same time. One of the biggest issues with ovarian cancer is that it is difficult to detect. Please have a look at Target Ovarian Cancer's website and also find out more about ovarian cancer. Also we would be grateful if you could keep Grandma in your thoughts and prayers. Thank you for your support.

# 5th Cowley Guides

We have not long returned from our Summer Camp at Jubilee House, where the theme was 'Go Wild'. We were able to take part in abseiling, and had a day out to Whipsnade Zoo. We also took part in activities to gain three Go Wild badges - In the Summer, Under the Sky, and In the Woods. Some girls received their Camper badge, others Out Door Cook and two managed to complete their Camper Advanced. Two Guides made their promise on the last night around the last camp fire.

## Camp

On the 31st July, we went on a Joint Guide Camp and had lots of fun. We went to Jubilee House for a week. On the first day we planted Bee-friendly plants, and on the second day we made rockets, launching them using a foot pump. We also tried abseiling.

On Wednesday we went to Whipsnade Zoo, it was really fun and saw loads of animals including, leaping Lemurs, amazing African Lions, enormous Elephants, plus a baby giraffe and loads more. My favourite thing was the Sea Lion show.

At camp I enjoyed the Cluedo Wide Game and the camp fires. Two Guides were enrolled at the end of the week. I managed to get my Out Door Cook and Camper Advanced Badges. I really enjoyed this camp.

Janine Higham, 1st Blackbird Leys Guides.

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## NEW BLOOD WANTED!

Are you interested in how the Parish works? Want to get involved? Joan Coleman wishes to pass on the rewarding job of Parish Treasurer. You do not have to be an accountant but being a bit savvy with numbers helps.

Talk to her about the job if you would like to know more. Contact her by email [ojcoleman@btinternet.com](mailto:ojcoleman@btinternet.com) or by phone 01865 770865



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# Roz interviews Gordon and Mandy Watts

'Women's lib started in our house!' said Gordon – referring to Mandy, who had come across to me as quite quiet and unassuming – not too keen or comfortable to be interviewed. But as we talked, I could see how much strength and determination it had taken Mandy to overcome serious health problems, support Gordon through a number of heart attacks and strokes, and together deal with a marriage of 49 years this coming October, filled with family issues, redundancies, separation and bereavements.

Mandy was born in Birmingham, the youngest, and only girl, of four children. Her dad was 10 years older than her mum, and he idolised her – always standing up for her even when she was in one of her 'ockard' moods!

Mandy had breathing problems from a very early age – she even had to have a part of her lung removed. This led to poor school attendance – she remembers between the ages of 8 and 11, only being in class for 6 months! During this time a teacher visited regularly to drop off reading materials, but gave no actual lessons. Despite this, Mandy still managed to pass her 11+! This gave her three options for secondary school, and Mandy's mum insisted she

go to the first class grammar, although with a less than typical primary school record, Mandy felt a less challenging school might have been more suitable.

This transition was then made much harder, again due to illness – Mandy was rushed to hospital with appendicitis a week before she was due to start! An inpatient for two weeks and recovering at home for five more, when she did get to start grammar school all the other children had already made their friendship groups, so Mandy felt very left out. A kind French teacher gave her an extra lesson a week, along with a few other strugglers, but with so many subjects totally new to her, catching up was extremely difficult. However, an ability for maths was developing.

Mandy continued to be poorly – having pneumonia three times, as well as having regular fainting fits – she had her own special bed in the teachers' room and a hot water bottle made up instantly! Mandy tells me she felt very insignificant at grammar school, but she was building her determination – she was made an acting prefect while the others were taking exams, and when the Head asked her to become a prefect she refused, stating she did not feel she could stop the younger children using

the toilets at lunchtime!

Mandy wanted to leave school at 16, but her strong-willed mother made her stay on to do "A" levels, in biology, chemistry and of course, maths. She lasted another year, and passed her mock exams, but left at 17. During her teens, Mandy remembers she and her brothers had lots of jobs to do around the house – as by this time her mother had '100s of foster children' mostly very young, and she did not have time for cleaning or shopping etc! Mandy did have some time for hobbies – she sang in a choir (although she will not agree to join St James' choir – I'll keep on at her!) as singing is good for her breathing. She loved ice skating, but regularly got thrown off the ice for going round too fast – as she could not run, this was her chance for speed!

Soon after leaving school, Mandy got a job in a laboratory at HP Sauce in Birmingham. They had a policy of employing young people who had the right education, but not the exams, as this provided a cheaper work force, but it is of note that the HP Sauce company was the first in the country to pay men and women equal pay. Mandy tells me she thoroughly enjoyed her time there!

Gordon was born in a very small

village in Lincolnshire, the first of two boys. Although the bigger villages had their own schools, he had to get the bus a mile and a half into Horncastle each day. All the local children were regulars on the buses, and as the drivers knew them, they were never charged!

He says he had a happy childhood, but Gordon had a terrible year when he was nine – his mum was diagnosed with schizophrenia, and was in and out of hospital for years. His dad fell off the back of a lorry! No, really – and fractured his skull! Gordon's granny, aunt and uncle lived next door to them, so they were all looked after, but his dad's job delivering sugar beet was no longer suitable when he recovered, so he started as a road sweeper. Another uncle also had a heart attack and died.

Gordon only just failed his 11+, so went to the secondary modern school, but all his friends went to the grammar school. He left at 15 and worked for 6 years in what became Fine Fare.

Gordon recalls spending his teens watching sports – he had asthma, so could not play - but because the area drew the rich, there was golf, motor racing and scrambling, horse racing at Lincoln and Market Rasen to see, and he started cycling, not wherever the wind took him, he

carefully planned routes so the wind would blow him home! He also attended local dances in Horncastle Drill Hall and other village halls with his friends.

Mandy's friends at HP used to go dancing in Birmingham regularly, and on the fateful day, persuaded her to go with them to the Locarno. She met Gordon, but did not want to see him again, although a few weeks later she did let him walk her home! When she got in, Mandy went straight to bed, but Gordon stayed talking to Mandy's mum till two in the morning! During that chat, she invited him to tea the next day!

At this time Gordon was working for Youngs Seafoods, travelling around the Cotswolds. He lived in digs in Edgbaston, and as was normal then, he was allowed one bath a week. Soon after they met, Gordon was at Mandy's house, and commented that he was missing his bath to be there. Her mum said to bath at theirs, so he did. When he came down all clean, Mandy was amazed – he had fair hair – with all the Brylcreem he used, she had thought it was darker!

One January the couple went to Clent Hills, and driving home to Yardley, there was a car broken down in the fast lane. Gordon had already said to Mandy to put her feet on the floor(!) in case of a crash – and when they hit the car, Mandy cut her knee,

a scar that remains today. She fainted, and was taken to the hospital. When Gordon was allowed in to see her, for some reason she was lying on the bed, with no clothes or covering. He was the perfect gentleman, however, and just pulled up the sheet and carried on as if nothing had happened!

Gordon and Mandy got engaged in 1965, and married in October 1967 in Yardley Old Church, in Birmingham. Mandy's family seemed to like Gordon, but were not so friendly after the wedding. Gordon's family seemed the same to Mandy – the only one who seemed genuinely pleased about the marriage was Gordon's mum. The couple honeymooned in the Cotswolds, and lived with Mandy's mum until their new house was ready. Shockingly, Gordon's mum died three weeks after the wedding, of stomach cancer.

Gordon was working for British Road Services when he and Mandy bought their first home, in Kingfisher Avenue, Nuneaton, for £2000! His wage was £20 a week, and as train links were very convenient into Birmingham, they had a nice life and enjoyed socialising. Not for long, as BRS left Birmingham for Coventry and the railway station fell foul of Beeching and was closed. Gordon changed job again, but as he had a Honda to get about, and Mandy had her

little car, she was able to stay at HP Sauce.

However, Mandy had a slip on the ice in the car one night on the way home from work, and just pulled over and could not bring herself to carry on driving. A close neighbour, doing the same commute, stopped and took her home. Gordon took her to the doctors, and she was given some pills, told to drive a bit, then go to bed and rest. She did stop driving after this, though, so had to give up her job at HP. It was 1970.

A year or so later, Mandy and Gordon hired a caravan and had a holiday in Scotland with Mandy's mum and dad. Gordon remembered this time clearly as his mother-in-law got seriously worked up because she could not find a postcard. He wanted to end the trip, but Mandy's dad talked him in to staying.

Mandy's dad died in 1972. Just as Mandy was preparing for more investigations and another operation as she was having difficulties getting pregnant, the doctors discovered she was expecting. Duncan arrived in April 1974 and had a very close bond with his mother.

While Duncan was still small, Mandy's middle brother was diagnosed with cancer. He died two years later, and another terrible year of loss followed. Mandy's mum died, as did Gordon's dad and a young

nephew. Mandy was ill and in and out of hospital - the doctors thought it was a psychosomatic reaction to the grief, but at last they did operate and found scar tissue had built up badly since her appendix was taken out when she was 11!

Duncan gave his life to Jesus and was confirmed at 18, just before he left for university in Bristol to read Veterinary Medicine. This was a tough time for Mandy - she envied his closeness to the Lord. Duncan met and married Helen, and they have spent 10 years, on and off, in Kyrgyzstan as missionaries - coming home to have their children, Hannah and Simeon. They have settled in Wood Farm and finally persuaded the all but healthy parents to move from their home of 42 years, to Cowley!

I then asked Mandy how she came to be a licenced reader. She and Gordon had become ever more involved in the Church while at Kingfisher Avenue and by 2000 they were having a bible study group at their home. This particular night the Deacon asked if anyone felt called to join the worship team - and suddenly everyone was looking at Mandy. They all heard her respond, but she was adamant she had not said anything! Added to that, the hymn 'Here I am Lord, is it I Lord?' words from Isaiah, and the words 'read/reader' kept coming to her. The Deacon said she had better put her name forward!

Mandy had glandular fever and although she was OK for earlier interviews, by the time it got to the selection panel, she was sleeping 18 hours out of 24! She rang to say she would not be attending the next day, but the Deacon said she fully expected to see her there. Then the call went out to all the congregation to pray for Mandy's good health for the next day, and then specifically for 12 noon.

Early the next morning Mandy jumped out of bed and asked Gordon to take her for the panel. The morning went well, but by lunchtime Mandy was flagging. Suddenly she got another burst of energy for the afternoon! When Gordon collected her she fell asleep in the car, and slept almost continually for the next 36 hours! The Church Warden rang her as soon as he could with the news that she had been accepted!

So Mandy was duly licenced, but had issues with funerals. She stopped taking them altogether when her remaining two brothers died within five weeks of each other. Enough is enough!

~~~~~

How would you describe yourself as a young child?

Gordon : Happy!

Mandy : Ill a lot of the time - a drudge!

Have you any memorable moments from childhood days?

Gordon: When I was 10 or 11 I was playing bows and arrows with some friends and I hit a child in the head! He collapsed, so we rang the Vicar to send for an ambulance, but in hospital the boy was judged to be OK!

Mandy: I had an aunt I didn't like, and once she said 'If you ever cut off your pigtails, I'll never speak to you again!' Mandy being a feisty one, of course the pigtails were soon cut!

Has there been anyone in your life that has had a strong influence on you?

G: The Rev Whaler - although not a great preacher, he was a great teacher - he would tell stories of the great feast in heaven!

M: Duncan influenced me when he found Jesus and asked to be confirmed at 18. He changed and became more selfish, and had a closeness with God that I wanted.

Has your faith been with you since you were young?

G: I went to Sunday school and sang in the choir when I was young, but after mum died, I got closer to God with the help of the Vicar at Yardley Old Church.

M: I have always said prayers at bedtime - I wanted to be a Nun for a while!

Do you have a treasured possession?

G: No.

M: I had a Steiff teddy bear, called Alberta when I was 2 or 3 years old - I cut the button out of his ear as I did not like it! I got rid of him when we moved to Oxford!

What is your opinion of present-day society?

G: There is progress in medical science, but everything else seems to be going downhill!

M: It is a mess!

If you could change something in a spectacular way, what would you do?

G: Bring peace on earth!

M: I agree!

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

G: Since I have been married.

M: Yes since I have been married; I am more content now than I have ever been!

How do you like to spend your leisure time?

G: Walking and Church! U3A activities, although there were a lot more choices in Nuneaton! And Exploring Oxford.

M: I am a hospital visitor. And I want to enjoy my retirement. I used to have a regular pain injection every three months, but since I have been in Oxford, I have not needed it! My eyes had been deteriorating, but the last check-up was the same as the previous one. Also, I need my inhaler less walking in Oxford - this is a place I could grow old in, given time!

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## COWLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The afternoon of Cowley Women's Institute's July meeting was hot; the traffic jams were dreadful and one of our speakers failed to arrive! Fortunately, however, our main speaker reached us, only slightly late, and she gave an excellent presentation about the Associated Country Women of the World and the various projects they support.

We are now enjoying a summer break until our autumn programme starts at 2 pm on Wednesday, 21 September, when there will be a presentation on "When revolution was the only solution! How the Women's Institute changed the lives of women and families over the last 100 years".

We shall also be holding a Harvest Bring and Buy Sale.

We hope to see you then. Do come – you will be very welcome.

Ann Withers

President, Cowley WI



# Calling all parents...

Could you spare 2 – 4 hours per week to help give vulnerable families a great start in life?

**“What you do is invaluable – it’s unique and very special. My volunteer has had the patience of a saint, fantastic ideas and has been very accepting of our family situation.”**



For more information about our next Volunteer Training Course, starting late September 2016, please contact:  
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Tel: 01865 779991  
[www.home-startoxford.org.uk](http://www.home-startoxford.org.uk)

**“I am told that I am a lifeline and can see what a difference a few hours of someone showing they care and giving emotional and practical support makes.”**



The local charity that provides support and friendship for families is seeking to recruit new volunteers who could commit 2-4 hours a week to work with vulnerable families in their own homes, providing practical and emotional support.

No special qualifications are necessary but volunteers are usually parents or grandparents with an interest in, and experience of, young children and family life.

A volunteer training course will be starting locally in late September.

For more information please contact [admin@homestart-oxford.org.uk](mailto:admin@homestart-oxford.org.uk) 01865 779 991

See [www.home-startoxford.org.uk](http://www.home-startoxford.org.uk) (yes, correct, the website address is a different format from the e-address)

## RECIPE

Blackberry and apple time is upon us (and many of us remember blackberry picking up Shotover – how many of us still do this?).



There are, of course many favourite recipes - apple and blackberry pie, crumble, cobbler, blackberry mousse, etc. But how about this one?

Blackberry Ripple (serves 6 – so reduce accordingly for lower numbers!)

- 1 lb fresh blackberries
- 2 tablespoon crème de cassis
- 3oz icing sugar
- 19 fl oz double cream
- 7 oz natural Greek yoghurt

1. Tip 11 oz of the blackberries into a bowl, add the cassis, toss together and set aside to marinate for 10 minutes.
2. Place the remaining blackberries in a food processor with the icing sugar and whizz together until smooth and runny. Pass the blackberry puree through a sieve into a bowl to remove the seeds.
3. Whip the cream in a separate bowl until it forms soft peaks, then fold in the yoghurt. Carefully fold in the blackberry puree to give a ripple effect (do not mix it in fully).
4. Reserving 12 of the marinated blackberries to decorate, divide the remaining fruit between six glasses. Spoon the blackberry ripple on top and decorate with the reserved blackberries. Chill in the fridge until needed.

*Extract from "Foolproof Cooking" by Mary Berry, which accompanied her television programme of the same name*

## SURVIVORS OF HISTORIC SEXUAL ABUSE – LISTENING SERVICE

The Diocese of Oxford has developed a team of trained listeners to help survivors of sexual abuse or unwanted sexual attention in childhood. This is not a counselling service but provides help designed to guide survivors in deciding ways to move forward, generally in up to three completely confidential one hour sessions

There are leaflets now available in both churches and the St James Centre with more details of the service – including for anyone who thinks they may like to train as a listener, as a way of fulfilling their Christian role in the community.

Diocesan Safeguarding Officer 01865 208 290  
[safeguarding@oxford.anglican.org](mailto:safeguarding@oxford.anglican.org)

## WHAT JESUS SAYS ABOUT KINDNESS

If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.

*Matthew 5:39-41*

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy

*Matthew 5:7*

You are the salt of the earth .... You are the light of the world.

*Matthew 5:13-14*

Love your enemies, do good to them. ...Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind.

*Luke 6:35*

Go now and leave your life of sin.

*John 8:11*



Normally, we think of August as a quiet month when not much happens- not a time for new ventures. Well God had other ideas. How does God speak to you? In a quiet spot, on your own or in the “busyness” of life? Often God speaks to me through other people. Earlier this year someone asked me if our parish ran a Christian holiday club for children. “No,” sadly I answered. Having run holiday clubs before, you needed commitment from adults to run it and children to come. I was not sure we had enough for that at the moment. But that got me thinking. God had challenged me.

I had heard of Messy Church but I had never been to one. It seemed though a possible idea for us here. Something for all ages and something that worked with small or large numbers of people. When, was the next question? Normally, the Tuesday activities at St James – Seashells, Holy Communion and Lunch Club- finish at the end of the school year. So I suggested the first Tuesday morning in the school holidays, hoping that some from Seashells would come. That Tuesday morning dawned and adults coming to run activities and chat streamed through the door. Then the people of all ages filled the hall. There was glue and tissue paper Noah’s Arks, colourful animal puppets, biscuit dough made into animals, playing games outside and a large rainbow made from paper hand cut-outs (now in St James Church). Wonderful snacks and drinks were on offer. The quietest people were those concentrating on their creations.

After about an hour we moved into a short service of songs and the story of Noah, in which everyone could participate. This followed a time of completing crafts and chat.

I would like to thank everyone who came: those who led an activity, prepared snacks and drinks, carved a route between the hall and the oven, led the worship, cleared up afterwards and those who came and participated. I hope that you had a blessed time.

Now what? Shall we do it again? What could we do differently? The answer was yes. Perhaps a Saturday morning and/or Tuesday morning of half term? More messy play? More toddler toys out for the younger children? Activities for older children/adults? Please let me know what you think. The Messy Church website is worth a visit. Watch this space for the next Messy Church.

Mary Bayliss

## EVERY GARDEN SHOULD HAVE AN ANNABELLE

Ruth and I meet once a year. She comes to Oxford one year and I visit her near Nottingham the next. This year she reminded me that next year, it will be 50 years since we met on our first day at University! It is rather challenging to think that we are that old!

Ruth is also a keen gardener and it is to gardens that we mainly visit when we are together. Three or four years ago we both fell in love with Hydrangea Annabelle on a visit to Waterperry Gardens near Wheatley, and both sought out a plant each to buy that day. It shone with its massive white rounded heads in the borders there.

Mine went into my front garden where it was very disappointing mainly because it had too much competition from other established plants and because I cut it back in the autumn which is a complete no-no. Ruth's did brilliantly in her fertile clay soil and on seeing hers, I decided to move mine to my new border in the back garden. It has been glorious this year and the dry skeletal flower heads will continue to delight over the winter. I have learnt that you should give a light prune in spring back to growing buds.

Nothing can be as sweet and juicy as a freshly-picked ripe peach from your own garden! Yes, I let my new peach tree carry two peaches this summer and the one that remained after its brother fell and got eaten by wasps, was delicious. I sowed several packets of annual flowers round my fruit trees in the back border and they have been a colourful sight and a food store for bees and butterflies this summer. However I still have to battle the three B's (bindweed, bramble and buddleia) as they could quite easily take over the whole show! I am dead-heading now to keep the flowers coming but I will, later on, let everything self-sow for next summer. This autumn, however, I will be planting lots of bulbs for the spring.

The allotment has been very productive this summer. We have had lots of peas and runner, broad and French beans and the potatoes, onions and garlic have also been good. At the Elder Stubbs Festival, I got first prizes for my runner beans and shallots and a first prize for the heaviest pumpkin, but I was the only entrant to that category!

Joan Coleman

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# CHURCHES WITHIN OUR DEANERY

## Holy Trinity Church, Headington Quarry



George Gilbert Scott built this church between 1848-49, the foundation stone being laid by Samuel Wilberforce, the Bishop of Oxford, in 1848.

“Christ in Glory” is the title of the stained glass window erected over the altar in 1951. It is a memorial to “The Fallen of WW II”, and was designed by Sir J. Ninian Comper.

The organ in the chancel was built by Kenneth Tickell and installed in 1992, with the pipework arranged in three panels which are decorated with gold angels.

The author C .S. Lewis lived nearby at “The Kilns”, Risinghurst, and he and his brother worshipped here from the time of their arrival in the neighbourhood in 1930 until their deaths, (C. S. Lewis in 1963 and W. H. Lewis in 1973).

A window in the north aisle has been installed which depicts scenes from the book “The Chronicles of Narnia”, which is probably C. S. Lewis’ most famous work. This window gives a brilliant illustration of the characters and objects which seem to be full of action and I think it is well worth going to see it in its own right.

In 2002 the parishioners founded “The Friends of Holy Trinity Church” to raise funds for the church’s on-going upkeep.

Les Hemsworth

# HYMN OF THE MONTH

Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

By James Greenleaf Whittier (1807 – 92)

This is undoubtedly one of the most popular hymns in the English language. Voted No. 3 in the BBC Songs of Praise poll and appearing high in American lists of favourite hymns. However, John Whittier would have been horrified at the thought of it being sung in church. For he believed firmly in the Quaker principle of listening to God in the silence. He also thought of himself primarily as a poet, with no pretensions to writing hymns.

Whittier was an American Quaker descended from one of the Pilgrim Fathers who arrived in Massachusetts from England in 1638. Brought up on a New England farm he was an early campaigner against slavery. He devoted much of his life to writing. The last verses of a much longer poem were turned into a hymn by an English Congregationalist, William Horder. It is generally sung in this country to the haunting melody – ‘Repton’ by Sir Hubert Parry. This inspired matching of words and music caught on and contributed to its popularity. I feel that this is very much a hymn for our times. And the verses contain much wise Christian thought in prayer form.

In these days of urgent rushing to do things faster where would you get better wise advice than the words “Take from our souls the strain and stress and let our ordered lives confess the beauty of thy peace”.

So sing on, and enjoy!

John Shreeve

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# YOUNG PEOPLE AND AN ANCIENT CHURCH

Almost a thousand years ago a group of Christians met on a small rise above the river, in a place we now call Cowley, and built the first Saxon church for our community. We would not have understood their language but as they broke bread and shared wine we would have known that they loved the same Jesus as we do.

Go back twice as many years, almost two thousand, and you would find no Christians in Britain at all but in Ethiopia you would come across many communities of believers. Even more amazingly the Ethiopian Orthodox Church has hardly changed since those early days after the resurrection of Christ. Their services, the symbols they use, the way their priests dress, even the language they use in worship (not Ethiopian Amharic but the ancient Geez) have remained the same. You would think that such an ancient, you might say archaic, religion would be of no interest at all to young people but that is not the case. Young Ethiopians put down their smart phones, take off their brightly coloured designer trainers, exchange headphones for a large cross around their neck and step onto holy ground ... to worship God. Ethiopia is a nation of young people and so is their Church. (The picture shows young Ethiopian men leading an Orthodox procession in the streets of Addis Ababa.)



Many hundreds of years after the start of the Orthodox Church in Ethiopia western missionaries brought other churches to Ethiopia – first Catholic and then Lutheran, Baptist, Pentecostal and even Anglican. A major challenge today is to help all these churches work together to face the challenges of a young nation. Some of the first to want to work together are the young people.

In October this year I will have the privilege of going back to Ethiopia (my second visit this year!) to help lead a consultation between Orthodox and Evangelical Church leaders. We will have three major areas of focus: (1) The role of the Church in building peace in the nation; (2) How Muslims and Christians can work together effectively despite their differences; (3) How to help all church members recognise the strength of ALL Christians working together. I would value your prayers for the 70 leaders who will gather from 10-15 October and for myself and Dr Tim Grass as we lead this consultation.

The prophet Joel tells us that “Young men (and women) will see visions”. Pray with me that the young women and men of Ethiopia will see a great vision of all that God can do in their land – a land of almost 2,000 years of continuous Christian witness.

Mark Oxbrow  
International Director, Faith2Share

## MISSION GIVING 2016

The PCC have allocated £2,400 for this year's Mission Giving. Please think what charities you would like money to go to. Written details, please, to Parish Treasurer, Joan Coleman, or to Rev Geoff Bayliss.

There is a meeting at 7pm on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October to decide in St James Church Centre

## MISSIONARY ZEAL

Our church and our parish are firmly committed to the idea of missionary outreach. A fine idea,, but I feel that we should think about practicalities before we rush into action. I have been looking at the way the early church approached the problem in New Testament times. The first thing they did was engage on a period of serious prayer and fasting. They asked the Lord to reveal his choice of people suitable to spearhead this vast enterprise. And having this revealed to them acted accordingly with the result that the missionaries chosen were extraordinarily successful in their endeavours.

Maybe we should take a leaf out of their book and pray hard before rushing into action. Not everyone has the gift of being able to communicate well with other people. And although we do not have to face the problems of long distance travel that they did we still face some common difficulties. With our present multicultural society we are dealing with people of many nationalities a number of who cannot speak English. Our schools and social services are already having to cope with this. If we are to cope as missionaries we have to find ways of dealing with this.

So think on – as they say in Yorkshire!

John Shreeve

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## Film Club at the Centre

Those wretched gremlins crept in during our July film evening and tried to cause a few blips. Our friendly and patient club members seemed to see the funny side and we saw the end of the film successfully. Before he went on holiday Geoff volunteered to sort out the slight problem in the equipment. So all went well in August when the musical "Camelot" was shown without a hitch.

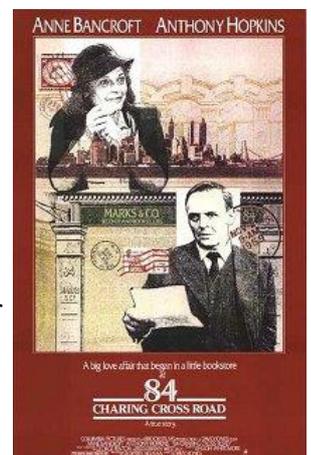
September will find us showing the delightful British film "84 Charing Cross Road". Starring Anthony Hopkins and Anne Bancroft, it is based on a true story about people who have a love of books. A feisty young woman in New York sends a letter to a small London book shop in the search for a rare classic for her collection. The quiet, reserved bookseller responds and gradually a friendship develops through their

correspondence. Even if our members have already seen this delightful film it is well worth another look.

We still have a few spaces for new club members so if anyone would enjoy seeing a good film on the second Friday evening of each month do turn up and join.

The new programme for 2017 is being compiled right now and should be available at our September meeting on Friday, 9th.

Rosanne Butler



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# HARVEST 2016 - THE CHARITIES WE WILL BE SUPPORTING

Our two charities this year are:



## Why do we need a Food Bank?

Despite our Welfare system in this country many thousands of people still go hungry through debt, sickness, sudden job loss, addiction, marriage breakdown, or simply delays in receiving benefit.

A number of similar projects which have started up in cities all over the country have been amazed to discover this well-hidden poverty right in their midst.

## How does it Work?

Food is collected from churches, schools, and other interested organisations. Each parcel contains enough nutritionally balanced food for three days. All food is non-perishable (i.e. no fresh fruit, frozen foods etc). Most of the items are stored in a local warehouse which has been checked by the Health and Safety Executive. Those in need of help are referred by GPs, health visitors, CAB, clergy, community workers etc – any professionals who are likely to come into contact with people in real need. CEF runs two days per week on Tuesday and Friday lunchtimes. Tea, coffee and snacks are on offer at the centre. There is also the opportunity to talk to someone if people feel they would like this before collecting their provisions. The aim is to help people through a crisis and so there is a limit of about three parcel collections per person/family in any 12-month period. Note: We are only able to help those who have access to cooking facilities.

The following items are needed for the foodbank: tins or packets of soup, bottled or tinned sauces, tins of meat, rice, tins of vegetables, tea, coffee and other hot beverages, tins of fish, sugar, tins of fruit, cereals, tins of puddings, long life fruit juice, pasta, biscuits, long life juice, UHT/powdered milk, jams etc., treats.

When donating food please ensure that it has a 'sell by date' of at least 6 months in advance and is clearly marked.



Cash donations will go to Water Aid. Your support will help bring much-needed water to families enabling them to grow their own crops and ensuring they no longer go hungry. With enough food to eat, they can concentrate on education and livelihoods, helping them to take the first steps out of poverty.

“Before we used to eat just rice or cassava, sometimes we didn’t even eat as there was nothing. But when water came to our village, I started growing green leafy vegetables. Now we always have something to eat – we can have rice with a variety of vegetables. It’s really changing our lives, so I would like to thank God and to those people abroad who funded the project. Be blessed all!”

# St James' Wedding Fayre



What is it all about? Now that is a good question!

As a church we love to get involved with couples as they plan a future together and get married. Yet this year (2016) we will have been closely involved in only three weddings. The leadership of the church has been concerned about this for some time and flagged it up as a focus in the appointment process of your new Rector. I, too, love to be involved in weddings and see them as a key part of the life of any parish church.

Our Wedding Fayre is just part of our response as we strive to re-establish St James and St Francis as the first places of choice for people marrying in the area.

So this is not about fund raising but about reshaping the way the local community think about weddings. Yes, there are some things that must happen in a church wedding, but we can do so much more than most people think. Changed regulations make it easier to marry in a church than ever before.

My hope is that our Wedding Fayre will enable us to talk with people in the area and tell them how we would love to help them plan their special day. And yes, there will be stalls of local people and other organisations that may be able to help couples as they plan the day. Helping people make good connections is important. So do please hold this all in your prayers and chatter about it to people you meet. God gave us the gift of marriage to be a blessing to each other and to the community.

Let's work together to encourage family life and use the gifts God has given us.

Geoff Bayliss

**St James Wedding Fayre**  
**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September**  
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# Weddings at St James Church

Our Verger, Pat Chambers, has written about the two weddings which have taken place at St James this year – the first was conducted by Geoff Bayliss, our Rector, and the second by Skye Denno, our Team Vicar.

Our first wedding service in 2016 took place on 25 June 2016, a very wet Saturday, when St James Church welcomed Charlotte and James and their wedding guests - quite a splendid affair. There was a congregation of 104 adult guests, and 22 children.

The bride was attended by eight very lovely bridesmaids in pink, and a large contingent of ten flower girls in white and with boys in very smart attire which were mini versions of the groom, best man and ushers. The bride looked beautiful in a white fitted dress and she carried a floral tribute of pink and white flowers. Church pews were decorated with hearts and pink roses and looked splendid.

It was sad that the torrential rain continued, but the good news was that the wedding photographs were all taken inside the church, with the High Altar looking very resplendent as the back drop.

Many of the wedding guests were delighted to be shown the children's area in our church which made them feel welcome and relaxed for the Service.

The 6 August 2016 saw our second wedding, when we welcomed Danielle and Benji for their special service. Bright sun shone and by 1.30 pm all was ready, with a slightly nervous bridegroom awaiting his bride. Mark Porter was the organist on this occasion.

The wedding party consisted of two very pretty flower girls in white dresses with flower baskets in which were rose petals, which were shrewn along the aisle. They were followed by two very smart pageboys. One adult bridesmaid resplendent in a lovely red dress completed the procession.

There were some lovely hats and fascinators worn by the guests, but the bride in white took everyone's breath away. She carried a floral tribute of white roses.

On leaving the church, two lovely white doves were released. I am sure you would all agree, a very happy day in a beautiful location, St James Church.

Let's hope that the Wedding Fair attracts more weddings – St James is such a lovely setting for that special day.

## CHRONICLE

Editorial Team- Sally Hemsworth, May Morgan, Nicki Stevens

Deadline for the next edition:

Wednesday 14 September 2016

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

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# SUNDAY SERVICES

## ST JAMES CHURCH, BEAUCHAMP LANE

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

## ST FRANCIS CHURCH, HOLLOW WAY

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

## MID-WEEK SERVICES & MEETINGS

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

## HOME GROUPS

| Leader                                  | Time/Venue                                                                                                                                        |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Connie Uren                             | Alternate Tuesday afternoons at 2.30pm<br>St James Church Centre, Ranklin Room                                                                    |
| Friends of St Francis<br>(John Shreeve) | 2nd & 4th Tuesday afternoons at 2.30pm<br>St Francis Church                                                                                       |
| Mark Oxbrow                             | Alternate Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm<br>Mark's home, 13 Annesley Road (just behind<br>the Rose Hill Coop). Enquiries to Mark at<br>01865 461953 |
| Rosanne Butler                          | Alternate Thursday mornings at 10.00am<br>St James Church Centre, Ranklin Room                                                                    |
| Catherine / William<br>Hartley          | Thursdays at 8.00pm,<br>Catherine Hartley 07792 104448<br>William Hartley 07751 939092                                                            |
| Joel Denno                              | Thursday at 7.45pm at The Vicarage,<br>Don Bosco Close                                                                                            |
| Helen Beetham                           | Alternate Friday mornings at 10am<br>St James Church Centre, Ranklin Room                                                                         |

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.

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Skye has Wednesday as her day off.

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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

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