

Chronicle



St James Church

Saturday 11 February 2023

10:00 am – 3:00 pm

snowdrops and aconites
around the churchyard

church open – teas –
children's activities

Snowdrop Saturday

Beauchamp Lane - Cowley



historic Cowley parish church - open for you.



You are invited to come and join Messy Church

The Big Fish

toys, crafts, story, songs, snacks & fun

all ages are welcome

St Francis Church

Hollow Way OX3 7JF

Monday 13th February

10.00am – 11.30am

for more details contact: Mary Bayliss 01865 778 596

m.bayliss41@btinternet.com

or the Cowley Parish Church Office 01865 747 680

February 2023

From the Editors

Sally Hemsworth and Nicki Stevens

How many noticed the “obvious” mistake in the December/January edition (although people who look at The Chronicle on the web will be mystified by this comment as we realised what we had done before putting it on the web).

Well, the letter from the editors should have read:

As we write this we are looking forward to the Parish Dinner on the 2 December – lots of preparations are taking place, good food is planned and we will have the opportunity to meet up with lots of friends.

Congratulations to the organisers of the Craft and Gift Fair at St James on raising such a large sum for St James Funds. We hope to hear good things of the Thrift Sale being held at St Francis on the 3 December.

The Christmas Tree Festival is approaching fast – cards are being delivered, notices posted, doves are being knitted, and we await with delight for the concerts planned. What a lot of work is put into the planning and production of this event.

Many people contribute articles to The Chronicle and we look forward to this continuing in 2023. However, we are always looking for more contributors – so please help! If you do not wish to write, please give us ideas for articles.

We hope you have an enjoyable Christmas and our best wishes for the New Year. Please enjoy this month’s Chronicle. We now have a short break before preparing the February 2023 edition!

We apologise for the lateness of the Chronicle – preparing and celebrating at the Parish Dinner is partly responsible! It was a lovely social occasion with friends and lots of good food. The occasion was very well arranged by Geoff and a team of helpers, and the tables were set out in true Christmas spirit – a good start to the celebrations. Congratulations to Geoff and his team and all those who came, for making it such a special occasion – see photos:

Now Christmas is over, and what seems to be the longest month of the year, January, is over. We look forward to February and spring. Snowdrop Saturday on the 11 February 2023 will be with us soon, but the Parish Walkers are hoping to see snowdrops during their walk around Magdalen College grounds on the 6 February. Bright daffodils are in the shops, and sometimes the sun is shining!

We do look forward to receiving articles, poems and pictures from you – you can email them, leave them at the Parish Office, or give to the Church Wardens for onward transmission!

Congratulations to Chris Woodman on her special birthday – may we have many more articles from her.

Nicki and Sally

A word from the Rectory

Lent courses what are they for?

During Lent we prepare for the great festival of Easter. Arguably the greatest festival of the Christian year. Easter with the amazing celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus, but also the crushing brokenness of arrest, beating, execution and death. The journey of Christ towards the cross reflected the brokenness of the world Jesus came to save.

Lent provides a chance to step back and look at our world, the community we are part of and the people that we live with, to ask 'why was Jesus willing to go to the cross for us'?

1st century Palestine was no garden of roses. An occupying army, a leadership who had lost focus on their calling. They no longer led people to life in fullness, but ruled ridden in slavery. Yes, they did not have the technology, easy transport, medical provision and social security network, we have. The negative driving forces of self-centredness, greed and power-seeking were still key.

So, what should we do with the time we will set aside for a lent course? This year we are running a 6-session course based on the TV series 'Broken'. It covers these themes: Poverty, Gambling, Truth, Theft or Lying, Reconciliation, Justice and Forgiveness. And it takes in some other challenges on the way!

It's hard-hitting stuff, not for the faint hearted. Often, we can look for things that increase the 'warm feeling inside'. This material will generate challenge and, probably, discomfort.

It is exactly such challenges that led Jesus to the cross. Jesus, the Father and the Holy Spirit were discontent with the way things were going. Observing the pain led to the events we hold so dear, the first Easter.

If we are called to be more like Jesus, we cannot turn our backs on the world Jesus loves. His manifesto was to bring life in fullness. It is a manifest he passes on to us.

On the journey Scripture will lighten our path. Passages will include: Luke 6.20-31, Luke 10.25-37, John 8.31-36, 2Corinthians 4.1-6, Matthew 5.43-48, & John 2.13-16.

The pattern for each evening will be simple: Wednesday evening in St James Church. 7 pm a light meal, 7:30 an episode from the 'Broken' series with tea and coffee, followed by a discussion based on that episode and the theme. There will be some time for prayer to bring us to a close.

You can find the series on 'UK TV play', but the real value will come from the discussion and prayer that we share.

May God lead you and bless you richly in these coming weeks!



Benson Cottage

Film Club at the Centre

The last two months has seen our club flourish and grow. Both December and January films were much appreciated by all our members – besides which we have two more people who were brought along as guests and were so impressed with the friendly atmosphere and quality of the films, that they have shown an interest in joining our club.

This month's film is 'The English Patient' starring Ralph Fiennes, Juliette Binoche and Kristin Scott-Thomas. It is the winner of nine

Academy Awards including best picture, so we are in for a very good evening on 17th February.

Readers may be interested to learn that since the club reconvened after covid lockdown, we have raised £885 in profit for church funds. So not only do we enjoy some excellent and interesting films we also contribute a real asset to our parish.

Rosanne Butler

SUPPORT PHONE NUMBERS

NEEDING ADVICE OR HELP? or just want to talk?

SOME USEFUL LOCAL NUMBERS:

Citizens Advice:	08082 787 909
Oxford City Council:	01865 249 811
Oxfordshire Mind:	01865 247788
Red Cross <i>coronavirus support line</i> :	08081 963 651
Samaritans <i>available 24/7</i> :	116 123
The Archway Foundation:	01865 790 552
Mental Health helpline <i>available 24/7</i> - NHS Oxford Health:	
Adults:	01865 904 997
Children/young people:	01865 904 988
Age UK—new telephone service for older people	01865 411288

Have you been receiving a lot of scam calls on your phone, some of them quite scary? If you are concerned about them, you can obtain help by:

- phoning 03450 700 707 – that's a special department set up by the police *OR*
- Silver Lines, open 24 hrs for assistance on 08004 708 090 - this is a charity set up by Esther Rantzen, primarily to assist those elderly people in need of assistance and who live alone and are in fear of being abused.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

My Grandfather was a weaver /tailor In the Cotswolds, not very far away but we only met him at holidays when we visited, usually during the summer holiday from school. he had an interesting 'hobby'. If he saw anything lying in the road , he would pick it up and put it in his pocket. 'Sure to come in useful some day' he would say, but we were surprised that he would bother to pick up a safety pin! And of course, when we needed a safety pin to hold something in place, he would be pleased to help and remind us that we had laughed at him some time before when he picked it up. You would be surprised how useful a safety pin can be at times when a button is lost. Always pick up a drawing pin carefully, and put it in a box for safety.

Another thing that was also popular when I was young was to compete to see how many items we could pack into a matchbox. Of course the problem these days would be to find a matchbox, but a small pot or jar with a lid would do the job. And when you start to think about the objects, you will find some quite useful items are very small and taken for granted, like a seed, or a drawing pin. Try it out one afternoon instead of using your mobile phone. You can have some fun, especially if you have a friend to compete with you.

I have a habit of having that spare screw or nut and bolt still in my pocket after completing a repair, simply because I always

try to have an extra one or two items 'just in case' more are needed than I first thought would be enough to complete the job. This came in very useful one day while we were visiting our twinned city of Bonn in Germany. A number of us from Oxford were getting our luggage off the train and a colleague had a particularly heavy case, his wife's, and as he was pulling it off the train, the wheels on the base got caught and flew off onto the platform! Catastrophe. You need at least two wheels to be working and it was almost impossible to *carry* that case. I felt in my pocket, and found that I not only had a nut and bolt but that they were the exact size to fit the wheel bracket and do the repair on the spot. Happiness.

The surprising end to the story is that we were both on another station two years later and the same thing happened to the same case! And did I have a nut and bolt with me? I don't know why, but I did, and completed another repair. Perhaps that is unusual, but be prepared if you go cycling or even walking during the better weather. ~It won't hurt you to think about that 'emergency kit' dependent upon where you are going and who with. A small torch and some sticking plasters is a good start. Take care.

Uncle Ben

*From the Editors: We understand fully—
paper clips are always picked up and stored
by size!!*

MOTHERS' UNION NEWS

Things have been pretty lively at our MU meetings for the last two months. In December, just a few days before Christmas, we held our annual Christmas Party. The lovely Bible readings of the Nativity, interspersed with favourite carols and prayers always precedes the 'bring-and-share' tea, which is launched with the pulling of crackers. (I must say that this year the jokes were particularly witty). At the end we held a 'Secret Santa' gift sack which rounded off a very happy afternoon.

In January, at Geoff's suggestion, we featured a jolly singsong with the Rector himself leading us on his guitar. Prior to this we dealt with a string of business matters (see below) and Christine Woodman led us in our prayer-time with some very moving prayers for our world.

The main discussion was the organising of one of our popular quiz sessions, with gorgeous refreshments between rounds. Instead of a 'Puddings and Quiz' evening, we are holding a 'Quiz and Cream Tea' event on Saturday 22nd April 2023 between 3 and 5 pm. (This is the day before St. George's Day). Everyone is invited to come and join in the fun.

This month's meeting, on February 20th will have a very different format because we have been invited to St. Mary's Church in Littlemore to see the extensive refurbishment that has taken place. We shall hold our prayer session and business matters in that beautiful place, and to follow, we have been promised a cuppa and biscuits. This should be an afternoon not to be missed!

It is with great sadness that we are mourning the loss of one of our most faithful members, Mary Biggs. She has been a member of Cowley Mothers' Union for decades and we are already missing her. A little group of members attended her funeral service at St. Giles Church, Horspath last month. Mary's devotion and deep faith was unshakeable and was reflected in the tributes to her in a moving service.

Rosanne Butler

CHRONICLE

Editorial Team- Sally Hemsworth, Nicki Stevens

Deadline for the next edition: Monday 20 February 2023

If possible, please send entries by email to Sally at office@cowleyteamministry.co.uk. Paper contributions should be left at Parish Office for the attention of Sally.

The Editorial Committee in no way accepts responsibility for goods or services supplied by our advertisers, errors and omissions excepted.

OPEN THE BOOK telling scripted Bible stories in assemblies for our three Parish schools – an essential part of our mission to the children of Cowley

YES! IT'S STILL AN URGENT RECRUITMENT MESSAGE for the Open the Book team, especially as Team Coordinator Lesley Williams, the only member of all three teams, will be away for three weeks January-February!

Our teams are depleted! With our curate Liam Cartwright and Shalom Gurjar from Grace Church not always available, more team members are urgently needed in each school. Jill Ling is now sourcing, creating and storing the props but would welcome a co-creator, who need not be a story teller.

Our commitment is for alternate weeks in each school but you can do as little or as much as you wish – only Lesley Williams is now in all three teams; all other members are in just one. The roles are assigned a fortnight ahead; we meet at the school half an hour before the assembly to rehearse, usually with children taking some of the parts. It's fun and much appreciated by the schools and the children and of course shares The Word with the next generation.

- alternate Mondays at 8:45 – arriving at 8:20 – St Christopher's School, Temple Road
- alternate Tuesdays 2:45 – arriving at 2:15 – Church Cowley St James School, Bartholomew Road
- alternate Thursdays 10:30 – arriving at 10:00 – St Francis School, Horspath Road

We are also now supporting the development of a team for St Frideswide School, Cricket Road, with the Parish of St John - SS Mary and John church. We plan to host a training by The Bible Society's Open the Book national team, open to all Oxford churches, some time into the New Year.

to learn more about what's involved, talk to Geoff – Lesley Williams - Jill Ling



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JOHN SHREEVE'S ARTICLES FROM PAST CHRONICLES

ANCIENT AND MODERN

February 2011

Quite a lot has been made of the 400th anniversary of the King James Version of the Bible in the media recently. It was standard reading in all our churches and influenced our writers and thinkers from Shakespeare onwards. When I was growing up in the Church of England there were no other modern versions. Yet there was a yearning, particularly amongst young people, for something that was a bit more contemporary that would make some of the more difficult passages plainer and easier to understand.

Then along came a man called J B Phillips. He was only an ordinary clergyman, not an international bible scholar of repute. However, he had a good grounding in classical languages (Greek and Latin) both at school and at Cambridge University. He found that the young teenagers in his church were struggling to make sense of St Paul's Letters in the New Testament. So there and then, he decided to make his own translation of them. Working entirely on his own, and fitting it in between his other parish duties, he set to work. Then the original versions of the New Testament were written in Greek, but it was not the pure Classical Greek of the Ancient World. It was the language that was spoken in the streets and marketplaces at the time of the early church and the disciples. A sort of slang version of the pure Greek. Yet as JBP worked away at it in his own study, he felt the presence of the Holy Spirit very much with him. What is more, he felt that the New Testament Greek was entirely right for the people and incidents it was describing. To put it in his own words – "It had a real ring of truth about it". Well, he finally completed his work, and it was published under the title "Letters to the Young Churches". Much to his surprise it received international praise and acclaim and was much in demand. He went on to translate the Acts of the Apostles, and also the Gospels. In a more general book, he compared the thinking of the early church with our own today, whilst in other writings he speaks a great deal of good sense about our faith in today's world. He is not afraid to tackle head-on the destructive criticism of the unbelievers and atheists and comes up with sensible and viable answers. In spite of much illness and many difficulties in his life, he kept the faith. A man of honour, a man of God.

John Shreeve

PERSONALLY SPEAKING

Many congratulations and best wishes to Chris Woodman, our Church Warden and St James Centre Manager – and much more beside – on her four score years birthday on 7 February 2023.

Prayer Space

We welcome the New Year with a new hope, ever renewed in Christ, our hope eternal.
January named after Janus of 2 faces: one looking back and one looking forward.
O Lord redeem the year locusts have eaten and bless the days to come.
In the name of the holy son, Jesus.

Amen

Dear Lord, help me keep my eyes on you.
You are the incarnation of divine love;
you are the expression of God's infinite compassion ; you are the visible manifestation of
the Father's holiness.
You are beauty, goodness, gentleness,
forgiveness and mercy.
Outside you, nothing can be found.
Why should I look elsewhere?
You have the words of eternal life,
you are food and drink;
you are the Way, the Truth and the Life.
You are the light that shines in the darkness, the lamp on the lampstand, the house on
the hilltop.
You are the perfection of God.
In and through you I can see and find my way to the Heavenly Father.
O Holy One, Beautiful One, Glorious One, be my Lord and Saviour, my Redeemer, my
Guide, my Consoler, my Comforter, my Hope, my Joy and my Peace.
To you I want to give all that I am.
Let me be generous, not stingy or hesitant.
Let me give you all
- all I have, think, do and feel.
It is yours, O Lord,
Please accept it, and make it fully your own.

Henri Nouwen

RIDE & STRIDE UPDATE

As the information was received after the printing of the December & January double issue,
my apologies that I could not give this update sooner.

In mid-December Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust (OHCT) confirmed that the total
amount raised for the 2022 Ride & Stride by Lesley Williams, John Booty and Jane Coutanche
was £465.00 and the Parish of Cowley would receive £232.50.

Thanks once again to all who sponsored them and who also helped on the day.

June Smith

A WARTIME CHILDHOOD

(Part 26)

In those dark, dreary days of war the 'wireless' became a vital source of entertainment, information and education. It is very well known how the forces' sweetheart, Vera Lynn, sang songs for the troops to remind them of home and their loved ones.

For me, as a little girl, 'Children's Hour' at five o'clock every weekday was a source of many happy programmes. Not only did the broadcasts come from the studios in London but would feature many excellent programmes from around the regions of the UK. I remember 'Auntie Mabel' from Yorkshire who played the piano beautifully, regular shows about the natural world from the West of England and stories about 'Tammy Troot' (Tommy Trout) from Scotland, in particular. Of course, 'Uncle Mac' came to us from London, with his lovely calm voice and beautiful storytelling. I still treasure memories of instalments from children's classics, like Noel Streatfield's book 'Ballet Shoes' and Pamela Brown's 'The Swish of the Curtain'. Stories of 'Larry the Lamb' were also great favourites.

For adults, of course, the news bulletins were vital, reporting the progress of the war in various parts of the world. Reports from John Snagge, Alvar Lidell reading the news and even Wilfred Pickles (who, incidentally, was married to 'Auntie Mabel' - who played the piano for we children).

In those days of austerity there were many programmes on hints for the housewife. A

regular feature was the cookery programme, which had ideas on how to stretch your meagre food rations – like how to incorporate powdered egg into a 'nutritious' meal. I think 'Woolton Pie' was one that my mother tried out. This was named after Lord Woolton, the Minister for Food at the time.

But, naturally, it was the music and the comedy shows which helped so much to keep the Nation's morale up, especially my parents'. Music was very much enjoyed by my mum and dad – in particular dance music which, I guess, reminded them of those carefree days of the 'thirties before the war. "Glen Miller and his Orchestra – from a studio somewhere in England", as it was introduced, before his tragic loss over the English Channel. The RAF band "The Squadronaires" was also a very popular dance band, as was Joe Loss, Victor Silvester and many others.

As far as comedy was concerned, no-one ever missed ITMA, (It's That Man Again) broadcast once a week with Tommy Handley and his assortment of crazy characters. Mum and dad also enjoyed 'The Crazy Gang' and a programme from America with Ben Lyon and Bebe Daniels, called 'Life with the Lyons'.

Because we had no electricity in the village our wireless *really was* 'wireless'. It had to be run from some strange thing called an *accumulator* (a kind of battery). They were clumsy things which contained sulphuric acid inside a glass container, which was housed in a wooden box with a leather strap handle.

These accumulators would run down from time to time and needed to be recharged. This meant hanging the thing on the handlebars of your bike, cycling to the next village and leaving it there at the local garage for a few days. In order not to miss out your radio programmes, most people had a 'spare' accumulator on the go – one to keep your radio working whilst the other was being recharged. *Doesn't that sound like ancient history?*

Anyway, it's because of those great BBC wartime broadcasts that I learnt to sing the popular songs of the day – such as '*Coming in on a wing and a prayer*', '*Johnny Zero*,' '*Lovely Weekend*', and '*We'll Meet Again*'.

I still remember all the words too!

Rosanne Butler



Vintage Accumulator

POEM

First the shopping – what a treat!
Choose and decide what we shall eat.
We know we mustn't be too rash
In spending of the church's cash,
And what a bonus when we see
The slogan "Buy One Get one Free"!
Journey over, home from shop
To cook, prepare and peel and chop –
A work of art to pack the boot
With pudding, casserole or fruit.
(We hope that nothing spills if we
Turn sharply or brake suddenly!)
Safely with meals on wheels arrive
To meet the team at half past five.
We count the plates and cook the food
And pray it turns out as it should,
Flowers arranged and tables laid,
Recipes swapped and friendships made.
We've all done Alpha and we wish
To welcome guests with tasty dish
And hope they too will seek and search
And find – and come with us to church.

But if not now perhaps one day
Who can know and who can say?

This is just a short P.S.
We do wash up and clear the mess
And then creep quietly away –
But we'll be back another day!

Poem written by Maureen Chatteron
Found by Angela Munday – 2022!!

SUPER SOUP LENTEN FAIR- TRADE LUNCH

Sunday 12 March 12:30 pm
St James Centre

We will also celebrate Fairtrade Fort-
night with a homemade soup, bread,
cheese and fruit lunch. No need to
book.

Donations received will be for the
Fairtrade Foundation and Transform
Trade (formerly Traidcraft Exchange).



with bread,
cheese and
fruit

**SUPER SOUP LENTEN
FAIRTRADE LUNCH**
Sunday 12 March 12:30
St James Centre, Beauchamp Lane
donations

CONFIRMATIONS, SUNDAY, 22 JANUARY 2023

Part of the Confirmation Service



The celebration cake (cut into 100 pieces – and they all went)

COWLEY FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS TREES 2022

Theme - Peace on Earth

We have celebrated another successful festival with some memorable and rewarding new features:

- ∅ The five 'travelling trees of peace' which shared God's peace around Cowley: two visited private homes – mainly those of Little Stars and Seashells families – and one each to schools, churches and community spaces. The travel bag accompanying each tree contained a dove tag for the host to decorate and add to the tree; a nativity scene with a tealight; a journey log in which to record what happened during its stay and to add a poem, prayer or thought about peace and illustrations; the words and music for 'Let there be peace on Earth' Cowley version. There were some great entries, particularly from Larkrise, St Frideswide and St Christopher's schools and some of the families. The books will be used again in 2023 when the trees will become, provisionally, 'travelling trees of love'.
- ∅ The beautiful illuminated globe hanging in the church, created by Community artist Groovy Su at the Ark- Centre, with thanks to her, Ark-T and her partner John Stumbles, who climbed the very high ladder several times to install the suspension system and lighting.
- ∅ The live music we experienced with Alex Newton playing the organ during our opening reception, a wonderful singing workshop with Emily Marshall and concerts from Jubilee Brass, Rising Voices choir and the Gospel Jazz Project. We just wish more people would come to share the musical joy!

Donations received were not so generous at last year but, when expenses have been paid and gift aid claimed, we expect to be sending £750 each to SeeSaw and ROSY.

At the review meeting, we committed to planning for CTF 2023 with a provisional theme of love – title to be decided – and will meet in May to begin the process. We would love for more people to join our very small group.

Lesley Williams ctf@cowleyteamministry.co.uk

EPIPHANY BIG BREKKIE FOR CHRISTIAN AID

Sunday 8 January 2023

Thanks to all three local Co-op stores – Littlemore Road, Templars Square and Rose Hill – and to Sainsbury's for their donations of fresh fruit, eggs, coffee, bacon, crumpets and croissants.

Not many people wanted porridge but the bacon baps and scrambled egg were as popular as ever. £160 was donated to start our Christian Aid fund for 2023.

The next chance will be during Christian Aid Week in May - a Saturday brunch and a concert with the return of the Gospel Jazz Project who entertained us during the Christmas Tree Festival.

RECIPES

Raspberry Soufflé

Ingredients:

For the Raspberry Puree (for four)

12 ounces frozen raspberries thawed

For the Soufflé:

4 large egg yolks

2½ ounces (70 g) granulated sugar

1½ tablespoons flour

4 ounces raspberry puree

Juice of one lemon

4 egg whites room temperature

Pinch of cream of tartar

Pinch of salt

1 ounce (28 g) granulated sugar

Icing sugar for dusting

fresh raspberries for garnishing



smooth. Strain through a fine meshed sieve. Discard the seeds and reserve four ounces of raspberry puree for the soufflés.

3. In a bowl, whisk together the egg yolks, first amount of sugar and the flour until thick and pale yellow in colour. Whisk in the raspberry puree and lemon juice. Set aside.
4. In the bowl of a stand mixer, fitted with a whisk attachment, combine the egg whites, cream of tartar, and salt, and whisk over low speed until foamy. Increase the speed to medium-high and slowly add the remaining sugar. Continue to beat the egg whites until they reach soft peaks.
5. Add a small amount of beaten egg whites to the egg yolk mixture, and whisk in gently. Fold in the remaining egg whites (some white streaks may remain).
6. Pour the mixture carefully into the centre of the ramekins, and smooth the tops with a spatula. Run your finger along the edges of the ramekins to remove any excess batter from the sides (this can cause the soufflés to rise unevenly).
7. Carefully place in the oven and bake for 16 to 20 minutes, or until golden brown on top. Remove, dust with icing sugar, and garnish with raspberries. Serve immediately.

Method:

1. Preheat oven to 400°F (200°C). Grease 4½-inch wide soufflé ramekins generously with butter, and then coat the ramekins with a thin layer of granulated sugar - shaking to remove any excess sugar. This step will help the soufflé rise and brown evenly. Place the ramekins on a small baking sheet and set aside.
2. Prepare purée: Purée the thawed frozen raspberries in a blender until very

PUZZLES, QUIZZES & GAMES

A Quiz for St. Valentine's Day

1. Who is the patron saint of lovers?
2. Who wrote the poem 'My love is like a red, red rose'?
3. In which Italian city did Shakespeare choose to set his play 'Romeo & Juliet'?
4. When they were introduced to England, they were called 'Love Apples'. What do we call them today?
5. "If music be the food of love, play on" are the introductory words to which play by Shakespeare?
6. In which film does the song 'Secret Love' appear?
7. 'Love' is the score for zero points in tennis. How did that originate?
8. Who fell in love with whom at Dartmouth Naval College when they met for the first time in 1939?
9. Who played the part of singer Ruth Etting in the film "Love me or leave me"?
10. In the Bible, who fell in love with Ruth when he saw her gleaning in his harvest fields?

ELECTORAL ROLL 2023

This is just an alert that it's coming up to the time of year, prior to the Annual Meetings in April, when we review the church membership as listed on the electoral roll. Sadly, we will be removing several much-loved members who have died over the past twelve months.

We will be asking you to check that the personal contact details we hold for you are still accurate – your phone number, email address, emergency contacts etc. And it's a chance both for new worshippers and those who have never quite got round to enrolling, to fill in the very basic form – membership is totally free! Forms will be available in the churches.

The formal Electoral Roll revisions notice will follow next month

Electoral Roll Officer : Lesley Williams
lesleyjwilliams@btinternet.com

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FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 2023

27 February – 12 March

Whilst we are working hard to establish our true Parish Fairtrade status all year, it's good to have this annual fortnight when we learn more about the movement and recommit to supporting it.

Here are some shocking facts made available by the Fairtrade Foundation, underlining the threats of the climate emergency:

- ∅ By 2050, up to half of the world's land currently used to farm coffee may be unusable.
- ∅ Between 2012 and 2017, Coffee Rust (aka La Roya) caused more than \$3 billion in damage and lost profits and forced almost 2 million farmers off their land. Changing weather has created conditions that has made coffee farms more vulnerable to the disease.
- ∅ 93% of the Fairtrade coffee farmers in Kenya surveyed are already experiencing the effects of climate change.
- ∅ In India, research has shown that Fairtrade tea growers are reporting more flooding, along with extreme temperatures and water scarcity, as a result of climate change.
- ∅ Recent drought events in East Africa, a key coffee growing region, have been attributed to human-caused climate change. Similarly, the extreme rainfall and floods in Peru in 2017, which led to mass agricultural losses, including crops such as bananas, were made more likely by human-caused climate change.
- ∅ Research has shown areas where many Fairtrade products are produced, including Central America, East Africa and the Caribbean, are very likely to experience increasingly extreme weather which will negatively affect their ability to grow crops.
- ∅ In a recent survey with Kenyan coffee farmers, 72% of farmers surveyed agreed that the Fairtrade price they receive for their coffee harvests helps them to invest in their farms to prepare for climate change.
- ∅ In 2022 Fairtrade producers across Latin America and the Caribbean planted more than 300,000 trees in a six-month tree-planting drive, with more than 100 Fairtrade organizations across 20 countries getting involved. They used the Fairtrade Premium generated from Fairtrade sales to fund this project.
- ∅ Despite experiencing negative effects of climate change, Kenyan coffee farmers surveyed by Fairtrade are already preparing to protect their farms, livelihood, and coffee harvests: over 80% of farmers reported feeling prepared for climate change.
- ∅ In 2019/20, Fairtrade Premium spent on projects with an environmental impact included: clean water and sanitation facilities, composting programmes, crop diversification programmes, investment in energy infrastructure, community environmental programmes and farmer training in pest management, product quality improvement, productivity improvement, soil management and water management.

- ∅ As well as the impact of the Fairtrade Minimum Price and Premium, Fairtrade partnerships with government agencies and businesses have introduced big scalable projects like our Fairtrade Climate Academies and agro-forestry projects that put farmers in the driving seat and enable them to swap skills and knowledge so they adapt to the climate crisis.

Climate change and extreme weather is already affecting farmers' lives

We will again offer a Fairtrade products stall in St James and St Francis churches on Sundays 5 and 12 March, with stock from Headington Fairtrade and the Littlemore Road Co-op

Note that very sadly the company TRAIID-CRAFT ceased trading in mid-January leaving their worldwide suppliers and the shops which stocked their products and their volunteer sellers with many life supporting and logistic problems to solve. We should hold them in our prayers.



Choose Fairtrade and support women protecting our coffee

Climate change is devastating crops we all rely on. But with Fairtrade, Odessa from Honduras has more power, more independence and crucially in the climate and cost-of-living crises, more income. Which means she can keep the coffee coming for our cups.



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

It is PCC policy that we will work to claim Fairtrade Parish status, as we declare we are living by the Kingdom principles of caring for those who produce, process and transport our food. So we have rebooted our fairtrade commitment!



We confirm that we will stock the kitchen in both churches and St James Centre *only* with those fairtrade products which are readily available in the shops so *all such purchases for and donations to kitchen supplies should be Fairtrade, please.* Yes, it may cost us a little more, but it saves lives and livelihoods.

Any non-Fairtrade donated items of goods which can easily be found in the shops will be graciously received but passed on to the Community Emergency Foodbank. Note that the Co-op and Sainsbury's, along with the Headington Fairtrade and Fairtrade at St Michael's, Cornmarket are suppliers.



EPIPHANY HOME BLESSING

On Sunday 8th January Geoff blessed the pieces of chalk and explained the tradition of marking the door post or lintel at the start of a New Year.

After the service I happily pocketed a piece of chalk and took it home planning to do the “door celebration” with the grandchildren one day.

Freezing cold weather and various things put us off ... not least the height of the lintel above my front door, and what would be quite a stretch even if I was tottering on a step-ladder.

Fortunately though, the children’s other grandparents were having a cuppa at mine the other day and we had Bella and George with us; this seemed the ideal opportunity to send someone up the ladder and we chose the tallest person Grandad Steve! Grandma Jill and I held on to the ladder while Steve wrote a very neat 20+C+M+B+23 above my front door.

I was absolutely delighted as it was the first time I’d ever followed this tradition and I feel that my home has been specially blessed.

The initials C, M and B commemorate the Magi, Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar. They also stand for the Latin prayer-request:

“Christmus Mansionem Benedict – may Christ bless this house”

I reassured Steve that all he would have to do next year is to rub out the 3 and write a 4 instead!

Ruth Goodwin

SAFEGUARDING IN COWLEY PARISH

We intend that St James, St Francis and the Anglican Asian Living Church will be safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is a culture of ‘informed vigilance’ as to the dangers of abuse, including domestic violence and bullying.

We will challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust in our churches.

We follow “statute, guidance and recognised good practice” in all our safeguarding procedures and check that all users of our premises also agree to do so.

Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility – *please be sure to report anything you observe that worries you about someone’s safety or wellbeing whilst at church or on-line.*

Lesley Williams 01865 779 562 07982 439 828 safeguarding@cowleyteamministry.co.uk

www.cowleyteamministry.co.uk

Called to be more like Jesus?

He came to bring 'life in
fulness'.

Join us for 6 sessions
as we look at the world
Jesus loves and
consider such issues
as:

**Poverty, Gambling,
Truth, Theft or lying,
Reconciliation, Justice
and Forgiveness.**



How do we keep Jesus work going?

St James Church OX43LF

Wednesday Evenings in Lent;

March 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th & April 5th

- 7 pm Light meal,
- 7:30 an episode from Broken
- Followed by Discussion and Prayer

More details from Geoff 07759393023



Lent Course 2023:

CRUMPETS AND GAMES

Saturday 14 January 2023. 3 – 5 pm
St Francis Church

This is our now well-established new year event to blow away the January blues with games for all tastes and aptitudes – bagatelle, table tennis, skittles, quoits, connect 4 and a chance to chat and eat crumpets.

Over 30 of us shared fellowship, many packets of crumpets with a range of toppings, tea and friendly competition.

For those who like to know results: Dan, Clive, James and Harley jointly won the skittles; Lesley the bagatelle. After 6 or 7 frustrating tries with meagre scores in the 200s, she hit the jackpot with a lucky every-ball-in-a-pocket 510! We didn't bother with prizes – the glory was enough.

Generous donations were shared between Christian Aid and the St Francis activity fund.

From the Archives

February 2006

Hope in Today's World

In today's society, the tangible symbols of hope for many are the scratch card and credit card.

The lottery 'scratch card' expresses people's aspirations for a better life and secure future. In a world where many have lost confidence in the future – and the present is the only thing they can be sure about – the credit card expresses the all-encompassing power of consumerism. It enables us to live for the present by 'taking the waiting out of wanting'.

To a large extent, we have lost the 'big story' that makes sense of the world in which we live. Individual choice has replaced progress as a core value and belief in society. Christianity is viewed sceptically when it comes to offering a coherent 'grand narrative'. However, there is still a genuine desire to find hope in an uncertain world, as is often seen in the response to high profile deaths, most notably that of Princess Diana.

In the light of this, how does the Christian Faith offer hope in our current culture? The challenge involves Christians living a lifestyle which can offer an alternative image of the 'good life', based in the hope of a future that is worth living for.

The ministry of the Holy Spirit is the key, for God 'has anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come'.

(2 Cor. 1:22).

Within the Christian community, we can encourage each other to live in the Spirit to express our future hope. This means looking together critically at our lifestyle, spending habits, giving, ministry to the poor, response to God's call etc., and asking:

*To what extent are we witnessing to a hope in the future?
How can this impact on the people around us?*

Worship in Church – What's it really all about?

Many of us meet with others on a regular basis, often in a church building, to formally worship God. When we come together in worship are we taking part in an activity, adopting an attitude, or both?

Worship begins where we are and takes place in God's real world. It is about coming closer to God, but not just as an individual. We come as a community and the act of worship therefore needs to be right for that community. We venerate God and offer him praise, thanksgiving and petitions. We confess our sins and seek absolution, teaching, inspiration and blessing. Sometimes we come to Christ's table to share with – and in – the body and blood of Christ as one community and one church.

However, our collective worship activity may – in how it is carried out, or in the attitude we adopt before, during and after – include or exclude others. We may make assumptions about the value of how other people worship God based on our own familiar and

comfortable way. We may believe *our* worship is the 'right way'.

John Robinson in "Honest to God" wrote, '*The test of worship is how far it makes us more sensitive to the beyond 'in our midst', to the Christ in the hungry, the naked, the homeless and the prisoner. Only if we are more likely to recognise him there after attending an act of worship, is that act of worship Christian rather than a piece of religiosity in Christian dress.'*

When we worship God with all our senses, with our whole body and mind, and invite the Holy Spirit to work within us, we can recognise and fulfil our role as the church in the world today and come to people where they are, when they are in need.

By Elizabeth Goodrich & Ian Yearsley

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**HOLLOW WAY, COWLEY,
OXFORD**

THE JUNGLE

Templars Square

The art gallery in Templars Square is also being developed as a community space. You are invited to:

Story time: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00 *for pre-schoolers*
 Senior Social: Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:00-3:00 *coffee, tea, conversation, puzzles, games*

ALL FREE

SENIOR SOCIAL
1 PM - 3 PM
TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS



FREE

Join us for
Coffee, Tea and Conversation
Puzzles, Games and More!

JUNGLE
 Templars Square Shopping Centre



JUNGLE

STORY TIME
 TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS
 10 AM

FREE

TEMPLARS SQUARE SHOPPING CENTRE

1. St. Valentine
2. Robert Burns
3. Verona
4. Tomatoes
5. Twelfth Night
6. Calamity Jane
7. Tennis originated in France. The French word for egg (round) is 'oeuf. So zero is round like an egg.
8. Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip
9. Doris Day
10. Boaz

Answers:

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

St Francis Church Committee
Sunday, 5 February 2023, approx. 11 am at St Francis Church

St James Church Committee
Thursday, 9 February 2023, at 1 pm at St James Church Centre

Film Club,
Friday, 10 February 2023, from 5.30 pm at St James Church Centre
"The English Patient"

Snowdrop Saturday
Saturday, 11 February 10 am – 3 pm
St James Church

Messy Church – The Big Fish
Monday, 13 February 2023, 10 – 11.30 am
St Francis Church

Ash Wednesday
Wednesday, 22 February 2023
7 pm Light Supper
7.30 pm Ash Wednesday Service
St James Church

PCC Meeting
Sunday, 26 February 2023 at 1 pm
St James Church Centre

Fairtrade Fornight 2023 – 27 February – 12 March

Lent Course 2023
Wednesday Evenings in Lent:
March 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th & April 5th
7pm Light meal; 7.30 pm an episode from Broken, followed by discussion and prayer

Super Soup Lenten Fairtrade Lunch
Sunday, 12 March 2023, 12.30 pm at St James Church Centre

JUNGLE
Templars Square Shopping Centre

FREE Half Term Fun!

Mon 13th Feb - Fri 17th Feb
Every week day:
10am Storytime at the Jungle Throne!
10.30am-12 Activities (arts and crafts)

Special Guests throughout the week

SEE YOU THERE!

A GOOD READ

Malibu Rising by Taylor Jenkins Reid

August 1983: It is the day of Nina Riva's annual end-of-summer party. Everyone wants to be around the Rivas: surfer and supermodel Nina, brothers Jay and Hud and their sister Kit. Together, the siblings are a source of fascination in Malibu and the world over, especially as the children are of the legendary singer Mick Riva.

By midnight the party will be completely out of control. By morning the Riva mansion will have gone up in flames. But before that, the music will play, and secrets will come bubbling to the surface.

Chris Woodman

GARDENING PARTY



HELP REQUIRED – COME AND BOOST THE NUMBERS
LOOKING AFTER THE AREA AROUND ST JAMES CHURCH
AND ST JAMES CHURCH CENTRE.

LAST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH (EXCEPT DECEMBER) –
9.30 AM ONWARDS AT ST. JAMES CHURCH CENTRE.

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

Link to online giving!



There is a button on our website which enables our supporters to make a one off payment online. It will take you to the 'give a little' web site where you can decide how much you would like to give. You can also scan this image and go straight there!



<https://givealittle.co/campaigns/49eef694-09d1-4ee3-8810-6ac86d972e6c>

FROM THE CHURCH WARDEN

I can't believe two months have gone by since the last Chronicle. Such a lot has happened in those two months.

The beginning of December began with Geoff's Christmas meal which was a very happy, lively evening. Many friends joined together and enjoyed a delicious meal cooked for us by Geoff and many thanks go out to him.

We have enjoyed sermons from Geoff, Mark, Liam, Josh, Alison, Max and Jo which have been very diverse and interesting.

On 10 December a Christmas Messy Church was held in St James which the children thoroughly enjoyed.

As always the Christmas Tree Festival and Get in the Picture were two successful events which are always delightful ways to prepare us for Christmas. We enjoyed concerts by The Jubilee Brass Band and Rising Voices. Jazz was provided by the Oxford Gospel Jazz Project who have asked to come back, so look out for a date possibly during the summer.

We celebrated another Big Brekkie for Christian Aid at the beginning of January with delicious food and lively conversation. Lesley is now on a well-deserved holiday in Australia and we wish her a safe and happy time with her family.

On 14 January a games and crumpets afternoon was held at St Francis. Thanks to Shirley, Lynn and Elizabeth for organising this great afternoon.

On the 19 January the Guides who meet at the Church Centre together with family and friends of Cynthia Retter, dedicated a beautiful wooden bench to her memory which was placed in the garden at the rear of the Centre. Cynthia had been a big influence in the lives of many young guides. She was loved by them and is greatly missed.

On 22 January we welcomed Bishop Steven to a 10am service when he Confirmed nine young candidates. We were joined by the Anglican Asian Living Church who brought some very tasty food to the brunch after the service. During this time the Bishop welcomed Sunita, who was part of Catholic communion as a child, into the Church of England. We had well over 100 in our congregation with 12 children, singing and listening to Alexander playing the organ. There really was standing room only at the rear of the church.

On the last Sunday of January we celebrated Candlemas together with Christingle when we held and lit our little candles at the end of the service. We then enjoyed a cup of coffee and went on our way.

St James has lost two loved ones during this time. Marian Webster and Freda Yeates are now with our Heavenly Father in his Eternal Kingdom. Our prayers are with their families at this sad time.

And finally, please remember there is always a friend around who will help with a problem or concern. Whether on a one-to-one basis or in a confidential Home Group environment, no one need feel lonely or worried.

Love and blessings

Chris Woodman

REAL EASTER EGG

<https://meaningfulchocolate.co.uk/collections/real-easter-egg>

There will again be a coordinated Parish order for the excellent and special Real Easter Egg range, with the prices held at the same rate as 2022. This is the only Easter Egg on the market which uses fairtrade chocolate, contains the Easter story and donates profits to charity.

The sugar used comes from co-operatives in Paraguay and Belize. Most of the cocoa comes from co-operatives in Ghana ([Kuapa Kokoo Co-operative Cocoa Farmers and Marketing Union Limited Ghana](#)). Beans are also sourced from co-operatives in the Dominican Republic, Peru, Panama and Ecuador. Depending on what it is being produced (Easter Eggs, Real Advent calendars, chocolate bars) the chocolate is blended in Belgium, Switzerland or in the UK. It is then moulded and packed in the UK.

All the chocolate contains Fairtrade certified ingredients. Fairtrade means that farmers and growers in developing countries receive a fairer price.

The word 'Fairtrade' is a registered word and logo. So you can only use the Fairtrade logo and the word Fairtrade if your chocolate is certified Fairtrade.

Some companies will often say they are 'Fair trade', splitting the word into two words 'fair' and 'trade'. They do this because they are not usually Fairtrade registered and are not usually using Fairtrade certified chocolate.

This means they can make claims about their chocolate being 'ethical' and it is up to the consumer to check if the claims are true. So, look out for 'Fairtrade' not 'fair trade'.

Fairtrade - the gold standard

There are many claims made by companies that their chocolate is ethical. But unless it is Fairtrade you cannot be sure the farmers are getting a fair price.

All Meaningful chocolate is Fairtrade. This means the farmers receive a fair price for their sugar and cocoa and an extra Fairtrade Premium cash payment which they can use to invest in their community, buying everything from schoolbooks to solar panels and providing fresh water supplies.

The Fairtrade Foundation operates Fairtrade. It makes sure that farmers actually do receive a fair price and the Fairtrade Premiums. They also check the work conditions and other environmental issues such as sustainability.

Order forms for the Real Easter Egg range are on the noticeboards in both churches and St James Centre – payment on receipt.

Deadline for orders: 10 March 2023

For more information about Fairtrade, please visit the Fairtrade Foundation website <https://www.fairtrade.org.uk>

Share the Easter story – with an Egg

Out of the 80 million Easter eggs sold in the UK, The Real Easter Egg is the only one which has a copy of the Easter story in the box, is made of Fairtrade chocolate and which supports charitable projects.

All Real Easter Eggs come with an Easter story in the box. The stories range from simple guides to 24 page activity book versions. So, buy a 2023 edition Real Easter Egg this spring and encourage others to give one to their loved ones, a school or sponsor a food bank donation. And the prices are the same as 2022!

Where to buy

The 2023 Real Easter Egg will not be available in any supermarkets and sadly Traidcraft has ceased trading. The full range can be ordered at www.realeasteregg.co.uk or by calling 01925 877 004 or on the order form in St James and St Francis churches – payment on delivery.

About the Real Easter Egg

The Original and Dark eggs include a 24 page Easter story-activity book. They are Palm Oil and plastic free, and include a competition. The Fun Pack has an Easter story activity poster and 6 milk chocolate eggs. The Special Edition has a designer Easter card, a milk chocolate Happy Easter bar and a luxury milk chocolate egg.

THE EGG THAT SHARES THE EASTER STORY

Special Edition (RRP £9.99)

Fun Pack (RRP £5.00)

Original (RRP £4.50)

Dark (RRP £5.50)

Now PLASTIC FREE

PALM OIL FREE

New 24 page Easter story-activity book

All Real Easter Eggs come with an Easter story in the box. The stories range from simple guides to 24 page activity book versions.

So, buy a Real Easter Egg this spring and encourage others to give one to their loved ones, a school or sponsor a food bank donation.

Where to buy
The 2023 Real Easter Egg will not be available in any supermarkets. The full range can be ordered at www.realeasteregg.co.uk or by calling 01925 877004.

Out of the 80 million Easter eggs sold in this part of the world every year, The Real Easter Egg is the only one which has a copy of the Easter story in the box, is made of Fairtrade chocolate and which supports charitable projects.

The Original and Dark eggs include a 24 page Easter story-activity book. They are Palm Oil and plastic free, and include a competition.

The Fun Pack has an Easter story activity poster and 6 milk chocolate eggs.

The Special Edition has a designer Easter card, a milk chocolate Happy Easter bar and a luxury milk chocolate egg.

See the full shop list or order at www.realeasteregg.co.uk



SUNDAY SERVICES

ST JAMES CHURCH, BEAUCHAMP LANE

ST FRANCIS CHURCH, HOLLOW WAY

8.00am	St James
9.30am	St Francis
11.00am	St James

The Parish Office in St James Church Centre is staffed by volunteers and is not covered continually.

Please leave a message and someone will get back to you.

Contact details: Tel: 01865 747680

Email: office@cowleyteamministry.co.uk

Out of hours tel: 01865 778596

Website: www.cowleyteamministry.co.uk

MID-WEEK SERVICES & MEETINGS

Monday	10.00-11.30am	Little Stars Playgroup— St Francis
Tuesday	10.00am	Seashells Toddler Group— St James Church Centre
	12.30pm	Tuesday Lunch Club, St James Church Centre (numbers limited—booking essential. If interested contact Chris Woodman)

Team Rector:

The Revd Canon Dr Geoffrey Bayliss

Tel: 01865 747680 (o) 01865 778596 (h)

Email: rector@cowleyteamministry.co.uk

Curates

Revd Liam Cartwright

Email: cowleycurate@gmail.com

Revd Josh Hordern

Self-supporting Ministers

Revd Canon Mark Oxbrow

01865 461953

Email: markoxbrow@aol.com

Revd Max Diaz Butron

Email: mazdiazbutron@icloud.com

HOME AND STUDY GROUPS

Mark Oxbrow Alternate Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm, Mark's home, 13 Annesley Road (just behind the Rose Hill Co-op). Enquiries to Mark at 01865 461953

Rosanne Butler Alternate Thursday mornings, 10-11.30.. *Contact Rosanne 01865 453257*

Churchwardens:

Christine Woodman Tel: 778078

Maureen Stone Tel 747950

St James Church Centre Manager:

Chris Woodman Tel: 778078

Hall Bookings:

St James Church Centre, St James Church, St Francis Church: Please contact the Parish Office Tel: 747680

Cowley Chronicle—Editorial Team:

Sally Hemsworth, Nicki Stevens

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chronicle@cowleyteamministry.co.uk

Paper contributions to the Parish Office.

