

**Come and join us for:
simple tea and scones**



**on the
Rectory lawn
Saturday 26th
August
3:00 to 5:00 pm**



**St James
first Saturday**



café



Saturday 5th August

10:00 to 12:00



**St James Church
Beauchamp Lane
OX4 3LF**



**join us for a Saturday morning chat
with tea or coffee and a slice of
homemade cake
activities for children**



Chronicle

July / August
2023

From the Editors

Sally Hemsworth and Nicki Stevens

This time last year we had just celebrated the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, and we had just welcomed the two curates into our Parish. Now, we have mourned the death of the Queen, celebrated the Coronation of King Charles III and the ordination of our curates. The weekend this Chronicle is issued both curates will be undertaking their first Eucharists.

The next edition of the Chronicle will come out on the 3 September 2023. This is the start of a new year for Chronicle subscribers. We hope you will decide to continue your subscription (no price change - £4 for an A5 version, and £5 for the A4 size). The application form to renew your subscription is inside this Chronicle and all you need to do is complete the form and return it to the Parish Office (or leave with the Church Wardens). You might take the opportunity to encourage the person sitting next to you to subscribe? Additional forms will be available in the churches and church centre. It would be lovely to have more people on our list.

Many thanks to all those who have contributed articles to the Chronicle – long may this continue. We need to have a variety of articles each month to make it interesting – so please think seriously about contributing some yourself.

We do hope you enjoy this edition and that you decide to renew your subscription.

Have a lovely summer.

Nicki and Sally

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

A word from the Rectory:

A Rhythm and a Road

I was recently discussing 'Christian health' with a Bishop. He expressed an opinion that the first 2 areas we need to look for are 'a rhythm' and 'a road'. Having spent some time in thought and prayer it seems these apply equally to the life of a Christian and the life of the Church. Let's look at the life of a Christian first.

What rhythms do we see in our Christian life? In Mark Chapter 12 Jesus describes that rhythm in terms of completion of the Law of Moses. *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'"* Rhythms of loving are really important. In this passage we see three objects of that love: God, Neighbour and Self. A healthy Christian life will look to enable us, in balanced ways, to love all three.

Christian communities have always worked hard to help people find a good rhythm for life. The Order of St Benedict is one such community. St Benedict was a 5th century monk, writer and theologian. A community grew that looked to use his insights in a very tough world. The community continues to have '5 Practices'. Prayer, Work, Study, Hospitality and Renewal. They may sound self-explanatory, but here are a few words about each.

Prayer is the foundation to the life of every Christian. Benedict showed the value of ordering our days around communal prayer as well as regular silent prayer/ meditation and lectio divina (prayerful reflection on Holy Scripture).

Work can include not only paid employment, but also volunteering. It includes any efforts we make to contribute to our community life.



Benedict teaches us that all work has value and brings dignity to each human being. Our work honours God by serving the community.

Study can include reading Holy Scripture, other Christian writing or studying with others in order to deepen our spiritual and intellectual lives.

Hospitality can include inviting the stranger into our lives as well as being hospitable to those who are already in our lives. Having a right approach to how we treat one another, and welcoming each person as Christ himself, is key to creating a healthy sense of hospitality.

Renewal can include the discipline of keeping a sabbath, cultivating interests that remind us of the presence of God, or taking time to notice beauty and love in our daily life. Renewal is the time to remember that our lives are still centred on the Divine, and that God is the ultimate centre of our Rhythm of Life.

'Loving the Lord our God with all our heart and our neighbour as ourselves' is a lifelong and 24/7 calling. Sustaining it requires a rhythm that renews us whilst, at the same time, we give out to others. In the second part of this article, we will look at 'the road'. We will consider what we need on the road to support a healthy rhythm. But I think you will have to wait until September for that! Every blessing to you over these summer months!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rev. Stephen". The signature is fluid and cursive.



Benson Cottage

POEM

PICNICS AND BARBECUES

Picnic is a lovely word,
It speaks of sunshine days,
Of sunlit meadows, river banks
And blue hills in the haze.

Barbecue's a busy word
Of smoky scents and flavours,
Of friends and family sharing fun,
A tasty meal to savour.

Now Jesus was a picnic man
"Let them sit down in the sun,
No Food?" He told his followers,
"Let's see what can be done."

So all those thousands picnicked,
On that miraculous day,
And went home full and happy,
Though how – they couldn't say.

And He was good at barbecues,
Remember the one by the shore?
His friends had fished their hearts out,
Wanting breakfast, tired and sore.

So whenever we have our friends round,
The children chase balls in the sun,
And we hand out the French bread and salad,
And pop a cork just for fun.

When old folk doze and tell stories
And everyone's quaffing a drink
Let's lift our hearts up to heaven
He'd like what we're doing, I think.

Rosanne Butler



SUMMER LIGHTS 20 Free tickets available

Friday 14th July 2023 5-8pm

A night of music, activities and food for everyone

£5.50 adult, £3.50 under-18's, Free for under 2's
Ticket price includes a meal
(Vegan & Halal options available)

QR code

Email hello@ark-t.org or call 01865 772095
For more information and tickets go to: ark-t.org
Ark-T Centre, Crowell Road, Oxford OX4 3LN

ARK-T
Trust for the Community

CHILDREN'S CORNER

I had some good news the other day about a young man I have known for a number of years (we will call him Tom). But before I get to tell you what happened, I feel I should give you some of his history.

Tom lived in a normal family with his mother and father and younger sister, in a small town in the South of England. I have known the family for some time. In fact, I knew his mother and father even before he was born. Nothing much happened while he was young. He knuckled down to his studies, later being told that his results showed that he would be able to go to university if he wished. The only trouble was that rules had changed during the time that he was at school, and he would not be funded. He could apply for a loan, to be paid back later, but the University place would be expensive, plus accommodation and pocket money would be needed. They decided they would manage somehow, especially if he worked during the holidays.

Tom wasn't quite clear what he wanted to study, so he looked around for sponsors and found that by joining the forces sometimes they would sponsor your university place and at the same time give you training. His school results were high, so he applied, only to be rejected because they were not high enough. This annoyed him a little. Never mind, change of thought and interest helped him to look around a bit more, with two universities saying that if his final results at school were as expected he could take a place. He made his choice and looked forward to starting in the Autumn.

About the same time as his search to try to find a sponsor, he had to visit his local doctor who sent him to hospital for a number a tests and checks. Results were not clear so he was referred to a London Hospital specialising in

his 'problem'. The results of these tests were not 'good'. They were in fact quite serious. What had at first seemed to be a 'simple' matter needed immediate action and the full attention of the NHS sprang into action. Any thoughts of university in the autumn would have to be 'on hold'. (*Thank goodness for the NHS*). Tom was not a 'happy bunny'.Don't worry. It's not all bad news.

During his time in hospital no visitors were allowed into the ward. But there were advantages. Because he was under twenty-one, he was in the children's ward with some lovely young nurses, who were also pleased that there was another young man, beside Tom. And I gather that they had some fun with them. At last, after a lot of very special action by many dedicated medical staff, and several more visits to the London hospital, he returned home to re-start life and look forward to University. To cut a long story short, it took another three years before he was finally settled into a course that he enjoyed.

He improved his grades as he progressed through his three-year course. It has now finished. *And the GOOD NEWS?* He has qualified with the highest possible results and been commended for his final exams.

While in hospital he read a lot, and after he was clear of his 'problem' he went to Ireland to work. That also featured in his final exam work, so he didn't waste his time. Things can always get better, and probably will, if you help to make them happen. There's a lot of help out there. I hope Tom's story will show that we all heed help but together we are strong.

Take care during the holidays

Uncle Ben

CHRISTIAN AID

Report : CHRISTIAN AID QUIZ AID

Friday 23 June 2023, 7.00 pm at St James Church Centre



23 Quizzers in 5 teams competed for the Fairtrade chocolate bars prizes in 6 rounds of challenging questions – yes, they certainly were more difficult than usual - posed by Quizmaster supreme, Rosanne Butler, with one answer that we continue to query.

In very close scoring, 'Lucky number 6' prevailed with 47 points over 'Annesley Apples' with 46. A member of the former team also won the warm-up table quiz with 29/30 points. Lots of people enjoyed raffle success!

And Christian Aid won with a total of £160 donated.

Your next chance to support Christian Aid will be a HARVEST BIG BREKKIE OR BRUNCH in September but the date is not yet set – watch out in Link and the September Chronicle

Transform Trade

LESLEY WILLIAMS CYCLED 569.74 MILES IN MAY FOR TRANSFORM TRADE

She didn't really do it for sponsorship – just a personal challenge and commitment – but then it seemed a waste not to use the opportunity for some fundraising, Her target was £500 using a paper form and an online page which remains open - <https://www.facebook.com/donate/984533992494591/>

She has amazingly hit the target! THANK YOU! at the time of writing (28.06.23), the pot contains £515 plus lots of gift aid: £175 on the sponsorship form and £340 on the Facebook Giving page.

<https://www.transform-trade.org/trek>

PERSONALLY SPEAKING

SIGNIFICANT ZERO BIRTHDAYS : Joan Lee will be 90 on 14 July; Chris Booty reaches 70 on 12 August. Happy celebrations to them both!

ARK-T NEWS - from the newsletter

"Today, we have some important news to share regarding the future of Ark-T and our beloved space at John Bunyan Church, Crowell Road. After careful consideration, we have made the decision to bid farewell to this location later in the year. Rising costs and the challenging financial landscape for small charities like ours have played a role in this tough choice.

But fear not, dear friends! This is merely a new chapter in our incredible journey. We are thrilled to announce that we still have our vibrant venue at 242b Barns Road, where our meaningful work will continue to thrive. Moreover, our art room at Orchard Meadow Primary School is in full swing, where creativity continues to flourish and inspire.

However, the story doesn't end there. Our innovative spirit is in full swing, as we passionately plan a fresh and cost-effective new venture. While we can't reveal all the details just yet, we are looking forward to sharing more asap."

With that in mind, we urge you to keep your eyes peeled, as there is so much more to come from Ark-T. Stay tuned for updates, announcements, and opportunities to get involved. Together, let's continue making a positive impact in our community.

It is not clear how John Bunyan Church will use the freed up space. It may be that the work OCA hopes to develop will happen there....

We will await more information but of course pray that all these organisations will prosper and serve the people of Cowley

But meanwhile, they will celebrate a SUMMER LIGHTS FESTIVAL on Friday 14th July from 5.00-8.00pm.

<https://www.ark-t.org/ark-ts-summer-lights-festival> *poster*

Ark-T's spaces and gardens will be open for you to enjoy good food, live music and creative workshops.

Tickets: The cost of the ticket includes a meal and a drink.

Pay more: £10 Standard: £5.50 Under 18's: £3.50

20 Free tickets (& free for all under 2's): £0

Under 2's are always free and there are 20 extra free tickets available, please select 'free ticket' only if you need to, and consider paying more if you can to support more free tickets.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/summer-light-night-tickets-661018473047>

COMMUNITY CAFES IN COWLEY

CHANGES AT THE CAFÉ AT ARK-T, JOHN BUNYAN CHURCH

Waste2Taste, which has run the café at Ark-T, for the last few years, has moved to the spacious kitchen at Shotover View, Craufurd Road, providing a café facility there for the residents and the community, including a 'pay what you can' lunch on the first Friday of each month.

Opening times for the Cafe and Refill shop

Tuesday 9.30am to 2.30pm

Wednesday 9.30am to 2.30pm

Thursday 9.30am to 2.30pm

They are also establishing exciting links with our own St Francis School for the benefit of all.

Waste2Taste is a partner in the OX4 Food Crew, an alliance of nine grassroots organisations working in the local community to tackle food poverty and insecurity in Oxford. They are committed to working in partnership with those organisations to support the local community with food provision and personal help.

Cooked meal deliveries

Up to 200 cooked healthy lunches are cooked by Waste2Taste and delivered in the OX4 area by volunteers, every Tuesday and Thursday.

For more information about the meals and about volunteering, please email Zach Morris (Free Meals Coordinator) at freemeals@waste2taste.co.uk or call/text: 07729 203 016

The OX4 Food Crew organisations are passionate about ensuring that those most in need at this time can receive the warmth, love and comfort which comes from healthy home-cooked food.

<https://www.waste2taste.co.uk/>

OCA (Oxford Community Action) has taken over the Ark-T café space, as the OCA Community Kitchen Café, opening every Monday to Thursday, 9:00 – 4:00.

Every Tuesday, the café will be serving food for free. They want everyone to be able to call the cafe their second home.

What to expect

Breakfast and lunch at affordable rates and made from locally sourced ingredients, as well as cold and hot drinks.

Each week you'll find a different national cuisine taking you on a journey around the world. The chefs are deeply embedded within our local communities and will serve the dishes they and their families have been mastering over generations. Every pound spent at the cafe goes back into the communities and supports our programmes.

Vision

OCA has so many plans for the cafe. They want it to be the base for their holiday activities, a hub for local arts, organising, and community groups, the centre of the OCA Kitchen catering business, an open door that everyone feels free to enter. They hope that the cafe becomes a place where local community members meet and where they meet our communities and learn more about our local needs.

<https://oxfordcommunityaction.org/>

Report on BEETLE PARTY

Saturday 17 June 2023, 3:00-5.00, at St Francis Church

Beetle is such a silly, frustrating, fun game! You need to throw a dice 6 for a body to start, and a 5 for a head before you can then add six legs with dice 3s, a tail with 4, two antennae with 2s and two eyes with 1s. Of course, there's no 6 for ages and then multiple throws when you don't need them any more.

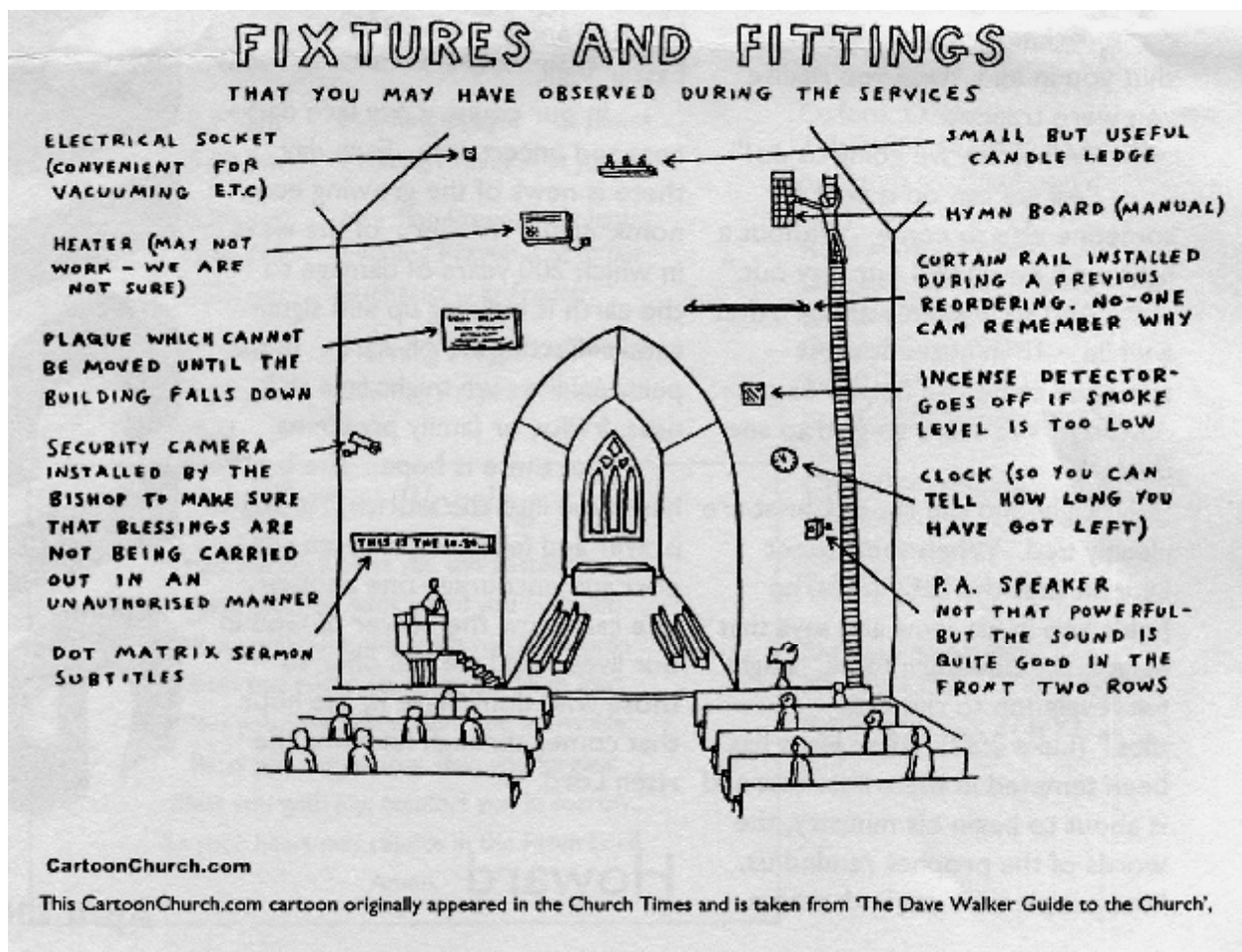
The party organisation: tables of 4; after a full beetle is created, the winner and loser on each table move up and down respectively, so there's lots of socialising.

Half time tea and cake....and lots of chat, of course.

The prizes:

- adult highest score: Mary Bayliss
- child highest score: Rae
- adult lowest score: Chris Woodman
- most stylish beetles: Val Goodall

A very satisfactory, fellowship afternoon. We'll do it again; don't miss the next one!



A WARTIME CHILDHOOD

(Part 31)

After VE day in 1945 most people declared that the war was finished, but of course it wasn't. There was still a brutal war waging in the jungles of Burma and the Middle East. However, in the village things did gradually begin to change. The Italian prisoners-of-war who worked in our fields had left long ago to be replaced by German prisoners. Now, naturally, *they* were repatriated, and I missed them. I missed their cheery "Allo, little girl!" accompanied by a wave as I walked along the lane to school in the morning. As far as I remember, the Land Girls stayed on at least until the 1945 harvest was completed but, of course, the lads and young men who had served in the forces returned, so my friends had their daddies and older brothers back home again.

With more young men in the village, we had a full side of ringers in the church tower – much to my delight. (I always loved the sound of church bells and still do). Talking of church, we children were thrilled to be introduced to our weekly attendance stamps. Soon after the war our vicar produced for each of us a little stamp book with square spaces on each page where a pretty, colourful stamp depicting a special aspect of the Church's year could be stuck. We loved them! My little book was very full, as I was a great one for the 11.00am Sunday service.

Rationing did not end. Food was still very precious – especially meat, cheese, butter and sugar. Of course, we had our lovely eggs, vegetables and creamy milk. My dad also went out 'rabbiting'. However, it took until 1953 before sweets came off ration. Clothing coupons were still needed, and my mum was a great one for making my dresses and skirts whilst 'adapting' existing garments into 'something new!'

Petrol came off rationing for special vehicles, and so our dear old carthorse, Jubilee, was pensioned off and tractors soon become the workhorses of the farms. The farmers too, bought (or brought out of retirement) their cars – so we children had to be more careful if we were playing 'hopscotch' or skipping in the village street.

The camouflaged bomb-dump at the top of the lane which was used for servicing the aircraft that flew from Stanton Harcourt airfield, was emptied of all its bombs. It became accessible again for us village children to explore and play. It was a wilderness of wildflowers which had been allowed to flourish during the war years and, to a little girl who loved wildflowers, it was regarded with delight. It was there that I found my first 'bee orchids', an experience that I have never forgotten.

In the school summer holidays every year, I was taken by my mum as a treat to see a film (usually at the Ritz in Oxford). The year 1945 was no exception, so it was on 12th August that year that we left the cinema and crossed Gloucester Green to catch our bus back to the village. In those days the 'Oxford Mail' published an evening edition of its newspaper and mummy bought one from the lad on the street corner. There in banner headlines was VICTORY IN JAPAN and a picture of a huge mushroom cloud.

The second bomb had been dropped over the Japanese city of Nagasaki and *YES!* The war really *was* all over. It was a cruel and dreadful way to bring it to an end, but the lesson we children learned in those days is that *all war is cruel and dreadful!*

This is the final episode of my wartime memories as a small girl in a beautiful Oxfordshire village. I do hope that they have been interesting.

Rosanne Butler

A GOOD READ

The Man Who Died Twice by Richard Osman

Elizabeth has received a letter from an old colleague, a man with whom she has a long history. He is being hunted and he needs her help, his story involves stolen diamonds, a violent mother and a very big mistake.

As bodies start piling up, Elizabeth enlists Joyce, Ibrahim and Ron in the hunt for a kil-

ler. And if they find the diamonds too? Well, wouldn't that be a bonus?

But this time they are up against a ruthless murderer who wouldn't bat an eyelid at knocking off four septuagenarians. Can the Thursday Murder Club find the killer (and the diamonds) before the killer finds them?"

Chris Woodman

THE FIGHT FOR ETHICAL TRADE CONTINUES

Transform Trade set up the PRODUCER FUND earlier this year to help the best ethical producer groups stand strong in difficult, uncertain times. Thanks to generous donations, work is already underway.

Here are three exciting projects that will help safeguard the future of some of the world's most inspirational, transformational producer groups.

These projects were designed by the producer groups themselves to help open up new opportunities for growers, artisans and farmers in their communities.

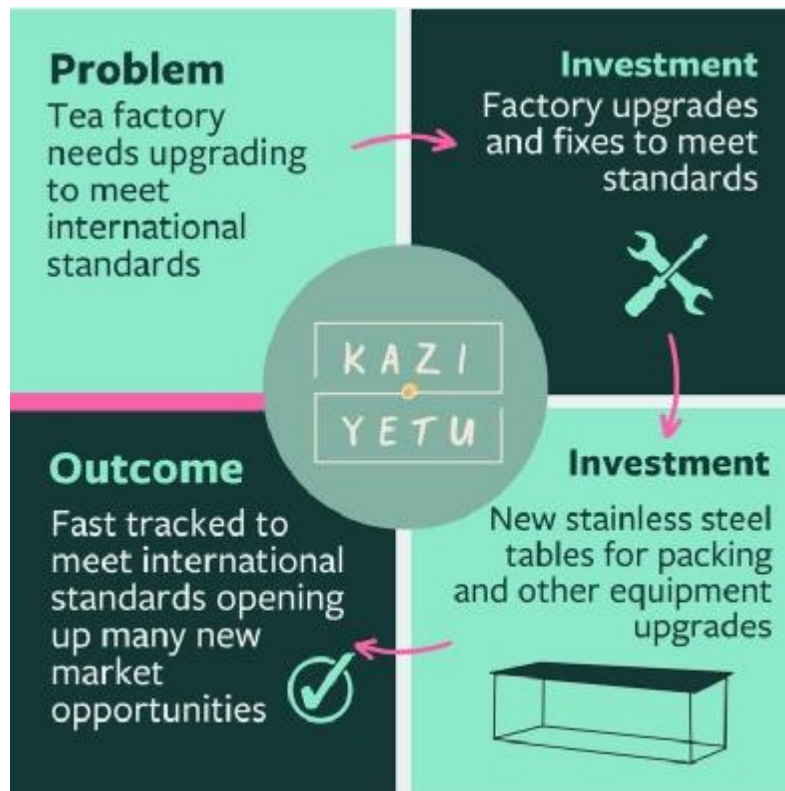
THE PRODUCER FUND IN ACTION

1. A greener, fairer future for Sadhna: In Udaipur, India, ethical clothing cooperative Sadhna is investing in zero-waste initiatives to recycle garment off-cuts and turn them into new income-earning products for disadvantaged artisans. They're also upskilling with hand-embroidery training for 50 artisans to give them more earning power in a difficult economy.

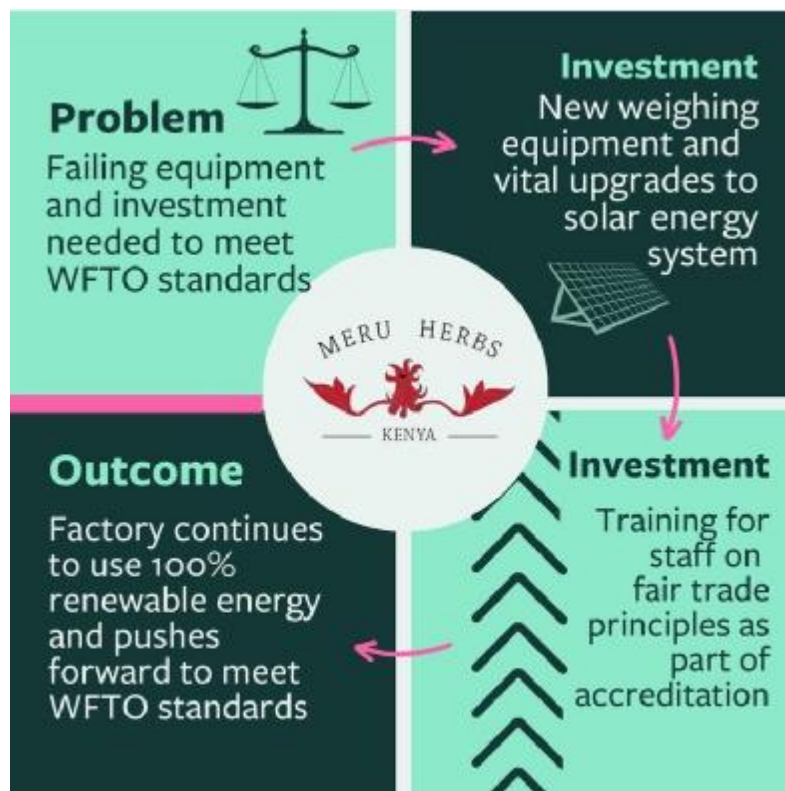


2. Kazi Yetu on the fast track to international markets: For Kazi Yetu, a women-owned tea cooperative in Tanzania, growers and workers come first. But paying a living wage in a difficult economic climate means that money to invest in growth is hard to come by.

Through the Producer Fund, Kazi Yetu are investing in the upgrades they need to meet international standards and open up many new opportunities



3. Meru Herbs take a step into the future: Meru Herbs has done fantastic work for many years but the organisation is at a point where investment is needed to continue. The solar panels that power their factory through 100% renewable energy need urgent attention. On top of this, in a difficult economic climate, investment is needed to meet standards and access new markets.



The great news is, this is just a sample of the work that will take place as part of the Producer Fund – Transform Trade offering long term support and partnership to producer groups around the world. The work will continue as the fight for ethical trade rolls on. So this is just the beginning. But, thanks to our support, it’s an essential, exciting start.

COWLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

We are a friendly bunch who meet on the third Wednesday of each month. We have speakers on various topics as well as tea and a raffle. In between we do Trips - mainly on the buses - free!! And enjoy coffee and cake or lunch.

Next trip on 5th July 1.30pm to Botanical Gardens - all are welcome. The next speaker is on the Land of Make Believe - Jane Abbott. This will be 19th July 2pm. Come and join us!!!

Marion Keep
Cowley WI

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 2023

Friday 9 – Sunday 17 December

Theme: # LOVE COWLEY

Apart from circulating the dates, little is happening with our planning over the summer. Our future planning meetings are set for Thursdays 14 September, 12 October, 9 November, all at 9.00 in the Ranklin Room but you could join virtually on Zoom if you let us know that would be easier for you.

Wouldn't you like to be involved in some way with this great Cowley outreach project? We particularly would LOVE to find someone with business connections who has the time and inclination to approach local companies and shops to enter or sponsor a tree.

The travelling trees will return as 'travelling trees of love' with an extra one to be hosted by parishioners in their homes, to add to those visiting schools, churches, community spaces and Little Stars/Seashells families.

Contact Lesley Williams ctf@cowleyteamministry.co.uk

RIDE & STRIDE 2023

On Saturday 9th September, the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust (OHCT) will be holding the annual Ride & Stride event.

The Parish will once again be participating and if anyone would like to be a Rider/Strider can you please register at <https://ohct.org.uk/ride-and-stride>. We will also be thankful for sponsors.

Welcomer rotas will be in both churches by mid-July for anyone who would like to help on the day.

June Smith

Film Club at the Centre

Largely due to the excellent performances of its three stars, the film shown in June was much appreciated by our members.

Tom Courtney, Albert Finney and Joanna Lumley portrayed a very English situation of a couple of decades ago when the status of privilege, education and personal relationships were very much in evidence. The story line was strong, and the flashback scenes stirred strong memories for many members.

I have to warn our members though, that the film scheduled for July is not an easy watch. It tells the true story of a man who was taken prisoner by the Japanese during World War II and like hundreds of others, was treated with extreme brutality. They were forced to build the Burma Railway as slaves. 'The Railway Man' tells us how it was. Colin Firth plays the leading part with much distinction, so it is

a remarkable film – which has an even more remarkably true ending.

What a contrast August will bring when we are showing the musical film which members voted as their favourite. The song "*Oh, what a beautiful morning*" opens the lovely film 'Oklahoma'. Not every scene is sweetness and light, it does have a darker side, but the songs are just marvellous, and it does have a very happy ending. So, we will all go home happy on 11th August.

Our membership continues to grow, but we still have a few spaces for anyone who would like to join our very sociable club. If you would like to find out about us just turn up at the Church Centre between 6.30 and 7.00pm on the second Friday of any month. You will be most welcome.

Rosanne Butler

CHRONICLE

Editorial Team- Sally Hemsworth, Nicki Stevens

Deadline for the next edition: Monday 21 August 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.

Prayer Space

Gracious God,

I long for the day when your world

will be as you want it to be:

a world in which you will lift up the lowly and fill the hungry with good things; in which love and justice shall triumph, evil be ended and the meek inherit the earth.

Give me confidence that such a day will come and, more than that, give me the resolve to help make it happen.

Help me to respond as best I can

to the many millions who cry out for help, and so to play my part in bringing the dawn of your kingdom closer.

Amen

Taken from 'Prayerfully Yours'

by Nick Fawcett

God, give me your *love*

Give me your *joy*

Give me your *peace*

That I may *live life* to the full

And in *awareness* of you.

God, give me your *guidance*

Give me your *protection*

Give me your *power*

That I may travel in *hope*

And *awareness* of you

God, give me your *aid*

Give me your *strength*

Give me your *presence*

That I may grow in *faith*

And in *awareness* of you.

(From a collection of prayers

by David Adam)

SMILE

Chain Vicars

If you are unhappy with your vicar, simply have your churchwarden send a copy of this letter to six other churches who are also tired of their vicar.

Then bundle up your vicar and send him to the church at the top of the list in the letter. Within a week, you should receive 16,435 vicars and one of them should be alright!

Have faith in this chain letter for vicars. Don't break the chain. One church did – and got their old vicar back!

(From a Salisbury Theological College leaflet)

The Good Seed

A small boy was asking his mother where he came from and when he heard his mother's explanation he said "Mummy, when God planted the seed in your tummy, was there a picture of me on the packet?"

Christians on Fire!

During a recent ecumenical gathering, a secretary rushed in shouting, "The building's on fire!"

The Methodists gathered in the corner and prayed.

The Baptists cried, "Where is the water?"

The Anglicans formed a procession and marched out.

The Quakers quietly praised God for the blessings that fire brings.

The Lutherans posted a notice on the door declaring the fire was evil.

The Roman Catholics passed the plate to cover the damage.

The Jews posted symbols on the door hoping the fire would pass over.

The Congregationalists shouted, "Every man for himself!"

The Fundamentalists proclaimed, "It's the vengeance of God!"

The Charismatics praised God for another falling of the Holy Spirit.

The Christian Scientists concluded that actually there was no fire.

The Presbyterians appointed a chairperson, who was to appoint a committee to look into the matter and submit a written report.

The secretary grabbed the fire extinguisher and put the fire out!

From the Archives

JULY 2002

Slavery Today *By John Gaselee, a direct descendant of William Wilberforce*

When I mention that I am very involved with slavery, people often give me a funny look – but it's *true*.

William Wilberforce, who is remembered by the church on 30 July, (the day after his death in 1833), was one of the Christian leaders who brought about the abolition of slavery in the British colonies – but I, as one of his descendants, know that slavery today is rife. Not the same kind of slavery, but slavery, just the same! We are thinking of people who, through force or violence (or threat of it) are unable to escape from their work.

Conservative estimates put the number enslaved worldwide (including in Britain) at about 27 million: children, women and men, in that order! But this is not just child labour, (fine, if you are part of a family enterprise) – this is child slave labour – hand knotting carpets in SE Asia seven days a week, forced prostitution in the far east, young boys imported across the Indian Ocean for the dangerous occupation of racing-camel jockeys in the Middle East, children seized for herding cattle in Sudan – and so the list goes on.

People today are forced, enticed, sold, given, and born into slavery. It is usually the weak and vulnerable who are caught up in it. Women may be offered good-sounding jobs to travel to Europe – with the prospect of sending money home to help their families. *But* – you've guessed it – there is no money to send home and they are enslaved in menial work, prostitution, etc.

Men may be enticed to work hundreds of miles from home, in Brazil. When they arrive, they are told they owe money for their transport, food, etc. They are in 'debt bondage'.

In theory, they can pay off the debt by working. In practice, 'creative accounting' ensures that the debt is never paid off. Or a man may be working for an employer, but needs a loan (perhaps for medical treatment for a parent). The employer provides the loan, which is unlikely, officially, to be paid off. When a 'bonded labourer' can no longer work, his children take on the 'servicing' of the debt.

Most slavery is hidden from us in the western world. Multi-national companies now appreciate that they must do all they can to avoid their goods being tainted with slave labour, but it is not easy to trace all the way back to source, e.g. – how the cotton was harvested.

Some tea companies have their own estates, with good employment. 'Fairtrade' products are free from slave labour. Otherwise, tea, coffee, cocoa (for chocolate making) will go through markets – with some having been produced with slave labour.

Much of today's slavery does not involve goods which are exported. It is in local agriculture, brick kilns, domestic work etc. Perhaps, surprisingly, most countries do not need to follow the example of William Wilberforce and introduce legislation against slavery. *It is already in place!* What is needed is the will of governments to *enforce* it! Too often, corruption keeps slavery flourishing.

Members and supporters of Anti-Slavery International are playing their part in this generation. Anti-Slavery is the oldest human rights organisation. Founded in 1839, it is a registered charity. It researches and campaigns internationally. It works closely with local organisations on the ground – consisting of escaped slaves, those with relations in slavery and activists putting their own lives at risk. It is helped by individuals of all kinds – governments, other charities, charitable trusts, the Community Fund (from the National Lottery) – all determined to help to end the enslavement of individuals wherever they may be.

Anti-Slavery International, Thomas Clarkson House, The Stableyard, Bromsgrove Road, London SW9 9TL. www.antislavery.org02075018920



RELIGIOUS ARTICLES

SEA SUNDAY – 9th July

Remembering Seafarers Worldwide

In Richard's Bay, South Africa, the Mission to Seafarers chaplain, Jaco Dryer remembers the night a seafarer walked into the seafarers' centre chapel and poured out his pain and anger.

Says Jaco:

"We ministered to him, prayed with him and cried with him. He walked out that night uplifted with new hope in his heart. When I saw him next day on his ship, he couldn't stop thanking us for being there for him."

In Dunkerque, chaplain Phil Hiscock was asked by a ship's master if he could buy a ship's candle. "I was happy to give him one of ours," said Phil, "even more so when he explained about the regular prayers at 18.00 hours on Sundays and Wednesdays which he held onboard. I arranged to visit, and it was good to have prayer and fellowship with him."

For 34 days, sometimes twice a day, the Mission's Bahrain chaplain, Victor Salve visited a seafarer in hospital as he recovered from heart surgery. He kept the seafarer's family, who were not able to be with him, assured of his progress and wellbeing before and after surgery.

These stories are the examples of how The Mission to Seafarers shows God's love to seafarers in a ministry supported by the prayers of parishes in the UK and overseas.

On Sea Sunday, 9th July, congregations can give thanks for the contribution that seafarers make in all our lives by remembering and praying for seafarers, their families and those who serve them.

Sea Sunday is jointly organised by The Mission to Seafarers and its kindred societies, the Apostleship of the Sea (Roman Catholic) and the British & International Sailor's Society (interdenominational).

The Mission to Seafarers (formerly The Missions to Seamen) is a missionary society of the Anglican Church. It cares for the practical and spiritual welfare of seafarers of all races and creeds in ports throughout the world. Working through a network of chaplains and staff, each year it makes ship visits and welcomes seafarers to its centres, visits seafarers in hospital and helps in justice and welfare cases.

For more details: www.missiontoseafarers.org

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JULY 1933

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!



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FROM THE CHURCH WARDEN

June started off with the first Saturday Cafe which was good fun. Art and Faith have their meeting on the first Saturday of the month so we were able to combine the two and thank you to Chris Booty for pointing all who attended Art and Faith in our direction.

The following day some of our youngsters were present for their first communion at the 11 o'clock service and they looked very happy being in church on this very important occasion. We had our usual tea, coffee and delicious cake afterwards.

Events quietened down for a couple of weeks and then we had a fun beetle drive at St Francis on 17 June, the day of the King's official birthday. That was a great afternoon and a lot of laughter went on.

23 June was our Christian Aid quiz. A good number came to try and answer Rosanne's questions which were very challenging. Thank you, Rosanne for all the research you must have undertaken to produce such a varied selection of questions.

The final event for us in June was the wonderful service at St Mary's Church in High Street for the Ordination of six Curates. This included our two Curates, Liam and Josh. The church was full to capacity, and we were so fortunate to be able to attend. We wish all who were Ordained a fulfilling and rewarding Ministry.

Love and blessings to you all.

Chris Woodman

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**Kate Reid MCFHP MAFHP
07952127534**

kate@nurturefootcare.co.uk

RECIPE

RHUBARB AND APPLE CRUMBLE



Ingredients:

- 450g rhubarb, cut into 3cm slices
- 350g apples (Bramley or Granny Smith work well), peeled and cut into 3cm chunks
- 1 vanilla pod, split open or 1 tsp vanilla paste or extract
- 120g golden caster sugar
- ice cream or custard, to serve

For the topping:

- 200g plain flour
- 1 tsp ground ginger (optional)
- 100g cold salted butter, chopped
- 70g light soft brown sugar

Method

1. Heat the oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6. Toss the rhubarb, apples, vanilla and sugar together in an ovenproof dish and roast for 10 mins.
2. Mix the flour and ginger, if using, together in a large bowl. Rub in the butter with your fingertips to create a chunky breadcrumb textured mixture. Stir through the sugar. Sprinkle the crumble topping onto the fruit and cook for a further 30-35 mins or until the topping is lightly golden brown. Serve with ice cream or custard.

BUT, you might prefer just to eat fresh soft fruit – strawberries, raspberries, cherries, peaches, nectarines – all are in plentiful supply at this time of year and lovely with

Parish Walks

Parish Walks have continued throughout the year, mostly on a fortnightly basis (although the three Bank holidays in May affected the number of walks we had that month!). On Monday, 3 July 2023 (meeting at 1.45 pm) we are going to walk from St James Church Centre to If-fley, and then along the river to the Tandem Pub at Kennington. This is quite an easy walk (although there are steep steps across the railway line near the Tandem), and if you do not feel like walking back, there are frequent buses back to Oxford.

A number of walks have been suggested – of course, these are not written in tablets of stone and those on one walk select the next walk.

I have just heard from the Friends of Lye Valley that the marsh helleborines and orchids are in full beautiful flower in the Valley currently. A recent count showed that the North fen (that's the fen either side of the boardwalk) had a staggering 1689, the most there has ever been. There are a great many more non-flowering plant rosettes as well, so a huge population. The golden flood to be seen when walking down the Valley is the flowers of Greater Bird's Foot trefoil, very popular with bees. So hopefully the group will decide to include this walk in its programme very quickly.

Details of the walks are in The Link – but if you want to be included on the circulation list (by email) let me know. All I need is an email address and you will be on the list!

Sally Hemsworth

JOHN SHREEVE'S ARTICLES FROM THE PAST

A SUFFOLK SOLILOQUY

July 2011

Every day large numbers of juggernauts roar through Suffolk on their way to Ipswich and Felixstowe on the A45, intent on reaching their destination as quickly as possible. They see little of the real Suffolk which is hidden away down the byways and country lanes. Many of us ordinary travellers tend to avoid the area as being a bit off the beaten track and inclined to be a bit chilly at times. Yet, if we do so we are missing out on a great deal, for Suffolk as a county has much to offer. It has traditionally been very much a rural farming area, and still remains largely so. Yet it is literally steeped in history, and if you are interested in church history you are spoilt for choice because there are so many fascinating religious buildings and sites to visit that one hardly knows where to begin. Some people used to refer to it derisively as "Silly Suffolk" but that ought to be changed to "Sely Suffolk" for "sely" was an ancient word for Holy, and this county has more than its fair share of saints and holy men and women.

At Bury St Edmunds, for instance, there was one of the largest Abbeys in the land, with other monasteries and nunneries grouped nearby. At one time several kings and members of the Royal families preferred to try to live a Holy life in monasteries rather than palaces. Yet it is often the small villages tucked away in remote areas which spring the greatest surprises, and one can find a real gem of a little church hidden in the most unexpected places. Such a place was at Dennington, near Southwold, where we found in the church the alabaster tomb of a knight who had fought with Henry V at Agincourt, clad in all his armour and knightly regalia, lying beside his noble lady in her wimple and long medieval dress. The memorial was carved in white alabaster with all the medieval colours still showing. The same church had a very unusual "sand table" which was used to teach children to write, and an ancient clock over 500 years old. Outside in the churchyard was a fine oak tree planted in memory of Sir Winston Churchill with a plaque underneath engraved with the following words – In War, Resolution – In Defeat, Defiance – In Victory, Magnanimity – In Peace, Goodwill. Stirring stuff indeed!

A number of these old churches still have the unusual round towers, which are only found in Norfolk and Suffolk. A few still have thatched roofs. However, if it is seaside and beaches you are looking for, Southwold and Aldeburgh have much to offer. Quaint old villages abound in this area, with ancient, thatched cottages and oak beams and colourful quaint little gardens. At Minsmere there is a fine RSPB Bird Sanctuary. Newmarket has its old horseracing traditions if you fancy a little excitement. There are plenty of estuaries and rivers if you are fond of fishing or sailing.

At one of these, "Sutton Hoo" in the south of the county, archaeologists discovered a Saxon King's ship buried under a huge mound of earth. It contained his original armour and weapons, plus gold and silver of great value, much of it now in the British Museum in London. There is much old folklore, as folktales and old legends still linger on.

Lowestoft was the biggest fishing port in the area and had a large fishing fleet, which is now greatly reduced in size. Herrings were the best money earner and provided a living for many people. In fact there is a village called "Herring Fleet" just a few miles inland from the coast. So, all in all, if it is *variety* you want and something unusual, you could not do better than go eastwards, down Suffolk way.

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.

DATES TO REMEMBER

The First Saturday Café

Saturday, 1 July 2023

10 – 12 noon St James Church

Art and Faith

Saturday, 1 July 2023, 10-12 noon at St

James Church Centre

Art and Faith is held the first Saturday of each month

Liam Cartwright’s First Mass

Saturday, 1 July 2023, 3 pm

St Francis Church

Josh Hordern’s First Eucharist

Sunday, 2nd July 2023, 11 am

St James Church

St Francis Church Committee

Sunday, 16 July 2023, after Church Service

Parish Feast of St James celebration

Sunday, 23 July 2023, 10.30 St James

Church

followed by bring & share lunch at St James Church Centre

The First Saturday Café

Saturday, 5 August 2023, 10-12 noon

St James Church

Rectory Garden Tea Party

Saturday, 26 August 2023, 3-5 pm

MOTHERS' UNION NEWS

Following our delightful visit to St. Mary's church in Littlemore back in the spring, we were more than pleased to accept an invitation to 'come again' in the summer. To our delight the lovely friends we made there organised a cream tea for our June meeting.

As is our custom now that we are a diocesan prayer group, our meeting began with prayer which was followed by quite a lengthy discussion on the history, values and challenges of the Mothers Union organisation. We began by thinking of our promise to support family life not only in our own country but in the wider world.

We called to mind how the MU literary scheme began in Cowley. Emma, the daughter-in-law of Bruce and Nora Moffat (both great servants of our parish for many years) found that hundreds – maybe thousands – of women in the Third World were illiterate and were unable to support their husbands in their mainly agricultural businesses by helping with orders, book-keeping and so on. Emma began in Africa with the MU literary project which has grown and grown.

We also talked about a scheme which is close to our hearts, namely the 'Away-From-It-All' project which organises holidays for families who have never had one. Angela Munday, one of our members, has had first-hand experience of AFIA – having taken part in several holiday experiences. She spoke most powerfully on what differences she saw in the families who took part.

We touched on the story of Mary Sumner, our founder, and also on how the work we do is as relevant today as it ever was.

Over a delicious tea with homemade cake, we planned our July summer party. If the weather is kind, we may meet in the Rectory Garden, which is accessed by the little green gate in St. James' churchyard. If not, we shall meet (as we did last year) in the church. The date set for this party is 17th July.

Our theme for this month's meeting is 'Every picture tells a story' when members are asked to bring along a picture with an interesting story behind it. This should make for a very lively and interesting party.

Rosanne Butler

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: maxdiazbutron@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

Articles to be emailed to:

office@cowleyteamministry.co.uk

Paper contributions to the Parish Office.

