

# Chronicle

February 2019



## Ash Wednesday Service Wednesday 6th March

**7:00 pm baked potato  
supper**

**7:30 pm Communion  
service with ashing  
St James  
Beauchamp Lane**



Come and join Messy  
Church for fun  
activities to think  
about



## Trusting in God

(Psalm 23)

**crafts, songs, story and toys**

*all ages are welcome*

**at St. James Church Centre**

**Beauchamp Lane, OX4 3LF**

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> February**

**10am – 11.30am**

For more details contact:

Mary Bayliss 01865 778596,

Email: [m.bayliss41@btinternet.com](mailto:m.bayliss41@btinternet.com)

or Cowley Parish Church Office 01865 747680

# From the Editors

*Sally Hemsworth and Nicki Stevens*

Our first edition of the New Year, and we would like to wish you all a Happy New Year.

There is a lot of interesting articles covering Fairtrade fortnight 2019 – 25 February – 10 March 2019. Although this only covers one fortnight it is something that we need to consider on an ongoing basis.

There are a number of new policies agreed by the PCC – Safeguarding, Data Protection, Health and Safety. These are displayed in the church buildings and are included in the booklet setting out the terms of reference for letting these buildings. If you would like copies of these, please ask the Church Wardens or at the Parish Office.

People are signing up for the holiday in Torquay but the numbers need to be higher. Please let Pat Chambers know if you are interested in joining this coach holiday.

Parish Walks continue – but we are having a break during February to miss the bad weather. Our last walk was delightful – we went to Worcester College Gardens and the snowdrops, cyclamen and hellebores were so beautiful. Well worth a visit if you find the time. You will also see a notice in The Chronicle on Health Walks – if the Parish Walks are too long you might like to consider the walks being arranged by Go Active.

Thank you to all who have contributed this month.

Nicki and Sally



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## A word from the Rectory

The new year has arrived and the buds on the plants in my garden are beginning to fill. The roses and the hydrangeas are in need of a prune. That way this year's beautiful crop of flowers will have a good shape. These budding plants raise in my mind a question. 'How are we doing in growing God's Kingdom in Cowley'? There are so many good signs: the schools work is flourishing, the mid-week groups across the parish have a vitality that is healthy and good. The halls we have are generally busy. One repeated challenge is how we fit all the activities we have alongside each other. Diaries clash and we strive to make space. Our electronic 'Cowley Team Diary' has become an essential part of everyday life. It is the only way we can keep track of all that is happening. It is the only way we can hold free the space in our building so that all the work we do can continue. So if you have an event in the planning stage do please talk to the office team to ensure that space you need will be available. ([office@cowleyteamministry.co.uk](mailto:office@cowleyteamministry.co.uk))

The growth of God's Kingdom depends on more than physical space. It also needs people to recognise a nudge from the Holy Spirit. As we are nudged we get involved and use the gift/gifts that God has given us to grow a community. It becomes a family that lives increasingly by Jesus' values. Over the past 3 years we have repeatedly sung a hymn printed on this page: It talks of building a Jesus shaped house. If you have gifts that you think might be helpful as we build such a house why not have a word with one of our leaders and find a way that you can get more involved? You might spot that other people have gifts. Why not encourage them to put their gifts to use?

Let us build a house where love can dwell  
and all can safely live,  
a place where saints and children tell  
how hearts learn to forgive.

Built of hopes and dreams and visions,  
rock of faith and vault of grace;  
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:  
All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak,  
and words are strong and true,  
where all God's children dare to seek  
to dream God's reign anew.  
Here the cross shall stand as witness  
and as symbol of God's grace;  
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:

Let us build a house where love is found  
in water, wine and wheat:  
a banquet hall on holy ground  
where peace and justice meet.  
Here the love of God, through Jesus,  
is revealed in time and space;  
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:

Let us build a house where hands will reach  
beyond the wood and stone  
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,  
and live the Word they've known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger  
bear the image of God's face;  
let us bring an end to fear and danger:

Let us build a house where all are named,  
their songs and visions heard  
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed  
as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter,  
prayers of faith and songs of grace,  
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:  
Marty Haugen © 1994, GIA Publications, Inc.



Benson Cottage



# Mothers' Union News

The Annual General Meeting which was held in January was very well attended. After having agreed and accepted both the annual balance sheet and annual report, the election of officers followed. The four committee members who had served throughout 2019 all agreed to stand again. Members were delighted to re-elect them together with Chris Lee who was also happy to join the committee. So the committee now stands with: Christine Woodman, Mandy Watts, Valerie Goodall, Mary Bayliss and (as before mentioned) Chris Lee. Rosanne Butler was elected branch leader and treasurer. After the election an open forum was held where ideas for the future of the branch were exchanged. During this it was mentioned that we are proud to now be the only working Mothers' Union branch in the whole of the Oxford Diocese.

Business was followed by a very successful

bring and buy sale to boost branch funds.

Our February meeting on Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> will mainly focus on preparation for the Women's World Day of Prayer. This is to be held this year at Rose Hill Methodist Church and features Christian communities in Slovenia. The service will be on 2<sup>nd</sup> March and all are welcome. The time of the service will be announced on the posters which will be displayed both in St Francis and St James churches.

Our popular puddings and quiz evening is coming up on 22 February when all and everyone in the parish are most welcome to join in our fun. As ever it will be held in the Church Centre and begins at 7 pm. We look forward to welcoming a good crowd along and hope that the puddings this year will be as delicious as ever! Entry fee is only £4 so it is one of the most reasonably priced evenings around.

Rosanne Butler

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## RISING VOICES - the local community choir, term time.

We have been singing our hearts out for nearly 10 years and are open to anyone who has a wish to sing with us. There is no audition, just walk through the door, like I did, and join us each Wednesday evening. Assemble 7pm for singing from 7-30- 9pm at St. James Church Centre.

You will be welcome and in good company singing mainly folk songs under the direction of Cat McGill an accomplished and friendly tutor.

Come to help us celebrate 10 years of song.

Telephone: 07858 462965

E-mail: [info@risingvoices.co.uk](mailto:info@risingvoices.co.uk)

David Cook

# 7<sup>th</sup> November Deanery Synod

## St Nicholas Church, Old Marston

The discussion was to be on issues surrounding the food bank and the parish share. Skye Denno read a bible passage about Martha and Mary from the Book of Luke. Responsive prayer and the Lord's Prayer then followed. The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed by Geoff Bayliss.

Then followed a presentation from Tony Phelan, the Lay Chair of the Deanery Synod. A connection was drawn between the beginnings of Austerity in the year 2008 and therefore there was a connection between government policy and hardship in the nation. The "End Hunger UK" Alliance of Charities delivered a 180,000 signature petition to Downing Street with Reference to Universal Credit and to get it working and stop designed destitution and to bring about good food on a regular basis, but also being aware that there may be difficulties in administering it. It is understood that Universal Credit was designed to create these problems in the first place. Although it is understood that Food Banks are a good thing and can fill a gap, we should be finding a solution to the problem. Geoff Bayliss praised the food bank.

Jane Benyon from the Community Emergency Food Bank in St Francis Church said that it had been going for 10 years and that they were geared up to set up another on the basis of there being enough volunteers. People can be referred to the food bank. Last year was harder with more people being referred. Numbers of attendees has risen by 50% over the past few years after the introduction of Universal Credit introduced payment in arrears and issues with rent. There was a holiday scheme for the summer and winter for families.

Both CRISIS and the Citizens Advice Bureau have been coming to the CEF days too to help provide some advice and support for those in need. The Community Emergency Food Bank relies exclusively on donations from the public and the CEF sees itself as a Christian organisation. There was a big increase in need for Children's food supplies. We as a congregation can refer if we use appropriately headed paper letters (at a guess we need to contact the CEF about that first). There are many groups (maybe 100) who can refer including the CAB, the doctor and others. Vouchers are needed and slightly out of date tins are accepted.

Trevor then presented about the parish share speaking of there being a 1% decrease from the previous year. The deanery mission fund was at 0.5% and the idea was to use those finds the following year. There was a shortfall in deanery mission fund.

Nick Dewey

# The 'IT'S NOT COWLEY FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS TREES' arts event 2018

## COWLEY DAY OF CHRISTMAS MUSIC

Lots of music was made on Wednesday 12 December at St James/St James Centre and Saturday 15 December at the Nativity festival at St Francis: thanks to St Francis School choir, Church Cowley St James School Y5, Pegasus School handbell group, The Gals – *friends from Oxford Bach Choir*, Oxford Spires Academy choir and Rising Voices community choir – who sang on both days.

£150 was donated on the Wednesday, shared between SeeSaw and ROSY, our Christmas tree festival charities.

The COWLEY FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS TREES will be back in 2019, Friday 13 – Sunday 22 December. The date of the first planning meeting will be announced next month

Lesley Williams 01865 779 562 07982 439 828 [lesleyjwilliams@btinternet.com](mailto:lesleyjwilliams@btinternet.com)

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## Prayer Space

We bring before you, O Lord,  
the troubles and perils of peoples and nations,  
the frustration of prisoners and captives,  
the anguish of the bereaved,  
the needs of refugees,  
the helplessness of the weak,  
the despondency of the weary,  
the failing powers of the aged,  
and the hopelessness of the starving.  
Oh lord, draw near to each,  
For the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

After St Anselm (1033-1109)

Do any of our readers have a favourite prayer to contribute to this space?

**Shaun Guard**

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# Mission Giving in 2018

At a meeting of the PCC in early January, the following donations were approved. £2,290 had been allocated, being 5% of 2017 Planned Giving (Standing orders and envelopes)

Archway	£220
Asylum Welcome	£135
BeSpace	£220
Crisis Oxford	£220
Christian Blind Mission	£50
CEF	£220
Faith2Share	£260
Gt Ormond Street Hospital	£50
Keen Oxford	£100
Littlemore Church Project	£220
Oxford Community Soup Kitchen	£250
Viva	£220

Oxford Winter Night Shelter was awarded £125 in addition to the £125.12 raised by the Youth Coffee Morning. The following came from their letter of thanks:

The donation will help enormously with our work to continue to provide at least twenty beds (up from ten last year) with supper and breakfast every night for homeless rough sleepers during the next winter months. We have already seen last winter, how week on week, the guests got into better shape. A number of them are now working - the good night's sleep enabling them to cope with a working day more easily. In addition, nearly half of the regular guests have moved on into accommodation and/or work. Also we have noticed more camaraderie among the guests, and among the volunteers, as we gain their trust and all get to know each other more.

The donation will help us in being able to continue this service, and possibly expand further in the future.



# Cowley Women's Institute

We started 2019 with a talk from Liz Woolley on the Victorian and Edwardian development of East Oxford. It was fascinating to hear how Oxford expanded into this area.

Our January meeting also gave us the chance to catch up after the festive period and think about all the activities we have scheduled for the forthcoming year.

Early in February we are planning to go out for a cream tea. This will give us the opportunity to socialise in the warm and hopefully enjoy a bit of pure indulgence.

Our February speaker is Linda Haynes. She is going to tell us about the Shipton on Cherwell Railway disaster Xmas Eve 1874.

Our WI meets monthly on the third Wednesday of each month. We meet from 2pm – 4:00pm in St James Church Centre. If any woman is interested in joining us, we would love to meet you, so please come to a meeting to find out more.

Sarah Lawrence, Secretary to Cowley WI  
[cowleywi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk](mailto:cowleywi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk)



**IMPORTANT CRIME PREVENTION MEETING**  
**FRIDAY 15 FEBRUARY**  
at 7pm - 9pm  
The Venue, 242b Barns Road, Cowley OX4 3RQ  
opposite Templars Square Shopping Centre

**SCAMS and BURGLARIES**  
BY  
**Cowley Neighbourhood Policing Team**  
**ALL WELCOME**  
**ADMISSION FREE**

**Q and A Welcome**  
Further information  
[maggiejlewis@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:maggiejlewis@yahoo.co.uk)  
Neighbourhood Watch Area Co-ordinator

**COWLEY HISTORY GROUP**  
At The Venue  
242b, Barns Road  
Cowley, OX4 3RQ  
Opposite Templars Square  
Shopping Centre  
On main Bus Route

**7pm - 8.45pm**  
FREE refreshments from 6.40pm  
£3.00 on the Door

**Wednesday 27 February**  
**ROSANNE BUTLER**

Will give a talk on  
**NOT SO MUCH A  
SCHOOL MORE A FAMILY**  
Author & Local Historian - Latest book Cowley  
through the ages available at £6.00  
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Email: [eric.cowleyhistory@yahoo.com](mailto:eric.cowleyhistory@yahoo.com)  
Call: **07392 606040**  
For further information

# PARISH MISSION AND SOCIAL PLANNER

## FEBRUARY

SAT 2nd, 9th 10:30am-3:30pm  
 SUN 3rd, 10th 2:00-4:00pm  
*Snowdrop days* (J)  
 SAT 16th 4:00 – 6:00pm *Valentine's family barn dance* (F)  
 TUE 19th 10:00-11:30am *Messy Church* (CC)  
 SUN 17th 12:30pm *Sunday lunch* (CC)  
 FRI 22nd 7:00 pm *MU Puddings and quiz* (CC) m

## MARCH

SUN 3rd 12:00pm *Lenten Super Soup lunch for Christian Aid* (CC)  
 TUE 5th 4:30pm *Flipping heck! free pancakes for students* (F -outside)  
 WED 6th 7:30pm *Ash Wednesday service* (J)  
 SUN 17th 12:30pm *Lenten Super Soup lunch - for Christian Aid* (CC)

(CC) - St James Church Centre - Beauchamp Lane (J) - St James Church - Beauchamp Lane  
 (F) - St Francis Church - Hollow Way (A.A.L.C) - Anglican Asian Living Church (J & CC)  
 (TS) – Templars Square (CH) – Corner House pub

**Oxford Health Walks**  
 Would you like to:

1. Start some gentle exercise?
2. Explore Oxford's green spaces?
3. Meet new people?

*Then why not join one of our Oxford Health Walks?*  
 All Walks are led by trained volunteer leaders and are FREE to attend with no need to book. Walks are normally between 1-3 miles (30-60 minutes) and are taken at a pace suitable to all. No special walking gear needed- just wear clothes and shoes comfortable for walking.

A shorter walk (up to 30 minutes/1 mile) is offered every week as part of the Bury Knowle Health Walk. Walks leave promptly at the times below, so arrive 5-10 minutes early to meet the group and fill in a Walker Registration Form. Please note you take part at your own risk and should seek medical advice if appropriate. Walks are volunteer led as part of the trusted national Rambler's Walking for Health programme.

**Current Walks:**

<b>Countryside &amp; Cobbles</b>	<b>Tuesdays 10am.</b> Meet inside Town Hall Cafe
<b>Summertown</b>	<b>Tuesdays 10am.</b> Meet at NOA Community Centre
<b>Hinksey Park</b>	<b>Wednesdays 10am.</b> Meet in car park*
(*1st Wednesday Walk of the Month will take place from Christ Church Meadows at 10.15am instead)	
<b>Donnington Heach Centre</b>	<b>Wednesdays 11am.</b> Meet outside Donnington Health Centre
<b>Jericho</b>	<b>Thursdays 1.30pm.</b> Meet inside Jericho Health Centre
<b>Bury Knowle Park</b>	<b>Fridays 10am.</b> Meet outside Headington Library
<b>University Parks</b>	<b>Saturdays 10am.</b> Meet at the gate by Norham Gardens.

**ARE YOU UP FOR IT?** Take the next step up from Health Walks and try these more challenging walks up to 3.5 miles/ 60 minutes.  
**When:** Every 1st Thursday of the month at 10am. Meet at the bottom of Headington Hill Park  
 For more information on Oxford Health Walks contact Emma Collins:  
 Email: [ecollins@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:ecollins@oxford.gov.uk)  
 Tel: 07483007114

supported by [www.oxford.gov.uk](http://www.oxford.gov.uk)

# HAVE YOU BEEN A VICTIM OF CRIME OR ABUSE?

Being a victim or a witness of a crime can be an emotional and difficult time.

Victims First provides free emotional and practical support to all victims and witnesses of crime or abuse, as well as family members of victims. It is available across Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire and can provide help regardless of whether or not the crime has been reported to the police.

A Victims First Officer can discuss any emotional or practical needs you may have and work with you to put a tailored support plan in place. This could involve referring you to a specialist service such as services for victims of sexual violence and domestic abuse.

The type of assistance available includes telephone and face to face support, advocacy including help to access other services such as sexual health clinics, drug and alcohol services and legal services, support through the criminal justice system (if you have reported the crime to the police) and therapeutic counselling.

A Young Victims Service is also available to anyone under 18 and works with young people to help them cope with the effects of crime.

To speak to a Victims First Officer about any of the services and to receive support

please call 0300 1234 148.

You can also find more information or make a referral for support online at [www.victims-first.org.uk](http://www.victims-first.org.uk).

Sarah Stokes

Communications and Engagement Officer

Direct Line: 01865 541954 Internal: 300-6703

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

The Farmhouse

Thames Valley Police Headquarters  
Kidlington OX5 2NX

[www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk)



  
Churches of St James and St Francis

Have you wanted to do **The Bible Course** but are unable to come out in the evening?

You are invited to join the **Wednesday morning group**.

We are going meet in **St James Church Centre**  
from **10am until 11.30am**

Starting from **Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January**.

Young children are welcome to be a part of it. We will have toys and snacks available.

For further details contact Mary Bayliss or Jill Ling  
[m.bayliss41@btinternet.com](mailto:m.bayliss41@btinternet.com) or 01865778596

**The Bible Course**  
Explore the BIG story

# Film Club at the Centre

Our January club evening was a great success due to the excellent film shown. Members were sitting on the edge of their seats as the thriller built to a climax. "The Man Who Knew Too Much" was voted "one of the best" by several people which is most gratifying for those of us who compile the programme for the year.

This month's film, due to be shown on 8<sup>th</sup> February, is an historical one namely "Victoria and Abdul". Starring Judi Dench as Queen Victoria it tells the (true) story of the Queen's relationship with her young Indian

servant who became a valued friend. The whole situation caused much consternation amongst royal circles at the time though that had little effect on Victoria herself. It promises to be a worthwhile film to see and we hope that members and their guests will find it an interesting mirror on part of our British history.

We have three spaces on our present membership list so if any of our readers would like to join Film Club they will be very warmly welcomed.

Rosanne Butler

## VALENTINE'S FAMILY BARN DANCE

Saturday 16 February at St Francis Church

Doors open 3:30pm for 4:00-6:00pm dancing – or just relaxing and enjoying the music, the spectacle and the plough person's supper and soft drinks. If you would like something stronger, please bring your own.

The dances will be taught and called by Keith Hawkins; the band is 'Connect'

Just £5 for adults; £1.50 for students; FREE for all under 18s!

Buying your tickets in advance will help us with catering but you can just pay on the door.

Let's fill the church!



The poster features a red and white color scheme. At the top right is a stylized red heart logo. The main title "Valentine's family barn dance" is in large, bold, red font. Below it, the text "with Keith Hawkins and 'Connect'" is in a smaller red font, accompanied by a small graphic of musical notes. The location "St Francis Church Hollow Way, OX3 7JF" and the date "Saturday 16 February" are in red. The time "4:00-6:00" and "doors open 3:30" are also in red. At the bottom, the ticket prices "£5 adults, £1.50 students" and "FREE for under 16s" are in red, followed by "ploughman's supper" in a smaller red font. On the left side, there is a vertical red bar with the phone number "01865 747 680" and the website "www.cowleyteamministry.co.uk" in white. At the bottom left, there is a small image of a red and white accordion.

## CHILDREN'S CORNER—parents are allowed to read it.

We all know that Father Christmas has gone on holiday but he asked me to keep the space filled until he returns, so I need your help. What are you going to give up for Lent ?

I always find this a difficult question but tried hard to think of something that really annoys me that I might ask other people to do, but at the same time do it myself, if only to see how easy, or hard it might be. No one is perfect and some people are better than others at keeping New Year Resolutions, but they are intended to last ALL YEAR! Lent only lasts 40 days so there is a better chance that we might be able to keep to our promise. Why not try. I am going to.

My suggestion is that when someone visits you, and you are on your mobile or using the Internet, you switch it off throughout your conversation. There is nothing more irritating, to me , than someone trying to listen to their mobile and at the same time try to keep up a conversation with me. (It is also consid-

ered impolite in most families too) You will find that you will understand the conversation more easily, and probably enjoy it better. Face to face conversation allows better understanding because both people can show their feelings through their facial expressions and that smile will return.

Better still arrange a period when you switch off the mobile so that you can do something practical and help, for at least one hour every day. Of course the same rules apply to adults. They have to switch off their phones too if you have a conversation with them, but try not to 'interrupt' them. Wait patiently, and I am sure they will find time for you, and notice that you followed my suggestion. Let me know if it works.

By the way, does anyone know who St. Valentine was? Write to me at the office, when you have time.

Uncle Ben



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## RECIPES

We are being encouraged to eat more vegetables and less meat. In season during February are: apples, Brussels sprouts, carrots, cauliflower, Chantenay carrots, leeks, parsnips, pears, red, spring and white cabbages. So how about making Carrot and Cumin Soup with feta to make the most of the carrots and for a warming meal during this cold spell (a Co-op recipe).



Ingredients: (for two)

- 1 tsp cumin seeds
- 1 tbsp Co-op Loved by Us tomato puree
- 50g dried red lentils
- 1/2 vegetable stock cube, crumbled
- 600ml boiling water
- 350g carrots, peeled and grated
- 50g Co-op feta cheese, crumbled

Method:

- ∅ Put the cumin seeds into a large saucepan and dry fry over a medium heat for 1 minute until fragrant. Stir in the tomato puree, followed by the lentils, stock cube, grated carrot and the boiling water.
- ∅ Bring to the boil, then simmer for 15 minutes until the lentils and carrot are both soft.
- ∅ Remove 1 ladleful of the soup to a bowl, then whizz the remaining soup with a blender until smooth. Put both back in the pan and stir in some freshly ground black pepper.
- ∅ Ladle the soup into 2 bowls and scatter over the feta cheese.

Not long after you receive the February Chronicle comes Valentine Day. This seems a very appropriate recipe from Cakes, Bakes, Puddings and Prayers by Susan Over.

Valentine Day recipe – Strawberry Shortbread Hearts (serves 4 – but if only two people there, ENJOY!)

Ingredients:

For shortbread:

- 175g (6oz) plain flour
- 50g (2 oz) ground almonds

50g (2 oz) caster sugar

150g (5oz) butter

To finish:

450g (1lb) fresh strawberries

25g (1oz) caster sugar

275 ml (half pint) double cream

Method

- ∅ Preheat the oven to 170°C (325°F, gas mark 3). Lightly grease a baking tray
- ∅ Sift flour into bowl and add ground almonds and sugar. Rub butter into mixture, then bring together with hands until it forms a soft dough. Knead lightly until smooth.
- ∅ On a lightly floured surface, roll out the shortbread mixture to about 5 mm thick and cut into eight hearts using a cutter or template.
- ∅ Transfer to the baking tray, spacing them well apart. Bake for 20-30 minutes until golden. Transfer carefully to wire cooling rack.
- ∅ Puree half the prepared strawberries with the sugar. Whip the cream until firm.
- ∅ When the shortbread is cool, place four hearts on individual plates. Spoon on some cream, some puree and a few sliced strawberries, then top with the remaining hearts. Finish off with a whirl of whipped cream and some whole strawberries.
- ∅ Dust with sifted icing sugar, if liked.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Lord said to Moses, "Tell the Israelites to bring me an offering. You are to receive the offering for me from each man whose heart prompts him to give".

Exodus 25:1-2 (NIV)

\*\*\*\*\*

Lord, your heart was big enough to die for every one of us, our hearts seem puny little things by comparison. Help us to expand our hearts to show love to those who need your touch, knowing that we do it for you.

Amen

## REPORT FROM THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

The PCC met on the 6 January 2019, when the discussions at the Church Committees were reported:

St Francis:

- ∅ The refurbishment of the floor in the main hall has been completed and has improved the appearance of the hall considerably
- ∅ There have been drainage problems caused by tree roots
- ∅ The continued siting of the CEF Portacabin at the back of the church is still awaiting Diocesan permission
- ∅ Wi-Fi has been installed, and HIVE (to allow better control over the heating) is due to be installed in January.

St James:

- ∅ The PCC agreed to apply for a Faculty to allow the Ox and Bucks Light Infantry Memorial to be placed in the church
- ∅ Provision of toilet/handrail at south door – the result of a feasibility study is awaited.
- ∅ Digital Projection – estimates are being obtained on various schemes to allow further consideration
- ∅ The estimate for the repairs to the bells was accepted by the PCC

There was detailed discussion on Data Protection, when a Parish Data and Information Policy Statement and an Interim Data Privacy Notice were agreed. These will be displayed in the church buildings, but a copy of the Parish Data and Information Policy Statement is shown below.

The PCC also agreed Mission Giving, and the details are given elsewhere in The Chronicle. In addition there was discussion on Parish Mission, and a paper will be put to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on this.

The next series of church and PCC meetings were reported in the last Chronicle, and the dates can be seen in Dates to Remember – please note the dates of the Annual Meetings.

Sally Hemsworth

PCC Secretary



# COWLEY TEAM MINISTRY, OXFORD



## PARISH DATA AND INFORMATION POLICY STATEMENT

The Cowley (Oxford) PCC takes the responsibility of how we manage the data and information we hold seriously. We recognise that churches can be complex places where information is held in a number of areas and by a number of people who work or volunteer with us in so many ways.

We will ensure that information we hold is:

- ∅ Processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner.
- ∅ Collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes and not further processed in a manner that is incompatible with those purposes.
- ∅ Adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purposes for which it is used.
- ∅ Accurate and, where applicable, kept up to date.
- ∅ Kept in a form which permits identification of data subjects for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which the personal data is processed.
- ∅ Kept securely.

We will ensure that our policies and practices are regularly reviewed. This will include:

- ∅ Ensuring that personal data that is found to be inaccurate is deleted or corrected without delay. All personal data will be periodically checked to make sure that it remains up to date and relevant.
- ∅ Our Privacy Notice
- ∅ Our Data Sharing agreements
- ∅ Seeking appropriate consent when that is required
- ∅ Documenting our data/information related activities
- ∅ Our contracts with any Data Processors
- ∅ Being clear about how people can raise concerns/challenge information we hold.

This policy is due for review in three years.

*Agreed by Parochial Church Council, 6 January 2019*

# Losing Faith in Europe

This article is not about what you think it is about!



Last month I had the opportunity to return to the beautiful city of Iasi in north-east Romania and to have an extended lunch conversation with Dan, who I have known for over twenty-five years. I first met Dan and his wife Crina in 1992 when I was sent by CMS to establish a mission partnership with the Romanian Orthodox Church. In those days all we saw of Romania on our televisions here were the dreadful orphanages and starving families. Dan, an Orthodox priest, was at that time assistant to the bishop of Iasi.

One of the places I visited with Dan in 1992 was a small village outside Iasi. I still cannot get out of my mind what I saw that day. There was hard snow on the ground and in the corner of a field a mother welcomed us into her (literally) mud hut with an ill-fitting second-hand door. It was freezing inside and the children were all huddled together like one large animal with several heads. But the woman was full of smiles – in a land which had four years before been in the grip of

Communist dictators, today she had a visiting Orthodox priest and an Anglican missionary in her home! She could not have been happier.

But back to my lunchtime conversation with Dan, now a professor of theology in the University of Iasi. He was telling me about his children. Toddlers when I first knew them, they are now in their mid-twenties, one in Germany and the other in England. His boys, Dan reminded me, had never known Communism. They were born a year or so after Ceausescu, the last Communist leader of Romania, was executed on Christmas Day 1989, and grew up in a country where new churches were opening every week and monasteries were overflowing with young people. Growing churches and a very public expression of Christian faith were a feature of my many visits to Romania in the 1990s. Dan's teenage boys were both very active in the church. But now, as we enjoyed a typical Moldavian salad, Dan had a more difficult thing to tell me.

On a recent visit home one of Dan's sons told his father that he no longer went to church because "people don't do that in England". "English people", he went on to tell his professor father, "are modern and don't bother with old superstitions – they are intelligent and focused on having a better life, a new BMW, a good house and money for a good holiday – church doesn't give you these things". As I listened to Dan, my heart sank and I thought, "What are we English doing to our Romanian immigrants?"

In the past few years I have personally bene-

fitted a lot from the skills of Romanian builders, a Ukrainian plumber and a Polish tree surgeon – all excellent workmen. But what is England doing to their faith? When they return to their home countries, as many will, will they bring sadness to their parents as Dan's son did to him? How many more Christians

will lose their faith in England? In Cowley this is a real challenge for us. Many of those who migrate to work in our local community come as Christians – will they return as Christians, or only as rich materialists?

Mark Oxbrow

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## MEN OF COWLEY WHO DIED IN FIRST WORLD WAR

Last month I asked for volunteers/researchers to find out more information on the First World War Memorial in St James Church. Unfortunately there has been no response, so I am repeating my appeal for people who are willing to go to the Local History Centre at St Luke's Church to see what information can be found.

This does not mean that nothing has been done. Basic information on most of the men has been found using website sources and this has shown up more names which are not on our war memorial. What we now need to do is to search for more local information and this involves looking in documents held in the archives at the Local History Centre. Do you have any spare hours where you would be willing to work on this?

If you are interested in this please contact me at the Parish Office. I would love to hear from you.

Sally Hemsworth

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## ROUGH SLEEPING

We believe everyone has a responsibility to end rough sleeping. If you see someone sleeping rough, please don't just walk by - contact our outreach service.

We commission [St Mungo's](#) to deliver the outreach service, which is provided by Oxford Street Population Outreach Team (OxSPOT). OxSPOT assesses rough sleepers, and helps them to access accommodation and the support services that can prevent them from returning to the streets. If you are concerned about someone sleeping rough, you can give details - including their location - to OxSPOT. OxSPOT is not an emergency service, but it will follow up all calls and emails as soon as possible.

You can contact OxSPOT on 01865 243229 or via email [Outreach.Oxford@mungos.org](mailto:Outreach.Oxford@mungos.org).

You can also report a rough sleeper through the national [www.streetlink.org.uk](http://www.streetlink.org.uk) website or call StreetLink on 0300 500 0914.

If you believe a rough sleeper's health is in immediate danger, please call 999.

# FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 2019 25 February – 10 March



For two weeks each year, thousands of individuals, companies and groups across the UK come together to celebrate the people who grow our food, people who live in some of the poorest countries in the world and who are often exploited and badly paid. This year the focus is on the people – in particular the women – who grow the cocoa in the chocolate we love so much.

She deserves £1.82

---

£1.82 is the amount a cocoa farmer in West Africa needs to earn each day in order to achieve a living income. Currently, a typical cocoa farmer in Cote d'Ivoire lives on less than 73p a day. Almost all cocoa farmers in West Africa live in poverty, despite some chocolate companies making massive profits.

For the women the situation is even worse. They may plant and harvest on the farm, look after children, carry water, collect wood, cook and clean for the family, and transport the cocoa beans to market but they are likely to see even less money for their work.

This is why the Fairtrade Foundation is campaigning for a living income to become a reality for cocoa farmers in West Africa. If we can all work together with governments, chocolate companies and retailers to make the commitments and policies necessary, then we can make it happen.



What is a living income?

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A living income means enough money to live a simple but dignified life, paying for essentials such as clothing, medicine and school. We believe this is not a luxury but a human right. For the two weeks of Fairtrade Fortnight 2019, the campaign is telling the story of cocoa farmers in Côte D'Ivoire, through the eyes of women.

*She Deserves* running water, *She Deserves* a doctor, [She Deserves](#) a living income.

The Cowley PCC has declared it means to become a Fairtrade Parish but we have made little progress towards it over the past year, still regularly accepting gifts of non-fairtrade products. Perhaps this Fairtrade Fortnight, we could take a further step towards achieving it for the sake of all our worldwide brothers and sisters in Christ who deserve it.

If you are still sceptical and read stuff on line, please look up:

<http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/Media-Centre/Blog/2016/June/7-things-people-get-wrong-about-Fairtrade>

<http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/get%20involved//Current-campaigns/Fairtrade-Fortnight/Fairtrade-Fortnight-for-Campaigners>

<https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/Resources-Library/Fairtrade%20Fortnight%202019/Fortnight%202019%20Assets#>

# What happened to our donation to WaterAid?

Collections were made at Harvest last year totalling £180 for the benefit of WaterAid. They have responded with a “Thank you from everyone in Tombohuaun” Tombohuaun is a village in the jungle of Sierra Leone where WaterAid has been working to install a tapstand “bringing a reliable source of clean water”.

The village is located in a region known locally as “the place where bad things come from”. In 2014 it reported some of the first cases of the Ebola virus to hit the country, while in 1991 it was the setting of the first shots of the Sierra Leone Civil War; a war that would last 11 years and claim the lives of 50,000 people.

Before the Ebola outbreak, Tombohuaun relied on a dirty underground spring for its water supply and young girls, in particular, were having to walk to fetch water several times a day. There were no plumbing or dedicated hygiene provisions in the village. The spread of Ebola has had a massive impact on the village, with nearly everyone involved in the project having lost a family member or friend to the disease. WaterAid will continue to help the community to look after the water supply so it lasts for the long term and those young girls can “play and dance” as all little girls should.



## SAFEGUARDING IN COWLEY PARISH

As a Parish, we are committed to the Christian care, nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children and all adults but particularly those who are vulnerable.

So we will ensure that our policies and practice on selection and training of those with any responsibility within the Church are in line with safer recruitment principles, including the use of Disclosure and Barring Service criminal records checks where applicable.

We intend that St James and St Francis churches will be safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is a culture of 'informed vigilance' as to the dangers of abuse.

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

We will follow statute, guidance and recognised good practice in all safeguarding practice and ensure that all users of our premises do so too.

Further C0 and C1 courses will be held in the spring for those who missed them last year or who are new in a role that requires the training.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

Lesley Williams 01865 779 562 07982 439 828

[safeguarding@cowleyteamministry.co.uk](mailto:safeguarding@cowleyteamministry.co.uk)

Claire Ewers

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Home-Based practice in OX4

# ELECTORAL ROLL

2019 is the year (it happens every 6) when all electoral rolls are renewed – not just checked and updated. There will be a COMPLETELY NEW ROLL and EVERYONE who fits the criteria below and wishes to be on it must complete a form. These are the effective dates:

The formal announcement of the preparation of the new roll will be first made on Sunday 24th February

Notice is hereby given that under the Church Representation Rules, a new Church Electoral Roll for Cowley Parish is being prepared. All persons who wish to have their names entered on the new Roll, whether or not their names are entered on the present Roll, are requested to apply for enrolment not later than Sunday 17th March.

The new Roll will come into operation on Sunday 7th April .

The new Roll shall be publically displayed for not less than 14 days.

Under the Church Representation Rules any lay persons are entitled to have their names entered on the roll if they—

- (i) are baptised and aged 16 or over;
- (ii) have signed a form of application for enrolment;  
*and either*
- (iii) are members of the Church of England or of any Church in communion with the Church of England being resident in the parish or (not being resident in the parish) having habitually attended public worship in the parish during the six months prior to the application for enrolment;  
*or:*
- (iv) are members in good standing of a Church (not in communion with the Church of England) which subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity declaring themselves also to be members of the Church of England and having habitually attended public worship in the parish during the period of six months prior to enrolment.

Forms of application for enrolment can be obtained from both churches, the Parish Office and from Lesley Williams, Electoral Roll Officer. In order to be entitled to attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting and to take part in its proceedings, forms of application for enrolment must be returned by Sunday 17 March.

The statutory form gives us solely your name and address and meets GDPR (data protection) requirements. As previously, we will be asking you to complete a Parish subsidiary pro forma giving us some personal details, to aid our communication with you, including telephone and e-mail contact details and emergency contacts. All these details are of course held securely and will only be shared with Parish Officers on a need to know basis.

# From the Archives

COWLEY CHURCH CHRONICLE

APRIL 1997

## (1) Creating a wildflower meadow – or what will pop up this year?

By Joan Coleman

On Palm Sunday afternoon a small group of us cast a botanical eye over St. James' churchyard. We want to try an experiment this spring and summer by setting aside an area of ground that will remain unmown to allow the grass and wildflowers to grow, flower and set seed. The 'meadow' will then be treated like a traditional hay meadow (95% of which have been lost since the Second World War) by being cut in late July/August, although we will not have the traditional grazing to follow! Grazing in the autumn and winter used to churn up the ground to allow seeds to germinate. We can do this work with spades.

We will monitor the species that we find and give regular up-dates. We have also contacted BBONT for advice, them having surveyed the churchyard some years ago. Has anyone got the species list they found? They, and us, are very much aware that churchyards are important for wild plants and animals as they will not have been affected by agricultural practices, perhaps ever.

So, do go and see what treasures are here in our midst.

## (2) Flamenco at St Francis

By Rosanne Butler

Saturday evening March 1<sup>st</sup> saw an extra-ordinary concert in St Francis' Church. A local young man known as Russell Lloyd when he was a pupil at St James' Primary School in Beauchamp Lane, gave a recital of Flamenco guitar music under his international and professional title of Rafael.

The concert arose from an idea of Thelma Telling, one of Russell's former teachers – and what an amazing success it was. The church was so packed that there was hardly room for another chair. Trailing ferns and pink roses enhanced the décor and the music reached a level of virtuosity rarely heard in Cowley.

Rafael took his appreciative audience on a musical journey through many of the regions of Spain. He introduced each piece himself and varied his programme from melodic rhythms through rumbas to the distinctive beat of flamenco. The concert reached its climax with the audience participating in the complicated flamenco beat and a feeling of even more admiration for Rafael's undisputed style.

Researched by Les Hemsworth



## CAP MONEY COURSE February and March 2019 - East Oxford & Cowley

On behalf of Christians Against Poverty, the Oxford Churches Debt Centre is offering two opportunities near the start of the year to benefit from this tried and trusted course. It is designed for anyone, regardless of their income, and is also a great tool for debt prevention. CAP Money is a free, three-week course that teaches people budgeting skills and a simple cash-based money management system. It is designed to help people get in control of their finances, so they can save, spend wisely and prevent debt. With over 6,000 participants a year, CAP Money is the biggest face-to-face adult money education course in the UK.

[www.capmoneycourse.org](http://www.capmoneycourse.org)

Monday	04/02/2019: 7.30 pm 11/02/2019: 7.30 pm 18/02/2019: 7.30 pm	The Mish 57f St Clement's Street Oxford OX4 1AG	Contact: John Livingstone 01865 249008
Thursday	12/03/2019: 7.45 pm 19/03/2019: 7.45 pm 26/03/2019: 7.45 pm	The Venue@Cowley Oxford, OX4 3RQ	Contact: Tim Guest 07962 989002



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# Visitors

I am writing this before the annual Great British Bird Watch run by the RSPB. We have had a relatively poor winter with a low number of birds coming to our feeders. We have peanuts, fat balls, mixed seeds and niger seeds on offer. We do get blue, great, coal and long-tailed tits visiting as well as goldfinch, sparrows, dunnocks, starlings and the occasional black cap. But total numbers are way down than, say, 10 years ago.

Blackbirds, collared doves, magpies and wood pigeons come to glean off the ground beneath the feeders. We have not seen the greater spotted woodpecker, thrush or greenfinch this year. But we will quietly sit down and record what comes in the hour of recording. It is great to just observe behaviour and the incredible variety of colours of feathers that different birds have while using a good pair of binoculars.

We have had an unwelcome visitor in the shape of a squirrel. It may be even more than one as we only saw one at a time, but it clears out a feeder very quickly and puts off the birds. I am writing in the past tense as s/he has not been since I put up some defences! I am hoping there is food around elsewhere for her/him. Sighted running along the back fence, s/he doesn't bother coming any more. My defences include large plastic lids above a feeder, which means they can't reach, as well as being wobbly. A couple of feeders are on hooks

on a metal rod stand. The stand is smooth and straight and, in the past, have seen squirrels trying to climb but slither down as there is no grip. This year, however, a squirrel was able to climb up but a bit of Vaseline did the trick!

The garden looks grey and untidy now. I will get clearing once we see signs of new spring growth, but, at the moment, let nature use the seeds and hiding places. Snowdrops are giving some cheer and daffodils are pushing their leaves up. So the cycle of the year goes on.

We must buy our seed potatoes soon and get them chitting ready for planting on the allotment. Tidying the shed ready for the new season is a must as well as getting a replacement for the sheet of glass that has broken on the greenhouse. So there is always something to be getting on with in these drab days of winter!

Joan Coleman



# DIARY DATES TO REMEMBER

## Mothers' Union

Monthly Meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of month  
from 2.15 pm

18 February 2019 – Preparation for Women's  
World Day of Prayer  
St James Church Centre

## Women's Institute

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

20 February 2019 – Shipton-on-Cherwell  
Railway Disaster Christmas Eve 1874  
St James Church Centre

## Gardening

Last Saturday of the month – Gardening at St  
James Church/St James Church Centre

## Snowdrop Days at St James

Saturday, 2 and 9 February 2019:  
10.30 am – 3.30 pm

Sunday, 3 and 10 February 2019:  
2.00 – 4.00 pm

## Film Club

Friday, 8 February 2019 – "Victoria and Abdul"  
St James Church Centre, commencing at 6.30  
pm with coffee and cake

## St Francis Church Committee

Sunday, 10 February 2019, at 12.15 pm  
St Francis Church

## St James Church Committee

Tuesday, 12 February 2019, at 7.30 pm  
St James Church Centre

## Parish Pastoral Network Meeting

Thursday, 14 February 2019 at 3 pm  
Rectory Dining Room, Beauchamp Lane

## Valentine's Family Barn Dance

Saturday, 16 February 2019 4.00 – 6.00 pm  
St Francis

## Sunday Lunch

Sunday, 17 February 2019, 12.30 pm  
St James Church Centre

## Messy Church

Tuesday, 19 February 2019 10.00 – 11.30 am  
St James Church Centre

## Mothers' Union Puddings and Quiz

Friday, 22 February 2019, 7.00 pm  
St James Church Centre

## Parochial Church Council

Sunday, 24 February 2019, at 12.15 pm  
St Francis Church

## Parish Walk

Monday, 25 February 2019

Details of the walk to be announced in The Link

## Parochial Church Council

Sunday, 24 March 2019 at 12.30 pm  
St James Church Centre

## St Francis Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, 7 April 2019, at 12 noon  
St Francis Church

## St James Annual Congregational meeting

Sunday, 14 April 2019, at 12 noon  
St James Church Centre

## Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday, 28 April 2019, at 12 noon  
St James Church Centre

**REMEMBER:** Tuesday lunches at St James  
Church Centre from 12.30 pm

## CHRISTIAN AID 2019

As reported in the December Chronicle, we raised £1,965 for Christian Aid during 2018, so a £2,000 target should be achievable, particularly if there's a sponsored activity.



For your diaries, so far, we have planned:

SUPER SOUP LENTEN LUNCHES - after church on Sunday 3 March at St Francis and Sunday 17 March at St James.

home made soups – french bread – cheese – fresh fruit

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK - Sunday 12 – Saturday 18 May

new fundraising ideas are encouraged – let's do something *really* different..... *suggestions needed please*

but it will include a Big Brekkie, which may well be a Big Brunch and possibly outdoors or at Templars Square

QUIZ AID - Friday 28 June 7:00 pm St James Centre.



### BIBLE SOCIETY 'MORE THAN A BOOK' REGISTRATION

If you order anything on line or by phone from the Bible Society, please use the unique Parish reference number 12044 *or* select the 'Parish of Cowley' from the drop down menu when placing an order and we will benefit from the 'More than a book' cash back scheme. It's that easy! We earned £8 from an 'Open the Book' resources order,

Do look at the on line shop – Bibles, prayer books, cards, courses, fiction, dvds etc.  
<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/products/>

## CHRONICLE

Editorial Team- Sally Hemsworth, Nicki Stevens

Deadline for the next edition: Monday 18 February 2019

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



## Save money on energy bills! - Citizens Advice tips

As mild December gives way to a colder, frostier new year, Citizens Advice Oxfordshire South and Vale is encouraging people to analyse their home energy spending and take steps to cut down on fuel wastage. The charity has these tips:

1. Check your bills carefully and make sure you're on the cheapest tariff. Most energy suppliers offer fixed price tariffs, where the price of a unit of energy will remain the same for the length of the deal. Think about switching to a new supplier (for an energy prices comparison tool, go to <https://energycompare.citizensadvice.org.uk>). Citizens Advice has helped many people to switch successfully to a new energy supplier, so contact us to discuss your options.
2. Make your home energy-efficient. Insulate lofts and walls, double-glaze your windows and use thick curtains to keep heat in. Get your boiler serviced annually. Grants are available to help with insulation: call the Energy Saving Advice Service on 0300 123 1234, Monday to Friday 9 am to 8 pm.
3. Your central heating thermostat and your timer (or programmer) are your good friends and allies when it comes to saving money. Shave down the timings so that the boiler is only working when you need it. A thermostat temperature of 20 degrees is adequate for most homes.
4. Try an online Home Energy Check at [www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/resources/tools-calculators](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/resources/tools-calculators)
5. For those who qualify, various grants and discounts are available to help with bills: the Warm Home Discount <https://www.gov.uk/the-warm-home-discount-scheme> and the Winter Fuel Payment <https://www.gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment>
6. Sign on to the Priority Services Register if you're of pensionable age, disabled or chronically sick. The scheme gets you extra energy services free of charge. Visit <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk> for further information.

For more help and support, contact Citizens Advice in person or on Adviceline (03 444 111444). For locations of offices and opening hours see [www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale)

## PERSONALLY SPEAKING

We have lost two long standing church members – Thelma Telling and Maureen Chatterton – and lots of tributes and memories have been received from their friends:

### Thelma Telling

Thelma was enrolled as a Children's Parish worker. She was a qualified teacher and very understanding of children. She taught at St Mary and St John's School and St James School, Cowley, where she was acting Head when the school closed in 1975, and she then taught at Speedwell School in Littlemore until she retired. She ran the Sunday School, Clubs and the Young Mothers' Group, to name but a few of her activities. She came to St Francis Church in October 1988 when she moved to Fern Hill Road, Cowley, where she spent the rest of her life. When the Mothers' union closed at St Francis Church she set up our group which still exists today, called Friends of St Francis. She was the organist at St Francis for fifteen years. She was a good leader and her enthusiasm rubbed off onto others! She set up a choir which raised funds. She served as a warden and on the committees for years. A project she set up was for members of the congregation to save their 'small change' and she arranged for these donations to be sent direct to a physiotherapist in Cameroon to help the disabled there. She held garden parties at her home, with stalls and games, to raise funds for the parish. She also loved the dogs she had throughout her life. On her 70<sup>th</sup> birthday she took a group of friends on a canal trip, and on her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday took her friends out to a restaurant. Unfortunately in her later years she was unable to attend church and she was greatly missed at Friends of St Francis. All of us who knew Thelma respected her and will always be grateful for what she did for the parish and community. She was a good, kind understanding lady.

Mary Biggs, Alison Kinnear

I first met Thelma right at the start of my teaching career. She was coming towards the end of her teaching days with a job at Speedwell School in Littlemore after the closure of St. James School. I appreciated her interest and support. I remember deciding to be confirmed at that time and the card she gave me to mark the occasion. I enjoyed working with her on musical activities with the children...especially a performance involving teddy bears. Our friendship grew and when Thelma moved to live in the West Country for a while I enjoyed going for a holiday and visiting many lovely places with her. Thelma's love of dogs gave me pleasure too. I spent time sharing in making a fuss of her current dog whenever visiting or in earlier years meeting up for a walk. Many happy memories.

Chris Booty

Watching Sunday afternoon's World Bowls Match brought Thelma's love for the game back to my mind. We often compared notes on the games we watched and I discovered how well she had schooled me in the intricacies of the game and the pleasure of meeting so many interesting people wherever we played. I think that there were very few games Thelma did not take an interest in. Wimbledon, cricket, the Boat Race – she enjoyed watching them all. Besides her interest in sport, Thelma still found time to run a choir which visited local senior citizen clubs or churches giving concerts, particularly at Christmas and Easter Time.

Thelma's interests in both local and national politics was also very firmly rooted,, and her daily paper's articles scrutinised (at election times particularly) – very little escaped her attention.

I shall always remember how decided she was when she planned events for church groups and her concern for the congregations she met in her everyday life.

Thelma will be missed by so many people and her influence is something we must all try to keep alive.

Betty Mitchell

I have counted Thelma as a dear friend for many years having worked closely with her at Cowley St James School and in later years being a regular visitor to her home during both our retirements.

I first met her in 1960 when she was the children's worker in the parish. We soon became close friends when we shared a class at the little church school.

She had very high standards of expectation from her pupils both in academic achievement and also behaviour but along with that she had a ready sense of humour which the children much appreciated. She was a real music lover having studied music, including musical composition, at teacher training college. She was a fine pianist and organist and trained a long list of children to sing in St James School choir. She regularly took her choir to join in the Oxfordshire Schools Music Festival in the Town Hall.

On retirement she formed a ladies' choir of which I was a member and we gave performances in a number of retirement homes and churches. We called ourselves The Fern Hill Singers after the road in which she lived.

Thelma, right up to her last few months was a delight to visit as she was as bright as a button and kept fully up-to-date with local and national affairs. She loved to be teased and always gave as good as she got!

A devoted animal lover she supported a number of animal charities. Until about a couple of years before she died she owned a series of dogs all of which she loved very much.

Most of all she was a deeply committed Christian with a devotion to St Francis Church and the whole Parish. She had an unbending

loyalty to faith in God and I doubt that we will ever find anyone more sure that she would meet Him when her time came.

Rosanne Butler

I have fond memories of my time in the Fern Hill singers. We would go around to Thelma's house once a week to practice for concerts which we would be putting on to raise money for church. Also at Christmastime we would go and sing carols at the local care homes. When it was Thelma's 80th birthday we went together to buy something for her to wear out to The Mill at Kingham where we went for a meal. Thelma said I was her personal shopper - we had good fun choosing an outfit. Over the last few years when Thelma was house-bound she would like to watch snooker and tennis. If I went to visit while these sports were on we would watch them together as she wasn't up for a chat. Thelma celebrated her 95th birthday in September 2018. She had a small tea party with a few friends but enjoyed it very much. I will always remember her smile - when I used to visit over the last few years I would go in and say "Thelma it's Lyn" and she would look up and her smile would beam. That's the way I will remember Thelma.

Lyn Lord

## MAUREEN CHATTERTON

Maureen was a dear friend, so kind, so caring and thoughtful. I used to love to visit Maureen at her home. She would bake lovely cakes and we would have a cup of tea in the most delicate tea cup and saucer which felt so special. Her home was so welcoming and I always felt peaceful there.

Lyn Lord

I have known Maureen for many years and I was saddened by her death but grateful that she died peacefully in her sleep at the end of the year. She had been ill for a long time following two strokes but was back living in her bungalow in Headington. She received some care but she preferred to manage on her own. Friends and neighbours helped her but she was very poorly. Maureen was some years older than me but we were close friends for many years in several different ways.

I knew her first through the Guides. Maureen did her Guiding in Cowley and I did mine in East Oxford but the two areas joined up for various events and Maureen and I began to get to know each other. I also knew her because although we as a family, attended St James we often went to the evening service at St Luke's where Maureen was deputy organist so I feel I have known her forever.

When I first went to Milham Ford School, then an all-girls school, an eleven plus grammar school, I had turned eleven and Maureen was in the Upper Sixth. The girls in the Upper Sixth were only a shade lower than gods to us scared new arrivals. My class mates thought I was highly honoured when one of these demi-gods spoke to me in a friendly way.

Later, after my marriage practically 60 years ago we moved to Cowley and I have lived here ever since. I still did my Guiding in East Oxford until I had the children when I had to resign as leader of my company as it was never quite certain what time my husband would arrive home from work and I could not risk being late.

I joined the local Association in Cowley, a sort of support group, so Maureen and I often met. I later went on to do more active Guiding, my daughter, Rachel became a Brownie and a Guide and Simon enjoyed Cubs but did not like Scouts.

When my daughter and her family were living in Littlemore there was always the possibility that one day they would go to Lawn Upton School so they had to call Maureen "Miss Chatterton", quite a mouthful for a small child. Dean used to screw up his face and nose and take a big breath and say "Hello Miss Chat-ter-ton and then relax his face and give a big smile at his own cleverness. My son-in-law was taught by Maureen and it took him a long time to call her Maureen.

My husband and my elder brother used to babysit for the children so that each couple had an evening out sometimes. One evening when Roy was baby-sitting for us Simon answered the telephone. It was Maureen. She asked for me and Simon said, very mournfully that I was out. Maureen then asked for Gordon, Simon said even more mournfully that Daddy was out as well. Maureen said who is with you and Simon brightened a little and said that his baby sister was there as well. Maureen knew very well we would never leave the children alone, Rachel was

little more than a baby but nevertheless she began to scabble in her handbag for her car keys when Roy took the receiver away from Simon and explained he was my brother and was baby-sitting. Simon did not tell any untruths, just picked his words carefully.

One meeting between Maureen was under strange circumstances. It was the local elections for Councillors. My father was standing for the Conservatives and Maureen's father was standing for the Liberals. I always worked on election day and on this particular day when I got to the count there was Maureen, she had been working for the Liberals. Maureen explained that Mr Chatterton did not expect to do very well, he was flying the Liberal flag. Maureen and I strolled around watching with many others the council officials conducting the count. That year my father was elected Councillor and Maureen cheered with us. Mr Chatterton said that he was pleased with his score but very relieved that he did not win as he would not have wanted the job. At that time our area was solid Conservative but now it is solid Labour.

I remember one year when Rosemary Marshall, Maureen's closest friend, was not able to drive, a broken wrist or something and at the same time Maureen could not drive, I do not remember why. Two or three times a week for about a month I ferried the two friends sometimes Rosemary, who lived near me, to Headington and sometimes I would fetch Maureen and bring her to Rosemary and then take her home again. I used to leave them together and go off on my own jobs. Rosemary lived very near me and we used to go to church together each Sunday morning. Sometimes we would walk up to St James and sometimes Rosemary drove us – I did not have a car of my own at that time and Gordon might need the car.

Friendship works both ways. I remember one day just after I had surgery on an eye. I had a truly bad pain in the eye. I was widowed and both the children had left home so what to do? I rang Maureen and she came straight round, took me to the Eye Hospital which was then off Walton Street, and she waited with me for some time. The pain was caused by a stitch which had somehow raised itself and was hurting. Maureen took me home and made sure I was OK before leaving me. I discovered later that that morning she had a lunch appointment with other retired teachers, a reunion that happened now and again. It was made worse because Maureen had been ill and missed the last reunion as well. She was a real friend.

Maureen did not have close family, she had cousins and the one closest to her heart was Pat who lived in Durham. When my daughter moved to Sunderland Maureen asked Pat to get in touch with her as she would know no one in the North. Pat used to come and baby-sit for Dean and Rachel. In her eulogy at the funeral last Thursday Pat mentioned that Rachel, Una's daughter wrote a lovely letter to Pat when she heard of Maureen's death and Pat quoted for that letter, saying how Chris, Rachel's husband was taught by Miss Chatterton and how popular Maureen was at the school. She also added that she baby-sat for Rachel's lovely children, Una's grandchildren.

The funeral was very well attended, some people travelled some miles to be there. I met Guide friends that I had not seen for years.

I think we did her proud. God bless you Maureen, my dear friend

Una

# SUNDAY SERVICES

## ST JAMES CHURCH, BEAUCHAMP LANE

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

## ST FRANCIS CHURCH, HOLLOW WAY

10.30am Parish Eucharist  
1st Sunday All Age bring n/share lunch

## MID-WEEK SERVICES & MEETINGS

Morning Prayer	7.45am	Tue, Wed, Thu, Sat at St James; Mon at St Francis
Monday	10.00-11.30am	Little Stars Playgroup— St Francis
	2.30pm	Parish Mothers' Union— St James (3rd Monday)
Tuesday	10.00am	Seashells Toddler Group— St James
	12.00pm	Eucharist—Ranklin Room, St James Church Centre
	12.30pm	Tuesday Lunch Club— St James
Thursday	7.30pm	Local House of Prayer, St James

## HOME GROUPS

Leader	Time/Venue
Connie Uren	Alternate Tuesday afternoons at 2.30pm St James Church Centre, Ranklin Room
Friends of St Francis (Katherine Reed)	2nd & 4th Tuesday afternoons at 2.30pm St Francis Church
Geoff Bayliss	Alternate Wednesdays at 10am St James Church Centre, Ranklin Room
Mark Oxbrow	Alternate Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm Mark's home, 13 Annesley Road (just behind the Rose Hill Coop). Enquiries to Mark at 01865 461953
Rosanne Butler	Alternate Thursday mornings at 10.00am St James Church Centre, Ranklin Room

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.

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### Hall Bookings:

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