

# The Greatest Rescue Mission Ever

What a warm welcome we have received. Thank you so much! It has been wonderful to be able to get on with the job that I have felt called to for these many months. If I have not met you yet, I hope to meet you soon. If I have already met you, I do hope that over the coming months I will get to know you better.

This month I hope I might hear some of the stories of what Christmas means to you. One of the images that comes to my mind is of a Christmas toy I received many years ago. It was a small bright orange Thunderbird 3. Like so many young boys I liked science fiction and adventure stories. (Ok perhaps I have never grown out of that!) Each week, on Saturday morning, I watched string puppets tell a story. I was spellbound by the last minute rescues they carried out.

Christmas is the retelling of a real life rescue mission. So easily we get held by the story. The story of a baby born in a stable. A baby born to a young man and a young woman. Angels, shepherds and wise men capture our imagination and our hearts are touched. Yet so easily we forget that this is the opening scene of an amazing rescue mission that continues today. It was not until my middle twenties that I began to recognise how I was

part of this rescue mission. I discovered that I was not one of the skilful pilots of Thunderbird 1, 2, 3 or 4 but the one that needed rescuing. I needed rescuing by the baby that came quietly into the world in our Christmas story.

It is not normal to pick up a book and read, then repeatedly re-read the first chapter. A good book draws you onwards to read from cover to cover. Our 4 gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) are just such books. As you celebrate Christmas this year tell the full story. A story that is still being written in our lives today!

May I wish you a blessed Christmas



Benson Cottage

*Question: Which animals, usually associated with the Christmas story, does not appear in the Christmas story in the Bible?*

*Challenge: A standard text message can contain 160 characters. Can you tell me what 'Christmas means to you' in 160 or less characters? Please drop them to me on a piece of paper, or as an email, or use my Facebook page. You can send a Facebook request to Geoff Bayliss if you have difficulty finding it.*

*[rector@cowleyteamministry.co.uk](mailto:rector@cowleyteamministry.co.uk)*

# Chronicle

Dec 2015 /  
Jan 2016

# Editor's Letter

Dear Readers

Does Christmas begin for you when the first lights begin to twinkle on the branches of a Christmas tree? Or when carols are sung by a choir of young children? Or when you hear church bells ring out in the wintery air? Or when a selection of seasonal songs are played especially for you, live, not from a radio or TV? Well search no more for any of those experiences because they are all part of our Christmas Tree Festival. By the time your double issue Chronicle is published the Festival will be in full swing, but don't fret, there are lots more days to come right up until the 13th of the month. By the way, if you are free to pop into St James Church on 7th, 8th or 9th of the month around 2 pm you will be giving very welcome support to the children from some of our schools as they sing their Christmas songs and carols.

And now it is time to give a big hooray because our long-awaited new rector is well and truly with us. I expect by now most of our readers will have had the pleasure of meeting Geoff. There is a report later in the magazine on the great service and reception to install him into our Parish so it only leaves me to say what a lovely, warm and friendly occasion it was even though the formal procedure took its due course.

As we reach the turn of the year we begin to plan ahead. This means, as ever, that we shall be looking to our beautiful aconites and snowdrops which bloom each year in the churchyard. Even though the weather predictions are for a milder winter than usual we are confident that the carpet of flowers will be just right for the second and third week in February. So Snowdrop Saturdays and Sundays

will be on 13th and 14th and 20th and 21st of the month. We shall be asking for some volunteers to welcome visitors and offer warm drinks and cake as is our usual hospitable way. Please do help if you can.

The other event to watch out for in February is the Mothers' Union Quiz and Puddings evening. There is more about this later in the magazine. Do come and bring friends and family to a really jolly evening in the depths of winter.

After all the sad and dreadful things that have been happening in the world in the last few months isn't it good to hear that so many nations are coming together at last to face the real threat of climate change? Perhaps this will be the one thing that will bring peace to the world, the one thing we all long for as we contemplate the Babe in the Manger. And as we do that simple and beautiful part of our Christmas celebrations it offers me the chance to wish all of our readers, on behalf of the Chronicle team, a peaceful, happy and holy Christmas.

God Bless

Rosanne, Sally, May and Nicki

PS Watch out for the Chronicle tree at the Christmas Tree Festival!

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# INDUCTION OF OUR NEW TEAM RECTOR

On the evening of Friday 26th November a formal but joyous service was held at St James Church to enable the Collation, Induction and Installation of our New Team Rector the Revd Canon Geoffrey Bayliss. This is a legal requirement by the Church of England and signifies the start of his ministry.

Those present included the Venerable Martin Gorick, Archdeacon of Oxford and Rt Revd Colin Fletcher the Acting Bishop of Oxford who were both officiating at the ceremony.

Our clergy team also took part together with members from the congregation of St James and also St Francis Churches, and local visiting clergy, representatives of the community, including the Lord Mayor and his wife and the head teacher of Cowley St James School. Members of Geoff's family and also his previous congregation came to support him.

We began with a fully robed procession into the church and continued with hymns, readings and a sermon followed by presentations from the congregation representing the ministry of the Church and finally promises and declarations were made and prayers offered.

This service, publicly and in the sight of God, allowed both Geoff to commit to his role and we, the congregation, to promise to support and uphold him in his ministry.

What were the highlights? We all will have different memories but as part of the presentations a bright real flaming cross made its way to the front, a traditional symbol from our Asian church. A large teapot was then offered as a reminder of our hospitality ministry.

Heavy bunches of keys were handed over by the Churchwardens to symbolise the possession of the Church and the responsibility handed over to the new Rector.

At the conclusion we all made our way to the Church Centre and enjoyed a sumptuous buffet meal and got to know one another informally.

We do pray that Geoff and Mary will be able to settle in well to Cowley and their new home and Geoff will have a very fruitful ministry amongst us. You will no doubt be seeing much more of him soon.

Dave Stanley  
Churchwarden

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## SEASHELLS

Seashells will close on 15 December 2015 for our Christmas and New Year break. We will re-open on 5 January 2016.

The Seashells Team would like to wish everyone a very happy peaceful and joyful Christmas. Any of our readers would be made very welcome on 15<sup>th</sup> December as we will have Father Christmas with us.

Many thanks to all who have helped in any way throughout the year, and we look forward to seeing you in 2016.

God Bless You All  
May and the SeashellsTeam

## ANGEL CHIMES AT CHRISTMAS

Thoughts of a young man far from home

Where am I when no pieces fit;  
when bells aren't rung?

Angels, won't you chime me to it;  
be overhung  
the flickering flames, that give names  
back to the young.

God be thanked that these lit up;  
moved in a ring,  
trumpets raised, with bright blasts  
of tinkling;  
each pippin blare sounding the air  
of remembering.

Then I saw the little band,  
eyes wide with trust,  
gently stir; heat and light  
and icing dust;  
the snowy cloth no sign of moth  
or crumb of rust,

pacing the peace of the Christmas tea  
within that room;  
marking time between bursts of laughter,  
like a metronome;  
so all family dear, far and near,  
might call this home;

and on, and on, until shadows grew  
and the circle slowed,  
and the music waned (for their arms were tired),  
as the candles bowed;  
and warmth and love began to move  
off down the road.

Robert Shreeve  
December 2003

Robert, our son, is feeling very homesick at Christmas, and remembers the brass 'Christmas Chimes' we used to have in the middle of our table over Christmas. Do you remember them? Four little candles set in a brass mounting with little angels hanging above them. When the candles were lit a little wheel above would be set in motion thus turning the Angels round. The whole thing made a little tinkling sound as they circled round – thus the Angel Chimes!

John Shreeve

## LIFE CAN BE TOUGH

Do you know what it's like at Christmas

For little boys like me  
Whose dad is on the dole?  
He's out of work you see.

I'm not feeling very happy  
'Cos I won't get many toys  
I won't be half as lucky  
As other girls and boys.

The boy just down the road  
Is having a brand new bike  
And it doesn't feel quite fair  
'Cos that's what I'd really like

I know it's not mum's fault,  
I don't really blame my dad.  
I keep trying to tell myself  
Things actually ain't that bad.

I love my mum and dad  
(I even love my brother)  
And I know I shouldn't moan  
'Cos we've always got each other.

But when you're just a kid  
And a bike is just a dream  
It really isn't easy  
If you know what I mean

It's no use sitting here  
Thinking about my fate.  
I'll just go down the road  
And call for my best mate.

His mum is always happy  
She'll buck me up no end.  
She'll say "Come on, cheer up, lad,  
See what next year might send"

Maida Simmonds

Editor: Let's spare a thought for the families of the thousands of steel-workers who have just been made redundant recently.

# Film Club at the Centre

Unfortunately thirty-five minutes into an absolutely amazing film in November those wretched gremlins struck again. Dave Stanley, after a few anxious moments found an angel in a sweat-shirt who has just taken residence at the Rectory. He flew in (Geoff, of course) bringing with him his own lap-top computer and solved the problem – magic! During the lull in proceedings most of our members calmed down with a welcome drink and once again we were up and running. As predicted the film itself, *The Pianist*,



was pretty gruelling but ended on a more than satisfactory note.

Our Christmas film on 11 December is the wonderful “Glenn Miller Story”. Needless to say it features all the tunes Glenn and his band

played. It has a very moving human storyline too. It is one of James Stewart’s best roles and also stars June Allyson.

For January’s film night on Friday, 8 January 2016, we have chosen “*The Lion in Winter*” starring Peter O’Toole and Katherine Hepburn, supported by such well-known actors as Timothy Dalton, Anthony Hopkins and Nigel Stock. It is set in the court of Henry II in the 12th Century and tells of his relationship with his fiery wife and troublesome sons. A good historical drama to begin a new year of films to enjoy, despite those wicked gremlins.



## CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS FROM THE COWLEY PARISH

Something FREE this Christmas – All Welcome

<p>St James Church, Beauchamp Lane *****</p> <p>Christingle Service – 13<sup>th</sup> Dec 4.30 pm Carols by Candlelight – 20 Dec 4 pm Crib Service – 24 Dec 4 pm Midnight Mass – 24 Dec 11 pm Christmas Day Eucharist – 10 am</p>		<p>St Francis Church, Hollow Way *****</p> <p>Christingle Service – 13 Dec 10.30 am Carols by Candlelight – 20 Dec 6 pm Carols at the Pub – 24 Dec 4 pm Midnight Mass – 24 Dec 11 pm Christmas Day Eucharist – 11 am</p>
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May the Christ Child bless you and your family  
During this special season

# DIARY DATES TO REMEMBER

## Mothers' Union

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

St James Church Centre

December Meeting: Christmas Lunch

January Meeting: Annual General Meeting

## Women's Institute

Usually the monthly Meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of  
month from 2 – 4.30 pm St James Church Centre

December meeting: Christmas Party

January: Presentation—"Behind the Scenes at  
Blenheim Palace" and Bring and Buy Sale

## Coffee, Cake and Communion

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

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

## Cowley Festival of Christmas Trees 2015

4 – 13 December 2015

St James Church Centre See article for details

## 5 Gold Rings Concert

Saturday, 5 December 2015 at 7 pm

St James Church

## Film Club

Friday, 11 December 2015 – "The Glenn Miller Story"

St James Church Centre, commencing at 6.30 pm  
with coffee and cake

## Christmas Fun Day

Saturday, 12 December 2015 10 – 2pm

St James Church Centre/St James Church

## Cowley Local History Society

Tuesday, 15 December 2015 at 8 pm

"The Ox and Bucks on the Somme 1916"

An illustrated talk by Stephen Barker

## Carols by Candlelight

Sunday, 20 December 2015:

4 pm at St James Church, followed by Tea at St James  
Church Centre

6 pm at St Francis Church

## Film Club

Friday, 8 January 2016 – "The Lion in Winter"

St James Church Centre, commencing at 6.30 pm  
with coffee and cake

## Treasure Island Theatre Visit

Creation Theatre, North Wall, Summertown, Oxford  
Saturday, 9 January 2016 at 2.00pm

## St Francis Church Committee

Sunday, 17 January 2016 at 12.15 pm

St Francis Church

## Parish Sunday Lunch

Sunday, 17 January 2016 at 12.30 pm

St James Church Centre

## Cowley Local History Society

Tuesday, 19 January 2015 at 8 pm

"The Water Gypsy (How a Thames Fishergirl Became  
a Viscountess)"

An illustrated talk by Julie Ann Godson

## St James Church Committee

Sunday, 24 January 2016, at 12.15 pm

St James Church Centre

## St James Café

Saturday, 30 January 2016, from 10 – 1 pm

St James Church Centre

Quiz and Puddings Evening (arranged by the  
Mother's Union)

Friday, 19 February 2015 at 7 pm

St James Church Centre

## Parochial Church Council Meeting

Sunday, 21 February 2016, 12 noon

St Francis Church

**DO NOT FORGET – Tuesday Lunches at St James  
Church Centre from 12.30 pm**

## FLOWER OF THE MONTH—THE CYCLAMEN

Many of us are tempted by the beautiful potted cyclamen which grace the indoor plant shelves in garden centres, supermarkets and flower shops at this time of the year. They do indeed make lovely Christmas gifts, and if treated properly will last indoors throughout the winter. A very talented gardener friend of my parents grew magnificent specimens in his glasshouses and gave me this advice. Do not try to keep them in a very warm atmosphere, do not over-water them (once a week should be plenty), never water across the leaves, and add a little food to the water. He, bless him, would add liquid cow manure to his water but I expect very few of our readers can aspire to that!

The other form of the plant is the one that pops up through the earth in late autumn. The flowers are so delicate that one might expect them to be found in exotic habitats, but no. If you take a walk through Florence Park or even past the Memorial Gardens in St Aldates you can spot them pushing up under the trees to add some pale pink colour. If you are ever on holiday on the island of Cyprus you may find a much paler, yet just as beautiful, display cascading down ancient boulders in wild areas in very early spring.

The cyclamen has a strange background in the first century the Roman writer, Pliny the Elder claimed that the roots were used by fishermen to poison fishes. This was backed up by the Renaissance Botanist Niccolo Leonicenso saying that he had seen Italian fishermen doing the same thing.

In early times the appearance of a plant caused it to be attributed to various medicinal uses, so, because the leaves of cyclamen look a little like

ears, the tincture from them was used to treat earache! However William Turner (botanist) who wrote the first English herbal wrote that the plant had such a potent effect on pregnancy that it was dangerous for a woman in such condition to step over the roots. He also called the plant “sawesbread” or sourbread because the tubers could be used as food for pigs.

The name of the plant comes from the Greek word for circle, *kyklo*, which probably refers to the way the seed stalks curl up after flowering. The other Greek word for cyclamen is *chelonian* or tortoise because the tubers look a bit like little turtles. The first plants arrived in Britain in the 1650s but it was the Victorians who bred them from tiny delicate flowers to the big showy specimens we see today.



**A clergyman was just terminating an interview with a particularly difficult parishioner when his wife called from upstairs, “Has that awful woman gone yet?” The quick thinking vicar called back, “Oh yes, dear, I’m just dealing with Mrs Robinson now”.**

# THE PARIS CLIMATE TALKS    December 2015

Countries are coming to Paris having already made pledges for climate action, called Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs). But these pledges are not yet enough to keep the world below the 2 degree threshold of global warming, let alone the 1.5 degrees that many countries on the frontlines of climate change feel is necessary. However, they do represent progress - and some of the pledges have broken through previous stalemates.

At Paris, it will be important to agree a text which ups the ambition on two key areas: cutting emissions - holding countries to their commitments in the INDCs and putting in place a framework to increase the ambition of the proposed cuts, and making sure all countries have the finance they need to adapt to climate change, deal with climate impacts and undertake clean development.

This is not going to be easy. The decision was made to include a number of Parties' positions in the negotiating text, so that it could be "Party-owned ... balanced and complete," with no one feeling written out before the talks even begin. But many of the positions are mutually exclusive and cannot all end up in a final text, so there's a lot of negotiating to do.

A useful Q & A piece: [www.oxfam.org.uk/get-involved/campaign-with-us/latest-campaign-news/2015/10/7-key-things-to-know-about-cop-climate-negotiations](http://www.oxfam.org.uk/get-involved/campaign-with-us/latest-campaign-news/2015/10/7-key-things-to-know-about-cop-climate-negotiations)

A prayer for Sundays in Advent, with a focus on the climate talks:

Spirit of God, You established the dance of Creation;  
bring life out of death  
bring order out of chaos.  
Call us to radical action: to care for the web of Creation  
to share our resources justly  
and to work for the renewal of our Mother, Earth.

We light this candle as we commit ourselves to fast and pray for climate justice.

Archbishop Thabo Makgoba, Cape Town

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**A teenage daughter arrived home very late from a party. Her mother was waiting. “You know how it is, mum ....” said daughter. “I do, darling! What’s his name?”**



# Friends of St James Old School

On Wednesday 4 November the Lord Mayor of Oxford, Cllr Rae Humberstone joined the March of the Edibles with children, staff and parents parading from Church Cowley St James School in Bartholomew Road to the Old School with fruit and vegetable shaped lanterns which they have created specially. In the playground there was singing with members of the Afropean Choir and then the reading of our special 'Cowley St James Old School' poem, commissioned in 2014 from John Elinger, before the Lord Mayor officially launched the Friends of St James Old School and declared the allotment garden open.

So now, please sign up as a member of the Friends of St James Old School! The information leaflet and membership form are available in both churches – the annual subscription is £10 single, £20 family.

And/or you can donate more in order to support the urgent work which needs to be done to the building to keep it safe and waterproof. We are seeking grants but matched funding is urgently required. Watch out for notices of the first fundraising event : Rosanne Butler will repeat her series of talks on the History of Cowley early in 2016

We still await County Council decisions about the refurbishment of the building for the Early Years children of Church Cowley St James School and must be patient.

Please see and like us on Facebook: it is a public group page [www.facebook.com/Friends of St James Old School, Cowley](http://www.facebook.com/Friends of St James Old School, Cowley).

e-mail us : [oldschoolcowley@gmail.com](mailto:oldschoolcowley@gmail.com)

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## WINTER WONDER

I woke this morning to a blaze of white,  
A hush, as though the whole world held its breath,  
Dazed by the transformation overnight,  
Footpaths and hedgerows shrouded, as in death.  
Gate-posts and pillar-boxes stood white-crowned,  
Roof tops magnificent in glistening cloaks.  
Birds hopped dejectedly on white-clad ground,  
Bewildered dupes of winter's cunning hoax.  
And then the sun shone, and its dazzling light  
Brought eager children tumbling from their beds,  
Gathering snowballs, shouting with delight,  
Sweeping the slopes on long-forgotten sleds.  
The trees shrugged off their shawls of crystallised rain;  
The world looked on, and smiled, and breathed again.

ANON

## Prayers from the Ark

By Carmen Bernos de Gasztold  
Translated from the French and with a  
Foreword and Epilogue by Rumer Godden

### THE PRAYER OF THE GIRAFFE

Lord!  
I who see the world from above  
find it hard to get used to its pettiness.  
I have heard it said  
You love humble creatures?  
Chatter of apes!  
It is easier for me  
to believe in Your greatness.  
I feed on exalted things  
and I rather like  
to see myself so close to Your heaven.  
Humility!  
Chatter of apes!  
AMEN

# THAMES VALLEY POLICE

Following burglaries in Lye Valley during November, Gareth Morley of Thames Valley Police gave the following advice

There has been an increase of burglary noticed particularly in the Lye Valley area which has now become a priority for the Neighbourhood Team. An increase in burglaries is always expected but what is not expected or anticipated is where it will take place. Most of the burglaries in the area appear to be occurring in the afternoon and evening and appear to be in the vicinity of the Lye Valley and Wood Farm area.

When officers are not responding to incidents patrols will be conducted in the area. Our colleagues in Response Policing will be assisting us in our endeavour.

Crime prevention advice for burglaries was issued at Templar's Shopping Centre on the 7th November and 5th December and we will be giving advice in relation to vehicle crime on 13th November and 11th December at the John Allen Retail Park.

We will be giving some advice to residents when on patrol in the area.

As always, the investigation of dwelling burglaries falls under the responsibility of our Local CID office and we will support them as and when we can.

We need your help though by taking some basic crime prevention steps below.

We will do all we can to catch the burglar!

## Crime Prevention Advice

If you leave your home in complete darkness and your curtains are not drawn, and no car is on the drive, it is an obvious sign to an opportunist burglar that no-one is in. At this time of the year more than any other, it pays to secure your home.

There are a number of simple ways to do this, all of which will help reduce the chance of your home becoming the next target:

1. Visit a local retailer to pick up a 24-hour segment timer for under £5. The timer can be used with a lamp, radio or TV to give the impression that someone's home. Remember to use an energy-efficient light bulb.
2. Register your valuables on the Immobilise website; [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com). It is free and takes just a few minutes and, if your valuables are stolen, it will allow you to tell the police, your insurer, and the second-hand trade to assist in recovering your property and catch the thief.
3. Keep valuables out of sight, and do not keep really valuable objects in obvious places.
4. Lock your doors and windows. If you have a UPVC door make sure you have double-locked it.

Do check out our website on home and garden security by going to the following web address; [www.thamesvalley.police.uk/home-garden-security](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/home-garden-security)

Contact us

If you are concerned or would like further information please do contact the team on the below details.

Email: [OxfordCowleyNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:OxfordCowleyNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)

Address: Cowley Police Station, Oxford Road, Cowley, Oxford, Oxfordshire, OX4 2LE

Twitter: @TVP\_Oxford

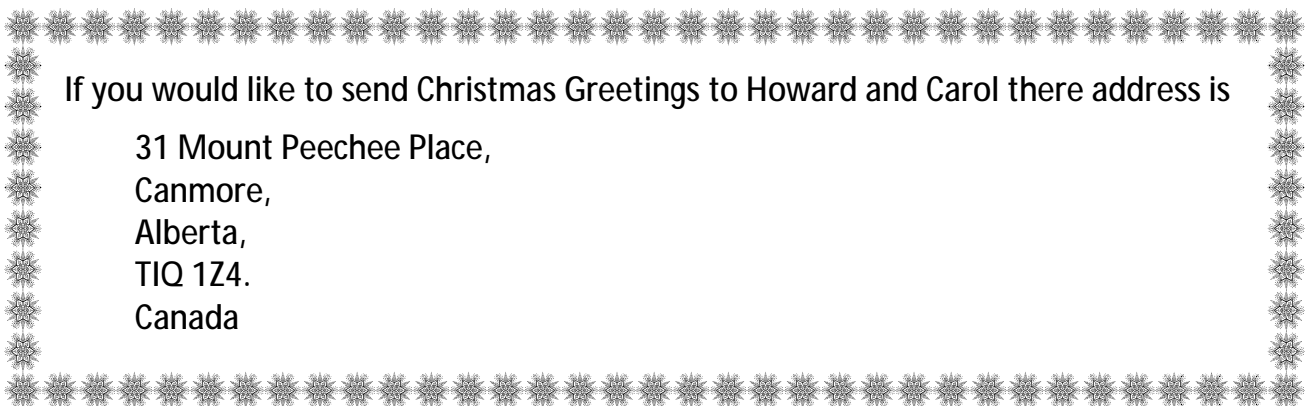
Web: [www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk)

Call: If the matter is not an emergency dial 101 / If the matter is an emergency dial 999

# NAME THE CHRISTMAS SONG AND WHO RECORDED IT – TEST YOUR FRIENDS

1. "In the lane snow is glistenin', a beautiful sight, we're happy tonight" ...
2. "The party's on, the feelings here, its all because its time of year" ...
3. "And when those blue snowflakes start falling, that's when those blue memories start calling" ....
4. "Are you hanging up a stocking on your wall?" ...
5. "Hey Mr Churchill, comes out here, to say we're doing most splendidly"  
"But it's cold out here in the snow, marching to win from the enemy" ...
6. "And hurry down the chimney tonight" ...
7. "So this is Christmas and what have you done" ...
8. "The weather outside is frightful, BUT the fire is so delightful" ...
9. "at the Christmas Party hop, mistletoe hung where you can see" ...
10. "With logs on the fire and gifts on the tree, a time for rejoicing in all that we see" ...
11. "Welcome to my Christmas song, I'd like to thank you for the year ..."
12. "Everybody know a turkey and some mistletoe, Help to make the season bright" ...
13. "To save me from tears. I'll give it to someone special" ...
14. "And there won't be snow in Africa this Christmas time ..."
15. "Snow is fallin', all around me, children playing, having fun," ...
16. "Our finest gifts we bring, par rum pump um pum" ...
17. "Light the lights, ring the chimes, come on in, it's party time" ...
18. "The boys of the NYPD choir, were singing Galway bay, and the bells were ringing out for Christmas Day" ...
19. "The children will sing, he'll be back at Christmas time" ...
20. "You better not pout, I'm telling you why" ...

*Answers on page 27*



# ROLE DESCRIPTIONS OF VOLUNTEERS

## TREASURER

- ◆ To keep a strategic overview of parish Finances. To work towards keeping costs down especially utility bills.
- ◆ To pay bills and reimburse claims for costs promptly.
- ◆ To pay money into the bank and to oversee people at both churches who bank collections.
- ◆ To record the information on individual donors, record gift-aid status and write to individuals confidentially each year reporting on totals donated and the amount of Gift Aid claimed if applicable.
- ◆ To enter all donations on the software, and make regular claims for Gift Aid to HMRC.
- ◆ To allocate income, donations, costs and charges to specific funds and cost centres, when entering data on the Finance software.
- ◆ To reconcile bank statements and report back to both church committees and PCC.
- ◆ To produce an Annual Report for the APCM, having had it inspected. To report to the Diocese and Charity Commission annually.
- ◆ To ensure that forms are available for individuals to set up standing orders, claim Gift Aid and request to use the envelope scheme.

## ST JAMES CHURCH – CHILDREN'S CENTRE TEAM

The St James' Children's Church team is made up of John Booty, Caroline and Will Hartley, Catherine Hartley, Jill Ling and Harriet Stevens.

We welcome children aged 4+ and currently have 9 children (4-8 years) in our register of regulars, although we rarely have all 9 attend at the same time!

All the children are in the same group and we follow Urban Saints material that we have a subscription to online. This term we are trialling basing the teaching on 7-10 years material to challenge the older children whilst having some more age appropriate activities for the younger children. Ideally we would have 2 separate groups but we don't currently have enough leaders to commit to this.

We start off in church and like to go to the front to be prayed for and sent off to the Church Centre, usually before the first hymn. We return in time for communion. At some point before the final hymn we like to go to the front to tell/show everyone what we have been doing.

If there is a baptism we like to watch it before we go to Children's Church if it takes place towards the beginning of the service.

# CHRISTMAS IN SYRIA

As British planes begin to bomb targets in Syria you may be wondering how families there will be celebrating Christmas this year. Of course many Syrians are Muslim but in more peaceful times it was not unusual for Muslim neighbours in Syria to be invited to join Christians for a festive meal, carol singing, or even a visit to the local church. Today many of those churches (and the mosques) lie in ruins and the congregations are spread out across Europe, in refugee camps in Turkey, walking through the Balkans or settling down in refugee reception centres in Germany or Sweden – Christians and Muslims together.

One of the most difficult questions for Christians in war zones like Syria is, “Do we stay, or do we get out of here.” Many will stay as long as they can and then flee when there are few other options. This past summer I got to know Salim Safir, a Christian who leads the scout movement in Aleppo, one of the most destroyed cities in Syria. He and his family have faced this difficult question. With friends in the West they could have left this war-torn country but they decided that their Christian calling was to stay on and serve the people most affected by the war – the poor, children, widowed women.

By video link (because we could not get him a visa) Safir addressed a consultation I facilitated in Finland in September. He told us about the programmes he is running to support children and young people traumatised by what they have seen



in this dreadful war. One programme which caught my attention was their Christmas programme (which they will repeat this year). More than 20 church members dress up as St. Nicholas (as they know Father Christmas) and drive around the city visiting children in their homes with Christmas presents – see picture.

Safir’s team are also training youth workers and arranging inter-church prayer concerts which bring together Christians from many different traditions (Orthodox, Protestant, Catholic) to pray for their nation.

As you inevitably watch film on your TV of British planes setting off to bomb ISIS targets in Syria please pray for the terrorised children and young people in cities like Aleppo and for Safir and his team as they put on their red cloaks and set off to distribute presents and hope in the weeks to come.

Mark Oxbrow (Faith2Share)

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**An attentive dad used to sing to his two small boys at bedtime until one day he overheard his five-year-old whisper to his little brother, “If you pretend you’re asleep, he’ll stop soon”.**

# HYMN OF THE MONTH

“Hark the Glad Sound The Saviour Comes” by Philip Doddridge (1702 – 1751)

This fine hymn writer, with some 370 hymns to his name, was also an outstanding Christian of an exceptional nature. That sort of thing does not date. In addition he wrote several books, one of them ‘The Progress of Religion in the Soul’ was instrumental in the conversion of William Wilberforce to Evangelical religion. A key conversion of the man who was the power behind the abolition of the Slave Trade.

Doddridge was the 20th child of a large family – of which 18 had already died in infancy. Can you imagine one of our modern mothers coping with that sort of thing? Indeed, it looked at first as if Philip was not to be long in this world for after a long period of labour lasting 36 hours it looked as though he would be stillborn, but the midwife managed to revive him. However, at a very early age, his mother would sit him on her knee and teach him old testament history from the Dutch tiles round the fireplace in the family home. Both of his grandfathers were outstanding ministers in the church. Philip was to emulate them rather than follow in his father’s footsteps – who was a merchant.

All his life he never enjoyed very good health. He was very thin and suffered from consumption for many years. This resulted in his eventual death at the comparatively early age of 49. Yet this frail health did not seem to stop him always being on the run doing the Lord’s work. Monica, his mother, died when he was only 8 years old. He was then put in the care of Daniel Mayo of Kingston who brought Philip to an understanding of the Gospels and also gave him an excellent education. The young boy wrote in his diary that though he had lost both of his earthly parents “God is my immortal Father and my soul rejoices in him.”

“Hark the Glad Sound” was written in 1735 to accompany an Advent Sermon on the text of Luke 4 in which Christ reads in the synagogue at Nazareth a text from the prophet Isaiah.

In 1729 he had opened a Dissenting Academy in Market Harborough on the advice of Isaac Watts and he soon became pastor of the Congregational Chapel in Northampton. His academy trained a total of 120 candidates for the ministry.

He was to achieve many things in his lifetime but it was his personal character and benevolence that was to win him many friends, friends who freely donated quite large sums of money to send him to a warmer climate in Portugal in his last days. However, he knew that his end was nigh, and was not the least bit afraid. He was looking forward to meeting his Lord, face to face.

What a fine Christian example he is to us, even in our modern times.

John Shreeve

Hark, the glad sound! The Saviour comes,  
The Saviour promised long!  
Let every heart prepare a throne,  
And every voice a song.

On him the Spirit largely pour’d  
Exerts its sacred fire:  
Wisdom and might, and zeal and love  
His holy breast inspire

He comes the prisoners to release  
In Satan’s bondage held;  
The gates of brass before him burst,  
The iron fetters yield.

He comes the broken heart to bind,  
The bleeding soul to cure,  
And with the treasures of his grace  
To enrich the humble poor.

The silver trumpets publish loud  
The Jub’lee of the Lord;  
Our debts are all remitted now,  
Our heritage restored.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,  
Thy welcome shall proclaim,  
And heaven’s eternal arches ring  
With thy beloved name!

## RECIPES

As this is a spicy time of year we have chosen two dishes to reflect it, one sweet and one savoury.



### Spice and nut cake

1 tablespoon of milk and juice of ½ a lemon  
3 oz + 2 teaspoons butter  
3 tablespoons black treacle  
3 ozs sugar  
1 egg + 1 egg white  
6 ozs flour  
2 teaspoons baking powder  
¼ teaspoon each of – mixed spice, ground ginger, ground cinnamon  
6 ozs chopped walnuts  
A dash of ground cloves  
2 teaspoons of finely grated lemon rind

#### For the topping:

2 tablespoons soft brown sugar  
2 tablespoons flour  
1 teaspoon grated lemon rind  
½ teaspoon grated nutmeg  
1 oz butter  
2 ozs chopped walnuts

First make the topping. Combine the flour, sugar, lemon rind and nutmeg. Cut the butter into small pieces and rub into the flour mixture till it forms coarse breadcrumb consistency. Stir in the walnuts with a knife. Set aside.

Preheat oven to 180°C, Gas mark 4.

Grease a loose bottomed 7 inch cake tin with the teaspoons of butter. Line the tin with non-stick baking paper.

In a large mixing bowl beat the rest of the butter till soft then stir in the treacle and sugar. Beat till the mixture is soft and creamy. Beat in the egg and other egg white.

Sift the flour, baking powder and spices together in a separate bowl. Fold this gently into the egg, sugar and butter mixture using a metal spoon.

Stir in the walnuts, milk and lemon juice and mix well.

Pour into prepared tin and sprinkle the topping over the mixture.

Bake in the oven for 1 hour or until a knife or skewer come out cleanly.

Allow the cake to stand for 5 minutes before cooling on wire rack.

### Spiced chicken with honey (low calorie dish)

2 ozs butter  
4 fluid ozs clear honey  
4 tablespoons prepared German mustard  
1 teaspoon salt  
1 teaspoon mild curry powder  
8 serving portions of chicken

Preheat oven to 190°C, Gas mark 5.

In a roasting tin melt the butter over gentle heat.

Add the honey, mustard, salt and curry powder, stir and remove from the heat.

Roll the chicken pieces in the mixture coating them thoroughly. Arrange them in the pan.

Cook in the oven for at least an hour, basting the chicken with the curry mixture fairly frequently.

Check that the meat is properly cooked (when pierced with a sharp knife)

Serve at once with the cooking liquid poured over.

# Rosanne interviews Mary Bayliss

As most of my readers know, and certainly all of my interviewees know, one of the first questions I ask at the beginning of an interview is what brought you to Cowley? Well that would have been rather silly to ask Mary wouldn't it? Because, you see, Mary has taken up residence in The Rectory in Beauchamp Lane together with her husband, Geoff, our new Rector. So the obvious question instead was why choose Cowley as their new parish?

Apparently Geoff was attracted to our Parish when he read the advertisement in "The Church Times" and felt that God was calling him here. Mary was more than enthusiastic as she had never lived in an urban environment and loved the idea of being on the outskirts of Oxford. Also she has family living close by, her parents worship at Holy Trinity, Headington Quarry. It was, therefore, an inevitable move. Even more convenient is the fact that her two daughters live roughly the same distance away from Oxford, Hannah near Cambridge and Ruth in Southampton.

Although Mary was born in Salford (very inner city) she was only a baby of six months when her parents moved to a country

parish outside Grantham in Lincolnshire. Her father was the curate there and the family lived there until Mary was reception-school age. She has four sisters (she is the oldest of the five girls) so her mother was a very busy lady.

The next move for the family was to a small village near Scunthorpe, called Messingham. It was there that Mary began her school life at the little village school. Her first love was number work and maths. She learnt to read quite early on but disliked having to read one-to-one with a teacher. She told me she read a lot at home mainly for information.

Her father became the vicar of Spilsbury, a small market town, when she was due to move to secondary school. She attended the local grammar school and made lots of new friends. Again her strengths lay in maths and science. Her other favoured subject was geography which she took as one of her A level exams along with French and, inevitably, maths. She moved schools at 16 to a new school in Louth to do her A levels and then went on to study for her degree at Newcastle Poly. She had hoped, on graduation, to work in the tourist industry.

Instead she worked for PGL at an outdoor school centre in Wales.

Her tasks involved organising groups of students in their various activities. One of the courses provided for the young people was sailing and the instructor for this course was a certain young man named Geoff. Twenty-two year-old Mary was smitten and presumably so was he because about three years later the young couple were married.

In the interim period Mary decided to train for teaching. After her exciting summer in Wales she spent some time as a house-parent for children with learning difficulties and realised that working with children was her forte. Off she went to Sheffield for her training and then became a qualified teacher and a wife.

Geoff was teaching in King's Lynn and Mary's first post was in Norwich so their first home together was in Swaffham. After a move to the same school where Geoff taught science Mary gave birth to their first baby girl, Ruth. They bought a house on the Norfolk coast and were soon involved in their local church. Soon after this Geoff felt called to a Christian Sailing Centre on the Essex coast. Then Hannah, their second baby was born and they were then living in a village, Tollesbury, deep in the Essex countryside. Again the



whole family became involved in the church and Mary set up a "pram/praise" group, first at home and later in church, for parents, carers and pre-school children. They called it their Edward Bear group. Mary also helped at the village school.

Geoff went back into teaching, in Braintree, and it was decided to leave the village when the girls were older mainly for their benefit. In 1997 Geoff was called to the priesthood and in 1999 he was ordained. Mary was doing private tuition but, always wanting to offer a helping hand somewhere, it was at this point that she became a volunteer (third helper!) with the local Brownies and Rainbows. I suppose it was inevitable that she "did" Brownie pack holidays and eventually led the Rainbow group. She also offered her expertise at the nearby primary school and eventually taught there half-time.

I quizzed her about how she is going to use her undoubted energies in Cowley. She gave me a glance and said that she plans to "ease" herself into the parish. She did enquire on which evening our Rainbows, Brownies and Guides meet at the Centre, though, and also let slip that she would be willing to join our bell-ringing team at St James! Sitting in her cosy lounge in front of the fire and plied with coffee and biscuits by Geoff I got the

impression that Mary is already making herself thoroughly at home here and it won't be long before this active lady is making a difference in our parish.

\*\*\*\*\*

How would you describe yourself as a young child?

Bossy, enthusiastic. I was inquisitive about the world around me. I adored my family.

Have you any special memories of childhood you would like to share?

We used to go to the Community of the Resurrection in Mirfield and meet my grandparents. There would be a community for hundreds of Christians and it was there that I realised that Christianity was not necessarily just in a church. There were all these Christians worshipping with a band and I loved it.

Has there been anyone who has had a strong influence on your life?

Both my grannies because they both loved me unconditionally. They taught me how to love.

Has your faith been with you since you were young?

I have always had a faith. In my twenties I needed it to challenge me to be part of a sharing community.

Do you have a treasured possession?

My treasured possessions are my photo albums and scrapbooks.

What is your opinion of society today?

I believe life is for living and Jesus came so that people could live the life which is best for them. I want people to have the freedom to enjoy interaction with others.

If you could change something important what would it be?

That people would talk and interact more and play with young people more.

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

Bringing up my girls.

How do you like to spend your leisure time?

I like to walk and explore places. I watch TV. I enjoy historical or geographical programmes.

When I read, I read for information.

What plans do you have for the future?

Geoff won't be retired but I might be a granny by then. I'd like to be involved in family and children's activities.

# NEWS FROM ST FRANCIS



We have had a variety of services at our little church of St Francis recently. Our Remembrance Sunday Service went well and was very moving. It was an All Age Service and we were invited to place our poppies on the altar marked with the names of those we wished to remember. We observed the 2 minutes silence and then said the famous words of remembrance. Young and old remembered those who had died with thankfulness and awe.

At our Worship Committee we reviewed our plans for the Christmas period and discussed ways in which we might improve them. How could we enhance the old favourites and make them more attractive to the general public. The media material giving further details of the Christmas programme has already been printed and is being circulated.

We recently held a St Francis Church Committee meeting where we were able to discuss on-going problems of care and maintenance, and general efficiency. Sadly, work on our new kitchen layout won't be able to start until February next year as David Lord, the key man on the project, will not be available until then. But this is

something to look forward to in 2016. Joan, our Parish Treasurer was present and gave us the run down on the latest figures. We were concerned to learn that the Parish is running at a loss this year – giving is down in both of our churches. There is a real need for an increase in personal giving on a regular basis. Leaflets explaining this have already been produced and distributed at our services. We can only hope and pray that there will be a good response to this.

In the light of recent political crises, and the huge veneer of commercialism surrounding Christmas it is hard to see how our Christian message will make any real impact this year. Yet there is increasing evidence that the general public is becoming very disillusioned with the general set up. They are looking for something giving real satisfaction. So all of our plans need to be underpinned with prayer and loving concern.

John Shreeve

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## Ride & Stride 2015

On the 12th September four people in the Parish took part in this annual event raising much needed funds for projects planned in our two churches.

Lesley Williams, Dave Stanley, John Booty from St James raised £373 and as usual we will get half of the amount raised which is £186.50. Jane Coutanche from St Francis raised £125 and we will get back £62.50. The R/Striders in both churches raised £498. Thank you R/Striders!

We had a steady stream of R/Striders throughout the day, St Francis had 16 and St James 31, just imagine 47 sponsor forms were signed by the welcomers in the Parish.

I would like to say a really BIG thank you to all who sponsored the R/Striders, the welcomers who greeted our R/Striders and offered refreshments to help them on their way. We are very lucky in the Cowley Parish to have people who give their support and money so willingly.

June Smith

# THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY AT ST ALDATE'S 18 October 2015

Quite a few Parish of Cowley members were there to hear Justine Welby and his wife Caroline interviewed by Charlie Cleverly, at the beginning of the 6.00pm service, in a packed St Aldate's Church. They both talked candidly about their lives – becoming a Christian; the challenges of the Archbishop's role for them both; the death of their daughter in a car crash in France – praying for healing, handing her back to Christ, finding God in it; praying for wisdom, patience and courage – knowing the right time to take action

Justin's address focused on John 14 vv 1-7 "I am the way...." and also referenced W.H.Auden's Christmas Oratorio.

Key points for me from the inspiring talk were:

- ♦ "I am...." Christianity is about me as a person, known and to be known, making a difference in the world
- ♦ in our pursuit of autonomy, we cut ourselves off from God: remember Emmanuel - God with us.....
- ♦ ....always to be praised, thanked and railed against but the same yesterday, today and tomorrow
- ♦ the relevance of faith in the 21st century is to go to the stranger and outcast – young offenders, refugees, trafficked women.... to work for the healing of the nations by following Christ's invitation to follow in the way, wherever it leads

Lesley Williams

## COWLEY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

15 December 2015

### TALK

The Ox and Bucks on the Somme 1916

An illustrated talk by Stephen Barker

19 January 2015

### TALK

The Water Gypsy

[How a Thames Fishergirl became a Viscountess]

An illustrated talk by Julie Ann Godson

At United Reformed Church, Temple Road, Cowley

Annual Membership fee £18 (OAP £16)

Visitors welcome £3 per meeting

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# BOOK OF THE MONTH

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI (a Pictorial biography)

By Leonard Von Matt and Walter Hauser, Longmans

To anyone interested in St Francis, especially if they have visited Assisi (his home town in Italy) this book is an absolute gem, full of facts and pictorial interest. It was originally published in Zurich, Switzerland, and was written in German and translated by Sebastian Bullough. The work also appears in French, Italian and Dutch editions. The illustrations and design are by Von Matt and the text by the Rev. Walter Hauser, a parish priest in Switzerland.

It covers all of St Francis' life, from his birth to his death. It concerns the places he visited, his places of prayer and meditation, his mountain retreats and where he set up his monastery; his time of military service and his visit to the Pope. It concerns his relationship with his father (a wealthy merchant) and his relations with the local Bishop. It even includes some of the garments he wore on his vow of poverty.

Throughout, all the beautiful full page illustrations provide an informative background and guide to his movements and surroundings. Although these are all in black and white, the standard of photography is very high and the detail very clear. In some ways I think that the old grey walls of Assisi and the other hill towns, adapt better to black and white. There is enough text to be interesting, but it is not overdone and it is simple and straightforward. In short you could not wish to find a better background to this amazing saint whose life shone out in stark contrast to the dark world around. He founded an entirely new religious movement which became worldwide and still appeals to many today.

John Shreeve



**St James Café**  
St James Church Centre  
Beauchamp Lane

**10:00 am to 1:00 pm**

**Saturday**  
**30 January**

For more information and to  
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**Come along for a tea or coffee and a  
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# SAINTS OF THE MONTH

## DECEMBER—ST OSMUND

If you have ever visited Salisbury Cathedral the chances are that you will have seen the ancient shrine of St Osmund. The “new” shrine, as it was known at the time, was set up in the Lady Chapel in 1457 to honour this well-loved saint who had been Bishop of Salisbury in the eleventh century.

Osmund was born a Norman and after the Conquest followed William the Conqueror to England to become the royal chaplain. He was then promoted to be Chancellor in 1072. As Chancellor he gained experience in administration as a result of being required to compile royal letters and charters.

It was in 1078 that he became bishop of Salisbury where a new cathedral was built at Old Sarum in the same enclosure as the royal castle. Once the cathedral was built Osmund set up a chapter with its own constitution. This became a model for other English cathedrals later on.

Osmund was a great lover of books and enjoyed copying them and binding them himself by hand. He was a gentle man, never greedy or ambitious, unusual in the Church in those days. He imposed strict rules upon himself of purity and learning. He was quick to recognise true faith in others even quelling the Norman discreditation of the Anglo-Saxon saint Aldhelm. Osmund declared him a true saint and is said to have written *The Life of Aldhelm*.

It is known that he was part of the compilation of the Domesday Book. There is no record of which areas of southern England he administered though he may well have come to Oxford. He was certainly present at the Domesday inquiry when the results were presented to the king in 1086.

He died on 4<sup>th</sup> December 1099 and was buried at his cathedral in Old Sarum. By 1226 a new cathedral had been built in Salisbury so his body and his tomb were moved there. The Pope, Gregory IX, began preliminaries to canonize Osmund but the proceedings turned out to be the longest and most expensive the Church has known. It was not until 1456 that, after evidence of numerous miracles at his shrine, he was declared a saint. At a time of turmoil in church and national history Osmund was revered by the people, the church and royalty. His saints day is observed on December 4<sup>th</sup>.

## JANUARY— ELIZABETH SETON

Elizabeth was born in the City of New York in 1774. She was brought up in a devout and wealthy Episcopalian family. Her father was a famous physician and appointed the first health officer of the city. She led a privileged life as a child and at the age of nineteen was married to William Magee Seton. Her husband was a wealthy merchant. Her new home was in Emmetsburg near Baltimore. Between the age of eighteen and twenty eight she gave birth to five children. Suddenly her husband died and she turned to the Roman Catholic Church. She took a trip to Italy, and whilst there found out about the influence of St Vincent de Paul on the Catholic Church.

She was so moved to learn of his teachings that on her return to America she decided to become a nun. St Vincent had worked in the seventeenth century to relieve poverty and suffering amongst the most deprived people of France, Italy, Tunisia and sent missionaries to Poland, Ireland and the Hebrides. He encouraged people of wealth and privilege especially women to work for his order. Elizabeth Seton did the same. Having lived a life of wealth she knew the kind of people to contact and soon her sisterhood was flourishing. She founded the American Sisters of Charity and devoted the rest of her life to help the poor and also to teach in parish schools.

The sisterhood has rapidly increased and even today is one of the most momentous influential of its kind. She was one of the early influences of Christianity in America. Pope Paul VI canonized her in 1975 praising her extraordinary contributions to the faith in America. She was dynamic, sympathetic and spiritually motivated to do God's work amongst those in the most need. Her feast day is celebrated on 4th January.

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## CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

### WHAT'S ON

You may have picked up a leaflet from the Cathedral setting out its programme for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany 2015/2016. The following are some we have picked out for you to consider:

Maggie's Charity Concert, Thursday, 10 December 2015 – Cathedral – 8 pm

Tickets: [www.oxfordplayhouse.com/ticketsoxford](http://www.oxfordplayhouse.com/ticketsoxford)

Or call 01865 305305

Price: £15, £30, £50 or £75

Organ Meditations

Messiaen, La Nativité du Seigneur

Saturday, 19 December 2015 – Cathedral – 4.30 pm

Free Event

Christmas by Candlelight

Saturday, 19 December – Cathedral – 8 pm

Tickets: [www.oxfordplayhouse.com/ticketsoxford](http://www.oxfordplayhouse.com/ticketsoxford)

Or call 01865 305305

Doors open 7.30 pm

Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

Wednesday, 23 December at 7.30 pm and

Thursday, 24 December at 3.00 pm

Cathedral – Entry is free but tickets required (£1 postage)

Tickets: [www.oxfordplayhouse.com/ticketsoxford](http://www.oxfordplayhouse.com/ticketsoxford)

Or call 01865 305305

### The Parish of Cowley



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Please support us in this

# COWLEY FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS TREES 2015

4 - 13 December 2015

'The twelve days of Christmas'

This Chronicle will reach you just as the Festival is underway. We hope many of you will have signed up to help during the ten days and will definitely come to view the 40+ trees at least once during the week, bringing friends and family with you.



An extra feature will be the pop up/join in and sing choir on Saturday 12 December, 2.30-3.30, with Emily Marshall and members of her choir from Florence Park Community Centre. You won't be forced to sing but we believe you will be tempted.

Saturday 5	open 10.00 – 4.00 7.00	Festival Concert
Sunday 6	open 2.00 – 4.00	
Monday 7	open 2.00 - 4.00	with St Christopher's school singers and Pegasus school handbell ringers
Tuesday 8	open 2.00 - 4.00	with St Francis school singers
Wednesday 9	open 6.30 - 8.30	with Oxford Spires Academy singers
Thursday 10	open 2.00 - 4.00	entertainment to be confirmed
Saturday 12	open 10.00 - 4.00 10.00 2.30  10.00 - 2.00	Brian Tidy on the organ Emily Marshall pop up come and sing choir Festival Christmas fun day
Sunday 13	open 2.00 - 4.00 4.30	closing Christingle service

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# Mothers Union

The November branch meeting was well attended and included an interesting talk by John Shreeve on the work of the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust. He and Marlene are members and have visited several sites of special interest run by the Trust. One within easy reach for us is Iffley meadow where in late spring visitors can enjoy the carpet of wild snakes'-head fritillaries in bloom. John also pointed out how the Trust works to support all wildlife, mammals, reptiles, insects, birds and plants in our three counties.

The committee planned the December meeting which will take the shape of a Christmas lunch on 21st December at the Church Centre. It is hoped that each and every member will come along. We shall meet at 12.30 pm and are asking for a donation of £3.50 to cover costs.

If members have not yet written Christmas cards

for people in prison and would like to they are asked to pass their offerings on to John and Marlene Shreeve as soon as possible.

The deanery annual meeting took place in Headington on 18th November and our branch was represented.. Members might like to hear that the Cowley branch is the biggest in the Oxford Deanery. Well done us!

The January meeting will take place on 18th and will be our Annual General Meeting. It is also, by tradition, the meeting when we hold our bring and buy sale for branch funds.

Our popular "quiz and puddings" evening next year will be on Friday, February 19th. This event is open to the whole parish so we do hope that we have a good crowd to join in the fun. We ask £6 a team which includes half-time refreshments and there will, of course, be a raffle.

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## More notes for the Milkman:

Sorry not to have paid your bill before, but my wife had a baby and I've been carrying it around in my pocket for weeks.

Sorry about yesterday's note. I didn't mean one egg and a dozen pints, but the other way round.

When you leave my milk please knock on my bedroom window and wake me because I want you to give me a hand to turn the mattress.

Please knock. My TV's broken down and I missed last night's Coronation Street. If you saw it, will you tell me what happened over a cup of tea?

My daughter says she wants a milkshake. Do you do it before you deliver or do I have to shake the bottle?

Please send me a form for cheap milk, for I have a baby two months old and did not know about it until a neighbour told me.

Please send me details about cheap milk as I am stagnant.

Milk is needed for the baby. Father is unable to supply it.



## SIGNIFICANT DATES IN DECEMBER

On 6th December 1492 Christopher Columbus crossed the Atlantic Ocean hoping to find the “spice lands” of India and Ceylon. Instead he made landfall on the island of Haiti which he named Hispaniola.

King James II abdicated from the British throne on 11th December 1688 and fled, in fear of his life, to France. The Dutch ruler, William of Orange had landed at Torbay and threatened the Kingdom. William became William III and ruled Britain jointly with his wife, Mary.

In 1906, on 15th December, London’s Underground system opened the Piccadilly Line between Finsbury Park and Hammersmith. Lloyd George performed the ceremony and the title “tube” was coined as the tubular tunnels were sited so deep underground.

1903 saw the first ever flight of a plane “heavier than air”. On 17th December Orville Wright took off in a small bi-plane on the beach at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. He remained in the air for 12 seconds.

Abraham Lincoln announced the total abolition of slavery in the USA on 18TH December 1862.

White Christmases (when snow actually fell in Britain on Christmas Day) in 20th century Britain have only occurred 8 times – in 1916, 1927, 1938, 1956, 1964, 1968, 1970 and 1976.

## SIGNIFICANT DATES IN JANUARY

Rose Heilbron became Britain’s first woman judge at the Old Bailey on 4th January 1972.

On 6th January 1066 Harold Godwinson was crowned King of England. He only ruled until October 14th of that year when he was killed at the Battle of Hastings. The year 1066 is the best-known date in all British history.

On 12th January 1948 the London Co-operative Society open the very first supermarket in Britain.

One year later on the same date in 1909 the British Explorer, Ernest Shackleton found the point of the magnetic South Pole.

On 30th January 1933 Adolf Hitler became the Chancellor of Germany.

Also on 30th January but this time in 1961 the contraceptive pill went on sale in Britain for the first time.

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# CHRONICLE

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

Deadline for the next edition:

Wednesday 27 January 2016

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

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## HOW MANY DID YOU GET?

### ANSWERS TO NAME THE CHRISTMAS SONG AND WHO RECORDED IT

1. 'Winter Wonderland'  
Recorded by: Andrews Sisters, Perry Como, Aretha Franklin and others
2. 'Wonderful Christmas Time' – Paul McCartney
3. 'Blue Christmas' – Elvis Presley
4. 'Merry Christmas Everybody' – Slade
5. 'Stop The Cavalry' – Jona Lewie
6. 'Santa Baby'  
Recorded by: Eartha Kitt, Madonna
7. 'Happy Christmas (War is Over)' – John Lennon and Yoko Ono
8. 'Let it snow let it snow let it snow' – Dean Martin
9. 'Rocking around the Christmas Tree'  
Recorded by: Brenda Lee, Dion, and others
10. 'Mistletoe and Wine' – Cliff Richard
11. 'Step into Christmas' – Elton John
12. 'The Christmas Song' – Nat King Cole, Mel Torme
13. 'Last Christmas' – Wham
14. 'Do They Know It's Christmas Time?' – Band Aid
15. 'Merry Christmas Everyone' – Shakin Stevens
16. 'Little Drummer Boy' – recorded by several artists: Rolf Harris, Bing Crosby with David Bowie
17. 'Another Rock 'N' Roll Christmas' – Gary Glitter
18. 'Fairytale of New York' – The Pogues with Kirsty MacColl
19. '2000 Miles' – The Pretenders
20. 'Santa Claus is Coming to Town'  
Recorded by numerous artists: Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra, The Crystals, The Carpenters, Four Seasons, Jackson Five, Bruce Springstein and more.

# HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR CHURCHES

## The Lounge at St Francis of Assisi

If you climb the steep stairs to the lounge you will come to a large room, comfortably and colourfully decorated. This is generally used for informal gatherings. It was once used as the projection room when films were shown in the Hall. In earlier years this was known as the Upper Room.



Les Hemsworth

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## COWLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

A November afternoon reminiscing about Christmas Past was enjoyed by Cowley WI recalling old customs, family traditions, entertainment, and all the preparations for the festive season in a less commercial time. Although it was nostalgic and somewhat of a shock to realise how much life has changed over the years, it was good, and fun, to remember old times.

After a Christmas Party in December, we meet again at the Church Centre at 2 pm on Wednesday, 20 January 2016, for a presentation "Behind the Scenes at Blenheim Palace", and there will be a Bring and Buy sale.

Why not make a New Year's Resolution to come along? You will be very welcome!

Happy Christmas to everyone.

Ann Withers

President, Cowley WI

# Jack Frost has been a-visiting!

As I write, we have had our first frosts of winter. My dahlias became stricken and blackened overnight and the nasturtiums were a flattened and floppy mess. I cleared the top growth from the dahlias but then had no energy to cover the tubers in the ground with a mulch to protect them for the winter. Anyway, I told myself, they will be OK for the night as no more frost is forecast. Silly me! An even deeper frost came. They are now covered but with crossed fingers that I have saved them.

I mentioned the nasturtiums as they have galloped away this autumn. I gave my granddaughter a packet of seeds to pop in the border in the summer. She had a whale of a time, later on, finding cabbage white butterfly caterpillars on the leaves but their chomping could not compete with the phenomenal growth of leaves and flowers during our mild and rainy autumn. These trailing nasturtiums covered everything and created a great green show with huge leaves and yellow and orange flowers.

Over the last few weeks, I have been planting spring bulbs into the new border: daffodils, in groups of the same variety, and in November, tulips. I have also put in snowdrop bulbs. These, quite often, do not grow from dry bulbs but I will give them a try. I have got crowded patches of snowdrops elsewhere so I will be splitting them up in the spring and distributing them "in the green" which do a lot better. Last Spring, however, I had hardly any flowers on the snowdrops as the buds were removed as soon as they popped up. I never found out who the culprits were. It could be tits or mice, I suppose.

The wet soil had stopped any more autumn digging on the allotment but the weeds, like the na-

sturtiums, have had a field day! Luckily most are annuals and will be easily dug in later, plants such as groundsel, shepherd's purse and red dead nettle. This year I have had scarlet pimpernel on the plot, something not seen for a long time, a ground-hugging trailing weed of arable and disturbed land with small bright-red 5-petalled flowers. I have always been fascinated by their spherical seed pods which split into two hemispheres to allow the seeds to disperse. Another plant that first appeared a few years ago is another ground-hugger, a type of purslane with small fleshy leaves. It has tiny yellow flowers which don't last very long. It can be used as a salad vegetable and, in the past, so they say, used to cool down gout-sufferer's toes and to help with the pain of toothache. This little weed keeps on valiantly coming up as fast as the other half hoes it off, as he hates it.

Hopefully, my new fence for the bottom of the garden will soon be in place so we can really tidy up that area and be planting some fruit trees. I have realised that this fence will be directly facing south and am contemplating trying to train a peach against it. The pond continues to irritate my other half as it is a bit of a mess with yellow flag coming up everywhere around with the occasional spiky raspberry and tayberry cane amongst it with long grass in between. I intend not to remove it all but just keep it in bounds as I am conscious of a need for a wild area to make a home for wildlife.

So lots to look forward to in 2016 and please keep the date of May 21st free to help and buy at our annual Plant Sale.

Joan Coleman

# A QUIZ FOR THE NEW YEAR – COLLECTIVE NOUNS

Try these out on family and friends after lunch on New Year's Day!

	Questions:		Answers:
1.	A coven of	?	Witches
2.	A pool of	?	Typists
3.	A patrol of	?	Scouts or Guides
4.	A skulk of	?	Thieves
5.	A mob of	?	Protestors
6.	A congregation of	?	Worshippers
7.	A cavalcade of	?	Riders
8.	A holiness of	?	Nuns
9.	A bench of	?	Magistrates
10.	A battalion of	?	Infantry or soldiers
11.	A bevy of	?	Maidens or beauty
12.	An ensemble of	?	Musicians
13.	A side of	?	Morris Men
14.	A college of	?	Physicians
15.	A troupe of	?	Players or Monkeys
16.	A chapel of	?	Printers
17.	A crew of	?	Sailors
18.	A colony of	?	Nudists
19.	A squad of	?	Trainees
20.	A force of	?	Workmen

These collective nouns were first published in 1801

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**King David and King Solomon lived merry, merry lives with many, many concubines and many, many wives. But when old age came over them with many, many qualms, King Solomon wrote the Proverbs and King David wrote the Psalms.**

# FROM THE ARCHIVES

COWLEY

CHURCH AND HOME MAGAZINE

January 1893

## Band Of Hope

The usual quarterly tea was given on Monday, the 19th December, when about 130 sat down to the cake and other things provided. The parents of the children were invited to come at 6.30 to hear their children sing and go through some of the drill exercises which are now required by the Education Department. Sir William Herschel, who had kindly offered to come and speak, mistook the day, and arrived at the school the following evening. After the performance was ended, the Vicar presented the gold watch which had been subscribed for by the children and others who are interested in the Parish Schools, and in giving the watch to Miss. Shergold, said that she had done her work well for five years. She had earned 20s. 6d. a child from the Education Department, and her passes had been "Excellent." She had taken a great interest in the children when the school work was done. For three years she had not been absent from a single meeting of the Band of Hope. She had managed the Parish Library, and always had been ready to do any Church-work. This magazine owes her a debt of gratitude. Every person who understood the importance of having a really efficient teacher at the head of Public Elementary Schools, like those in this Parish, must understand the loss they were about to sustain at her departure. He, the Vicar, also said that she had never caused him the slightest trouble, but had worked loyally and in a straightforward manner. He wished her God-speed in her new work.

Miss Shergold thanked him for the very handsome present, and said that although she should not require any material token to remind her of Cowley, the watch must remind her of the kindness she received during the five years she had been there. She said she would often think of their children when she was away, and begged those present to accept her best thanks for the watch.

The following were among the subscribers in addition to the children:

The Vicar & Mrs. Moore, Col. & Mrs. Bailie, Col. Livesay, the officers at the depot, Capt. & Mrs. Talbot, Mr Colville, Col. & Mrs Jackson, Sir William Herschel, Rev. C.W.Guerrier, Rev. James & Mrs. Welsh, Rev. H. & Mrs. Mare, Rev. A. & Mrs. Roberts, Rev. Beviss & Mrs. Thompson, Miss. Crawley, Miss. Robinson, Mrs. Pether, Miss. Hurst, r. & Mrs. White, Mr. & Mrs. Polley.

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As many of the subscribers to this splendid gift were absent on the evening of the Band of Hope entertainment, December 19th, I should like, through the medium of the Magazine, to again thank all those who showed their goodwill towards me in such a handsome and unexpected way. Such an expression of kind feeling touched me more than anyone can imagine, and I value it very much. My earnest hope is, and always will be, that the school may always maintain its position as one of the first in the county.

KATE SHERGOLD

## Coal, Clothing & Shoe Club

The children of the Labouring and Artizan Class can now bring the money for these clubs. Each child can pay any sum not exceeding 4d. weekly, and will receive at the end of the year a bonus of 2d. in the shilling on the amount subscribed.

Things which require your support:

1. Parish Schools
2. Lending Library
3. Band of Hope
4. Bells in Church tower require re-casting
5. Parish Magazine --- buy me, please.

## REPORTS OF HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTOR ON THE SCHOOLS

### BOYS' SCHOOL:

The work of the school throughout is very fair, but no higher mark can be given, except in the fifth standard. Reading should be more fluent and intelligent. Grammar is scarcely satisfactory. Note singing is passable.

### GIRLS' SCHOOL:

The school continues to deserve the highest praise for the discipline and the attainment of the children. The girls generally know all their subjects very well, but there is still a difficulty in hearing their answers. Needlework is very good and the grant for singing by note is gained very easily.

### INFANTS' SCHOOL:

Plans for the enlargement of the buildings have been submitted to the Education Department, otherwise no grant could have been recommended after the warning given last year. The room is overcrowded, and there is no classroom. The teaching is therefore carried on under considerable difficulties. Nevertheless, the infants have passed a very good examination, but a greater variety of occupations is desirable. The average attendance in the infants' school must not again exceed the prescribed limit, viz., 102 in the existing premises. Article 85 (a).

### AMOUNT OF GRANT:

	£.	s.	d.
Boys	63	4	0
Girls	82	0	0
Infants	<u>90</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>236</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>

Researched by Les Hemsworth



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# SUNDAY SERVICES

## ST JAMES CHURCH, BEAUCHAMP LANE

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

## ST FRANCIS CHURCH, HOLLOW WAY

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

## MID-WEEK SERVICES & MEETINGS

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

## HOME GROUPS

Leader	Time/Venue
Connie Uren	Alternate Tuesday afternoons at 2.30pm St James Church Centre, Ranklin Room
Friends of St Francis (John Shreeve)	2nd & 4th Tuesday afternoons at 2.30pm St Francis Church
Mark Oxbrow	Alternate Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm Mark's home, 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
Catherine / William Hartley	Thursdays at 8.00pm, Catherine Hartley 07792 104448 William Hartley 07751 939092
Joel Denno	Thursday at 7.45pm at The Vicarage, Don Bosco Close
Helen Beetham	Alternate Friday mornings at 10am St James Church Centre, Ranklin Room

The Parish Office in St James Church  
Centre is open:

Tuesday, 2—5pm  
Wednesday, 10—1pm  
Friday, 9—2pm

The Parish Office is currently staffed by  
volunteers and members of the ministry  
team.

Contact details: Tel: 01865 747680  
Email: [office@cowleyteamministry.co.uk](mailto:office@cowleyteamministry.co.uk)  
Out of hours tel: 07501 908378  
Website: [www.cowleyteamministry.co.uk](http://www.cowleyteamministry.co.uk)

### Team Rector:

The Revd Canon Geoffrey Bayliss  
Tel: 01865 747680 (o) 01865 778596 (h)  
Email: [rector@cowleyteamministry.co.uk](mailto:rector@cowleyteamministry.co.uk)

### Team Vicar:

Revd Skye Denno  
Tel: 01865 434160 Mobile: 07720 768684  
Email: [skye@cowleyteamministry.co.uk](mailto:skye@cowleyteamministry.co.uk)  
Skye has Wednesday as her day off.

### Self-supporting Ministers

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

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

Revd Dr Amanda Bloor  
Tel: 01865 208221

Revd Tony Beetham  
Tel: 01865 770923  
Email: [tonybeetham1@supanet.com](mailto:tonybeetham1@supanet.com)

### Churchwardens:

David Stanley Tel: 776602  
Norah Shallow Tel: 765199

Deputy Wardens  
Margaret Martin Tel: 718532  
John Shreeve Tel: 717987

### St James Church Centre Manager:

Chris Woodman Tel: 778078

### Hall Bookings:

Church Centre: Pat Sansom Tel: 778516  
St Francis Church/St James Church:  
through Parish Office

### Cowley Chronicle—Editorial Team:

Rosanne Butler Tel: 453257  
Sally Hemsworth, Nicki Stevens,  
May Morgan  
Articles to be emailed to:  
[chronicle@cowleyteamministry.co.uk](mailto:chronicle@cowleyteamministry.co.uk)