



Snowdrop days

Saturday February 10 & 17
10:30 am – 3:30 pm

Sunday February 11 & 18
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

cakes and refreshments
family activities

St James Church Beauchamp Lane - Cowley



Historic Cowley Parish church - open for you.

14th Feb

Ash Wednesday

**Welcome in the
season of Lent by
joining us.**

**7:00 pm A simple meal served
in the north isle of St James
Church Beauchamp Lane**

**7:45 pm a Communion Service
(with an option of Ashing) in
the body of eh Church**

www.cowleyteamministry.co.uk



Chronicle

February
2018

From the Editors

Sally Hemsworth and Nicki Stevens

January always seems a very long month but to us, a month when we have to prepare the February Chronicle, it seemed to go very fast and the time to collect articles was there so quick. Luckily most of the contributions came without any "reminders" and we have a very full and informative Chronicle – we hope you agree.

An early Easter means there is a lot of information on activities over Lent. The posters will be put up in the churches and the Church Centre so you will not have to carry your Chronicle about for the dates – they will be well advertised.

There is also the Mothers' Union Puddings and Quiz evening on the 23 February – if you are no good at quizzes you are still welcome – and the puddings are excellent and make up for those questions it is impossible to answer!

We have an opportunity to arrange a visit to the Cathedral later in the year – watch out for the lists to sign if you wish to attend.

We really need more people to express an interest in the Group Holiday planned for 10 September 2018 for four nights. Do contact Pat Chambers or Sally Hemsworth if you would like to come.

We hope you enjoy the Chronicle this month – if you have an article you would like included or idea for articles please let us know. Just send them to the Chronicle email address, or deliver to the Parish Office.

COWLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

For the first time since Cowley WI was founded more than 30 years ago, we had to cancel our meeting in December. The bitterly cold weather, snow and treacherous icy pavements forced us to heed the official advice not to make non-essential journeys. Although we were disappointed to miss our Christmas party, we were also very thankful that we did not have to go out in such unwelcome conditions.

After a gap of several years we were pleased to take part in the Festival of Christmas Trees once again and were delighted to receive a number of compliments on our entry.

Normal service resumed for our January meeting when a local doctor gave an encouraging presentation 'Feel Your Age – and Enjoy It'.

We meet again on Wednesday, 21 February, at 2 pm in the Church Centre, when there will be an illustrated presentation about the chapels of some Oxford Colleges, and we shall hold a cake sale.

Why not make a New Year's resolution to come to our meetings? You will be very welcome.

Ann Withers

President, Cowley WI

CHRISTIAN AID

Twenty-one of us greeted the New Year with a Big Brekkie on Sunday 7 January at St James Centre, enjoying blueberry porridge, bacon and scrambled egg butties, fruit, croissants, crumpets and raising our first £50 of 2018, for Christian Aid.

There may *possibly* be a Lenten fair trade super soup lunch – but we're having difficulty finding a non-clashing date

Planning ahead for CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 13-19 May

Instead of a door to door collection, we will repeat the use of the Templars Square charity stall all week but this year with more activity to attract people: probably a tombola or sales table for adults plus balloons & a challenge for children

SO: do you have any Christmas gifts that you received but really don't like *or* you do like but don't need *or* you bought but didn't give to anyone: please declutter by bringing them in now, so you don't have to decide where to store them

And also: there will be a Big Brekkie on Sunday 13 May, 8:45 am at St James Centre

And a Coffee morning on Wednesday 16 May, 10:00-12:00 at 88 Temple Road

St James Flower arranging and cleaning group

Come and join us!

Thursday morning 9:30 in St James Church

Join us for a chat, some coffee, flower arranging and a bit of cleaning

More details from Chris Woodman or Margaret Martin



St James Choir

Come and join us!

Practice Thursday 12 noon in the Ranklin room

Join us in Church on Sundays down near St Luke's Chapel

More details from Geoff or Chris Knevett

MINISTRY TEAM UPDATE FROM GEOFF:

Here are just a couple of updates to keep you in the picture



Alison Lockhart
Prayer Ministry
Co-ordinator:

Prayer is at the centre of the life of every Christian. Our personal relationship with God our Father is one of the very best gifts Jesus gives us. We are called to talk to him, to pray, not just for ourselves but for others. As you read the Gospels you hear of Jesus praying for so many people. Paul's letters tell us of his commitment to pray for individuals and for groups of people. What does St James say about those who are ill? " *Is anyone among you ill? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven*" (James 5:14-15) The Cowley Church Family believes that God wants to heal us. We believe he wants to turn around the broken bits of life and make them places of joy. To encourage this part of our life together we

have appointed a Prayer Ministry Co-Ordinator. Her role will undoubtedly grow, but central is the encouragement of our life as a community of prayer for healing and restoration. So please help her, encourage her, support her and help us to grow this vital part of church life.

Pastoral Care has always been a strong part of the life of the Church in Cowley. Scripture tells us to 'Look after each other so that none of you fails to receive the grace of God.' (Hebrews 12:15a NLT). At both St Francis and St James we have pastoral teams that 'keep an eye out' for the members of our congregations. Our pastoral links try to make sure that the support we can offer, is available when it is needed. Over the years Jill has had a lot of experience in helping in matters of pastoral care. In the coming months she is going to pick up the role May Morgan filled, as the Pastoral Lists Co-ordinator. Further she is going to help us grow this area of Church life. So please help her, encourage her, support her. Pastoral care is not the role of any single person. Jesus said "*Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.*" Pastoral care is a calling we all have. Let's help each other grow this gift and through that grow God's Kingdom.



Jill Ling
Pastoral Team

If you would like to know more about, or would like to get involved in, our Pastoral Team or our Prayer ministry team do please find a moment to talk with Alison or Jill!

PARISH WALKING GROUP

The first Parish Walk of 2018 took place on Monday, 8th January 2018, when six of us walked around University Park. A cold day, but we were sheltered in the environment of the Park.



Our second walk was on Monday, 22 January. Seven of us enjoyed a visit to Magdalen College, walking leisurely through the cloisters where we imagined that we would see Morse and Colin Dexter! We took time to go into the lobby area of the chapel and looked through the glass door at the magnificent reredos behind the altar.

We then decided we should make our way to the Deer Park – on our leisurely stroll around we saw snowdrops, deer and a plaque with the following poem by C S Lewis (you can see from the plaque that it was very difficult to read!):

What the Bird Said Early in the Year (Magdalen College guides says: 'which not coincidentally is set in Addison's Walk, and has to do with a spell becoming undone. Let him who has ears to hear, hear!')

*I heard in Addison's Walk a bird sing clear:
This year the summer will come true. This year. This year.
Winds will not strip the blossom from the apple trees
This year, nor want of rain destroy the peas.
This year time's nature will no more defeat you,
Nor all the promised moments in their passing cheat you.
This time they will not lead you round and back
To Autumn, one year older, by the well-worn track.
This year, this year, as all these flowers foretell,
We shall escape the circle and undo the spell.
Often deceived, yet open once again your heart,
Quick, quick, quick, quick!—the gates are drawn
apart.*

As we entered the College grounds on the left-hand side was a stone marking the place where Magdalen Schoolroom stood, built in 1480 by William of Waynefflete and demolished in 1828.

During our way through the College grounds we saw the well-known tree at Magdalen College (the Great



Plane Tree located between New Buildings and the President's Lodgings. This striking tree was planted in 1801 by Henry Phillpotts, the Junior Bursar at the college, this being a scion of the hybrid tree planted in the Botanic Gardens in 1666. The girth of the tree was 7.69 m in June 2013.



Healthwise, not a hard walk, but a very enjoyable visit nonetheless.

Our next walk is scheduled for Monday, 5 February 2018. We have decided to meet at 2 pm by the entrance to the canal in Hythe Bridge Street (and, if travelling from Cowley, we aim to be at the bus stop in Barnes Road at 1.30 pm).

Please contact Sally Hemsworth at the Parish Office (01865 747680) if you want more information. If no reply do leave a message and Sally will get back to you.



Our next Messy Church will be in the half-term break on Tuesday 13th February. Please see posters/flyers for more details. Our theme will be Shrove Tuesday and Healthy Living. So there will be pancakes to toss and pancakes to decorate. But, in addition, we will be setting ourselves a challenge. We will be thinking about lots of aspects of healthy living. Healthy eating, healthy exercise, healthy fun with family and friends, songs and bible stories. Can we change one thing we do now to make us more healthy for Lent? Can we take up doing something for Lent? Again, please, we need lots of helpers. If you can help please do let Mary know.

Many thanks
Mary Bayliss



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Is burning bishops really helpful?

Here is my confession. I have a certain addiction which takes me down to Blackwell's bookshop more often than is good for my wallet. As I make my way there I step over a black and white cobbled cross where three bishops were



burnt alive not so many years. I made that journey two weeks before Christmas and as I entered the bookshop I was confronted by a large

display of books on "Islamic terrorism". As I picked up one of the books I thought instantly of Ridley, Latimer and Cranmer and their deaths at the hands of fellow Christians. How can religious people be so violent?

Last month we saw yet more terrorist attacks in Kabul, Afghanistan, with well over 100 fatalities. Most of those who died were Muslims. I read recently that in the past decade it is estimated that 92% of all those killed by Muslim terrorists have been fellow Muslims. I suppose it is not surprising that something so foundational to our existence, our beliefs about God, our eternal destiny and the meaning of life, should stir up such intense passion – passion enough to kill when our ways of believing are threatened. (Here I am not justifying violence – just trying to understand it.)

It has been my privilege for the past two years to be a trustee of something called the Solomon Academic Trust which runs a number of projects including the *Centre for Muslim-Christian Studies* in Iffley Road, where Muslims and Christians teach and study together. Last summer I had a very interesting conversation with one of our Muslim academics. He remarked that 1,485 years after Jesus died Christians had their "bloody Reformation" (whose

500th anniversary we marked in 2017). As Mohammed did not die until 632AD perhaps we cannot expect an Islamic Reformation until 2117AD (1,485 years later)! The point he was making was quite simple. All religions need reformation, renewal, revival, but that is not always an easy process. Hundreds of people died so that the Church of England could be born in this country. Perhaps what we are seeing in Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Sudan and elsewhere today is the beginnings of a reformation, a renewal, of Islam. My colleague concluded by saying "I pray each day that our Islamic reformation will bring us back to God with a new understanding of the peace which Jesus, the prophet we both share, taught us."

Islamic terrorism is a protest against the secularism of the West, the continuing effects of colonialism, and much more, but mainly it is a struggle for the "soul of Islam". It is a fight, literally a fight, for the future of Islam just as much as the Christian Reformation was a flight (a bloody fight in Oxford) for the future of Christianity.

Perhaps as Christians we can pray that Islam finds its way forward more peacefully, that its reformation, if and when it comes, will bring Muslims closer to God and to a clearer understanding of who "prophet" Jesus really is. And when we hear news of yet another terrorist attack – because sadly there will be more – remember to pray for the Muslim victims as well as those from the Christian West.

God forgive our ancestors for what they did in Broad Street, God forgive today's terrorists too, and show us all a better way forward in faith ... following the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ.

Mark Oxbrow

A new year begins.....

It is often dull, damp and chilly this time of the year and the garden looks sad, neglected and very untidy. I don't really itch to get out there and amend the situation except for necessary ventures to the compost bin with kitchen peelings and such and to grab some parsley for a meal. I have noticed the odd primrose flower though. Snowdrops are showing white among the emerging straight green leaves and daffodils are starting to shoot. My hellebores are also starting to flower.

I did, however, get out to buy a new pot and some ericaceous compost. My daughter gave me a camellia for my birthday. I have always wanted one but I held back as I knew they liked soil on the acidic side which is what our garden is not. I have often puzzled that many gardens in the area do successfully grow beautiful flowering camellias and wonder about this acid necessity. Not to kill the plant, I have opted to put it in a pot. At present it is placed on the steps outside our living room window where its glossy dark green leaves and the promising fat buds can be seen easily. I hope that it will thrive and, maybe, it will go out into a border one day for it to grow into the large shrub that it should do. When it does flower, a double pink, usually in March, at least I can move the potted plant to a sheltered area if a frost is forecast. The sun on frosted flowers can really do them damage.

You would think that with minimal work needed outside would mean that I can get on

with those tasks that you decide to do "when I have time", such as sorting out the cupboard full of photographs in some sort of logical order or doing some family history research! No! My days always seem to be full. There is always something to do when you are Parish Treasurer and a mother, wife, sister, grannie and all the other roles one has.

Once we get some dry weather, we can get on the allotment. The Other Half has quite a bit of digging to do and to incorporate the manure that is heaped on the lower end. An early spring job for me is to cut down the autumn raspberries and I must cover a rhubarb crown with an upturned dustbin to force some tender stems for the kitchen.

I notice that the garden centres already have their seed potatoes on display, so we must decide on the varieties to grow this year. I have already ordered my plug plants for delivery in March to pot on and grow for the Plant Sale on May 12th. As I write, it is still a bit early to fire up the propagator and start seed sowing. But, if I get a warmish sunny day, out into the shed (number 93) I will go to tidy up and give myself elbow room for the season ahead!

Hopefully, the snowdrops will be at their best in St. James' Churchyard for the Snowdrop Weekends. We cross our fingers that the clumps that we split and planted in empty areas will be showing. If they are productive, I propose to do some more dividing this Spring to extend the beautiful flowering show.

Joan Coleman

So - you want to make a difference?

How about being Parish Treasurer?

The job of Treasurer of the Parish is a pivotal one. You get to have an overview of what is going on and giving updates of the financial position is essential for forward planning. The financial year is from January to December each year and an annual financial report has to be made to the Annual Parish Meeting as well as to the national church and the Charity Commission.

Money from donors has to be banked, though not all by you. Many donors have standing orders and each church has a designated banker of the cash from services. However each donation, whether from standing order, envelope or cash on the plate is recorded on a clever piece of software from which a claim for Gift Aid to HMRC can be done on the stroke of a button!

Many of our regular bills are paid by Direct Debit but other payments are made promptly. The accounts are divided into funds. The main fund being the General or Unrestricted Fund into which donations, fees etc. go. The costs of the day to day running of the churches and services and administration come out of this fund.

Sometimes money is designated or restricted into other funds. For example, a Church Fabric Fund is set aside for work done on the building itself.

Again, we have another software program that deals with finance.

I have been Treasurer now for 10 years and I feel that new blood is needed. New developments are afoot to deal with the cashless society. Would you like to set up a JustGiving page or contactless payments?

I would be very glad to discuss the work with you.

Joan Coleman

E-mail ojcoleman@btinternet.com

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MOTHERS' UNION NEWS

At the Annual General Meeting in January the committee of Mary Bayliss, Mandy Watts, Christine Woodman and Rosanne Butler were re-elected with the latter again given the responsibility of treasurer and branch leader. An additional committee member was needed to fill the vacancy left by the death of May Morgan. Valerie Goodall was proposed and seconded and elected enthusiastically by all those present. The annual report and annual balance sheet were presented. Amongst the items for discussion was our continued support for our local Children's Hospital.

The February branch meeting each year is devoted to preparation for the Women's World Day of Prayer. This year the Cowley Deanery venue for the service will be at St Nicholas Church in Littlemore. It is pleasing to know that they have re-joined the circuit of local

churches celebrating this very worthwhile service. Mrs Ann Robinson, who has taken on the responsibility of co-ordinating the Littlemore celebration will be speaking at this month's meeting on February 19th.

Our next social event, which is always popular with members, friends and parishioners is our annual Puddings and Quiz Evening. The members excel themselves with lovely puds which are served halfway through the evening with tea, coffee or a soft drink. The date for this is 23 February in the Church Centre beginning at 7 pm. We are asking £2 per person to cover costs. The evening always turns out to be lots of fun and the quiz questions, though a bit of a challenge, are never intimidating!

Rosanne Butler



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Home-Based practice in OX4

A Poem from the book "Seven Days – Dips into the well of Truth" by Gertrude Wood

WHAT IS LIFE?

Life once but concept in the Master Mind
That planned and brought to be the universe,
Arranging timeless time in measured beat –
Was purposed to develop through diverse
And varied forms, interdependent all,
Toward an ultimate reunion with
The Master Mind in this environment.

Life is a gift – a privilege – packed with
Unlimited potentiality,
Foiled only by inert mentality,
And such implies that the recipient
Gratefully care for and enjoy the gift.

Life is a loan from Creation's Source
To be recalled with interest or without,
When it's time has expired – if not cut off
By some unnecessary circumstance,
Uncalled for by the giver of the gift.

Life is a song – paeon of praise or dirge –
It's tempo, pathos and performances
Dependant on the singer's own rapport
With the author – his would-be accompanist –
The giver and sustainer of all life.

Life is a Gem, uncut, unpolished and
Too often in a setting most uncouth
With even proper tools denied. Even so
Ambition, care and perseverance may
Reshape, recut and polish it to be
A radiant jewel for the world to see.

Life is a Trust – link between the past
And Future – privileged to burst the shell
Of prejudice and blind conformity
That plagued the past, and then to build
Upon tried concepts – truth and equity –
In tensile forms, expansible for peace
And progress by unknown posterity.

Life is a restless tide that ever must
Move onward, outward, upward until lost
In that which gave it birth – Infinite Love

'Whatsoever things are true,
Just Lovely ... of good report

Think on these." (Phil.4:8)

Archway Foundation

Serving those hurt by Loneliness

Description:

Founded in 1982, Archway is a voluntary organisation and befriending service based within the City of Oxford and works with people in Oxford and Abingdon to help relieve some of the distress caused by loneliness. The following are available:

Regular social events

A call-in café in the city centre

A befriending service for the isolated
and housebound

Occasional outings for groups.

Office Address:

The Archway Foundation, New Marston
Pastoral Centre, Jack Straws Lane, Oxford,
OX3 0DL.

Email: office@archwayfoundation.org.uk

Office Phone: 01865 790552

Abingdon Phone: 07718769103

Website: www.archwayfoundation.org.uk

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Cowley Team Ministry:

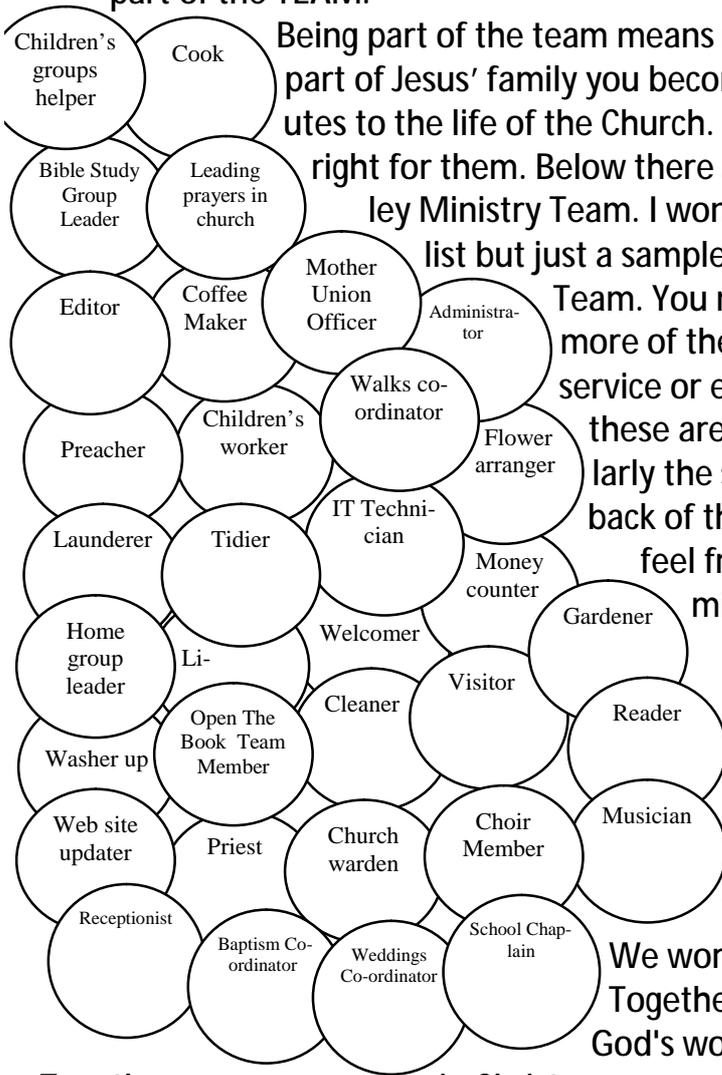
There is something almost hidden in our name 'The Cowley Team Ministry'. It is so up front that we can read it and not realise the importance of it. We are a 'Team Ministry'.

Being part of a Christian community means we are part of a team! As soon as we start to follow Jesus we become part of a family, AND families are TEAMS. We work together so that everybody gets the best possible experience.

For many the journey towards Christian faith is a long one. First there is something that catches their attention. It might be something that a friend says, an event they go to, a program they have seen on television, a tragedy that touches their life! This leads to them coming along and finding out some more about Christians. They might come on a Sunday morning. They might come along to an Alpha Course, or a bible-study group. They might come along to a meal or a social activity. All of these are opportunities to find out more about the Christian faith and what we, Jesus' family, do. At some point there is a decision. They want not just to come along but they want to be part of what is happening. They ask Jesus to help them, to guide them, to live with them day by day. They want to be part of the TEAM.

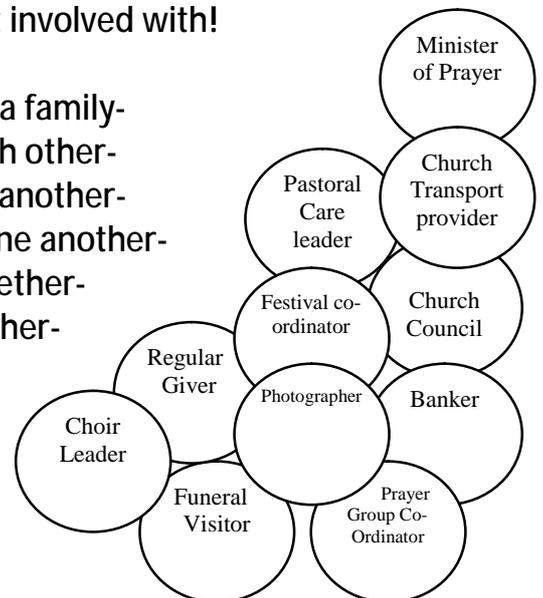


Being part of the team means more than just carrying a badge. As you become part of Jesus' family you become a team member. Every Team Member contributes to the life of the Church. Each in their own way, and each at a level that is right for them. Below there are some of the ways people are part of the Cowley Ministry Team. I wonder where you fit in? It is by no means a complete



list but just a sample of the ways people serve as part of the Ministry Team. You may already serve as a team member in one or more of these roles? You might like to take up a new area of service or encourage somebody else to join you in one of these areas. I hope over the coming months, and particularly the season of Lent, there will be information at the back of the churches to help you get involved! Whatever, feel free to chat to somebody about something you might like to get involved with!

God made us a family-
 We need each other-
 We love one another-
 We forgive one another-
 We work together-
 We play together-
 We worship together.
 Together we use
 God's word,



Together we grow in Christ,
 Together we love all people,
 Together we serve our God,
 Together we hope for heaven, through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Blessings to You. Geoff

AN EXTRACT FROM THE LITTLE BOOK OF BIG SCAMS (ISSUED BY ONE OF THE BIGGER BANKS)

10 GOLDEN RULES

Remember these 10 golden rules to help you beat the scammers.

1. Be suspicious of all 'Too good to be true' offers and deals. There are no guaranteed get-rich-quick schemes.
2. Do not agree to offers or deals immediately. Insist on time to obtain independent/legal advice before making a decision.
3. Do not hand over money or sign anything until you have checked the credentials of the company or individual.
4. Never send money to anyone you do not know or trust, whether in the UK or abroad, or use methods of payment that you are not comfortable with.
5. Never give banking or personal details to anyone you do not know or trust. This information is valuable so make sure you protect it.
6. Always log on to a website directly rather than clicking on links provided in an email.
7. Do not rely solely on glowing testimonials: find solid independent evidence of a company's success.
8. Always get independent/legal advice if an offer involves money, time or commitment.
9. If you spot a scam or have been scammed, report it and get help.
Contact ActionFraud on 0300 123 2040 or online at www.actionfraud.police.uk. Contact the Police if the suspect is known or still in the area.
10. Do not be embarrassed to report a scam. Because the scammers are cunning and clever there is no shame in being deceived. By reporting you will make it more difficult for them to deceive others.

JUST REMEMBER

If it sounds too good to be true
it probably is

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If you would like to obtain a copy of the full book please get details from Sally Hemsworth

Parish Electoral Roll

If you are new to Cowley Parish during the past year or you have been here a while but just not committed to registering as a signed up 'member' – there's no fee but, like the political electoral roll, you benefit with the chance to vote at the APCM – now is the time to complete an electoral roll form, ready for the annual roll update next month.

Forms are available in both churches – please return one when completed to church or direct to Lesley Williams – by hand or to 9 Wykeham Crescent, OXFORD OX4 3SD

The Joys of Cats

Crouched, patiently watching and waiting, the time for the feast is slowly approaching. Our slitty eyes rivet the door and the window for the click that tells us it soon will be opening.

What today? Goujons of salmon or chicken

Jelly mixed white breast or plump thighs of pigeon juices flow, hopes mount, echoes of ring-pull expectations galore

Of curling up full in our soft cosy bed in the warmest nook while she has her rest with her current book her feast is eaten, we should be alright

Does she know how hard we've been working all night duty done,

carcass of sparrow or mouse deposited gratefully on the steps of the house gifted most lovingly,

Please let us in, do us a favour and open that tin.....success!!

Jelly and gravy hmm! Crispies to crunch

Breakfast was wonderful.....now!

What times lunch?

How can we cope? Where can we go

When our favourite places are covered in snow under some shed, on the branch of some trees where those fluttering feathered things just want to tease when your tender paws tingle, and your fur's damp and flat why does she think we can cope with all that she says 'go out and do what cats do'

Or...'Get out and catch mice but show some life do'

If it wasn't for the feast at the end of our trip I would just ignore her and go back to sleep.

My sisters a wimp she says don't upset her remember our beginnings, we were lucky to get her

Ok! We're out! And my sisters to blame

Oh! Dreadful white stuff, from wherever you came please change our garden to be just the same as it was when we played there just the other day when we chased leaves and stalked with pals down our way.

We can see them in windows with rooms all aglow not up to their tails in abominable snow, c'mon sis, make paw tracks to pamper her whim lets stand here and shiver she may let us in.

I can't see her barefoot and catching a mouse, we've done it all year with never a grouse, hunch up your shoulders and let out a sneeze 'we won't scratch the new couch, let us in pleeeze'!!

Pat Sansom

Film Club at the Centre

Well, our members can never say that the films we show are the same old thing each month! January's film "Florence Foster Jenkins" was most certainly different and the twenty-five members and guests who came along found it amusing and quite moving in equal measures. A story based on the "career" of a real person, a person who believed she could sing, and could not, sounds an unlikely subject for a film and it was. However, beautifully acted with stunning depiction of New York throughout the thirties and early forties, and very well directed, it is a film well worth seeing.

This month we are in for another change of genre. "La La Land" with five BAFTA Awards promises much. It was described by "The Guardian" newspaper critic as a

"masterpiece". Full of music, dance and a love story we can look forward to an evening of light-hearted entertainment.

We still have a couple of spaces on our membership list so if any of our readers think they might like to give film club a try please do come along on any second Friday of the month and find out what a friendly club we are. We always begin the evening with tea or coffee and cake at 6.30 pm. The film starts at 7 pm with an interval for a soft drink or a glass of wine if you would like one. We ask for a donation of £2.50 for the film and refreshments and we think that constitutes the cheapest and happiest night out in our area!

Rosanne Butler.

Cowley Parish Mission & Social Planner 2018

<i>FEBRUARY</i>	<i>MARCH</i>
SAT 10th/SUN 11th, SAT 17th/SUN 18th <i>Snowdrop weekends</i> (J) SATs - 10:30 – 3:30 SUNs - 2:00-4:00	SAT 3rd 10:00-12:00 <i>Charity youth run Café</i> in aid of OWNS (CC)
SAT 10th 10:00am-1:00pm <i>Prayer ministry information & training</i> (CC) <i>finishing with bread & soup lunch</i> (Rectory)	SUN 18th 12:45 pm <i>Sunday lunch</i> (CC)
SAT 10th 3:00-5:00pm <i>Valentine tea party</i> (F)	MON 19th 7:30pm <i>Mission and Social planning meeting</i>
TUE 13th 10:00-11.30am <i>Messy Church Shrove Tuesday</i> (CC)	SUN 25th time tbc <i>Palm Sunday procession and refreshments</i> (F & J)
SUN 18th 12:15 pm <i>Sunday lunch</i> (CC)	THU 29th 7:30 pm <i>Maundy Service followed by soup supper</i> (J)
FRI 23rd 6:30 pm <i>MU Puddings and Quiz evening</i> (CC)	FRI 30th 10:00 – 11:30 am <i>Messy Church Easter</i> (CC)
SUN 25th 4:00pm <i>Confirmation Service</i> with Bishop Steven Croft (J) <i>followed by bring & share tea</i> (CC)	

FROM THE ARCHIVES

COWLEY CHURCH & HOME MAGAZINE

January 1957

My Dear Friends

A happy New Year to you all! The year 1957 will bring about a long-desired change in the set-up of the organisation of the Church in this part of Oxford, namely the formation of the new Cowley Rural Deanery.

For many years past the Parish of Cowley has been in the Rural Deanery of Cuddesdon, and although we have enjoyed our fellowship with our neighbouring country parishes, and clergy and laity alike have profited from that fellowship in worship and prayer and in meetings of Chapter and Conference, we have often felt a little out of place in what is predominantly a country Deanery. On the other hand, it seemed that the parishes of East Oxford, belonging in the past to no less than three Deaneries, would make an ideal and compact deanery on their own, with similar interests and problems. The late Bishop of Dorchester (now Bishop of Lincoln) has been largely instrumental in getting this new Deanery into being, and it was he who suggested that because of its central position and importance, Cowley should give its name to the new Deanery.

In addition to this Parish, the Deanery will consist of the parishes of Iffley, Littlemore and Sandford from the Cuddesdon Deanery; the parishes of Cowley St. John and St. Clements, formerly in the Oxford Deanery; and the parishes of Headington, Headington Quarry, Highfield and Marston, together with the Conventional Districts of New Marston and Barton, formerly in the Islip Deanery.

The Order in Council constituting the new Deanery is expected to be made by the Queen at any time now.

It has been my privilege to work closely with several Rural Deans, having been Chapter Clerk to the Chapter of Clergy and Secretary of the Ruridecanal Conference for the past 19 years, and I hope later on to write an article about the Cuddesdon Deanery and some of its personalities of past days.

We pray that God will bless the new Deanery and enable us by His Holy Spirit to work together for His honour and glory and for the strengthening of His Church in this part of Oxford.

Your sincere Friend and Vicar,
Alec G. Whye

THIS ARTICLE WAS FOUND IN THE CHURCH ARCHIVES DURING
DECEMBER 2017

'A Resident of Cowley 190 Years Ago'

By *Austin Whitaker*

"I find myself very pleasantly situated in a small village which stands on a rising ground at something less than two miles from Oxford. My two younger sisters are with me, and we inhabit a smart little villa surrounded by elms, which through a very fortunate chasm presents us with a distant huddled view of the University. Nothing but a flat intervenes, which is agreeably scattered with cattle, grazing. Here I hope to be able to pay some attention to the Muses, as well as Undergraduate and Bursary matters"

A pleasant enough prospect for a young bachelor Fellow of Magdalen, writing to a friend in the spring of 1793 about his new home at Cowley.

And before the year was out this rising young man, already with several works in prose and verse to his name, might well feel proud of his election as Professor of Poetry in the University, after a neck and neck struggle with a well-known don of greater age and standing.

William Cowper, perhaps most widely known today as the Author of "John Gilpin" and certain hymns, was no doubt delighted to receive the above letter and to learn that the future promised well for his correspondent.

The writer was the Reverend James Hurdis, who had met Cowper for the first and only time in the previous September, though they had been writing to each other for some two years. Hurdis had introduced himself by letter to the elder poet as his disciple, and had been justly flattered by the kindly notice Cowper had taken of him and his writings. There was a genuine affinity of taste and character that drew the two men together.

But pleased as Hurdis was to settle at Cowley, his motive for doing so sprang from the most poignant tragedy of his life. Born in 1763 at Bishopstone, near Seaford in Sussex, the only son of the Collector of Customs at Newhaven, he and his six sisters were left fatherless six years later, and his mother, who never remarried, must have had a struggle to bring up her family; but she managed to send James, at the age of eight, to the Prebendal School at Chichester, where he came under the eye of his distinguished uncle, the Reverend Thomas Hurdis, who combined with his position as Canon of Chichester seven other offices in the Church and had also been secretary to the great Duke of Newcastle. Powerful leverage such an uncle should have provided for his studious and promising nephew, who had already written, before leaving school, a longish heroic poem that he was unwise enough to publish later; but unluckily Canon Hurdis died in 1784, a year before James, now a Demy (Scholar) of Magdalen, Oxford, took his B.A. degree and was ordained deacon. A person of his ability could look forward with some confidence to a fellowship of his college, and in fact was so elected in 1788; but as good son and brother he took the most direct course of helping his family by becoming curate of Burwash, Sussex, in 1785, and two years later taking three of his sisters to live with him there. Of the quiet and cultured life of this household he has given a picture in his first published poem, "The Village Curate", which became immediately popular and reached a fourth edition within ten years; and it was the death here, in August 1792, of Hurdis' favourite sister Catherine that drove him, almost broken-hearted, from what he called his "little Paradise" at Burwash to seek another home.