

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.

His aim in setting up house at Cowley was to make a home for two of his sisters where he could

be near enough to Magdalen to improve his income by holding College offices and taking pupils, but he had another resource in his capacity of Vicar (more properly sequestrator) of his native place Bishopstone, to which he had been appointed while still curate of Burwash. Between Bishopstone, where his mother and his other sisters lived, and Cowley he henceforth divided his time, and the picture one forms of him from his letters is that of an active, able young don determined to rise in the University but not neglectful of his parish, fond of social life and keenly interested in the day to day march of world events – nevermore momentous than in that decade of our history, - but at the same time a scholar and a poet. He tells Cowper of all the excited preparations for the institution of the new Chancellor, the Duke of Portland, at the encaenia of 1793, of Mrs. Siddons' dining and spending the evening with him and his sisters and of her charm and modesty, of his anxieties during his canvass for his professorship and when he has won it, of the plan of his lectures.

He wrote an ode in honour of the new Chancellor, another to herald the approaching marriage of the Prince of Wales and the Princess of Brunswick, and a poem called "Tears of Affliction", in memory of his sister Catherine; he had earlier written a play, "Sir Thomas More", which won Cowper's approval and has some good characters, especially the women, for whom he freely acknowledges that he used his sisters as models. For some time too he had been pushing forward his Hebrew studies, encouraged particularly by the Bishop of Salisbury, to whom he looked for preferment, and he published two slim volumes suggesting improved translations of passages in Genesis. Never disinclined to controversy, he challenged the judgement of the great scholar Malone in a pamphlet on the chronological order of Shakespeare's plays, adopting the remarkable criterion that the freer the use of metre, the earlier must be the play; and when Gibbon's posthumous "Memoirs" came out in 1796, Oxford must have been amused as well as cheered, and perhaps also a little dismayed, by an anonymous reply to Gibbon's criticisms of the University. In December that year the bookshop of Fletcher and Hanwell had 500 copies to sell of "A Word or Two in Vindication of The University of Oxford and of Magdalen College in particular from the Posthumous Aspersions of Mr. Gibbon", which Hurdis had not only composed but also printed with his own hands in a small press set up in his house at Bishopstone. It is still worth reading, if only for its argumentative tone and flashes of satire, as when he pillories Gibbons' style as "the majestic foppery of the well - turned period," and for such pleas in defence of Oxford as that fifteen of its twenty professors actually delivered lectures, while "the remaining five may possibly read their Lectures as punctually, the Author of this Vindication being unable to make any report of them, for want of knowledge respecting them."

Yet all this literary activity, with one or two published sermons as well, failed to carry Hurdis forward in the University as he had hoped; and as the years went by and appointments to which he aspired went to others, he must have had resentful thoughts as he looked down on Oxford's towers from his little retreat at Cowley.

His "Lectures on Poetry", which he was in 1797 and 1798 putting out periodically from his own press, were costing more than they brought in, and the Bishop of Salisbury, after seven years of promises, had recently fallen silent, and seemed a broken reed.

But brighter days were coming. Within little more than a year if not earlier, Hurdis had met the lady whom he was to make his wife. She was Harriet, daughter of Hughes Minet, a wealthy London banker of Huguenot descent, and at her marriage in July 1799 she brought her husband a comfortable income. By statute Hurdis had now to resign his fellowship, which he did gracefully, using the occasion to make a donation of £40, probably the annual value of his fellowship, to the college fund for the improvement of small livings; but he went on living at Cowley, probably with

## The Jesus Story by

# LUKE



### Wednesday Evening Bible Studies in Lent!

13 Annesley Rd.  
Enquiries Mark 07985 631816

#### Wednesday 21 February

Luke 4:1-15 - Temptation

#### Wednesday 28 February

Luke 4: 14-32 - Jesus the teacher

#### Wednesday 7 March

Luke 4: 33-41 - Jesus the healer

#### Wednesday 14 March

Luke 4:42 – 5:11 - Jesus the mentor and  
trainer

#### Wednesday 21 March

Luke 5:12-38 - Conflict – Jesus and the  
Pharisees

## Lent on Thursdays 2018 The book of Ruth



Thursday morning in the Ranklin  
Room of the Church Centre  
Beauchamp Lane.



- 10 am Leader Rozanne Butler

## Lent 2018 On the Third Day

### 5 Sessions:

1. Have I got news for you!
2. So what? The implications of the Resurrection
3. 'Let him Easter in us'
4. Celebrating and praying Easter
5. A risen Church

### Venues:

Monday (in the Rectory 1:30 pm (starts 19-2)  
Tuesday in the Ranklin Room following the parish  
lunch (starts 20 -2)

An ecumenical course in five sessions  
written by Bishop John Pritchard

Accompanying CD and transcript available

**YORK**  
COURSES

## Lent 2018 Healthy Living

### A two stage Lent course:

- 3 weeks using Bishop Steven's course  
**Exploring the Beatitudes**
- 2 weeks from Paul's  
**letter to the Colossians**

### Monday night at the Rectory:

- Starts Monday 19<sup>th</sup> Feb
- 7 pm for food
- 7:45 pm for the Lent course material

### Thursday Afternoon at St Francis Church

- Three sessions 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb, 8<sup>th</sup> March, 29<sup>th</sup> March
- 2 pm to 3 pm (except 1<sup>st</sup> March 3 pm to 4 pm)



Come and join Messy Church and Seashells  
for fun activities to think about

## Shrove Tuesday and Healthy Living

crafts      story      songs  
toys      baking

All ages are welcome

at St James Church Centre,  
Beauchamp Lane, Cowley, OX4 3LF

### Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February

10am – 11.30am

For more details contact: Mary Bayliss 01865 778596,  
Email: [m.bayliss41@btinternet.com](mailto:m.bayliss41@btinternet.com)  
or contact the Cowley Parish Church Office 01865 747680



You invited to a

## Valentine's Tea party

At St Francis' Church

(Holloway OX3 7JF)

### Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February

3-5pm

Come and join us for tea and  
crafts



## REPORT FROM THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

The PCC is due to meet on Sunday, 11 February 2018, at 12.15 pm at St Francis Church, when the draft accounts will be considered before they are sent for inspection. A further meeting is planned for Sunday, 11 March 2018, at 12.45 pm at St James Church Centre, when the inspected accounts will be considered.

New dates have been planned for the 2018 Annual Meetings – the new dates (please note) are:

St Francis Annual Congregational Meeting, Sunday, 15 April 2018, at St Francis Church – 12 noon

St James Annual Congregational Meeting, Sunday, 22 April 2018, at St James Church Centre – 12 noon

Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Sunday, 29 April 2018, at St Francis Church – 12 noon

Sally Hemsworth  
PCC Secretary

# THE VERGER'S BIT

## CHRISTMAS WEDDING

On Saturday 16th December 2017 we had a Christmas Wedding at St James Church.

The Bride looked very lovely in a white fitted dress (not seen a fitted dress for quite a long while). She was attended by two adult bridesmaids and three smaller ones, the smallest looked very sweet in blue and white. They all had white fur stoles to keep them warm on a cold afternoon.

There were 11 children in church, the most I have seen at a wedding for a long time, and they were so well behaved - not a peep was heard all through the service.

Geoff and Brian both made it a very happy occasion. The Christmas trees in church added to make a very festive scene.

Sixty-two people were there to see Andrea and Philip make their vows and begin their married life together.

Pat Chambers

### IF

- IF you think you are beaten you are.
- IF you think you dare not you don't
- IF you'd like to win but think you can't it is almost certain you won't
- IF you think you will lose you have lost.  
For out in the world we find success begins with a fellow's Will.
- IF you think you are outclassed you are.  
You have got to think high to rise  
You've got to be sure of yourself before you can ever win a prize.  
Life's battles don't always go to the stronger or faster man, but sooner or later the man who wins is the one who thinks that he can.



**Would you like to be part of a worship band?**  
**There are times when some of our more modern worship material could be led by a group of musicians and singers.**

**Would you like to be involved?**  
**If so have a word with Geoff**

## RECIPE

This sounds just the thing for a cold February day.



### Vegetable shepherd's pie (serves 4)

For the filling:

- 1 tbsp oil
- 1 leek trimmed, finely chopped
- 2 carrots finely chopped
- 150g/5½oz chestnut mushrooms, roughly chopped
- 1 large garlic clove, finely chopped
- 3 fresh sage leaves, roughly chopped
- 3 sprigs fresh thyme, leaves only, finely chopped
- 1 x 400g tin green or Puy lentils, drained
- 1 x 400g tin chopped tomatoes
- 200ml/7fl oz vegetable stock
- 200ml/7fl oz red wine
- 1 tbsp Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tbsp soy sauce
- 1 tsp chilli flakes (optional)
- 1 tsp caster sugar (optional)
- salt and freshly ground black pepper

For the topping:

- 2 sweet potatoes (about 500g/1lb 2oz in total), peeled and cut into 2cm/¾in chunks
- 2 floury potatoes (about 500g/1lb 2oz in total), peeled and cut into 2cm/¾in chunks
- ½ small cauliflower, leaves and root removed, separated into florets
- knob of unsalted butter
- salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 1 tbsp finely grated parmesan (optional)

Method:

1. For the filling, heat the oil in a frying pan over a medium heat. Add the leeks and fry for 4-5 minutes, or until beginning to soften.
2. Add the carrots, mushrooms and garlic and continue to cook, stirring regularly, for 4-5 minutes.
3. Add the sage, thyme, tinned lentils, tinned tomatoes, stock and red wine and stir

together until well combined. Bring the mixture to the boil, then reduce the heat until it is simmering and continue to simmer for 18-20 minutes while you make the topping.

4. Preheat the oven to 200C/180 Fan/Gas 6.
5. For the topping, bring a large saucepan of water to the boil (there's no need to add salt). Add the sweet potato and potato and boil for 10-12 minutes. Add the cauliflower and boil for a further 8-10 minutes, or until tender.
6. Drain the vegetables well and return them to the pan. Add the butter, season well with salt and freshly ground black pepper, then mash until smooth. Set aside and keep warm.
7. Stir the Worcestershire sauce, soy sauce, chilli flakes (if using) and sugar (if using) into the filling mixture, which should have thickened during cooking. Continue to simmer for a further 1-2 minutes, adding a little water if the mixture is too dry (simmer for longer if the mixture is too watery). Season, to taste, with salt and freshly ground black pepper.
8. Transfer the filling mixture to an ovenproof baking dish, then spoon over the topping and spread into an even layer. If you like a crispy topping, create peaks in the mash using a fork. Sprinkle over the parmesan, if using.
9. Bake the shepherd's pie in the oven for 18-20 minutes, or until the topping is golden-brown and the filling is bubbling.

The following (from *Cakes, Bakes, Puddings and Prayers* by Susan Over) also seems most appropriate at this time of year – make for 14 February or the Valentine Tea at St Francis:

### Strawberry Shortbread Hearts (serves 4)

Ingredients:

For Shortbread:

- 175g (6oz) plain flour

50g (2oz) ground almonds  
50g (2oz) caster sugar  
150g (5oz) butter

To finish:

450g (1lb) fresh strawberries  
25g (1oz) caster sugar  
275ml (½ pint) double cream

Method:

1. Pre-heat oven to gas mark 3/170°C/ 325° F. Lightly grease a baking tray.
2. Sift flour into bowl and add ground almonds and sugar. Rub butter into mixture, then bring together with hands until it forms a soft dough. Knead lightly until smooth.
3. On a lightly floured surface, roll out the shortbread mixture to about 5mm (¼ inch) thick and cut into eight hearts using a cutter or template.
4. Transfer to the baking tray, spacing them well apart. Bake for 20-30 minutes until golden. Transfer carefully to wire cooling rack.
5. Puree half the prepared strawberries with the sugar. Whip the cream until firm.
6. When the shortbread is cool, place four hearts on individual plates. Spoon on some cream, some puree and a few sliced strawberries, then top with the remaining hearts. Finish off with a whirl of whipped cream and some whole strawberries.
7. Dust with sifted icing sugar, if liked

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

Exodus 25:1-2 (NIV)

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

Amen 7

## GARDENING PARTY

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



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

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

### PERSONALLY SPEAKING

What lovely news – William and Caroline Hartley are expecting a baby in July! They would be very grateful for everyone's prayers.

# REFUGEE RESOURCE

This group contributed the last of the Christmas Tree Festival trees, a very bright pink one! Here is some more information about them – and the chance still to buy their recipe book and cards



We provide psychological, social and practical support for refugees, asylum seekers and vulnerable migrants to help them heal from trauma and suffering, and to build new lives as part of Oxfordshire's diverse community. In 2017-16 we supported more than 250 people from across 29 nationalities. Our services include counselling and psychotherapy, mentoring, specialist services for women, men and young people, advice and advocacy support, a hardship fund for destitute clients and bursary funding so people can access training and employment. Our services work holistically to relieve mental and emotional distress, and to empower people to connect with the local community and resources. We also provide training for other organisations responding to mental health needs of clients.

The Old Music Hall, 106 – 108 Cowley Road, Oxford, OX4 1JE

[www.refugeeresource.org.uk](http://www.refugeeresource.org.uk)

**Cowley Team  
Confirmation Service**  
25<sup>th</sup> Feb 2018  
St James Church 10 am  
Led by Bishop  
Steven Croft

There will I be a  
bring and share  
lunch in the Church  
Centre following the  
service



Other services in the parish on Sunday  
25<sup>th</sup> Feb 8:00 am Communion at St  
James  
There will no  
• 10:30 service at St Francis

**St James Church Centre  
Beauchamp Lane OX4 3LF**  
For more information or to get involved  
[youth@cowleyteamministry.co.uk](mailto:youth@cowleyteamministry.co.uk)

**A Youth Run  
Café**  
Tea Coffee cakes etc.  
**Saturday  
March 3<sup>rd</sup>  
10:30 to 12:00**



Serving God,  
Cowley and Headington  
Cowley Team Ministry

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Course Info

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With over 6,000 participants a year, CAP Money is the biggest face-to-face adult money education course in the UK.

The following courses have been arranged but for future dates contact John Livingstone.

Thur 25/1/2018 7.30 pm	The Mish	Contact
1/2/2018 7.30 pm	57f St Clem-	John Livingstone
8/2/2018 7.30 pm	ent's Street	01865 249008
	OX4 1AG	

'When I first heard about the CAP Money Course I thought, "how can a money course help me?" During the first session I thought money will always be in charge of me! But I was wrong. I realised I was a perfect candidate for the money course. And now I am in charge of my money. Through the CAP Money Course I am able to budget and pay my bills on time for the first time in years. Thank you, CAP.'

*Verna, CAP Money Delegate*

Sign up online: [www.capmoneycourse.org](http://www.capmoneycourse.org)

**Viva - Together for Children**, is seeking the right person to join our senior staff as a Chief Operations Officer. The role is to essentially provide overall leadership for all financial issues, but it's also a flexible opportunity that could also embrace support services and HR. For more details email [hr@viva.org](mailto:hr@viva.org) or phone 01865 811660.

# Games evening at St Francis Church - Saturday 20 January

21 of us, aged very young to 90+, had an excellent evening of 'fun and games' thanks to Shirley & Paul Costar and Lyn & David Lord. It was held on an evening when the weather told us that it would be better to stay at home, but once there we were glad we turned out. We were welcomed with smiling faces and a hot drink, and from there on we had an evening of fun and laughter.



Our skittle competition was a little erratic because we were all distracted playing the other games. There was:

Skittles	Connect 4	Shove ha'penny
Bagatelle	Bar skittles	Table tennis
Quoits	Air hockey	Uno stacko ( <i>cf jenga but with a twist</i> )

Not every game was scored but the winners of those that were:

Bagatelle	Betty C	405
Skittles	Lyn, Bert, Harley	9
Bar skittles	Betty C	14
Quoits	Lyn	140



No prizes – just the glory – and lots of laughter for us all.....  
 Plus the excellent plough person's supper.  
 Definitely an event to be repeated, please!



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Before Christmas I went on a week-long residential, where we looked at the liturgy of morning prayer. We explored why the church does morning prayer, and how it acts as a means through which we may pray for the community.

This is what Geoff, Mary and I are doing each morning when we meet to pray together: we are praying and saying a blessing for Cowley.

As you can see from the picture, we use the blessing for Cowley each day at 8am, and on a

Thursday at 7.30pm. If you would like to join us,

you would be very welcome to come along and journey with us in the church. Also, for Lent we are going to print some copies of the blessing for people to take home, so we can pray together each day. This will enable us as a church to join as one to ask God for blessing for the community of Cowley. Along with the blessing, there will also be some readings as well, so we can read God's word together

Heavenly Father we take upon ourselves the cloak of authority that Jesus delegates to us and in His Name, we speak to every household in the parish of Cowley and we say

Monday:

We bless you in the Name of the Lord. We bless your marriages that they may be strong and whole. We bless the relationship between each marriage partner that it may be loving, forgiving, merciful and strong. We bless every inter-generational relationship within each household that there may be peace and love and understanding flowing between each one.

Tuesday:

We bless those living alone that they may feel part of the community and at peace with their neighbours. We bless the households of students, the bed-sits, and the newly arrived, that there may be harmony, care and tolerance flowing between each occupant. In Jesus' Name we bless every network of wholesome and supportive friendship.

## UNA'S CORNER

### SUNNYSIDE ESTATE

I received several comments about my mention of the Sunnyside Estate. I will try to explain but please remember that I am relying in part on what my father told me and he has been dead for over thirty years and my own memories. I will do my best to explain.

Anyone walking up Hollow Way will cross Fern Hill Road and then come to Ivy Close, a cul-de-sac which has a doctors' surgery and a pharmacy. This cul-de-sac was once a track leading to a hospital called Sunnyside Hospital. The hospital was run by Dr Ivy Williams, hence the name of the cul-de-sac - I believe she owned the hospital. She owned a great deal of land around the hospital. I am not absolutely sure of the boundaries of her property but I do know for sure that it extended from Hollow Way to the lane which is where the by-pass is now and I believe it extended from Garsington to Horspath Road. The land was used for various activities by the local people and I suspect the recreation ground from Marshall Road to Horspath was always used by children. I do not know when Dr Williams died or when her hospital closed.

Gwen Ranklin who was our Church warden for many years was a nurse at the Sunnyside Hospital in her early days. I remember that when the John Radcliffe site was first developed there was a building right at the back of the site, near where the buses come in now which was used as a hospital and called Sunnyside but it is long gone.

Cowley Football Team had a ground on Dr Williams' land. They were called the Lilywhites and eventually wore a lily badge. The players could not afford a white shirt for cricket and a

football shirt so they all wore white shirts. My father was an armchair sportsman, he did not have enough breath to be an active sport player but he was secretary of the Cowley team. At home as far back as I can remember we had a framed photograph of the Cowley team in their lily shirts the picture included officials and my father is there.

Daddy used to sit in our lounge and mutter that this was his football field. He told the story of Cowley gaining a place in the final of a football competition and playing at Wembley. The match ended in a draw and Cowley had to concede the match as the players could not afford to take another day off work. He insisted this was true. The team moved down to the Marsh when the land was sold but they did not do very well there and soon faded away.

Where the by-pass is now was a lane leading off to Garsington, passing the entrance to Brasenose Woods leading to Shotover and on a bit further to the Poor Law School after which it faded away. I do remember that lane, the by-pass linking Northern and Southern by-passes was not built until after we were married.

The Poor Law School was called the Poplars and was a children's workhouse. The children wore a distinctive grey uniform and attended St Christopher's school when old enough. They walked down the lane, turned right down another lane which was where our gardens were to end, and into Hollow Way and on to school.

The land now occupied by the Business Park was levelled and Morris Motors Car factory was built. There are photographs showing

horses and carts loaded with earth. It made a bank on which there was a hedge and that was the boundary of our gardens. Many years later the hedge was removed and a brick wall built, they started from both ends at once and it was a long time before they reached our house which is just about half way down the road.

The land destined for houses was divided into plots and offered to different builders. Our house was built by Benfield and Loxley and my future father in law was a carpenter and joiner for that firm. Certain stipulations were made, the rooms had to be larger than normal for the early thirties, except the kitchen. In Fern Hill Road, and probably the whole estate, each house had two lavatories, garage access and a rain water tank. All the builders could do as they liked otherwise, so the houses are different inside and out. The estate is built with straight roads and right angled corners.

I have seen the estate from the air from the traffic helicopter and it looks like a chequer board. Fern Hill Road is the longest road on the estate.

Sunnyside stretches from where the Business Park ends and the other side of Fern Hill Road to, I believe Marshall Road. Walking round the corner from Fern Hill Road towards the Swan the first house in Hollow Way had a concrete block inserted into the garden wall with the word SUNNYSIDE marked in the stone.

Years ago, in the sixties or seventies a new estate was built along Hollow Way which called itself Sunnyside, much to our surprise. I do not know why they stole our name except that they too were near the site of Dr Williams' Sunnyside Hospital.

When our houses were first built about 1932 or thereabouts the houses were sold for £500.

Just recently a house in our road went for £500,000. It may have had a lift conversion or other extension.

We bought our house in January 1959 and were married in May of that year. During the months before our marriage we had to clean the place very thoroughly, it was filthy. We did not know that the tiled floor of the hall was in various colours until it had been scrubbed several times. The kitchen is quarry tiles. During those months my husband re-wired the whole house. It has always been said that the houses were built for the executives and managers of the car factory as they were considered of high quality. Certainly the wood was all properly seasoned and the bricks have quartz in them and when the central heating was installed there were complaints to us that a masonry bit only managed to drill holes for one radiator and it was useless.

I have been widowed for twenty six years but I have lived in this house, 66 Fern Hill Road for nearly 59 years and I have no intention of leaving. I tell my children I shall stay here until I am so gaga that I will not know if they move me.

Please note my spelling of the name of this road, Fern Hill Road. If spelt with a small 'h' then the first two words become one and Fernhill Road is in Begbroke. I get letters for Begbroke sometimes although it might have a Begbroke post-code and sometimes the folk in Begbroke send me letters delivered to them and often those letters have a Cowley post code.

So- that is the story of the original Sunnyside Estate and I wish I knew more about Dr Ivy Williams.

# Bibles in Church and the Link



One of God's great gifts to us is the Bible. For some time, we have been hoping to introduce pew bibles into St James Church. We are delighted to be able to tell you that this is happening at the beginning of Lent! Look out for them in the back of the chairs. We also hope to build the readings into the projected material we use.

This means that each Sunday we will not need to print the readings on every Link. There will be a few copies at the back of church for those who want to take it home with them. The Link will tell you what the reading is and the page number it is found on. In consequence the Link will carry the information for the whole parish. There will no longer be two versions. AND the print size will be able to grow a bit! This will have two big effects. First, we will become more familiar with the bible and where things are located. Secondly, we will be able to see how a passage fits alongside other passages. It is very important that we do not deal with verses in isolation but that we bring them alongside the whole of God's message to us. We do trust that this will be a real blessing to you all.

Geoff

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# COWLEY FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS TREES 2017 "Journeying"

## The write up : lowlights

- ∅ the snow on the first Sunday - 10 December- which obviously kept people away although there were still a brave 42 at the Christingle service that afternoon but local schools were closed on the Monday so we had no visiting school choir or their parents and the pavements were still bad on Tuesday, so no one then either – and no visitors at all. Fewer visitors of course means reduced donations
- ∅ the inability to get local care homes/senior residences involved in bringing residents

## highlights

- ∅ creativity & interpretation  
there were some wonderfully creative trees, which all took hours of preparation - particularly striking were Groovy Su/Ark T's inside out crisp packet environmental tree, Cowley library's reading tree, St Francis flower arrangers' growing tree, and both the WI trees: The Leys – also with a book theme - and Cowley
- ∅ the Friday evening opening reception  
not only Emily Jensenius playing her viola for us but Anneliese Dodds MP and her family came to join us
- ∅ lots of wonderful music, including the Oxfordshire Music Service's Oxfordshire Jazz Collective & County Youth Choir; Rising Voices and The Gals, a group of friends from Oxford Bach Choir
- ∅ Mabel Prichard school contributing a tree and visiting  
the special school students based at the Oxford Academy walked to help set up their tree; two classes then came to visit the festival
- ∅ new groups involved  
Mabel Prichard School, Refugee Resource (*see elsewhere in Chronicle*), Money for Madagascar, Cowley WI, 3rd Cowley Brownies (*who have moved from the closed Temple Cowley URC to St Francis*), S&R Childs, Funeral Directors

The result: our target was 65 trees and £2,222 raised

With some creative counting, we certainly reached 60 trees, although some were quite small; representing 42 groups & individuals, but the money collected has only totalled £1,900 so SeeSaw and ROSY will receive £950 each – many thanks to all donors and supporters

The big decision: at the review meeting on 10 January, we took a deep, sensible breath & decided to take a break in 2018 whilst those who participate all declare their appreciation of the value of the event, we think leaving it for a year may give the next in 2019 new life.

But we may well still have some extra music during the Christmas 2018 season – we do enjoy the pop up singing workshop *and* Rising Voices are particularly keen to repeat their concert party *and* church groups may want to provide just a few trees to decorate the chancel

Lesley Williams 01865 779 562 07982 439 828 [ctf@cowleyteamministry.co.uk](mailto:ctf@cowleyteamministry.co.uk)

# Prayer Space

God our Father,  
in your love and goodness  
you have taught us to overcome our sins  
with prayer, fasting and generosity,  
accept our Lenten disciplines,  
and when we fall by our weakness,  
raise us up by your unfailing mercy.  
In these days of mercy, make us quiet and prayerful;  
in these days of challenge, make us stronger in you;  
in these days of waiting, open our hearts  
to the mystery of the Cross



## BIBLE SOCIETY 'MORE THAN A BOOK' REGISTRATION

If you order anything on line or by phone from the Bible Society, please use the unique Parish reference number 12044 *or* select the 'Parish of Cowley' from the drop down menu when placing an order and we will benefit from the 'More than a book' cash back scheme. It's that easy! We earned £3 from a recent 'Open the Book' resources order

Do look at the on line shop – Bibles, prayer books, cards, courses, fiction, dvds etc.

<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/products/>



Come to the next meeting of

## The Venue@Cowley Local History Group Wednesday 28 February 7-8.30pm. Only £3.

Presentation about the Museum of  
Oxford Development Plans  
by David Juler



Phone 01865 782573  
or email [richard.grant@greensquaregroup.com](mailto:richard.grant@greensquaregroup.com)  
for further information

## CHRONICLE

Editorial Team- Sally Hemsworth,  
Nicki Stevens

Deadline for the next edition:  
Monday 19 February 2018

If possible, please send entries by  
email to Sally at

[chronicle@cowleyteamministry.co.uk](mailto:chronicle@cowleyteamministry.co.uk). Paper contributions should be

left at Parish Office for the  
attention of Sally.

The Editorial Committee in no way  
accepts responsibility for goods or  
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# DIARY DATES TO REMEMBER

## Mothers' Union

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

19 February 2018 – Ann Robinson will be speaking about the arrangements for the Women's World Day of Prayer being held at St Nicholas Church, Littlemore.

St James Church Centre

## Women's Institute

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

21 February 2018 – an illustrated presentation about the chapels of some Oxford Colleges and a cake sale

St James Church Centre

## Gardening

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

## Parish Walk

Monday, 5 February 2018

1.30pm at Barnes Road Bus Stop – for Oxford  
2.00 pm Entrance to Canal, Hythe Bridge Street

## Film Club

Friday, 9 February 2018 – "La La Land"

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

## Valentine Tea Party

Saturday, 10 February 2018, 3.00 – 5.00 pm

St Francis Church

## Snowdrop Weekends

Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> February 2018/Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> February 2018

Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> February 2018/Sunday, 19 February 2018

Saturdays, 10.30 – 3.30pm/Sundays 2 – 4 pm  
St James Church

## Parochial Church Committee

Sunday, 11 February 2018 at 12.15 pm at St Francis Church

## Messy Church Shrove Tuesday

Tuesday, 13 February 2018 10.00 – 11.30 am  
St James Church Centre

## Sunday Lunch

Sunday, 18 February 2018, at 12.15 pm (note earlier time)

St James Church Centre

## Mothers' Union Puddings and Quiz Evening

Friday, 23 February 2018, at 6.30 pm for 7 pm start. St James Church Centre

## Charity Youth Run Café in aid of OWNS

Saturday, 3 March 2018 10.00 – 12.00  
St James Church Centre

## Parochial Church Council

Sunday, 11 March 2018, at 12.45 pm at St James Church Centre

## Sunday Lunch

Sunday, 18 March 2018, at 12.45 pm  
St James Church Centre

## Mission and Social Planning Meeting

Monday, 19 March 2018 at 7.30 pm  
88 Temple Road

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE FOR FOLLOWING ANNUAL MEETINGS:

## St Francis Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, 15 April 2018, at St Francis Church, at 12 noon

## St James Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, 22 April 2018, at St James Church Centre, at 12 noon

## Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday, 29 April 2018, at St Francis Church, at 12 noon

## REMEMBER:

Tuesday lunches at St James Church Centre from 12.30 pm

# SUNDAY SERVICES

## ST JAMES CHURCH, BEAUCHAMP LANE

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

## ST FRANCIS CHURCH, HOLLOW WAY

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

## MID-WEEK SERVICES & MEETINGS

Morning Prayer	7.45am 8am	Mon, Wed, Thu at St James; Tue, Sat at St James
Monday	10.00-11.30am	Little Stars Playgroup— St Francis
	2.30pm	Parish Mothers' Union— St James (3rd Monday)
Tuesday	10.00am	Seashells Toddler Group— St James
	12.00pm	Eucharist—Ranklin Room, St James Church Centre
	12.30pm	Tuesday Lunch Club— St James
Thursday	2-4pm	Prayer Space—St Francis
	7.00pm	Cowley Parish Healing Service St Francis (1st Thursday)
	7.30pm	Local House of Prayer, St James

## HOME GROUPS

Leader	Time/Venue
Connie Uren	Alternate Tuesday afternoons at 2.30pm St James Church Centre, Ranklin Room
Friends of St Francis (John Shreeve)	2nd & 4th Tuesday afternoons at 2.30pm St Francis Church
Geoff Bayliss	Alternate Wednesdays at 10am St James Church Centre, Ranklin Room
Mark Oxbrow	Alternate Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm Mark's home, 13 Annesley Road (just behind the Rose Hill Coop). Enquiries to Mark at 01865 461953
Rosanne Butler	Alternate Thursday mornings at 10.00am St James Church Centre, Ranklin Room
Catherine / William Hartley	Thursdays at 8.00pm, Catherine Hartley 07792 104448 William Hartley 07751 939092

The Parish Office in St James Church Centre is staffed by volunteers and is not covered continually. Please leave a message and someone will get back to you.

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St Francis : Vacant

Deputy Wardens  
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### 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

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Sally Hemsworth, Nicki Stevens  
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Paper contributions to the Parish Office.