

Chronicle

February 2020



Exploring Prayer & Intercession

10am - 12pm Saturday 22nd February
St James Church Centre, OX4 3LF

An informal session offering a chance to think about and engage with different types and methods of prayer.

All welcome, regardless of prayer 'experience!'

Contact Gemma for more details 07894 637020
curate@cowleyteamministry.co.uk
cowleyteamministry.co.uk  Parish of Cowley



explore

life faith meaning

Alpha

Everyone has questions We believe that everyone should have the chance to explore the Christian faith, ask questions and share their point of view; wherever they are in life.

If you would like to know more about Christianity, come and see...

From Tuesday 4th February

Alpha Tuesdays 6.30 pm

Each informal session starts with a meal together, then a video and lots of opportunity for discussion and questions. Sessions are free with no obligations.

Contact Gemma for more details 07894 637020 curate@cowleyteamministry.co.uk
cowleyteamministry.co.uk  Parish of Cowley www.alpha.org

From the Editors

Sally Hemsworth and Nicki Stevens

It seems impossible that Christmas and New Year have now past and we are planning the Snowdrop Weekends at St James Church, and lots of other activities up to the 75th Anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

DATES TO REMEMBER sets out the dates, and we do hope this will enable you to get all the events in your diary.

The dates for the Annual Congregational Meetings of both Churches and the Annual Parish Meeting/Annual Parochial Church Meeting, when activities of the churches and Parish are listed. It would be lovely to see you at these meetings.

A special request has been received from Betty Mitchell – could we please advertise the fact that she has an outlet for milk bottle tops which raises money for Guide Dogs for the Blind. A lot need to be collected for this so if you are minded please ensure your bags reach her at St James Church Centre.

We do hope you enjoy the February edition of the Chronicle. As usual we would love to receive your articles and/or suggestions for articles.

Nicki and Sally



The poster features a decorative graphic of two overlapping hearts at the top right. The text is arranged in a clear, hierarchical layout. On the left side, there is a vertical red bar containing contact information. At the bottom left, there is an illustration of a red and black accordion. The background is a light orange gradient.

**Valentine's family
BARN DANCE**
*with Keith Hawkins
& "toucanplay"*

St Francis Church
Hollow Way, OX3 7JF
Saturday 15 February
4:00-6:00
doors open 3:30

£5 adults, £1.50 students
FREE for under 16s
ploughman's supper

01865 747 680
www.cowleyteamministry.co.uk

VALENTINE'S FAMILY BARN DANCE

Saturday 15 February 2020

4:00-6:00 at St Francis

Doors open 3:30

With Keith Hawkins and the band
'toucanplay'

*FOR ALL AGES it's not just a dance....
but also a party, a concert, a quiz, a craft-
ing time, a supper....*

and all for: £5 for adults
 £1.50 for students
 FREE for under 16s

Tickets are available to help us with ca-
tering for the plough person's supper –
but you will also be able to pay on the
door.

Come and fill the hall with family, friends
and neighbours!

A word from the Rectory

There are so many 'pulls' on our time and emotions: The demands of the boss at work. A successful career that needs to be worked at. The bank account that needs to be fed to keep the bank manager happy and to pay for rent, food, clothes, holiday, entertainment, and travelling if you want to. There is such a pull to keep up with the world around us. We are drawn by the desire for family time. Time spent with partner, parents, brothers, sisters, children. Then there is culture of expecting 'me time'. The list just goes on. But what actually fills the centre of your life?

These 'demands on our time,' can end up fighting to be 'top dog'. They compete against each other.

The strive to hold the place of highest importance. As each day progresses any one of them may well attempt to push another out. One moment work seems more important, the next family, or any of the others. Today it may be getting money into the bank, that seems top of the list. Later spending time with the spouse, children or visiting the parents. The pendulum swings and the importance of one thing seems to switch with another. Is it any wonder that there seems to be

no real stability in the hierarchy of importance? At each switch there is a change of focus. And every change of focus requires energy. More than that it requires the mind to do somersaults as it adjusts. Is it really surprising 21st century man and woman gets worn out, confused, stressed?

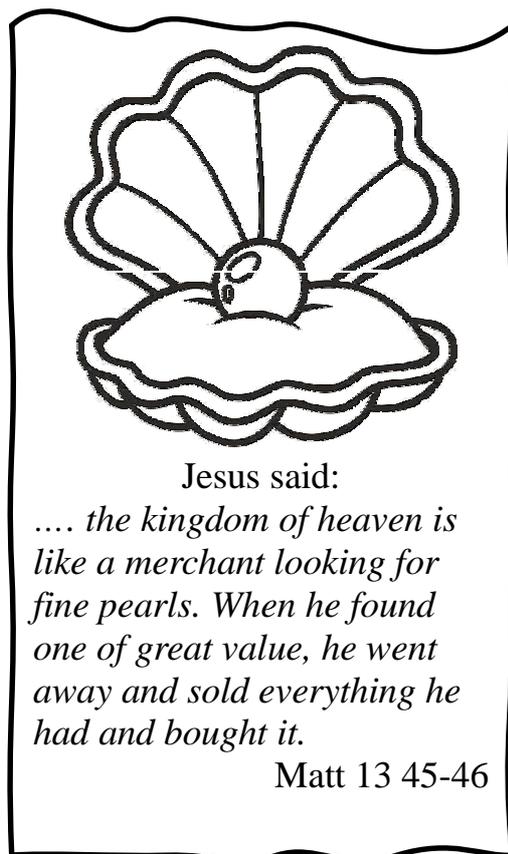
Choosing the right thing to be at the centre of our life brings a stability. It allows the other 'business' to take its rightful place somewhere in the hierarchy of importance.

As we decide that God, in Christ, is at the centre, we discover that we can manage the demands of the other bits of life.

Jesus tells us 'I am the way, the truth and the life'. In essence 'I, Jesus, am the pearl.

Put me at the centre and, as I

place the Holy Spirit inside you, you find that you can put the other piece in the rightful place.' It is an awesome offer. Dare we risk not talking him up on it?



Benson Cottage

CHILDREN'S CORNER

So how are you all doing with those New Year Resolutions? Never mind. If you haven't managed to keep them up there is always tomorrow to try again..... or try to do something different. I'm still trying. But many people say I am really trying and I think they mean something different!

We hear a lot of people talking about 'recycling' these days and it's nothing to do with bicycles. It's usually about food or books or clothes. It's nothing new really. Just another name for not wasting things. Quite correct too. In our house, when I was young, and that *IS* a long time ago, even before your mummy and daddy were young, there was an expression '*make do and mend*'. Basically, it meant that once you had got tired of something, or the sweater was too small for you, it would be unpicked, an evenings work in itself and the wool would be reknitted by mum or grandma into something else, perhaps with other colours added. Leftover food was remade into a totally different dish after a weekend roast, (if you were lucky enough to have one) and cabbage and potato were mixed together and fried slightly to make 'bubble and squeak'lovely. Nothing went to waste, or very little. Even bones were boiled for broth or stock and provided the base for amazing home-made soup. And socks were darned with a wooden 'mushroom' ! Have you ever seen one? I've still got one at home.

Nowadays, we are far too busy. But do we

use our time properly? Take a day off from the mobile or computer sometime, by putting your mobile phone or computer in a drawer and leave it there for 24 hours. You will still be alive at the end of that time so don't worry. Sit down for a moment and try to think back before you had a mobile phone or computer. What did you do with all that time. Well, I know some of you still read books. They still exist you know. Yes, I know you can get them on-line but there is so much more at the library, the real library I mean, that are not available on-line and you can do other things at the same visit. What? you may ask. Well, how about looking at some really old books, or for you older ones comparing different newspapers to see what they think is the most important happenings. You'll be surprised how many different reports there are of the same news. Sometimes I think they write about different worlds with quite trivial matters splashed across the front page. And of course, with the help of an adult, you could always borrow a CD of different music, each time you visit the library. At the end of the day, you can always catch up with the messages, but you might agree that some of them would have been just a waste of time. So that I make certain that I don't spend too much time 'browsing' on my computer, I sometimes borrow the kitchen timer. Then I set a time limit. But don't forget to return it to the same spot before Mummy needs it. One thing that you can't recycle is *TIME*.

That IS important. Everyone has the same amount of time in every hour. Some of us are active and can help others to make the most of it, and I am sure you do. But do you ever waste time? And do you waste an opportunity? I know I do. I try to keep a small book in my coat pocket, and a pen, to write notes of ideas so that I can think about them later, and even do something about them. There is so much we can do for ourselves or sometimes with a little help, what appears at first to be something V E R Y B I G turns out to be easier and more enjoyable than we thought, especially so when a 'helper' appears, even if it is only your little sister! And

when two or three groups join together to work hard with ideas and do things that they are good at, it makes the job appear simpler and almost certainly more enjoyable. So don't waste an opportunity to join in. You will meet REAL people. 'We only pass this way once' is another old saying. You may disagree. Well, think about it. Next time you will be older, and perhaps a little wiser, so it's not the same thing. Use that opportunity, and be yourself and remember there are others who may need your help too.

Take care, Uncle Ben



You are invited to come and
join **Messy Church**
Thanksgiving and
perseverance

Toys, crafts, story, songs and fun

All ages are welcome

at St Francis Church, Hollow Way, OX3 7JF

Monday 17th February
10am – 11.30am

For more details contact:
Mary Bayliss 01865 778 596 m.bayliss41@btinternet.com
or contact the Cowley Parish Church Office 01865 747 680

COWLEY HISTORY GROUP

At The Venue
242b, Barns Road
Cowley, OX4 3RQ

FREE refreshments from 6.30pm
and after the Guest Speaker

£3.00 on the Door

7 pm - 8.45 pm

WEDNESDAY 28 FEBRUARY

ROBERT HARRIS

Will give a Presentation and talk on
**NUFFIELD'S LEGACY
TO MEDICINE**

FREE Raffle Prizes with door entry

www.cowleyhistorygroup.co.uk
Email: cowleyhistory@yahoo.com
Call: **07392 60 60 40**
For further information



Message from Action Fraud (Action Fraud, Administrator, National)

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Action Fraud have received an increase in reports and intelligence where elderly victims are being targeted by individuals purporting to be police officers or traffic wardens. The victims are being approached whilst parked in a car park and are told by the suspect that they have parked illegally or broken a speed limit and a photo

has been taken of their car for 'evidence'.

Victims are advised that they will face a substantial penalty fine unless they pay a smaller upfront fee immediately. Victims, who opt for paying the smaller penalty, will be directed to a parking meter and asked to enter their card and PIN. These parking meters have been tampered with by the suspect in order to retain the card.

Once the victim inserts their card and are asked for their PIN, the victims are shoulder surfed for their PIN by the suspect. Once victims input their PIN, the card is retained by the machine and victims are told by the suspect to seek help from the company who operates the parking meter or their bank.

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

- If you are suspicious about the authenticity of the fine, do not pay it until you have verified it with your local council.
- Always shield your PIN from view when using an ATM machine, and never share your PIN with anyone.
- If your bank card is retained by an ATM machine, contact your bank immediately to inform them..

Ride & Stride 2019

Ride & Stride was held on 14th September 2019 and the Parish was represented by Lesley William, Jane Coutanche and John Booty.

The total raised was £400.50 and I would like to say a big thank you to the Ride & Striders, sponsors and welcomers for giving up what turned out to be a very warm Saturday. The sponsors as always have been very generous; without your support we would not be able to take part in this very worthy annual event and I would like to highlight that by taking part we can apply to the Oxfordshire Historic Churches for grants towards maintaining/updating our churches.

June Smith

An Unexpected Reunion

The smoke of morning fires and the singing of women as they carried water to their homes woke me early one morning. I remember particularly the sweet smell of burning eucalyptus wood. It was 1990 and I was staying at a mission guest house next to the main government hospital, Black Lion hospital, during one of my visits to Ethiopia. I lay in bed for a while as the room gradually got lighter with the rising sun and the noise of families beginning the business of the day grew outside. My friend was working that morning and I had no other plans so I was looking forward to wandering the streets of Addis Ababa and exploring the courtyards where almost as many animals seemed to live as people.

My plans changed, however, when I went down to breakfast. I was early and only one other person sat at a table by a large window. He was thin, dark skinned, and young, with a dog-collar three sizes too large around his neck. I asked if I might join him. That breakfast took well over two hours! John, as I discovered he was called, had just arrived in Addis Ababa the night before. As his story unfolded I learnt that he was an Anglican priest from the south of Sudan. As the civil war in that country had intensified, with government helicopters machine-gunning spear holding villagers as they ran from their burning huts, he had joined tens of thousands of refugees who decided to flee to south western Ethiopia – to a region of scrub and sparse vegetation called Gambella. On the way they had to cross miles of marshland. Many children, older people and even the able bodied

never made it across the marsh, either drowning or being attacked by wild animals on the way. Eventually the remnant crossed the border to relative safety, but little food or shelter, in Ethiopia.



As an Anglican priest John knew that there was just one Anglican church in Ethiopia, 400 miles away in Addis Ababa, so he set out to walk there to seek help, sometimes finding a lift on the back of a truck piled high with sacks of grain. I was breakfasting with him on his first day in Addis. After that extended breakfast I never saw John again although I did report the needs of his people to my colleagues at the Church Mission Society (CMS) and heard later that the Anglican Church of St. Matthews in Addis were sending help to 10,000 plus refugees in Gambella. Today, 30 years later, those dejected refugees have given birth to over 120 Anglican churches in Gambella region, a theological college, a bishop, and a growing Christian witness to the surrounding Ethiopian tribes. (For some years Bishop Andrew Proud, until recently Bishop of Reading, was the bishop serving the Anglicans of Gambella.)

In November 2019 I was in South Sudan, leading a training consultation for the 56 bishops of the Anglican Church there, when one day, at a coffee break, one of the bishops approached me (see picture) and said, "I know you – we have met before". I had no idea who he was, I did not recognise him at all. Standing well over six foot, fit and healthy, with a broad smile on his face, he said, "I am

John and we had breakfast together thirty years ago". John is now Bishop John, leading his people, some now returned to South Sudan and others still in Gambella, in Christian witness and service. Do pray for Bishop John – it is no easy task being a bishop in South Sudan today – and pray for peace in his nation.

Mark Oxbrow

Film Club at the Centre

Our December club evening was a huge success. Although the film "A song for the Season" did not feature any famous stars the standard of presentation and acting was excellent. The story was perfect for a pre-Christmas evening, heart-warming and with a happy ending.

The film last month began beautifully with a good showing of members enjoying the brilliant story of "bucket List". Suddenly "gremlins" got into the disc and it looked as though we would have to go home with about 15 minutes of the final part of the film lost and gone. However, our brilliant projectionist, Sally Hemsworth, got the lost part back and we were able to watch the very moving final part. I want to thank Sally on behalf of all our members for her excellent expertise – without her Film Club evenings would not be the same.

And while we are offering votes of thanks, I would like to pay tribute to our faithful caterers, Chris Woodman and Margaret

Weller, who turn up and with a little help from club members keep the cakes and drinks always available.

This month we are featuring a very popular film "Ma Ma Mia! – here we go again" which has been strongly recommended by several of our members. They assure me that they will enjoy watching it again. February is usually a pretty dreary month so the bright and breezy atmosphere (to say nothing of the singable songs) should bring a little sunshine on a winter's evening. Each member can bring along a guest to our club evenings so we are hoping for a good audience.

Rosanne Butler

(Thanks from the projectionist to her friend, who suggested, as all else had failed, to turn everything off and start again – it worked, and the disc went through perfectly. But the projectionist cannot really take any credit!)

SAFEGUARDING IN COWLEY PARISH

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

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

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

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

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

Our practice is focused by a new requirement to complete a 'Promoting a safer church' action plan. We find we must clarify some of our procedures and systems.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility– *please be sure to report anything you observe whilst at church or one of our events that causes you concern for someone's safety or wellbeing.*

Lesley Williams 01865 779 562
07982 439 828 safeguarding
@cowleyteamministry.co.uk



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From the Archives

Extracts from the Cowley Chronicle

FEBRUARY 1982

GREAT FREEZE HITS ST. LUKE'S

Along with the rest of the population's houses, St. Luke's suffered in the Great Freeze. Quite early on, the tremendous temperature differences in December resulted in the wall around the Memorial Garden collapsing on to the pathway. The wall holds back a great mountain of soil and has looked unsafe for a number of years. It will be very expensive to replace.

The second casualty was the Church Clock. On the coldest day of the winter with temperatures about 25 degrees F. below freezing, the hands of the clock actually froze together effectively putting the clock out of action!

Finally when the thaw did come two major radiators in the Church burst! One went during Saturday night and with the central heating on for the Sunday, created a fountain effect in the Lady Chapel that required much mopping up on Sunday morning.

The other radiator to go at least had the courtesy to be beside the main church door, so was easier dealt with.

The Parish Hall in Between Towns Road was also affected, a flood resulted from a burst radiator there.

St Francis' House had some burst pipes, and although St. Luke's House water system got frozen solid at one stage, some careful wrapping of pipes with an electric blanket managed to get the water running again without any bursts.

Father Ross was in Somerset when the snow came and had to dig his car out of a huge snow-drift to get back home.

FEBRUARY 1988

PARISH PANTOMINE 1988

COWLEY PARISH DRAMA GROUP...PRESENT....

"DICK WHITTINGTON"

IN THE PARISH HALL BETWEEN TOWNS RD

FRIDAY 12th FEBRUARY AT 7.30.p.m.

TICKETS PRICED £1 for ADULTS 50p children.

SATURDAY 13th FEBRUARY AT 3.p.m.

"CHILDREN'S MATINEE"

TICKETS PRICED 50p FOR BOTH ADULTS AND KIDS

SATURDAY 13th FEBRUARY AT 8.p.m.

ADULTS ONLY PERFORMANCE (!) TICKETS £1.

Rough sleeper information

If you are concerned about a person who is sleeping rough, there are a number of things you can do.

You can report a rough sleeper through the national 24 hours website www.streetlink.org.uk or phone them on 0300 500 0914, and the information will be passed to the outreach team closest to the rough sleeper. You will need to supply the exact location where the rough sleeper can be found.

During office hours Monday to Friday you can call Oxspot, the Oxford City Council outreach team on 01865 243229, and out of hours, O'Hanlon House on 01865 304601 who will be able to give advice.

If you believe a rough sleeper's health or safety are in immediate danger ring the emergency services, 999, giving an exact location.

Food can be obtained free of charge at The Gatehouse, 10 Woodstock Road, Oxford OX2 6HT, tel: 01865 792999 5.00 – 7.00 pm Monday to Friday and Sunday 4.00 – 6.00 pm.

The Porch, 139 Magdalen Road, Oxford, OX4 1RL, tel: 01865 251798 provides low cost lunches and suppers Monday to Saturday.



Your first chance to support Christian Aid in 2020 will be a SUPER SOUP FAIRTRADE LENTEN LUNCH: Sunday 8 March, 12.15-ish at St James Centre

As usual, it will include delicious homemade soups, bread & cheese & fruit - with all donations for Christian Aid

OXFORD ABSEIL: Hurrah! It's back after a break of 3 years! Saturday 9 May, 10.00-4.00. St Mary Magdalen Church (Mary Mags) tower, central Oxford

Lesley Williams has of course already registered (£20) and will be seeking sponsorship but would also welcome co-abseilers. The Parish VE Day Street Party will be in the afternoon, but you can choose to face the challenge during the morning – Lesley's slot is 10.35.

Register on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/christian-aid-oxford-abseil-tickets-81309646341>

For your diary: Christian Aid Week 2020 Sunday 10 – Saturday 16 May

January brings the snow..... Perhaps not?

As I write, there is a blue sky and sunshine, though most recent days have been the usual mash-up of grey clouds and a damp feel. No snow so far this January and unlikely to be in the next week or so. There has been quite a lot of rain with flood warnings out for our local rivers. It has not, therefore, been weather conducive to working in the garden or on the allotment!

Our son, Tom, did turn up a couple of weeks ago with his tree surgery kit to tidy up the leylandii hedge at the side of the back garden and to cut back our front beech hedge so it doesn't grow too far over the pavement. My other half had cut down a buddleia which we planted when we moved here over 30 years ago and Tom was able to dig up the really big trunk and root. The buddleia was a white-flowered one and did not attract that many butterflies. I want to replace it with one that has deep purple flowers that is more attractive to them. At the same time, Tom managed to get rid of the roots of a tired old lilac which has progressively been short on flower-power. So we now have a couple of areas that need to be filled. I have, finally, moved my potted camellia into the garden border and cross fingers that our soil will not be too limey for it. It has some good fat buds so roll on March when it should flower.

Just after Christmas every year I notice the snowdrops beginning to show. The days have barely lengthened yet nature starts a new

season. Christmas roses are flowering and shoots are sprouting everywhere. But – note to self – it is not Spring yet! Plenty of time for some really cold times and, possibly, snow! Apparently Oxford has an average of ten days with snow per year and we have not had one, yet, this winter. We have had snowy days for the Snowdrop Weekends at St James' at the beginning of February. Let's hope not this year!

I am ready to spring into action, though. My small electric propagator is waiting, the seed packets are here and the shed is tidy. I am nurturing plants I potted up or raised from seed in the autumn all in readiness for this year's Plant Sale on Saturday May 16th. Once the season moves on, I will get my seeds in and will, eventually, fill every spare place with plants for the sale. I hope you will be as keen to contribute to the Sale and, I hope, help on the day!

Please remember us if you are splitting or moving border plants this Spring. A piece potted up will help to raise much-needed funds to finally get an accessible toilet into our parish church of St James. Such necessities were not thought to be needed throughout the centuries the church has been in existence or even in homes. I was brought up in a farmhouse with no inside plumbing until 1964! Therein lies many stories.....!

Joan Coleman

COWLEY HISTORY GROUP. CO.UK

Email: cowleyhistorygroup@yahoo.com - Telephone: 077 54 40 60 60



Cowley Centre Fountain



Morris Motors



Between Trams Road



Floods of 1864 Abingdon Road



Narrow way, Cowley



Maggie and Eric
 Would like to thank you for your continued support.
 Our emphasis is on having excellent speakers to cover a wide range of topics. These topics will not be exclusive to Cowley but will cover a wider area of Oxford

Cowley History Group meet
 at The Venue, 242b Barts Road, Cowley, OX4 3BQ on the last Wednesday in every month from 18.30 to 20.45

Free refreshments are served before and after the speaker.

Guest speaker at 19.00 - £3.00 on the door

FREE raffle prizes with your door entry ticket.

If you would like to receive details of our forthcoming events please send us an email to cowleyhistorygroup@yahoo.com

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2020

January - No Meeting

26 February - ROBERT HARRIS - Nuffield's Legacy to Medicine

25 March - LIZ WOOLLEY - Beer, Sausages and Marmalade:

Oxford food and drink in the 19th Century

29 April - JOHN CHIPPEFIELD - 'My Life as a Journalist' History

of our Newspapers - 60 years a journalist - and Memory Lane

Retired Assistant Editor of the Oxford Mail

17 May - TIM HEALEY - Pagans & Puritans

The story of a May Morning in Oxford

24 June - MARK DAVIES - Alice, Lewis Carroll & the River Thames

This is just a few days before Oxford's annual Alice's day 4 July

29 July - SI ASHFAIR JACK

The Oxford we know about Inspector Morse

August - No Meeting - Check website

30 September Special - To Be Confirmed

28 October ALAN HAWKINS - The Story of Christ Church

25 November - DR ANNIE SKINNER

Author of "Cowley Road"

16 December - OUR CHRISTMAS SOCIAL - Live Music

An evening not to miss

Call - 077 54 40 60 60



Wilton Road, Cowley



Cowley Centre



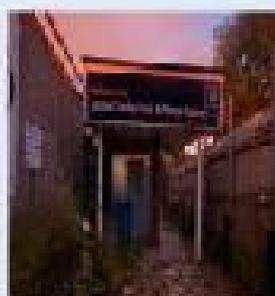
Cowley Barracks



Cowley Road



The Stadium



Temple Cowley Pools



Cowley Chestnut Tree



Cowley Community Centre

Mission Giving in 2019

£2,200 had been allocated by the PCC being equal to 5% of the Planned Giving in 2018.

The 10 bodies to benefit by £220 each are:

Archway Foundation

Anyone of any age can experience loneliness and at any point in their lives. Based in the Oxford area, The Archway Foundation is a charity that connects people with others via a diverse group of empathetic and diverse volunteers many of whom have experienced loneliness themselves.

BeSpace

BeSpace is a Christian charity based in Oxfordshire that equips local churches to facilitate prayer and reflective spaces in schools and other areas of the community. We are passionate about seeing every child, young person and adult have space to pray or reflect in their daily lives.

The Gatehouse

The Gatehouse exists to provide a calm, safe refuge for people who are homeless or vulnerably housed. Based at the St Giles Parish Rooms, 10 Woodstock Road, Oxford.

Open the Book

Open the Book (OtB) is a project which offers primary school children an opportunity to hear key Bible stories, from a team of Christians from local churches, who present the stories during assemblies/acts of Collective Worship. Each presentation takes around 10–15 minutes and can be incorporated into a wider school assembly, or

can stand alone. It is a three-year rolling programme with an additional, but optional year of material based on Christian Values for schools.

“Operation India”

Working with Rohingya Refugee children in Delhi, India providing food and education.

Oxford Community Soup Kitchen

Each Wednesday and Saturday at the Asian Cultural Centre, Manzil Way. Christian-led, it aims to aid relief of financial hardship amongst people living or working in the Oxford area by providing hot food and clean dry clothing.

Oxford Homeless Project

This is Muslim-led and also provides meals to the homeless on alternate Mondays at the Asian Cultural Centre. Sharing is caring. This project aims to give something back to those less fortunate in Oxford. We provide a curry lunch with a smile every other Monday!

Oxford Schools’ Chaplaincy

We are a Christian charity working with schools and churches around Oxford. We present the Christian faith in a range of relevant and engaging contexts, provide a recognised link between churches and schools, and offer pastoral support to both teachers and pupils.

St Mary’s Church, Barton project

The existing iconic 1958 church building will be refurbished inside but it’s distinctive

shape and character will remain the same, with the major work involving a single-story extension to the south and north sides. There are plans for a brand new welcome area on the south side and a further extension on the north side with kitchen, toilets and space for meetings and our ever expanding children's ministry.

Transforming Lives for Good

TLG is a Christian charity that helps churches

to bring hope and a future for struggling children. From school exclusion, to poverty and holiday hunger, there are children across the UK facing some of the toughest starts in life.

We're all about believing change is possible and that's why in all our work lies an unchanging resolve to transform lives for good.



Citizens Advice can help you through relationship breakdown

There is no storm quite like an emotional storm, and the trauma of a separation from a loved one can be devastating and overwhelming. Some people say it feels as if the ground is falling away beneath their feet. It helps if you know there's somewhere you can go right away for help: Citizens Advice.

If you and your partner or spouse have decided that separation is inevitable, you should try to work out the practical details between yourselves. But bear in mind that you might eventually need to consult a solicitor as well to enshrine your agreement in law, especially if you have assets or children. Going to court should be regarded as a last resort.

Discuss with your ex-partner where you will live, where your children will live, and how to split any money or belongings. If you and your partner are too upset to talk to each other calmly, wait and talk later, or use a mediator.

If your partner makes you feel threatened, get help. Call Refuge or Women's Aid on 0808 2000 247. There is also a Men's Advice Line on 0808 801 0327.

If you have children with your partner, you are both responsible for the cost of looking after them when you separate, even if you are not married. The parent who moves out might have to pay maintenance to the parent who looks after the children.

Consider any outstanding debts or loans that you might have, and think about who needs to be informed about the separation. If you pay council tax, or receive benefits or tax credits, get in touch with the relevant people and tell them about your new status.

Citizens Advice can help you find the ground beneath your feet so you can move on. Call Citizens Advice Adviceline on 0300 3309 042 or come and see us in person. For locations of offices and opening hours visit <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale>

DIARY DATES TO REMEMBER

Mothers' Union

Monthly Meeting on 3rd Monday of month
from 2.15 pm

17 February 2020

St James Church Centre

Women's Institute

Monthly Meeting on 3rd Wednesday of
month from 2 – 4.30 pm

19 February 2020

St James Church Centre

Gardening

Last Saturday of the month – Gardening at St
James Church/St James Church Centre (not
December)

Snowdrop Weekends

Saturday, 1 & 8 February, 10.30 am – 3.30
pm

Sunday, 2 and 9 February, 2 - 4 pm

St James Church

Parish Walks

Monday, 3 February 2020 – Worcester
College Gardens, meeting at college gates at
2 pm.

Monday, 17 February 2020 – Details to be
announced

Monday, 2 March 2020 - Details to be
announced

St Francis Church Committee

Sunday, 9 February 2020, 12 noon

St Francis Church

St James Church Committee

Tuesday, 11 February 2020, at 7 pm

Ranklin Room, St James Church Centre

Film Club

Friday, 14 February 2020 – “Mamma Mia –
Here we go again”

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

Valentine's Family Barn Dance

Saturday, 15 February 2020, 4 – 6 pm

St Francis Church

Sunday Lunch

16 February 2020 at 12.45 pm

St James Church Centre

Messy Church – Thanksgiving and Perseverance

Monday, 17 February 2020, 10 – 11.30 am

St Francis Church

Parochial Church Committee

Sunday, 23 February 2020 at 12.15 pm

St James Church Centre (to consider the draft
Accounts for 2019)

FairTrade Fortnight

24 February – 8 March 2020

Christian Aid 2020 – Super Soup FairTrade Lenten Lunch

Sunday, 8 March 2020, 12.15 pm-ish

St James Church Centre

Parochial Church Committee

Sunday, 22 March 2020 at 12 noon

St Francis Church (to agree inspected
accounts)

St Francis Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, 29 March 2020, after service

St Francis Church

St James Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, 19 April 2020, after service

St James Church Centre

Annual Parish Meeting/Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday, 26 April 2020, as soon after 12 noon
as practical,

St Francis Church