

VALENTINE'S ZOOM TEA & GAMES AT HOME PARTY
Saturday 13 February 2021 - 4.00-5.00

**Valentine's
zoom tea party
& games**



**Saturday 13 February
4:00-5:00**

bring your best china, tea and
cake to the screen

*best dressed cuddly toy - one
round quiz – After 8 challenge
bingo - laughter guaranteed*

on Zoom - register with us for the
link and your party pack – tell us
your cuddly toy's name
office@cowleyteamministry.co.uk

01865 747 680
www.cowleyteamministry.co.uk

We were really sad not to be able to enjoy our planned January crumpets and games party at St Francis church so have developed this offer:

Get out your best china, have cake or crumpets ready for our tea and games at home, on Zoom, featuring a best dressed teddy/ cuddly toy competition, a one round Valentine quiz, bingo, the After 8 challenge and other fun things to do! Laughter is guaranteed – we recog-

nise that we all need it at this time.

Please register with Geoff or Gemma, if possible by Sunday 7 February but you may not read this by then – so just as soon as possible, giving your e-mail address and cuddly toy's name. You will receive the Zoom link and a pack containing all the games requirements will be delivered or posted to you.

We are so sorry we cannot include those without internet access.....the time *will* come for a real knees up of a party.

Rev Canon Geoff Bayliss

Email: rector@cowleyteamministry.co.uk Tel: 778 596

Rev Gemma Beesley

Email: curate@cowleyteamministry.co.uk Tel: 07894 637 020

Chronicle

February
2021

From the Editors

Sally Hemsworth and Nicki Stevens

Spring is almost upon us – the aconites and snowdrops are a cheery sight in the St James Churchyard so why not come and see them as part of your daily exercise? We have included a picture which appeared on Facebook – just in case you are unable to visit.

Hope you like the article from "Nonny Mus". Perhaps you have some thoughts you would like to send to us anonymously! Just email chronicle@cowleyteamministry.co.uk or send to the Parish Office. We would love to hear from you.

We are all waiting for news when we will be able to do all the things we have been planning during the last year. It seems a long way off still, but many of us will have received at least one vaccination so we have reason to be optimistic.

A holiday would be lovely. Perhaps you have your favourite place to visit – visits to the Yorkshire Dales, Scotland, Pembrokeshire come to mind!! Or perhaps you like a seaside holiday – the holiday Pat Chambers is arranging to Weymouth has been postponed to 26-30 July. If you want more information Pat and Brian would be pleased to hear from you. Pat can be contacted on 01235 799717/Brian on 07929879104. It would be good to hear of memorable holidays – it would cheer us up during these difficult times.

The Chronicle will continue to be delivered with The Link until we are able to put them back in the churches – many thanks to those doing the deliveries. If that is not possible a copy will be emailed to you. It will also be available on the parish website www.cowleyteamministry.co.uk.

Limited church services are available – see details in The Link.

We do hope you enjoy this edition of the Chronicle – we would love to hear from you.

Sally and Nicki



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A word from the Rectory

The season of Lent always highlights the battle between the Kingdom of light and the brokenness of the

world. This year is no different. We discover ourselves to be in the middle of a battle. Darkness, destruction and chaos attempting to overthrow peace, order and health.

So many people have given up so much to get us to a place where the vaccinations give us true hope for the coming months. And yes, we can perhaps begin to see light at the end of a tunnel. After all these months of challenge, I am still not sure what the 'new normal' we are approaching will look like, but I sense a growing expectation and proximity. No doubt the coming days will continue to see shockingly high levels of death due to Covid related illnesses, but my prayer is that these numbers will slowly fall and we will be able to look to lift some of the lock down rules that shape our lives.

In such an environment my yearly mantra of 'don't give something up for lent, take something up' has an added poignancy. What might you do that can



Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd;
I have everything I need.
He lets me rest in fields of green
grass and leads me to quiet pools
of fresh water.
He gives me new strength.
He guides me in the right paths, as
he has promised.
Even if I go through the deepest
darkness, I will not be afraid, Lord,
for you are with me. Your
shepherd's rod and staff protect me.

You prepare a banquet for me,
where all my enemies can see me;
you welcome me as an honoured
guest and fill my cup to the brim.
I know that your goodness and love
will be with me all my life; and your
house will be my home as long as I
live.

make a difference? Here are some suggestions: You might try Daily bible readings and reflections from Bishop Steven's little book Pilgrim

Journeys: The Creeds would be a great start. You can read them for yourselves or join in daily midday prayer. You can pick it up direct from our web site or via YouTube or face book.

For a Lent Course you might join the Wednesday group with Mark Oxbrow.

Or, you could join the **Tuesday Come and See discussion group on Zoom**. We will be using some video footage for the Bishop and following that with a time to chat.

You can join any of them once and not feel compelled to join in on other weeks. You might decide you will take up calling some friends on the phone. This long period of lock down means people are so pleased to have a chat. Whatever you are doing remember that Christ travels with you.

May God bless you one and all.
Revd Geoff Bayliss Rector

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Well, Christmas has gone and we have a New Year and an almost clean sheet of paper, or have you filled it with New Year resolutions and things you hope to do this year. I haven't made any resolutions but I do have jobs to do and one of them has been caused by one of our grandchildren who gave me a book. At least, it looked like a book when I opened the parcel, but there was only one line of print on each page! Each page was a question to be answered.

The remainder of the page is empty to allow me to give answers to over 60 questions. Some are simple so they will be easy to answer but others will make me think before I write down the reply. And some are secrets! I don't know whether I can answer those. There are no prizes because there are no wrong answers. When I started to read them I realised how different my childhood was over eighty years ago.

Sometimes young people are asked to stop asking questions but if you don't ask it isn't possible to learn or even be safe to do some jobs. Of course, you must be polite when you speak to anyone, especially when you have to ask a stranger about something that you don't understand. That is the way you learn and at the same time improve the way that you talk to people. It's never too late to learn, so don't worry about asking questions. They too might like to ask you questions about the

reason for your questions or test whether you understand their reply. Questions work both ways.

When I was talking with Gemma recently, she reminded me that Jesus asked questions quite often. So don't worry. Asking questions is good for you. Everybody does it and it helps you to understand life. Can you think of something that you like to ask me? Write to the editors who will get in touch with me. ANY QUESTIONS ?

Go safe this year, Uncle Ben

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Una's Corner

I was very interested in Rosanne's account of aeroplanes roaring over Oxford on their way to Coventry. I remember these hordes of aeroplanes and my elder brother going outside and reporting that they were enemy aircraft. The wireless and newspapers reported the carpet bombing of Coventry and I particularly remember the picture of a Christian cross made out of mesh and wire from the cathedral ruins.

Years later visiting the new cathedral I remember a side chapel with that cross on the altar. I also remember that we had a "revenge raid" and carpet bombed a city, I believe it was Dresden, but I could have mis-remembered that, I was very young and it was a long time ago.

My mother's family lived in Luton when she was a girl. They came to Oxford when my mother was about 15 or 16. The eldest son died of meningitis when he was a baby and the second son, who was killed in the war when he was 21, was a baby in a pram when they moved into Garsington Road. Much later the house was demolished for the retail park.

My grandmother, a pious lady and very proper, remembers this of many years ago:

Grandma walked into Cowley one day soon after her arrival, with my mother and uncle to find out the times of church services. She knew, more or less, where St. James' was and as they came into Cowley a man wearing clerical garb came towards them and grandma asked about the times of services. He introduced himself as the Reverend George Moore and told grandma the times of service, turned to my mother and said "Hello, what's your name and will you be sitting by the river tonight?" Grandma stormed off in high dudgeon!

My grandparents attended St. Aldates after that! By the time they couldn't manage the journey to town by bus, St. Luke's Church had been built and they attended there. Fathers Beauchamp and Whye were in Cowley by then and one or other would take communion once a week. My mother started to attend the chapel on the corner of Oxford and Temple Roads and was in the choir there. She met my father through friends in the chapel, but that is another story.

From the Archives

NOVEMBER 2012

PRISON FELLOWSHIP

We would just like to say a big thank you to all those who made a contribution to Angel Tree this year, which made it a great success as it was the first time PF Oxford have taken it on at the request of the Chaplaincy team at Bullingdon Prison. We started out with no funding at all but with Gods' help, like the 'miracle of the loaves and fishes', our funding multiplied and we were able to provide 52 presents as well as post and packaging with a bit left over for next year. This is how God blessed us too when we were unsure whether we had enough money to buy all that was needed. Lisa and I set off to Toys R Us with £300 in our pocket. After a little bit of negotiation at the customer services desk I managed to persuade the management for a 20% discount on all purchases. We managed to buy quite a few requested items that just happened to be reduced or 'buy one get one half price'. When we were told the total at the checkout we were amazed. The bill came to £299.97! Then we had the 20% discount reducing the bill to £240.00 allowing us £60 to buy the remaining toys from ARGOS without being out of pocket. We would also like to say thank you to Mothers Union for their Christmas cards which were very much appreciated especially by prisoners who receive little or no correspondence.

Beverley Hughes (PF Oxford Prayer Group)

DECEMBER 2014

Faith2Share - Virtual Office

If I told you that I work in a 'virtual office' would you think that my office does not really exist. Well, I do work in a virtual office every day of the week and it certainly exists, in fact it is buzzing with activity most days. This month I would like to introduce you to two of my work colleagues who actually live thousands of miles away but share an office (a virtual one) with me.

As most of you know, *Faith2Share* is a global network of Christian mission agencies working in around one hundred different countries to try to improve the lives of some of the most marginalised people in our world and to bring the good news of Jesus Christ to those who have had little opportunity to hear about Him. Some of our staff work from a small office tucked behind the BMW plant in this parish but Vijay and Timothy are in India and Kenya respectively, looking after our work in Asia and Africa. Each week, and sometimes more than that, we all connect up using Skype for our staff meeting. Using the video function, we sometimes see that while we are shivering in our part of the virtual office Vijay is perspiring with the heat at his end of the office. We might also see in the background Timothy's wife or hear his chickens outside! All this reminds us that we live in a wonderful, highly connected, world and God is giving us so many new opportunities to work together for his glory.

Mark Oxbrow

International Director, Faith2Share

Researched by Les Hemsworth

LOW TRAFFIC NEIGHBOURHOODS (LTNS) aiming to reduce traffic, improve air quality and road safety, encourage walking and cycling

Our travel by car around the neighbourhoods of Church Cowley, Temple Cowley and Florence Park will soon begin to be very different. Agreement has been reached by the County Council to trial the three local LTNs on which they consulted last year; work on the necessary restrictions will be carried out during February and March. 'Modal filters' will prevent through traffic on key local residential roads. Everyone will still be able to access their home by car but they may have to drive a long way round to reach it. The emergency services are confident they also will still be able reach houses needing them.

There will be a 6-month trial, during which traffic will be carefully monitored and changes made if the results prove disastrous. There will then be another consultation before the decision is made whether the system should be permanent.

BIBLE SOCIETY 'MORE THAN A BOOK' REGISTRATION



We will soon be looking forward to Easter and looking for cards and gifts (*if you will be buying Easter eggs, see the separate Real Easter Egg article*). 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 the order and we will benefit from the 'More than a book' cash back scheme. It's that easy! We have earned a little from our 'Open the Book' resources orders and from this year's 'It begins in Bethlehem' story books but some personal Christmas shopping would be useful.

Do look at the on-line shop for Bibles, prayer books, cards, stickers, courses, fiction, DVDs etc.

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

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The advertisement features a background image of a TV aerial against a blue sky with light clouds. The text is in various colors: blue for the name and main title, white for the list items, and red for the company name. The contact information is in white and yellow.

RECIPES

Almond Biscuits

4oz Self Raising flour

4oz ground almonds

4 oz margarine

4oz castor sugar

Half a teaspoon or so of almond essence

Cream margarine and sugar, add essence, flour and ground almonds. Roll into walnut sized balls and place on a greased baking sheet. Flatten slightly and press and few sliced almonds onto the biscuits.

Bake for around 14 minutes at 160 – 170.

Gas Mark 3

Allow to cool slightly in the tin and then remove to cool on a rack.



SAMARITANS PURSE - OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

<https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/>

6 packed boxes were delivered to a new local collection point - St Aloysius Church, Woodstock Road. We know of at least 6 boxes that were ordered through the on-line donation system. So 12 delighted children received happiness and love for Christmas.

Prayer Space

Gracious and Holy Father

Give us wisdom to perceive You,

Intelligence to understand You,

Diligence to seek You.

Eyes to behold You,

Hearts to meditate upon You,

And a life to proclaim You,

Through the Holy Spirit and

Jesus Christ our Lord.

St Benedict

Lord, in weakness or in strength

We bear your image.

We pray for those who now live

In a land of shadows,

Where the light of memory is dimmed,

Where the familiar lies unknown,

Where the beloved become as strangers.

Hold them in your everlasting arms

And grant to those who care:

a strength to serve

a patience to persevere

a love to last

and a peace that passes human understanding.

Hold them in your everlasting arms,

Today and for all eternity

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

James Jones

A New Year Greeting

It is very encouraging to say a belated Happy New Year now that the vaccine is being given to so many and the prognosis that millions of members of the United Kingdom will be vaccinated by this September.

St James Church is open every Wednesday afternoon from 2-4pm for private prayer which is such a blessing for those who are concerned about attending a communal service. We have welcomed passers-by who do not attend Church regularly and we find it very rewarding to be able to offer them Sanctuary in our Church.

Our friend, Ed Ling, crafted a wonderful Nativity scene which was erected in the churchyard and with our Rector, Geoff, rigging up lighting, was our focal point for an open-air Carol Service. This was very well attended by our congregation and passers-by and it was a joy to hear all of us singing which hadn't taken place for many months.

Afterwards families drifted into Church in a well-distanced way to look at our Christmas Tree Festival and we heard many compliments and encouraging comments from the visitors.

On the whole we, at St James have approached this difficult time with a great deal of positivity. Our pastoral care network has kept in touch with vulnerable friends helping with shopping etc., and more importantly just listening to their concerns and giving them reassurance where possible. We are very grateful to the dedication of our Ministry team who continue to motivate and reassure us at this time.

On Christmas Eve a very well attended Crib Service was held which is always a popular service at St James. At 11.30pm we held our midnight service, with names being collected by Geoff to make sure all who wished to attend could do so safely. Another very special time for us to welcome the baby Jesus into the world and a very fitting way to begin our Christmas celebrations.

Finally, we pray for a better 2021 and put our fears and concerns before God in the knowledge that he is our friend who loves us and is always there for us.

Stay well and safe and God bless you.

Chris Woodman
Church Warden

SNOWDROPS IN ST JAMES CHURCHYARD

Saturday 6 February 2021

This edition of Chronicle will be published too late for our Snowdrop Saturday, with the church open for prayer all day, although sadly no refreshments or mingling. The snowdrops and aconites have been noticed already, but hopefully they will still be inspiring for a couple more weeks.



Many people who saw this photo shared it on Facebook. Their comments reflected what a treasured place St James is within the community. Not just for the beauty of its

churchyard - an outdoor sanctuary of God's creation, but also the place St James holds in many hearts. Stories of parents and grandparents married, baptisms, Sunday school and choir were shared. Even for those who are not regular worshippers, St James is still very much 'owned' by people near and far.

Link to online giving!

We have put a new button on our web site! Our supporters can now make one off payment online. It will take you to the 'give a little' web site where you can decide how much you would like to give. You can also scan this image and go straight there!

<https://givealittle.co/campaigns/49eef694-09d1-4ee3-8810-6ac86d972e6c>





CAP MONEY COURSE - MARCH 2021

Thank you for the part many of you have played in promoting CAP Money.

Oxford residents are being given another chance next month to get their finances in order with this popular free course.

Money coaches Kath Jackson and Suzy Rowe from Headington Baptist Church, who have been trained by UK charity Christians Against Poverty, are again running the three sessions aimed at helping the local community to best handle the current economic downturn.

The March course is being hosted by Headington Baptist Church. It is being held at 78 Old High Street, OX3 9HW and the first session is on Monday, 8 March 2021, starting at 19.30. Contact Suzy Rowe (01865 763572) to book a place.

Is CAP just for Christians?

No. CAP will help anyone regardless of their religious beliefs. We monitor our services to ensure that everybody receives the same caring service regardless of race, nationality, religion, age, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, or disability.

CAP Money is a simple three session course that aims to help you create and manage a budget effectively.

Many people who benefit from this free course are not in any financial difficulty, but find that they have more money to spend as they get a better grip on their finances. Others may be struggling to make ends meet on their monthly income and/or benefits but likewise find themselves better off as they put the CAP Money system into practice.

Over three sessions, participants look at where money is spent, where savings can be made, how to budget for unexpected emergencies and ensure all the essentials can be paid for and debts paid off.

Whilst this is all done in a small group, you do not disclose your own personal financial details with others. Anything you do choose to share will be held in total confidence.

For those who have serious debt problems phone the enquiries team on 0800 328 0006.

Whether you simply want to manage your money better or find yourself in serious financial trouble, don't suffer in silence.

Phone Suzy Rowe (01865 763572) if you would like to know more. If you are in financial difficulties, do [contact us](#) as we want to help and we will do our best to accommodate you.

There is much more about Christians Against Poverty on the CAP website -

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JUST A THOUGHT

I have been spending far too much time on my computer following the various comments in the news, especially overseas, and also telephoning friends who I would love to meet again but have been prevented from doing so for several months.

One of my other pastimes has always been trying to solve word puzzles. Crosswords are a test for me but the simpler word puzzles hiding common items within a large area of letters is less challenging but often fun.

On the web there are occasional invitations to find a letter 'hidden within an area of letter 'x's'. They suggest that you were a genius to find the letter 'A' within five minutes, so I was up for the challenge! I only just made it and then it was so obvious. Why couldn't I see the difference, or absence of that one letter 'X' replaced by the letter 'A'? It's the same with a piece of music. You may have all the notes on your piano, but it is only when you play them in the right order that the tune can be heard properly.

Life and people are like that puzzle I believe. If something is missing, or not quite right, it is not always obvious even though you know that something is not quite as it should be. When we find the answer and we know the key, it becomes much easier to feel happy, but it does take time to get there sometimes. We have to search. I hope you always find the answer.

Nonny Muss



Do you shop on-line with Amazon? If you do you may be able to help us raise a bit of money towards the toilet in St James Church.

Smile.amazon.co.uk is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on Smile.amazon.co.uk, the Smile.amazon.co.uk Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice.

We are listed as the charity: The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Cowley, Oxford or you can search by our charity number: 1153602



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 and bullying.

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

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

Our 'Promoting a safer church' action plan has helped to clarify our procedures and systems. There is the danger that we *think everyone knows what they should do if concerned about any situation* but we haven't fully checked on that; it's of course not possible during this hiatus.

It is now 3 years since we introduced the Diocesan training programme for all those Parish volunteer roles requiring it and that training must now be renewed. We hope many of you will be able to follow the course individually at home on line but, when C-19 regulations allow, we will again be offering group training at St James Centre. I'm glad to say that the basic awareness course (formerly called C0) has been revised and is much more accessible. Please expect a notification from me over the next couple of months.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility – *please be sure to report anything you observe whilst at church or on-line.*

It is just as important during this strange time when life is so different; the situation throws up its own safeguarding and welfare issues. Please remain aware.

Lesley Williams 01865 779 562
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“The Song of the Donkey”

by Harry Broughton

Why should it happen to me
To be there where He was born.
To see what kings were keen to see
And prophets to forewarn?

Why should it happen to me
To greet him with my brays,
When others might more tunefully
Have greeted him with praise?

Why should it happen to me
To bend low over his bed,
And with my rough breathing, warmly
Hallo the Infant’s head?

Why should it happen to me
To bear on my back His weight,
And share with the Refugee
His cruel winter’s flight?

Why should it happen to me
To walk the triumphal way,
That He should say “I have need to
thee,
My friend of yesterday?”

And how can we humans, Lord,
Share your Nativity,
Except in obedience to your word
And a donkey’s humility?

LIKE MUMMY

A two-and-a-half-year-old walked into the bathroom while her mother was putting on make-up. "I'm going to look just like you, Mummy!" she announced. "Maybe, when you grow up," her mother told her. "No Mummy, tomorrow. I just put on that 'Oil of Old Lady' you always use."



Claire Ewers

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January lock-down blues

Looking out onto my garden borders, there is a sorry sight of blackened stems below a grey lowering sky. It is cold. It is January and I have no impetus to get out there and start the tidy up. There are snowdrops shining and daffodil leaves are showing but I will wait until it gets warmer and with some sunshine to clear last year's dead material and prepare for spring.

Not that I ignore the garden entirely as I was given a rain gauge at Christmas. I have put it on the back fence, so I have to go along the garden to make my recordings each morning. The heavier rainfall days so far were after the Boxing Day deluge when I recorded 12.5 mm or about half an inch of rain and then recently, at the end of January, recording over one and a half inches over 3 days. No wonder there are floods! This is another reason not to go trampling over borders as they are very wet.

The winter weather, as well as lockdown, has meant we are indoors a lot of the time. My other half likes to look at bird feeding webcams which are spectacular on our smart TV.

One gift I was given on retirement was a huge book, Audubon's Birds of America. John James Audubon was born in 1785 in what is now Haiti and brought up in France. He immigrated to the USA at the age of 18 and continued his fascination for the natural world and, in particular, birds. He began to draw and paint birds and make detailed field notes.

In 1827 he published his phenomenal work

"Birds of America" of 435 hand coloured prints on pages measuring 39 by 26 inches showing 497 bird species. It is known as the Double Elephant due to its size. My hefty tome is the baby elephant and reproduces Audubon's exquisite artistry. We have been using the book to identify the birds seen at feeding stations in America and Canada. Great fun. From humming birds in California to chickadees, cardinals and hairy woodpeckers in Philadelphia and Tennessee.

There are webcams all over the world to see and marvel at including one in the rainforest of Costa Rica and one in South Africa showing storks, antelope, zebras and elephants around an area of water.

The last weekend in January has been the RSPB Great Garden Bird Watch and we recorded our domestic species that come visiting our feeding station. I recorded 15 species in my hour but no long-tailed tits and we haven't seen a thrush in years!

Looking forward, the Plant Sale will definitely be going ahead on Saturday 22nd May. So, even if the Chelsea Flower Show has been postponed, we will get Cowley blooming!

Joan Coleman



COME AND SEE Lent 2021 in the Cowley Team Ministry

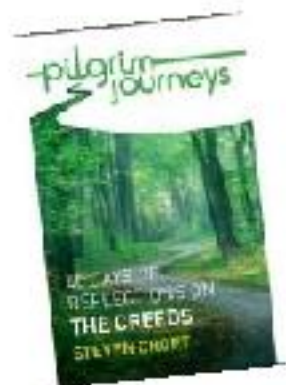
Tuesday evening 7 pm on Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87303670150?pwd=bHBrUkd4S0ZJdFVCczlDdG5WK2pRdz09> or on a telephone +44 131 460 1196)

These are very strange times and Lent this year will be different than other years. Even different to last year. We are intending to pick up on the diocesan material 'Come and See'. The intention is to dig deep and explore the heart of the Christian faith.

On a daily basis this will mean us following the 40 days of reflections written by our own Bishop Steven Croft. They will be incorporated into our daily midday prayer (12 noon on Facebook and Youtube).

Weekly on a Tuesday evening at 7 pm we will be running a live zoom 'Come and See' invitation workshop. The aim will be to discuss the weekly material that Bishop Steven is producing. You will be able to join using a computer, smart phone or with sound only from an old-fashioned telephone line (+44 131 460 1196, or +44 203 051 2874).



Lent and Easter Packs

Revd Gemma and I are putting together some seasonal packs for Lent and Easter. We are not quite sure what they will contain but at least the following.

- A short easter prayers liturgy
- A copy of Bishops Stevens Pilgrim Journeys 40 Days of reflection on THE CREEDS
- A Palm Cross

We hope there will be other bits as well but these are still in development. They will be going out to those that already get a weekly link or monthly chronicle. If you are on those links but would like one do please let Geoff or Gemma know!

Every Blessing Geoff

COWLEY FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS TREES 2020

Joy to the World!

Friday 11 – Sunday 20 December



We definitely did bring joy to Cowley and to the world!

There were 37 trees and, by the end of the festival, 440 angels, counted for us by Sally Hemsworth. Prizes were awarded to two children from St Fridewide's School and two other visitors, including Chris Lee, for closest guesstimates.



The opening reception was a surreal mix of reality and virtual – Geoff, Mary and I were in church, along with Alice Taylor and a group of singers from Queen's College choir; others were at home watching on Zoom and Facebook. The choir was stunning; we showed a pre-recorded tour of the trees.

Six members of Jubilee Brass played carols in the churchyard for an hour on Saturday 12 December; a torchlight outdoor carol service was held late afternoon on Sunday 20 December, attended by an estimated 100 people, many of whom



visited the trees afterwards. Singing was such a joy!

All the Y5 & Y6 children from St Fridewide's school (the former primary section of St Gregory the Great all though Roman Catholic school, now a separate Church of England primary school and delighted to work with us) visited the festival, watched the 'It begins in Bethlehem' video and made more angels.

It was sad not being able to offer true Cowley hospitality – refreshments and chat, crafts and con-

certs but many people said how wonderful it was just to be there. And we are delighted to have raised £1,000 to share between ROSY and SeeSaw.

Thank you again to all who decorated a tree, stewarded, visited, donated.

The 2021 festival will be held over the equivalent period and has a light theme – title still to be decided. The first planning meeting will be on Thursday 6 May, 9.00am



Cowley Deanery Synod, 12 November 2020

There were about 35 attendees at the Deanery Synod which was held by Zoom.

The main presentation was on poverty and there was a presentation by Fran Bennet, a senior research fellow in social research, poverty and child poverty. She is involved in a locally focused poverty pressure group. She reported that the issue of poverty has got a lot worse. She then spoke to us about the issue of national child poverty, the experience from a child's point of view and local issues for Oxford.

Poverty was defined as not having enough resources to integrate with society properly. This was part of the historical debate between individual responsibility and blame. The data had a lag so we could only look at the past and not current data. Some key points from her speech were:

- 1 in 4 children in 2018-19 were in poverty. (less than 60% average income after housing costs)
- 9 in 30 were working poor. Lone parents, ethnic groups. There were 600,000 more in the year 2010 – 2011.
- Cuts in benefits as part of the Austerity program caused a lot of child poverty so the issue got worse after 2008. And the situation in the 1960s was half as bad as it is now.
- One survey proved that 2 in 5 families were struggling with costs during the pandemic. Our nation might be an average when it comes to poverty figures, but when you factor in the effect of taxation and benefits, we are one of the worst off out of all the European nations in Child poverty.
- Child poverty does respond directly to government policy and we can see that in the effect that the Labour government had in reducing poverty in children by many hundreds of thousands.

It was suggested by Fran that faith groups, when discussing this should instead of using statistics, should frame it in terms of Justice and Compassion. Faith groups have (and should) write to government ministers on the subject of poverty including educational disadvantage.

It was reported that there were 2 million jobs not paying the minimum wage and that this figure has gone up and that poverty had a constellation of factors such as cost of child-care and low wages. Therefore it is important to support the uplift of £20 per week for the Universal Credit payments and child benefits.

Geoff Bayliss raised the issue of short term contracts creating non-consistent income and that austerity did hit families with children hardest.

On the subject of the experience of poverty from a child's point of view:

- The multidimensional aspect of poverty was mentioned.
- Children were often worried about their parents financial stability and would often not mention the need for every day essentials and one-off things such as school trips.
- They often didn't have holidays.
- On leaving school they often cant afford to experiment with different careers as they have a need to maintain cash flow, so they can't find the things that are right for them in a career.
- They can't fit in or join in so they are often subjected to bullying.
- The parents (and children) feel like failures in an affluent society, so one assumes that that could have a knock-on effect when it comes to mental health.
- There was very little focus on Children during the pandemic.
- Child benefit has lost ¼ of its real value over the years so it's not as useful as it used to be.
- As the £20 per week uplift on Working Tax Credits and Universal Credit stayed the same if you had children or not, it didn't really benefit families with children at all.
- There may have been school lunches given to the children over the summer, but not as much support in the winter.
- 26% of under 16s in poverty being a number of 7,000 children.
-

Nick Dewey

PERSONALLY SPEAKING

Introducing Marcus Max Diaz Bruton - known to the St James 8.00 congregation as Max.

"I am Peruvian. I write poetry and enjoy painting with pastels from time to time.

I have been living in the UK for more than 13 years. I love Britain with all my heart and the work that God is doing in the church, particularly how the Holy Spirit is guiding us in this challenging time. I am divorced.

I was ordained in England into the Church of England, having been brought up as a Catholic, as are all Peruvians. Part of my work is in the church and also I work helping in the management of a restaurant, so I have a view in these two different worlds of business and spirituality which is a blessing. St Paul used to make tents while he was working in the church. I guess this is a kind of mission and evangelism in the background as well. God is mercy and compassion to all his children.

All of you are in my prayers."

Come Now is the Time to Worship!

Have you learnt any new skills during the pandemic? I've seen reports of people learning to speak a different language, or perhaps knit, dance or paint. I'm afraid my lockdown accomplishments are nowhere near as artistic as these examples! But our way of living at the moment has given us opportunities to have a go at new things - sometimes by choice, sometimes not!

Back in November a group of interested learners from the parish and nearby churches got together over zoom to explore leading worship. These sessions were called Come Now is the Time to Worship (I can't say it without singing it!), and the aim was to equip people to be able to prepare and lead worship.

Now we are already richly blessed in Cowley with a ministry team which goes far beyond the clergy. In church buildings and online many people contribute to making worship happen: readings, intercessions and sermons are the visible things; video editing, tech support, assembling the liturgy used, burning DVDs, cleaning the buildings and our Cowley Postal Service are the unseen but no less celebrated things. A huge 'Thank You' to everyone.

The learners from Come Now is the Time to Worship have now been invited to contribute to leading our worship. You may see their faces on your screens, or you may join in with words of worship that they have prepared behind the scenes. This is really exciting as a collaborative team adds to the richness of our worship (you may have experience of a church where the same person does everything week in week out...). It's also a very biblical model - read and reflect upon what Paul writes to the Romans in chapter 12 verses 1-8.

Both Geoff and I are passionate about enabling lay leaders. The future of the church depends on its people responding to God's call to step out in obedience and faith. And the Holy Spirit blesses us with the gifts of courage and wisdom to do this. Alleluia! Please pray that our congregations here in Cowley will flourish through knowing their identity is in God. And pray especially for those who are 'having a go' at something new for God.

As our opening prayer says:

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!

Gemma Beesley

REAL EASTER EGGS from the Meaningful Chocolate Company

The idea for a Real Easter Egg began in 2008 when David Marshall, who founded Meaningful Chocolate, was given an Easter egg. On the side of the box it read: '*Easter is the festival of chocolate and loveliness*'. He searched for an Easter egg which mentioned the Christian story of Easter.

It became clear that out of the 80 million eggs on sale there was not a single manufacturer who was willing to mention the religious aspects of the festival. So he asked churches and schools to help crowd fund The Meaningful Chocolate Company to manufacture the UK's first 'Real Easter Egg'. For it to be a 'Real Easter Egg' it had to reflect the Easter themes of hope and new life and do three things – have a copy of the Easter story in the box, be made from Fairtrade chocolate and support charitable causes.

Eleven years on more than a million eggs have been sold with over 750,000 sent through the post. The rest have been sold through retailers and supermarkets. Nearly £275,000 has been donated to charitable projects with Fairtrade Premium fees paid to farmers allowing them to buy everything from school books and solar panels to providing fresh water.

As such The Real Easter Egg campaign is one of the biggest evangelism initiatives in the UK. It crosses all denominations and offers a simple way to share the Easter Story.

For Easter 2021, there are seven types of Real Easter Eggs available, all with new content. Each egg has an edition of the Easter story included. The Original, Dark, Special Edition and our new White 2021 eggs are plastic-free and all our chocolate is Palm Oil free. Then there are also bars of chocolate with an 'Easter blessings' wrapper – milk and dark.

Milk chocolate original egg	£4.50
Fun pack (6 midi eggs in an egg box)	£ 5.00
White chocolate egg <i>NEW</i>	£4.50
Sharing pack (30 midi eggs)	£30.00
Dark chocolate egg	£5.50
Easter mug with 3 midi eggs	£10.80
Special edition	£9.99
Easter blessings bar	£ 3.00

All Real Easter Eggs come with an Easter story in the box. The stories range from simple guides to 24-page activity books with a prize competition worth £200. They provide an opportunity to share the joy of Easter with friends and family.

The 24-page Easter story-activity book

This is illustrated by Martina Peluso and is included in the Original, White and Dark eggs. The drawings are beautiful and will delight children and adults. The book contains the story of the first Easter along with some fun activities. In the activity section there is a prize competition worth £200. Over its 24 pages, the story covers the final week of the life of Jesus and includes the events of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. It is a beautiful way to share the story of Easter with family and friends.

The supermarkets are not stocking these special eggs this year so your only way of buying them is in Fairtrade shops, if they are permitted to open in time; on-line yourself..... or through our Parish of Cowley order. See the flyer in this Chronicle; it will also be included with Links.

<https://meaningfulchocolate.co.uk/collections/real-easter-egg>

Let Lesley Williams know what you wish to order by 14 March and pay when she delivers them to you. 01865 779 562 lesley-jwilliams@btinternet.com



THE EGG THAT SHARES THE EASTER STORY



Special Edition
(RRP £9.99)

White
(RRP £4.50)

Dark (RRP £5.50)



Fun Pack
(RRP £5.00)

Original
(RRP £4.50)

Because of the pandemic it is more important than ever that we find ways to share the Easter story in 2021.

All Real Easter Eggs come with an Easter story in the box. The stories range from simple guides to 24 page activity book versions.

So, buy a Real Easter Egg this spring and encourage others to give one to their loved ones, a school or sponsor a food bank donation.

Where to buy

The full range can be ordered at www.realeasteregg.co.uk or from Traidcraft, Eden.co.uk, TLM trading.com, Redemptorist Publications, Embrace the Middle East. Christian bookshops and some cathedrals also have stock.

Supermarkets lose faith

The pandemic led to supermarkets having a disastrous Easter last year and so they have decided to stop stocking the Real Easter Egg. If you are one of the 80,000 people who usually buy at the supermarket then you need to order direct. But be quick as there will not be enough eggs to go round this year.



Out of the 80 million Easter eggs sold in this part of the world every year, The Real Easter Egg is the only one which has a copy of the Easter story in the box, is made of Fairtrade chocolate and which supports charitable projects.

The Original, White and Dark eggs include a 24 page Easter story-activity book. They are Palm Oil and plastic free, and include a competition. The Dark also contains a simple Easter guide, designed for adults and 3 dark Mini Squares.

The Fun Pack has an Easter story activity poster and 6 milk chocolate eggs.

The Special Edition has a limited edition designer Easter card, a simple guide to Easter, an orange milk chocolate bar and a luxury milk chocolate egg.

See the full shop list or order at www.realeasteregg.co.uk

A WARTIME CHILDHOOD

Throughout the Second World War the aircraft company, De Havilland's, had a very large factory in Witney where hundreds, maybe thousands of aeroplanes were built and repaired. Among those aircraft produced were the Gypsy Moths and Tiger Moths, both of which were constructed with wooden frames. In the first month of 1941 a plea went out from the company for skilled carpenters and joiners to transfer to Witney to help produce these small aircraft. The plea was directed at the many building firms all over the country, thus reaching the ears of my father who could not believe what he was hearing.

Witney! Transfer to Witney where his wife and little daughter were evacuated! How soon could he get there?

There was a lot that he had to do during that cold month of January. He had to clear our house, put the contents in store, put it on the market and all the while he was working out his contract with his employers and registering with the De Havilland Company. But he did it all and, to my utter delight, he joined us in that crowded little house in Witney sometime in February 1941. Of course, I again slept on a mattress on the floor of the double bedroom, but I didn't care one jot, I had got my lovely daddy back.

As soon as he started work in the factory (work which he thoroughly enjoyed, by the

way), he made it known amongst his colleagues that he was looking for a flat, house, cottage - anywhere where we as a family could live, thus relieving the pressure on the kind people who had given us refuge. After a few weeks, a young man in the factory tracked my dad down with news that in the village where he lived, he had heard that a cottage had just become vacant. Was my dad interested? Well of course he was and he came home that evening with the promising news.

Arrangements were made with the landlord who owned the cottage that we should travel out to the little village of Northmoor on a specific Saturday (daddy's day off), to look at our potential new home. Mummy was very thrilled that we might be going to live in Northmoor as, coincidentally, she used to visit her aunts who lived there when she was a little girl. She would ride alongside the carrier on his horse-drawn cart for a holiday adventure.

On the appointed Saturday, we caught the bus to Northmoor. The young man who was the son-in-law of the village schoolteacher met us at The Red Lion (the name of the bus stop) and introduced us to Mr Wilsdon who owned the cottage. We walked with him up a muddy, puddly lane, turned a corner and there it was, a tiny little cottage in the corner of a big field. We went along the path, over

the bridge and stood outside while he unlocked the door.

The cottage had two rooms upstairs and two rooms down with a lean-to scullery at the side. It had no electricity or gas, no running water, with just a well outside the front door, a paved stone floor, a lead-lined stone copper - for washing, and a coal/wood fire range for cooking. A toilet was at the bottom of the big garden. It couldn't have been more basic and yet – it was a refuge from the war, it was a safe haven. I fell in love with it and was so thrilled when my mum and dad said that it would do. They agreed the rent of 6/- a month (30p in decimalisation!) and we set off back to Witney to prepare to move. Fortunately, despite all her modern appliances in our Surrey home, my mum had grown up in a similar cottage in Eynsham, so she knew how to cope with the primitive conditions we were moving to. Very soon afterwards our furniture and other belongings arrived

from London and we moved in. It was very cold but I don't remember one word of complaint from my parents. They were so pleased to be independent again.

One lesson I remember learning from the day we went to look at the cottage was this: "Never touch anything that doesn't belong to you". Along the path to the cottage we passed some other cottages and growing by the end wall was a clump of beautiful violets, (Oxfordshire people call them "Stanton Harcourt violets"). As a four-year-old child who adored flowers, I bent down to pick some. Mummy was horrified – "No, no, darling, don't touch, they are not ours. They belong to the lady who lives in that house. Never touch anything that doesn't belong to you!" That is a lesson I have remembered to this day!

Rosanne Butler

CHRONICLE

Editorial Team- Sally Hemsworth, Nicki Stevens

Deadline for the next edition: Monday 22 February 2021

If possible, please send entries by email to Sally at chronicle@cowleyteamministry.co.uk.

Paper contributions should be left at Parish Office for the attention of Sally.

The Editorial Committee in no way accepts responsibility for goods or services supplied by our advertisers, errors and omissions excepted.

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

22 February – 7 March 2021

Choose the world you want

<https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/get-involved/current-campaigns/fairtrade-fortnight/>

<https://schools.fairtrade.org.uk>

**CHOOSE THE WORLD
YOU WANT**



For two weeks each year at the end of February and start of March, thousands of individuals, companies and groups across the UK come together to share the stories of the people who grow our food and drinks, mine our gold and who grow the cotton in our clothes - people who are often exploited and underpaid.

In 2021, Fairtrade Fortnight will feel very different. 2020 was a hard year for everyone and we know that physically campaigning and meeting people will continue to be challenging through 2021 but people want to continue to support Fairtrade through this time.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us more than ever how interconnected we are globally. This interconnection is at the very heart of the Fairtrade message and is where our role begins. We can all be part of the Fairtrade movement and have the power to drive long-term change, not only with our shopping choices but with our support in spreading the message. We just have to do this a little differently in 2021!

CLIMATE, FAIRTRADE AND US

Our help is needed to put farmers' voices at the heart of tackling the climate crisis and share the reality of their struggles. Our global trading system is balanced in favour of the powerful few. Trapped in this system, farmers already struggle to meet their immediate needs. More than ever, they need a fair price for their crops and their hard work.

Fairtrade works to raise the voices of farmers and workers and prioritise what they need to respond to the environmental crises unfolding in already vulnerable communities. This Fortnight, we are asked to:

'Choose the World You Want' and use our voice to tell others about the challenges that farmers face from climate change.

The Fairtrade Foundation is hosting an on-line festival bringing together schools, universities, businesses, supporters, campaigners and farmers from across the world to choose the world they want.

Sign up and you'll receive all the latest news as more exciting events are confirmed. You can expect to find fascinating and fun events featuring all parts of the global Fairtrade community, including Fairtrade farmers and workers, other climate campaigners and of course the amazing grassroots network.

<https://action.fairtrade.org.uk/page/73941/subscribe/1?ea.tracking.id=fthp2021>

What Fairtrade does

Fairtrade empowers farmers and workers to improve their living standards, the welfare of their community and our shared environment.

Fairtrade rallies a global community of millions – farmers and workers, supply chain partners, brands, retailers, shoppers, schools, government – to pay fair prices and uphold fair production standards and practices.

Beyond certification, Fairtrade is deepening its impact by delivering specialist programmes and expertise to support communities with additional training and worker support, whether that's empowering women coffee farmers or responding to crises such as COVID-19.

How Fairtrade does it

Fair prices provide an immediate lifeline for vulnerable farmers and workers at times of need. They also provide long-term investment in production, community and environmental projects to create a fairer, better world.

Fair standards and practices promote sustainable farming to protect biodiversity and the environment; deliver training for women so they can participate and lead; secure worker rights; and tackle climate change.

I dream of a church

I dream of a church that awakens God's vision,
of a people who live without counting the cost:
that trust in the Spirit of Christ Jesus' mission,
to uplift the oppressed with Good News for the lost.

I pray for a church that joins in with God's prancing,
in a swirling star-skirt made from light cosmic sky:
like prophets of old who lead people by dancing,
unafraid of the pharaohs enthroned up on high.

We sing in a church that cracks up with God's laughter,
that rejoices in justice, and shares all for free:
turns over the tables of monied disasters,
an abundance of mirth in a new Jubilee.

We work for a church that connects through Christ's caring,
as she shelters and loves the unloved refugee:
a church that shines light on corruption, then daring,
to forgive and embrace them in God's family.

Dear God, would you make us a people like Jesus,
with his trust in your Kingdom of unfailing grace:
a travelling band of peculiar people,
on the journey t'wards joy and true life in this place.

Lyrics: K Snyman

NOTABLE PEOPLE & CHARACTERS OF COWLEY

Fr. Alec G. Whye

JULY 1959

First of all, I must say how pleased I am that Father Betton has accepted the Bishop of Oxford's invitation to become Vicar of Cowley when I depart in September. I am sure that he is the right man for this very important and arduous task, as he has proved his worth over the last 3½ years as priest-in-charge of St. Luke's, where the growth in spiritual life has been very great. He has made, also, many friends in industry, at all levels, and enjoys the esteem of our Church brethren. I commend him to your prayers as he prepares to take over the work of the parish, and hope you will assure him of your loyal support. You will need to have patience and forbearance, for it will be some time before Father Betton can obtain the necessary staff for the work of the parish; meanwhile, I am sure that Father Topley and Father Henley will give him all the support they can.

The fact that Father Betton will be living in St. Luke's House, into which he has just moved, does not mean that St James' Church will cease to be the Parish Church of Cowley; it only means that, for the time being at any rate, the parish is being run from the centre, and the Priest is living in a more convenient and workable house.

At the end of June, with the Bishop's permission, I will cease to be Rural Dean of Cowley, and Father Arnold, Vicar of Saints Mary and John, will take my place. I shall then have two months free from Ruridecanal duties before I leave the parish, which will be all to the good! I am very glad to have been allowed to initiate this new Rural Deanery, and have had some very pleasant experiences during the 2½ years I have held office. Apart from my official visitation last year, I have been invited to all the parishes of the Deanery, with one exception, to many of them several times, and it has been a great privilege to know some of the laity as well as the clergy of the various parishes and to discuss their various problems. I think we can safely say that the Deanery has now made a good start and has excellent prospects for the future. I hope all the parishes will give Father Arnold the help and encouragement they have given to me.

Father Beauchamp and I will be going to Austria this year, from July 13th, to August 6th, and the same arrangements as last year will be made: Father Betton will be in charge of the parish, Father Henley will be responsible for matters arising in the Parish Church district, and the Reverend Ronald Park will be living at the Vicarage. Addresses and phone numbers will be found on the back page.

We shall be moving from Cowley on Monday, August 31st, and my Induction at New Hinksey has been fixed for Thursday, September 10th, at 7.30pm.

Your friend and Vicar,
ALEC G. WHYE

SEPTEMBER 1959

My Dear friends,

This will be my last letter to you as Vicar. In my first, written just after my Induction in 1939, I thanked you all for your encouragement and the support of your prayers on that occasion; in this, I thank you for your continued support and help throughout these twenty years. We have been through difficult times together – notably the war years –but since the war, the Church in Cowley has grown and developed in all directions, and will, I am sure, continue to do so under my successor.

Father Beauchamp and I thank you all for your expressions of goodwill on our departure; we have been deeply touched by all that has been written and spoken about us or to us during these past months, and of which we feel quite unworthy. We were particularly moved by the farewell party given in our honour by our friends of the Free Churches in Cowley on July 7th, and by the kind things said on that occasion. We look forward to seeing many of you at our farewell party on September 14th. A parish priest in a large parish such as Cowley becomes bound up in the lives of innumerable people. He will remember generations of choristers and servers, sidesmen and bellringers, Churchwardens and Church Councillors. He will think of people whom he has baptised (I have baptised nearly 1900 since I came to Cowley), seen go through Day School, prepared for Confirmation (over 700), or married (over 1150 couples) – in many cases two generations - those he has visited in hospital or their homes, those to whom he has ministered in difficulty or sorrow.

These roots go deep, for they touch the most intimate events in human life, and it is a priest's privilege, as well as his great responsibility, to be allowed to share in these events. Not only so, but as an ordained priest of God he brings to bear on these human occasions and relationships the grace of God and the ministrations of His Church. He is the instrument through which God has touched these thousands of lives, at some point or other. It is a humbling thought for any parish priest as he looks back over a long ministry. I thank God for the health and strength I have had to carry the heavy burden of this parish for the past twenty years: I thank Father Beauchamp for his unfailing kindness, support and advice; I thank those many priests who have worked with me in the course of the years. I know that you will give your new Vicar the support and encouragement which you have given to me: pray for him this month, as he takes up his duties with energy and enthusiasm, and help him and his staff all you can, by your consideration and your loyalty, so that the work and witness of the Church of God in Cowley may go on and increase. God bless you all.

Your sincere Friend and Vicar,

Alec G. Whye

OCTOBER 1959

GREAT COWLEY GATHERING

St. James' Hall was packed to the doors on the night of 14th September for a grand party. Church people from all over parts of the parish, and many who have moved to other places came to say farewell and thank you to Father Whye and Father Beauchamp.

An illuminated scroll, and a painting of the Parish Church by Mr. Sawyer, were presented, and also a cheque, part of which is going to be used to buy a refrigerator. Someone asked if this was symbolic of anyone's feelings. But the warmth and happiness of the party had left no room for any doubt about this.

In the midst of dancing, refreshment and an excellent and varied programme of entertainment, Father Whye and Father Beauchamp were able to talk to many friends.

OCTOBER 1959

VICAR'S LETTER

*New Hinksey Vicarage,
Oxford*

Dear Friends of Cowley,

We should both like to thank most sincerely all those who subscribed to our Farewell Presentation. Your gifts will remind us every day of our thirty happy years in Cowley and of the affection of our many friends there. The Farewell Party was a deeply moving occasion which we shall never forget.

May God bless you all, and the Parish of Cowley under the leadership of your new Vicar.

Your sincere Friends,

Alec G. Whye

Maurice H. Beauchamp

OCTOBER 1962

FATHER WHYE IS A CANON

The Bishop of Oxford announced last month that he had appointed Father Whye to a canonry in recognition of his long service to the Church in this diocese.

Researched by Les Hemsworth





THE COMMUNITY EMERGENCY FOODBANK (CEF) – CHANGES DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

At the end of March 2020, it became clear that we could no longer safely run the foodbank from our three sites in Hollow Way, Littlemore and Barton. We closed CEF for 10 days and then reopened as a delivery service from St Francis Church, Hollow Way. All referrals are now received through an electronic referral system from the relevant agencies. This, at the time, was a radical change in the way we had worked in the past. Many of our volunteers were unable to continue due to their age and vulnerability.

A new team had to be found to provide packers as well as drivers. All deliveries are completed by 2 people from the same household for safety reasons. Packers arrive at 9 am on Tuesday and Friday to complete their task of filling the appropriate food parcels for those who have been referred. Deliveries then start at 11 am when the drivers will arrive at 15-minute intervals to collect their parcels. At present we are delivering to approximately 80 - 90 families a week and feeding over 500 adults and children each month.

None of this would have been possible without the wonderful support we have received from Revd Geoff Bayliss and the Cowley Ministry team. They have been so helpful and flexible, enabling us to use their church premises in a way that we could manage social distancing safely for our volunteer team. Geoff also kindly developed our electronic referral system which has worked brilliantly both for us and all our referral agencies.

The only sadness is that our volunteers no longer have personal contact with the people needing food parcels. It is a bit like providing a Tesco's delivery service! Our drivers only contact with people is a wave at their front door as they come to pick up the food. When this is all over we hope to return to the old system of people coming to collect their food and having a chat over a cup of tea!

The generosity of the general public in Oxford to CEF has been overwhelming, both with food and financial help. Without it we would never have been able to service the volume of people needing help with food over the past year.

Jane Benyon

The following items are needed for the foodbank:

Tins of meat	Long Life Fruit Juice
Tins of Vegetables	Long Life Milk
Coffee Tea and Chocolate	Pasta
Tins of puddings etc	Practical Toiletries (Toilet Rolls, soap, shower gel, toothpaste etc.)
Tins of Fruit	Pasta Sauces
Jams and other spreads.	Practical cleaning products
Sugar	

Please ensure that items are well within their sell by date.

CHURCHES OPENING FOR WORSHIP from 6 December

Holy Communion in one kind only

8.00am St James Holy Communion

10.00am Sunday Worship—*recorded—access from website*

10.00am St Francis Holy Communion

PRIVATE PRAYER IN ST JAMES CHURCH

Wednesday 2.00—4.00 St James

**ALL OTHER ACTIVITIES
SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER
NOTICE—FACEBOOK DAILY
PRAYER TAKES PLACE
MONDAY—SATURDAY 12
NOON,**

**LOCAL PROGRAMME NOT OPERATING AT MOMENT—
LOOK OUT FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

MID-WEEK SERVICES & MEETINGS

Morning Prayer	8.00am	Tue, Thu, Sat at St James; Mon at St Francis
Monday	10.00-11.30am	Little Stars Playgroup— St Francis
	2.30pm	Parish Mothers' Union— St James (3rd Monday)
Tuesday	10.00am	Seashells Toddler Group— St James
	12.00pm	Eucharist—Ranklin Room, St James Church Centre
	12.30pm	Tuesday Lunch Club— St James
Thursday	7.30pm	Local House of Prayer, St James

HOME GROUPS

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

The Parish Office in St James Church Centre is staffed by volunteers and is not covered continually.

Please leave a message and someone will get back to you.

Contact details: Tel: 01865 747680

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01865 461953

Email: markoxbrow@aol.com

Churchwardens:

Christine Woodman Tel: 778078

St Francis : Nick Dewey

Tel: 07952 524664

St James Church Centre Manager:

Chris Woodman Tel: 778078

Hall Bookings:

St James Church Centre, St James Church, St Francis Church: Please contact the Parish Office Tel: 747680

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Paper contributions to the Parish Office.