

A word from the Rectory

I have said it before but I will say it again! Thank you so much to everybody who was involved in the Vision morning.

For each person who turned up it was a lot of hard work but personally it has been so, so helpful. It has enabled me to join with a part of Jesus' family and ask what is important. Since my arrival it has been one of the first occasions when part of the church family has got together and revealed their hearts about faith and the Church. So thank you!

It is very easy for a new vicar to come in and say this is my vision for the parish. But God has been speaking to his family in Cowley for hundreds of years. As He has spoken to you, individually and together, he has been raising in your hearts those things that are important. We can sometimes get lost in the detail but God holds both the detail and the big picture together. From our vision morning I want to draw out some of the big picture concerns.

We completed several tasks. Two of these thought about our own journey with God. What helps our faith to grow and What feeds us. The second group asked what it is that we do well and why do we come together as the Church. We then had a chance to say how important each of these were. In one way it was simple exercise yet it pointed towards the heart of our belief about Church.

Top of the list were things linked with meeting with God, Seeing God in the world around us, knowing we are weak and need God, wanting to spread the good news about God, finding God in creation around us. Again and again we saw that God was at the centre of our life together.

Next were things about spending time together. This showed up in the importance of our home groups, what we call fellowship (spending time together) and time spent eating together.

It became clear that we believe the Bible and Communion are important to us. As Anglicans we are people of the Word (the Bible) and Sacrament (Communion etc.)

High up our list was our conversation with God (prayer, worship). But of equal weight, a realisation that we were a people of welcome. It tells us something about the balance between looking out and caring for ourselves.

What was of equal interest were some of the things that raised less comment than one might have thought - things that take up a lot of time but do not seem as important in the feeding of our faith and the plugging into God- things that we do well, but more of those at another time.

So where does that lead us? What sort of Church do we see ourselves as? You might say:

We are a Church that wishes to connect with God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) and with each other. A Church that is passionate about God's word and the Sacraments. AND a Church of welcome where we wish to help others connect in a similar way.

It seems to provide an agenda for the coming months. What does it mean for us:

- ◆ To connect with God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit)?

Chronicle

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2016

- ◆ To connect with each other?
- ◆ To be passionate about God's Word and the Sacraments?
- ◆ To be a welcoming Church.

And what does it mean when Jesus says:

"I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples: baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And I will be with you always, to the end of the age."




Benson Cottage

3RD COWLEY BROWNIES

My name is Ashlea. I have been a Brownie for almost a year. I am a seconder in the mole six. We do lots of things. We play lots of games which are fun. So far we did a bake off. We decorated cupcakes and I won a red, white and blue spoon.

I have just got my circus skills badge. We juggled with 3 balls. I tried stilt walking with people helping me. I went on a little unicycle and we had a go at spinning plates on our fingers and on sticks. We made some juggling balls. I took part in a litter pick as part of 'Clean for the Queen'. We have toasted marshmallows over candles. They were really yummy and gooey.

Ashlea Higham

Age 7

Mothers' Union News

The June branch meeting was a great success mainly due to our speaker, Geoff, the Rector. He is already a full member of Mothers' Union along with his wife, Mary. Geoff, as many people know was a science teacher before he was ordained so we invited him to talk about the reconciliation between Faith and Science. As is his style he illustrated his talk with slides including photos of himself as a young lad full of curiosity and as a student gaining his degree. The main thrust of his talk invited us to look at the evidence of God's presence in the world, as a scientist would do, and then relate it to our own faith. Simple!

This month our meeting will take the form of our summer tea party. This will be a bring-and-share tea so members are asked to bring a contribution (though not too much as we often have lots of leftovers). We are hoping, too, to have next year's programme in place by then. The party is on July 18th.

We are delighted to welcome visitors to our meetings and are finding that some of them enjoy the meetings and fellowship so much that they are hoping to become members. We have two ladies who will be enrolled around Christmas time and several who are very interested. We are already the largest branch in the Oxford Deanery, a statistic which shows that in our own quiet way we are flourishing.

To celebrate the 140th anniversary of the Worldwide Mothers' Union we are planning a special event. There is more about this in a separate article.

Editor's Letter

Dear Readers

Life at the moment seems to be all about making decisions. As I write, the big one is in or out of Europe. Of course by the time this reaches you that big decision will have been made and our future done and dusted. On a lighter note there is the decision about which football match to watch (or none according to my husband!), whether to put our winter woollies away or hang on to them till the weather improves and whether to sit indoors agonising over our tennis players at Wimbledon or get out in the garden to dead-head the roses.

I would like to pass on, on your behalf, our congratulations to one very bright pupil at St Christopher's School. Her name is Briana Uheru and she has just beaten thousands of children of her age to reach the grand final of the National Top Trumps Schools Tournament. I do not know how many of our readers have ever played this card game but apparently it takes great skill and concentration. We wish her luck in the final, hoping we have a national champion here in Cowley.

As you already know this is my last letter to you

as your editor. For the last ten years I have tried hard to turn The Chronicle from a single-fold newsletter into a real parish magazine reflecting the vibrancy of our two churches. I must admit it has been a bit "St James top-heavy" but we have had some brilliant articles from St Francis haven't we? Of course the magazine you see today depends completely on team work and what a team they have been. My gratitude goes out to Sally, Nicki and May for their wonderful support. In the meantime I hope you are filling in your survey sheets so that the new editor can set about bringing you a fresh and exciting Chronicle in September. I am really looking forward to it. Oh, and don't forget to send in your order form so that your personal copy will be ready for you.

I am not going to say goodbye (I'm still going to be around) just that I am grateful to all the hundreds, yes hundreds, of interviewees who have given me their help, to all those who have written articles and to everyone who values The Chronicle.

God bless

Rosanne

A SUMMER QUIZ DEVISED FOR US BY JOSIE RIGNALL (Answers on page 22)

1. What are Members of Parliament not allowed to do in the House of Commons?
2. In which year was the toothbrush invented?
3. Scientists have developed a new breed of cat called a Lokoi which resembles which fictional character (a) a werewolf; (b) a Cheshire cat; (c) a gremlin?
4. In which country were camels originally found?
5. Why is the sun known as a yellow dwarf?
6. How old was the oldest person in recorded history?
7. How many taste-buds are there on the human tongue?
8. How many times did Friday 13th occur in 2015?

WHO ARE YOUR FAMILY

For Text read Matthew 12: 46-50

This has come to be defined as one of Christ's hard sayings, and we have all struggled with it. His whole ministry was centred on the theme of love and yet here he seems to reject his loving family and in a very brusque way.

However, I recently came across a very reasonable explanation for it, which helped me, and I hope will help you too. Jesus was Jewish and Jews were born into a ready-made easily identifiable community. They also shared a religion, a culture and a language. They did not have to choose it; it was their life. But Jesus' teaching made choices necessary. Those who chose his way would be rejected by their community, because the community thought of them as rejecting the values everyone else lived by.

They would have to find a new community, new friends, new family. Not because they wanted

to but because they had no other option. Jesus spoke these words not because he was rejecting his parents but as a warning to his followers of what they would have to face. And he was pointing them to the new family of believers of which they would be a part, and from which they would get their strength and support.

It is just as true today!

Whenever people re-orientate their lives in Christ, the old community looks askance. It is more extreme in some cultures than others but it always happens.

We need to be prepared for it, and believers need the support of others who believe as they do. This is why it is so important for the church to be a caring community, governed not so much by rules as by love.

John Shreeve

COWLEY PARISH MISSION GIVING 2016

Our God is a generous God. In living as his children, we share in his generosity. Whilst we regularly support several charities during the year with special collections - Christian Aid, the Children's Society, SeeSaw, ROSY, Macmillan, OHCT - we also commit 5% of our Parish planned giving through the green envelopes and standing orders to mission causes: this year that amounts to £2,400.

This has traditionally been divided between 6-8 different Christian causes and now is the time to begin to consider which we will support in 2016. You are invited to nominate a charity: please supply Joan Coleman, Parish Treasurer

with the name and any information material and contact details you have for it, by 31st July. Hand it to her or post it or leave it at the Parish Office or e-mail

ojcoleman@btinternet.com.

The decision is ultimately with the PCC but there will be an open meeting to discuss and recommend the nominations in September - the date will be announced in the Link and on notices.



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SIGNIFICANT DATES IN JULY AND AUGUST

From 1st July 1842 no British child under the age of 16 could be apprenticed as a chimney sweep, thus not sent up chimneys to dislodge the soot.

On 12th July 1910 Charles Royce (of Rolls-Royce) became the first man in Britain to die in a plane crash. He was flying his biplane in a competition at Eastbourne when the rudders broke and the aeroplane hurtled to the ground.

On 14th July 1868 dynamite was first tested and approved in Sweden. The inventor of dynamite was Alfred Nobel who used the huge amount of money he made to set up The Nobel Peace Prize and all the other Nobel prizes.

In 1975 two spacecraft met and docked in Earth orbit. It was the first ever meeting of an American Apollo and a Russian Soyuz. Over the next three days from 17th – 20th July Russians and Americans visited each other, shared jokes and appeared on television.

Oxford University refused for the second time to award Mrs Thatcher an honorary degree on 18th July 1987. They refused as a protest at the conservative policy of educational cutbacks.

Singles charts were published for the first time on 20th July 1940. The first No 1 was "I'll Never Smile Again" by Tommy Dorsey.

At almost midnight on 26th July 1978 the world's first test-tube baby, Louise Brown, was born. She weighed 5lbs 12ozs.

August 1st 1732 saw the foundation of the Bank of England. The foundation stone was laid in London's Threadneedle Street.

Gertrude Ederle, a 19 year-old, became the first woman to swim the English Channel on 6th August 1926. She also set another record for the fastest crossing by more than two hours.

On 11th August 1877 the two moons that circle Mars were first seen. They were named Phobos and Deimos. The larger moon, Phobos, is only 17 miles wide and orbits Mars three times a day.

It was on 14th August 1945 that Japan finally surrendered to the Allies signalling the end of World War 2. The cost of the war in loss of lives was greater than all wars, to that point in time, in world history.

On 16th August 1977 Elvis Presley was found dead in his Memphis mansion home. He was 42.

At 10.02 pm on 27th August 1883 eleven square miles of land on Krakatoa Island collapsed into the volcano's central chamber. The sea roared in causing the biggest explosion ever heard on earth. The roar was heard as far away as Australia and India. 36,417 people died in the series of massive waves that followed.



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Prayers from the Ark

By Carmen Bernos de Gasztold

Translated from the French and with a Foreword and Epilogue by Rumer Godden

THE PRAYER OF THE GOAT

Lord,

Let me live as I will!

I need a little wild freedom,

a little giddiness of heart,

the strange taste of unknown flowers.

For whom else are Your mountains?

Your snow wind? These springs?

The sheep do not understand.

They graze and graze,

all of them, and always in the same direction,

and then eternally

chew the cud of their insipid routine.

But I – I love to bound to the heart of all

Your marvels,

leap Your chasms,

and, my mouth stuffed with intoxicating

grasses,

quiver with an adventurer's delight

on the summit of the world!

AMEN

Apologies for the wrong title last month – it should have read: "The Prayer of the Mouse"

Would YOU like to get more involved?

I took over the job of Parish Treasurer towards the end of 2007. It was a steep learning curve, as they say, and it was, and still is, challenging but extremely rewarding. I now want to step down and give someone else this important role in the Parish. A few months ago, I wrote a summary of what the job entails and it was published in the Chronicle.

If you feel you would like to know more, please get in touch. I have no background in book-keeping or finance and I have managed it, so can you! To help, we use two software programmes which do a lot of the work for you - except entering all the data! I won't just walk away either, we could work together for a while.

Joan Coleman

ojcoleman@btinternet.com or phone 01865 770865

COWLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

For the past couple of years Cowley Women's Institute Annual Garden Party has been held inside the Church Centre because it was too hot and uncomfortable outside. This year it was not the heat that kept us indoors – it was a thunderstorm! But our spirits were not dampened and we enjoyed a social afternoon with cream teas, quizzes, a competition, a floral bring and buy sale, and, of course, a raffle.

Our last meeting before the summer break will be held on Wednesday, 20 July, when there will be speakers on two topics – Associated Country Women of the World and the Message in a Bottle Scheme.

We look forward to welcoming you then.

Ann Withers

President, Cowley WI

DIARY DATES TO REMEMBER

Mothers' Union

Monthly Meeting on 3rd Monday of month from 2.30pm. July Meeting: Summer Tea Party
August Meeting: Decorate a Mug for Fun—all invited to a tea party on 20th August 2.30-4pm
St James Church Centre

Women's Institute

Monthly Meeting is on 3rd Wednesday of month from 2 – 4.30 pm
July Meeting: Associated County Women of the World and the Marriage in a Bottle Scheme
August: No Meeting
St James Church Centre

Coffee, Cake and Communion

Monthly meeting on 3rd Tuesday of month from 10.30 a.m.
With Rev Skye at the Vicarage, 27 Don Bosco Close (Tel: 434160)

Fun Day - "Under the Sea"

Saturday, 2 July 2016 10 – 2pm
St Francis Church

Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday, 3 July 2016, at 12.45 pm
St James Church Centre

History of Cowley – Continuing the series of talks:

6 July 2016
6.45 pm for 7 – 8.30 pm
St James Church Centre
£5.00 an evening
In aid of St James Old School

Film Club

Friday, 8 July 2016 – "The Man who would be King"
St James Church Centre, commencing at 6.30 pm with coffee and cake

Seaside Trip

9 July 2016
Being organised by the Anglican Asian Church – Watch out for the notices

Parish Social Committee

Tuesday, 12 July 2016, at 7.30 pm
Vicarage, Don Bosco Close

Open Garden

Saturday, 23 July 2016, 2 – 4 pm
61 White Road

St James Day Celebrations

Sunday, 24 July 2016
4 pm Family BBQ - St James Church Centre
6 pm Songs of Praise – St James Church

Visit to Edward King Chapel, Ripon College, Cuddesdon

Thursday, 28 July 2016
Choice of 10 – 12 and 2 – 4 pm
See Notice in Church

Christmas Tree Festival Meeting

Friday, 9 September 2016
9.30 am St James Church Centre

Parish Sunday Lunch

Sunday, 25 September 2016 at 12.30 pm
St James Church Centre

No traditional Sunday Lunch during July and August – but see details of St James Patronal Day celebrations

REMEMBER – Tuesday Lunches at St James Church Centre from 12.30 pm

A little boy was saying his prayers in an extra-ordinarily loud voice. "Please, God, I want a new bike for my birthday". His brother asked him why he was shouting, saying "God is not deaf, you know". "No, but Granny is" came the little boy's reply.

Arrested for Telling Stories

Have you ever enjoyed telling the story of Jesus and his disciples when they got caught in the storm on the lake. Jesus was asleep in the boat, the disciples were very afraid, but then Jesus was able to calm the wind and waves. It makes a great story to tell young children, especially with all the sound effects. Perhaps you are part of the parish "Open the Book" team and have used that story in one of our parish schools.

Last month a team of five volunteers from an organisation called Teach for Nepal went to a small village in Nepal to help in two Christian schools. This was in a region that was badly affected by the earthquake last year. They were welcomed by the two headteachers, Prakash Pradhan and Brimal Shahi. The children in the schools, who are a mixture of Christian children and those from Hindu families, enjoyed the visit and were encouraged to hear that even when there is a storm, or the earth shakes as it did last year, Jesus is able to bring calm and security. The visitors also gave them useful items like socks and a towel as well as a small book in their own language with this story of Jesus and the storm.

The next thing that happened was that the police arrived and arrested all five of the team members and the two headteachers. They have been charged with teaching children about Jesus and distributing Christian literature, even though many of the children were from Christian homes. This could only happen because the constitution in Nepal was changed last year making it illegal to encourage other people to change their faith. As I write this the group are waiting to be sentenced but the local police are saying that they will be imprisoned for 3 to 6 years – a severe

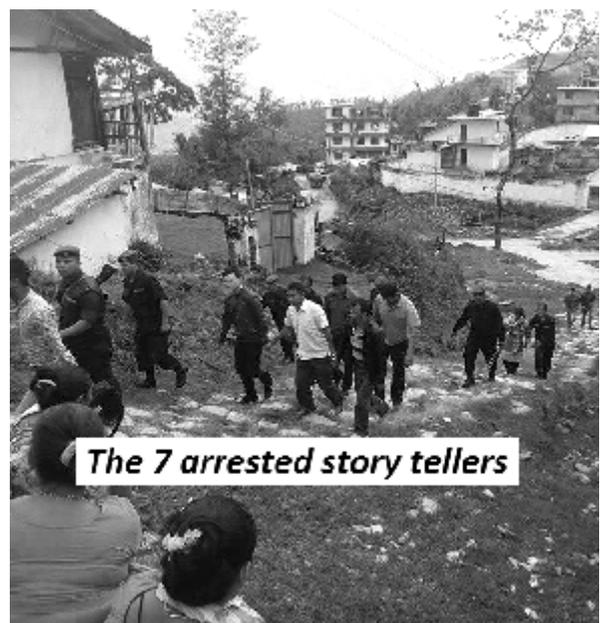
punishment for telling children a wonderful story!

An international prayer campaign has been launched to ensure that the six men and one woman are set free immediately. Please take a few minutes right now to pray for this. You will be joining thousands around the world.

One of the workers from Teach for Nepal (not one of those arrested) was with me at our Faith2Share Leadership Consultation in Bangalore (India) in April. He is keeping me informed about this case. (You can also see this story on our website at www.faith2share.net) Next time you read or tell a Bible story to some children just thank God that you are not doing something illegal and risking imprisonment and that here in Cowley we have the freedom which so many Christians lack in other parts of the world.

Mark Oxbrow

International Director, Faith2Share



BUSY TIME FOR GROWING – BUT WATCH THOSE SLUGS!

June's warmth and rain has certainly made lush growth. I was only away for 2 days but I could really see the difference in the garden and greenhouse. My side border is bulging with plants placed there as well as self-sown. The forget-me-nots were pretty while they lasted and it was amazing how much growth they had made when I pulled them up. I have recently also been pulling out the poppies that had seeded themselves and they nearly filled the brown bin! It apparently is a good year for slugs and snails. I can testify to that. A couple of my dahlias are desperately struggling to grow but obviously are a delicacy of the molluscan world.

The back border with its fruit trees is beginning to green up too. I have sown lots of annuals there like Californian poppy, cornflowers and pot marigolds to give colour and to attract bees and other insects. The problem is that the soil is riddled with bindweed. Early evening weeding sessions are quite contemplative, though you have to watch where you are treading so you don't tread on growing seedlings.

The roses, planted last summer, are really blooming well. Another job is to dead head the spent flowers to encourage more to form. The roses are definitely spectacular being colourful and plentiful but, sadly, not for visiting bees and butterflies. I have a small viburnum tree, I think. It's always been there and I haven't been able to track down its name. Whatever it is called, I delight in it at the moment as it is full of bees buzzing and taking nectar from the flowers. There are small bumble bees and also honey bees. There are at least 2 people locally that have hives but they can come from as far as three miles away to a good nectar source.

The allotment is doing well too. We are near to the time when my other half and I argue whether it is time to harvest our first early potatoes. I usually am right and he usually reluctantly agrees that it was the right time! You can't beat freshly dug new potatoes. Sweet corn, peas, runner, French and broad beans are all on track to give us their bounty. This cannot be said for my herb plots, though. Although there was some initial germination, everything has disappeared! We never seem to catch them at it, but I feel it is our slimy friends again!

Saturday August 20th is the day of the Elder Stubbs Festival. Do come to help the Restore charity as well as taking in all the activities and looking at all the plots. I usually contribute to the veg show but sadly, not many other allotment holders do. It was rather sparse last year. Come down. Access is by the 2 gates on Rymers Lane. Meanwhile, I am going to enjoy the summer. Though there is lots of work to be done, I will make time to just sit and enjoy Nature at work.

Joan Coleman

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Rosanne interviews Rosanne Butler

It has been suggested on a number of occasions that someone should interview the Editor of The Chronicle so as this is the last month when she will actually be in that position I thought it was high time to rectify this.

The first question I usually put to my interviewees is "What brought you to Cowley?" and like so many people it was marriage which was the reason. Having married Frank in her little parish church of SS Simon and Jude in Milton-under-Wychwood on St James Day in 1959 she came, after their honeymoon, to live, first in East Oxford and Cowley where the couple now live. However, a lot of living happened for Rosanne before that.

Born in 1936 in Carshalton in Surrey she was the only child of what she describes a modern (for those days) couple who loved people and had all kinds of interests. Her parents were "party people" and Rosanne grew up in a small semi-detached house full of books, music and fun. Her father was a skilled carpenter and joiner ("like Jesus" she told everyone when she was a little girl!) and her mother, who gave up work when she was born, had been a housekeeper and lady's maid in a wealthy family of diamond merchants. Not that there was ever a lot of money to spare in

her home as the Great Depression of the 'thirties was just over and soon along came a world war. By this time her parents had bought their own home in Surrey, one of the most vulnerable counties in Southern England. So they decided that come what may they would build an air-raid shelter in the back garden and sit out the war. Rosanne well remembers her little bunk bed in the shelter and settling down to sleep with the air-raid sirens sounding and searchlights sweeping the sky. Never mind, she and her teddy were safe and warm.

After the Battle of Britain in 1940 the blitz really began and it was clear that danger was imminent. Her parents decided that a safer place was a sensible move for Rosanne and her mum. With relatives living in Witney (Oxfordshire) they left her father behind and moved in with two aunts and uncles. It was very squashed and another move was needed. The woodworkers of London were offered a chance to work on the frames of wooden aircraft at the de Havilland factory in Witney of all places. Her father jumped at the chance and joined his wife and little daughter in the over-crowded digs. But not for long. They soon found a tiny cottage in the village of Northmoor, six miles away.

Rosanne has fond memories of

her childhood home. No electricity or gas, no running water, a well outside the front door, a loo at the bottom of a huge garden, but surrounded by fields and safe, it was a happy place. No sooner had they moved in than her mother suggested that she ought to do something about school. The two-room little village school was a short walk away down a puddly lane. Rosanne can describe in detail the day she was taken to school and how she loved it so much she wanted to stay there and then. Some of her happiest memories are of her time there. She loved her head teacher and within a few weeks knew that she was going to be a teacher too in years to come.

The threat of war was far from the village though, of course, rationing, digging for victory and all the other war efforts were much in evidence. But there were always the hedgerows with flowers and birds' nests, the farming year, and best of all the church. Taken to the little church on Ascension Day with her fellow pupils for a simple service something stirred in her heart and when her little friend told her that she could even go to church on a Sunday she rushed home from school and begged her mum to let her go. Thus began her life-long relationship with God whom she worships and Jesus whom she

calls her best friend.

School was a constant delight once she had got over some teasing because of her Surrey accent. The one bugbear was learning to do copperplate writing with a dip-in pen. From there, aged eleven, she passed her scholarship (11+ exam) to be admitted to Witney Grammar School. Here again she soon settled down to strange subjects such as Latin, algebra and physics. Quite a "bouncy" teenager she did well though one of her school reports declares that she "has too much to say and in a very loud voice"! Anyway from prefect status to head girl she went on to pass her GCE and A level exams and to have the required attainment to move on to Goldsmiths College at the University of London. She was well on the way to attaining her teaching ambition. Her college days were wonderful, she says.

It is at this point that she thought it was time to bring her life-long partner Frank into the picture. After the Second World War the Butler family moved to Northmoor where Frank's father had returned from the army to resume his job as a dairyman and herdsman for one of the local farmers.

Rosanne was aged nine when Frank became one of the village boys and she well remembers the first time she met him. Soon she and he were travelling by bus to secondary school in

Witney along with the other village children. Aged fifteen Frank went to Army Apprentice College in South Wales and asked her to write the occasional letter to him. So their friendship grew and when he was sent abroad in the regular army seventeen-year-old Rosanne continued to keep in touch. Three and a half years later, by which time she had completed her qualifications and was a teacher in Buckinghamshire he returned, friendship turned to love and that eventually led to the wedding I mentioned at the beginning.

After their marriage they set up home in a little flat in Cowley Road. Frank had left the army and began his career at the Service Department of British Leyland. Rosanne began her teaching years at Cowley St James School and "discovered" St James Church. Coincidentally it was an Ascension Day service for the children in 1960 which saw her taking her class into the church. She had already looked for a church in which to worship but nowhere felt quite so "right" for her as our parish church.

After nearly twelve years – very happy ones – at St James, the little school was closing and it was time to move on. A short stay of three years at New Marston Primary and it was again a time of change when Oxford Education Department went into the three tier system

and Rosanne decided to opt for a middle school. She was lucky enough to be appointed a senior teacher at Donnington Middle School. She continued to teach there for twenty two years until her retirement.

In the meantime she had become the mother of a daughter, Helen, and a son, Robert. She and Frank bought a little terraced house in East Oxford where they lived until their growing family required more space. Then they bought the house in St Omer Road where they still live.

Never one to take it easy Rosanne recalls being a full-time teacher, a busy wife and mum, a member of the PCC and church committee as well as writing and producing plays, reviews and pantomimes in the old Parish Hall. She also followed in her parents' footsteps by having lots of friends and parties at her home. Like everyone else she also had elderly parents to be taken into consideration.

Her retirement from teaching has seen her and Frank travelling extensively round the world. They have also been active volunteers in all sorts of parish activities. Now that she has been editor of our parish magazine for ten years she feels it is time to hand over to someone younger. "It needs a fresh approach" she is often heard to say. I wonder what the next phase in her life will bring.

How would you describe yourself as a young child?

As an only child I was quite happy in my own company. I loved reading – about everything – and was a real country girl learning the names of wild flowers, trees and birds.

Have you any never-to-be-forgotten memories of childhood?

Lots! However I want to describe the wonderful evening I experienced on VE night.

After Evensong on a Sunday evening I always wanted to get my mum and dad to go round to “The Red Lion” for a drink and I could play with the village children on the pub lawn. They never would. “School in the morning” they would say and home we would go. BUT on VE night it happened. They did go into the pub and I was outside with other kids with pop and a bag of crisps – I was in heaven. As it got dark the huge bonfire was lit on the village green and crowds gathered. Singing, dancing and lots of drinking took place. Not my mum and dad but many people got drunk (I had never seen this before) but it was a happy evening and best of all as mum tucked me up in bed the church clock struck one in the morning. I was ecstatic.

Has your faith been with you since childhood?

Absolutely, yes, and it has never wavered.

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

Without any doubt it was my wonderful headmistress at my village school.

Do you have a special possession?

My emerald engagement ring. I remember so well when Frank slipped it on my finger.

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

I loved bringing up my lovely babies. The other special time was my teaching years especially when a TV company chose my class and me to feature in a prime-time television programme.

How do you feel about modern society?

I am an eternal optimist. People all over the world are basically nice but I am also a realist and acknowledge that Satan is about and there are many examples of real evil around. It breaks my heart.

If you could change something in a big way what would you do?

I would provide every child in the world with a secure and happy childhood. They would

each have love, a settled home, enough to eat and drink, a good education, toys and space to play and have fun. I believe that if that miracle could happen the world in future would be at peace.

How do you spend your leisure time?

I am a keen scrabble player. I read widely and copiously. I enjoy the theatre and the cinema. I listen to music from Beethoven to all kinds of jazz. I love good television. I follow sport especially football, cricket and Formula One. I am never happier than sharing a chilled glass of white wine with Frank in our pretty garden. I also cherish the time I spend with Helen and Robert.

What plans do you have for the future?

I fully intend to never slow down (some hopes!!) but I have plans to write and publish a little book about the story of my beloved Cowley. I still have places in the world that are waiting for me sokeep going Rosanne.

Rosanne would also like to point out the hundreds of children that she taught and counts as real friends – all different, all lovely.

GOD IN THE LIFE OF ED LING

On the evening of Wednesday 8th June, at The Filling Station,* Marsh Baldon, Ed was asked to share his story of what God has done in his life. This is what he said:-

'Hello everyone! I am Ed Ling. I have lived in 5 places in the UK – Norfolk, Rochdale, London, Birmingham and Oxford; I have had 5 jobs – butcher, nurse + nurse tutor, university lecturer + admissions tutor, handyman and now I'm a furniture maker and I have been a member of 5 denominations – Methodist, Pentecostal, Baptist, C of E (St Aldates) and "Anglican" (St James, Cowley)!

'I have 1 wife, 2 sons-in-law, 3 daughters, 4 brothers and 5 grandchildren. Jill and I celebrate our Ruby Wedding Anniversary this year. I left the education system with 2 'O'-levels but now have 3 degrees; I entered a long dark tunnel and had to retire from Brookes University on health grounds at the age of 42, with burn-out and breakdown; I spent 2 years as a 'couch potato' but now run my own bespoke furniture making business which breaks even financially; I currently have 'unique' heart problems and am under investigation at the JR.

'I asked the Lord Jesus into my life when I was 15 and started to learn Bible verses. Many verses have been special to me but one of the most special is Lamentations 3 v22 and 23 'The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Thy faithfulness'. I am now 62 and can honestly state that throughout my life God has been faithful. I could tell you countless times when I have known the presence of God, the love of the Father, the redeeming blood of the Son and the enabling of the Holy Spirit. Another tremendous verse is John 3 v16 'For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life'. That is amazing!

'There's so much I could tell you of specific events, occasions, happenings, good times and bad times when the steadfast love of the Lord has been in action. There isn't time to go into them all now. Suffice to say I am learning to be a human being – being enveloped in the presence of God, relying on and enjoying His mercies which are new every morning'.

Ed was thanked for sharing his story. We worshipped God led by Phil Lawson Johnson. Then the speaker for the evening, Tom Tarrant, told us how the faithfulness of God rescued him from being part of the Ku Klux Klan as he met with Jesus in his prison cell.

Maybe I could write more of Tom's story some other time?

Jill Ling

*The Filling Station': monthly mid-week evening 'celebration' meetings held in non-church venues with high quality speakers and teachers, contemporary sung worship and powerful, accessible prayer ministry. <http://thefillingstation.org.uk/>



OFFICIAL OPENING AT THE VENUE

Cowley does not have a Community Centre any more. No, we have a suite of community rooms called The Venue. They are situated at the top of Barns Road next door to the new Emmaus shop (the biggest charity shop in the county) and below some smart flats. The Venue has an imposing frontage of plate-glass windows. The whole complex looks very shiny and modern. The interior decor reflects this with bright orange and yellow paintwork and, of course, nice smart furniture.

I was invited to attend the opening ceremony although this was not an exclusive occasion. As befits the nice ordinariness of Cowley everyone was invited, not just guests, to witness our new Lord Mayor, Mohammed Altaf-Khan, cut the bright red ribbon to officially open The Venue. Before the ceremony I was shown round by one of our county councillors, Christine Simm and then I joined the most appreciative audience who were entertained by two community choirs. The choirs came from Blackbird Leys and the Ark-T centre. They sang splendidly and we, the audience, were encouraged to join in. It was all great fun. There were refreshments, face-painting for the children and the presentation of awards for "local heroes" including Jane Benyon on the Community Food Bank and Brian Tidy, our long serving organist.

The management people at The Venue are very keen for the local community to hire the rooms. There are three spaces for a variety of uses. There is a very small room for a meeting space, a medium sized room (about twice the size of our Ranklin Room) and a good sized hall which has a sliding screen which can divide the space into two smaller rooms. There is a nice entrance hall and a kitchen. At the back of the building there is a very nice paved garden with a lovely pavilion and outside seating. This area is going to be developed further with more planting and has great potential.

I would recommend anyone to go and see what an asset this building could be for our area. My one criticism is that outside the lovely picture windows is a bus-stop and I am sure that if you were holding a special party you would not want a queue of people gazing in on you. By the way I did point this out to the management and they agreed that the bus stop will have to be moved.

Rosanne Butler

Shaun Guard

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RECIPES

Two more dishes from counties in Britain:

Squab Pie – from Cornwall

1 ½ lb stewing lamb or cooked diced lamb
(Squabs are Cornish for pigeons so lamb can be used as a substitute)

1lb sliced onions

1lb cooking apples, peeled and sliced

Mixed herbs (fresh are best – chopped)

4 fl oz vegetable stock

12ozs shortcrust or puff pastry

½ pt double or clotted cream

Ground pepper

Preheat oven to 200°C, gas mark 6.

Arrange meat and onions and apples in alternate layers in a pie dish. Sprinkle the herbs over and pour in the stock. Season with pepper.

Cover with the pastry and cook for about 30 minutes till pastry is done.

Turn down the oven heat to 160°, gas mark 3 and cook for another hour. If the pastry starts to brown too much, cover with foil.

Remove pie from the oven and gently lift off the pastry lid. Stir in the cream and pop the pastry lid back on. Return the pie to the oven for a few more minutes to ensure it is piping hot when served.

A policeman was taking down details from a woman he had just stopped for speeding. “Tell me, madam, what gear were you in?” he asked. “Oh, I had my pretty pink two piece on and a nice white blouse”.

Blackberry Tea Bread – also from Cornwall

12ozs plain flour, sifted

1 teaspoon mixed spice

6ozs soft butter

6ozs caster sugar

8ozs fresh or frozen blackberries (can be used straight from the freezer)

Grated rind and juice of one lemon

1 tablespoon black treacle

½ teaspoon bicarbonate of soda

2 tablespoon milk

2 beaten eggs

Preheat oven to 180°C, gas mark 4.

Grease and line a 2 lb loaf tin.

Mix the flour and spice, then rub in the butter with fingertips ‘till mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs. Add sugar, blackberries, lemon juice and rind, treacle and eggs. Mix well.

Dissolve the bicarbonate of soda in the milk, add to the mixture and beat well.

Pour into the prepared tin. Level the mixture off and bake for 45 minutes. Reduce the oven temperature to 150°C, gas mark 2 and cook for between 30 and 45 minutes until a skewer comes out clean when tested.

Remove from the oven and leave in the tin for about 15 minutes. Turn on to a wire rack to cool.



5TH COWLEY GUIDES

The Guides have been busy since the beginning of the year. They have completed their World Cultures badge. To gain this they had to cook dishes in their patrols from another country, find out about that country and decorate their tables. They tried some henna painting, staged an international fashion show and had to act out a story in their patrols using shadow puppets they had made.

The Guides completed Go For It. These are challenges that they choose, organise and complete in their patrols. They decided to do Globalistic, Sport and Blast from the Past.

We held a meeting at Jubilee House in May where the Guides played a wide game, did a scavenger hunt, made and lit a campfire and sang songs. We finished the evening with two Guides making their promise and toasting marshmallows and eating them squashed between two chocolate biscuits (smores).

Since Easter the Guides have been working towards three different badges. The first being 'Whatever the Weather' for this they have found out about clouds, made igloos out of marshmallows, planted sunflower seeds, made giant bubble blowers, made and raced straw rockets, and the

played blow football.

The second badge was the 'Fire Challenge'. This included making a fire action plan, fire safety scavenger hunt, learnt how to lay and light a campfire, decorated tea light holders and made toffee apples.

The third badge the Guides are working on is an ongoing challenge to celebrate the senior section being 100 years old this year. The Guides have chosen the clauses they want to complete and we are working towards this.

One of our Guides, Madeline, is working towards her Baden Powell Challenge and ran a brilliant bake off night. The guides were put in groups and had a time limit to make a mixture, cook and decorate cake pops. She then judged them with the winning team gaining a silver bake off spoon each. Madeline managed to organise and run the entire evening and even had filler activities while we were waiting for the cakes to cook.

Some of the Guides are joining 1st Blackbird Leys Guides and are going camping in the beginning of August.

Cynthia Retter

DECORATE A MUG FOR FUN

As a special occasion and celebration Cowley Mothers' Union are inviting everyone to come along to the Church Centre on Saturday, 20th August for a tea party. There will be tea and cakes for the grown-ups and juice and nibbles for the children. By the way that does not mean that the children cannot have a cup of tea and cake if they like and vice versa.

The special part of the afternoon, though, is the chance to decorate a mug for yourself. The mugs and all the coloured pens and paints will be provided. It is assured that the finished product is permanent and will become a family heirloom. You do not have to be artistic (though it is great if you are!). Just see what you can do. It won't be too messy either (promise).

We want to welcome you from 2.30 to 4.30 pm so do come and have fun

37TH OXFORD SCOUT GROUP

The Explorers have been working on their Duke of Edinburgh Award and the various challenges that are involved with that. We recently held a practice expedition where the explorers had to be self-sufficient for two days and took responsibility for their own navigation around rural Oxfordshire! This has shown all of them what to expect when they tackle their qualifying expeditions later in the year! The DofE challenges also include the explorers taking on elements of volunteering within the community, learning a new skill and developing themselves through a physical activity.

At the end of February, we entered three teams into the Oxfordshire winter challenge- an 18 mile hike along the Ridgeway organised by Oxfordshire scouts. We had very determined scouts and parents who completed the whole course and raised some funds which will be used to buy some much-needed tents and other equipment for the group!

We are taking 16 scouts and explorers to Essex

International Jamboree at the end of July - a week-long camp where our young people will be camping alongside thousands of other scouts from all over the UK and the world! We attended the event four years ago and it was brilliant, so we are all excited about attending again this year, with even more young people than previously! We have been fundraising for the event- including a 24 hour table tennis marathon held at the hut and last weekend a bag packing session at Tesco in Cowley! We always aim to make the cost of the summer camp as low as possible for all those attending, so will be working on other fundraising ventures in the lead up to the summer!

We are very lucky to have a lot of dedicated leaders and supportive parents at the 37th and are very grateful to everyone that helps us to continue to offer the opportunities to our young people!

David Nutt

A CONCERT FIT FOR A QUEEN

I have used the heading for this article deliberately as the concert, held in St James Church on Saturday, 11th June would have been of a standard high enough to present to royalty. It had been planned to coincide with the celebrations for the Queen's 90th birthday and was a huge success.

The main entertainers of the evening were the men of the Oxford Welsh Male Voice Choir and what a fine and tuneful choir they are! Their programme ranged from "Myfanwy" to "The Rhythm of Life" with soloists, harmony and in unison.

The audience was invited to join them in several items accompanied by Brian Tidy on the church organ. We nearly lifted off the church roof.

The programme was enhanced by a beautiful performance by Emily Jensensus on her viola playing a sonata by Schubert. Emily is the talented choir mistress of the choir at St James Church. We also enjoyed a delightful interlude presented by Roz Ware. Her lovely soprano voice soared through "Oh for the wings of a dove", "Pie Jesu" and "Over the Rainbow".

The organisers Chris Woodman and Margaret Weller should be very proud of their efforts and the outcome of the whole evening.

News from Richard Chand

It has been a long while since I have written a piece for the Chronicle. I write this one which includes great respect and thanks to our retiring editor Rosanne Butler. Rosanne who has built up the Parish Magazine with great hard work and passion with the rest of her team. She leaves the Parish Magazine which is much read and appreciated in a new phase with a newly installed Rector and a new Vision to move on to. Rosanne as our Bible scripture quotes 'Well done thy good servant of the Lord.' Amongst other things she organises and is involved in, this particular role will no doubt miss her great special editorial touches and personality. Whether it will be hard or easy to replace you only the Lord knows but however we must get praying to find a successor to find the new direction and purpose for the Chronicle complementing the goal and the new Vision for the Cowley Parish.

Thanks also Rosanne for always being supportive and encouraging of the 'Anglican Asian Living Church Project.' Rosanne has always given positive feedback and has appreciated my sermons over the years at the St. James end of the Parish. I remember being interviewed by Rosanne for the Chronicle in which she mentioned that she also had interviewed my Father Rev Wazir Chand. She treasured the fond memories of Dad's and my mother's Mrs Joyce Chand's Ministry in the Cowley Parish. Rosanne also interviewed my wife Rebecca and she did so in such a loving yet professional manner. Rosanne, I (in my capacity as Cowley Parish Team Ministry Clergy and Priest of the Anglican Asian Living Church project) wish you all the best for the future.

Regarding the rest of my Ministry as an update, as far as my Parish work is concerned I am still a SSM in the Cowley Parish Team Ministry. I Celebrate

or Preach at St. James and St. Francis two services in the month with the new situation I am in. I help out with the occasional services and other events of the Parish as well. I enjoy Parish work very much but need to keep working at the Post Office as well. Rebecca, Elisabeth, Daniel and I will be leaving Moore House residence as agreed by October this year. We will move back to our house in Barton and will be doing the Parish and Asian Church duties and services travelling from Barton.

The Church is growing and is in its 2nd year of its five year Vision. One of its goals is to become self-sufficient. A goal that has been achieved already was to purchase a PA system. One goal is to claim gift aid from the offering and tithes from the congregation. Nicki Stevens is helping us set up the scheme to start claiming. That will be a useful resource for the Church. The Asian Church for this summer has organised a seaside trip to Bournemouth on Saturday 9th July and already members of both St. James and St. Francis will be joining and enjoying the day out together. It will be lots of good fun together.

Wishing everyone a good, happy and enjoyable summer with plenty of blessings,

Richard

Answers to Summer Quiz:

1. Clap
2. 1830
3. A tiny werewolf
4. North America
5. Because it is a dying star –Millions of years from now it will become a black hole.
6. 122 years 164 days – Jeanne Louise Calment died in 1997 in a French care home.
7. 10,000
8. 3

BEING A FILM EXTRA – The Big Sneeze and A Stitch in Time

Enjoying the long awaited June sun and watching the bees swarm round the scented blooms that appear to have shot up overnight reminded me of filming Cider with Rose near Stroud. It was a beautiful hot summer's day with the sounds of cattle lowing, bees buzzing, and a gentle breeze wafting through the trees broken only by intermittent sneezing, mainly by me. Being a long term sufferer from Hayfever did not bode well as today we were cast as peasants "bringing in the sheaves" while Rosie and co. had a little scene under the haycart. I found out that day what my actual allergy was! To aid my discomfort I pulled my peasant cap way over my head so I was able to wear sun glasses to protect my streaming eyes (these were donated by a comrade in arms who picked them up as a free gift at the local MacDonalds). Up my left sleeve was a large toilet roll and up my right sleeve was the used segments. Whenever the Director called "Action", I took a deep breath and held it until he called "Cut", then spent the break continuously sneezing. So if you see this film starring Timothy Spall and Juliet Stevenson, and wonder why an exhausted field worker appears to have large muscular arms and dark glasses, she's not a time traveller, it's just me yearning to get back to the 20th century and the local chemist!

In its second heyday, Oxford Prison was often used as a backdrop for the long running series "The Bill" which was very convenient as being local we could have a lay-in and pop on a bus down Town instead of getting up before dawn and driving for hours. I didn't want to lose this local opportunity when I had a call from my agent asking if I could use an industrial sewing machine", so I said "Yes" and popped up to see my sister who had an electric sewing machine to practice on. I might have been stretching the truth but it's not like some requests we have like, can you horse ride/ski/bungee jump/sword fight and other life-challenging skills as you never, ever, know exactly what the Director has in mind.

There were 12 would-be machinists for a scene that day, all pertaining to be industrial machinists, although I appeared to be the best qualified having practiced on my sister's machine and having a best friend who actually did it for a living. We were shepherded into a room whereby I made a bee-line to the one that looked most like the one I had practised on, and within minutes was zipping my piece of cloth through my machine looking rather smug. So smug, in fact, that my skill caught the eye of the A.D. who had noticed my friend Janet struggling with what looked like a very complicated piece of machinery. He brought her over to me. "As you are obviously skilled, could you show this lady how to work the machine" he asked. Always willing to help out a fellow S.A. I sat her down and within minutes of my newly learned skill I had her zipping along with her sewing.

The A.D. was very impressed and suggested I swapped machines! I sat down with only minutes to work out which end was which and after frantically switching and pushing every button and lever there was, I ascertained the alarming discovery that the cotton had been snarled up in a big ball by my friend, hence jamming the works.

"Action" shouted the Director, and all my friends bent over their machines buzzing away at their work. What did I do? Brainwave! I picked up the end of the loose cotton and pretended to thread the needle. I even had praise from the Director for my realism. I was so elated (and relieved) that if there had been a camel nearby I could probably have threaded him as well.

Sue Hallett



NEWS FROM ST FRANCIS

This is very much a 'hands on' time for us at St Francis with several baptisms and a Fun Day in the offing. At a recent baptism attended by a large family party Skye managed to combine an All Age Service along with a baptism, a clever move. There our bible presentation was meaningful and well received. Joel, as usual, played a leading part and was instrumental in encouraging the youngsters to do their bit, as well.

Our Fun Day coming up on the 2nd July has an undersea theme to it so it should be interesting. We are looking for volunteers to help with the varied tasks involved to make it a successful venture. The more the merrier, as they say. So please do not hesitate to come forward if you think you can help.

In all of these things we are trying to inspire members of our congregation to think of

themselves as 'church' and get involved more often.

The lay people of our Church of England were once referred to as 'God's frozen people', and to a certain extent that is fair comment. We need to be more adventurous, and there is an old saying "You never know what you can do until you try! - and that is very true.

John Shreeve



WE NEED AN EDITOR – PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE:

The supporting team will be unable to continue after this edition unless an Editor comes forward – May, Nicki and Sally are very willing to continue to help but we need an Editor.

All our thanks to Rosanne for her ten years as the Editor from the Chronicle Team.

Your Parish Needs you!



Might you be the person God is calling to take the Chronicle on a new journey? We need a **NEW EDITOR** to work with a well-established team for our Church Magazine from this August. If that is you or for further info, speak to our Rector or Vicar. **ASAP**

CHRONICLE

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

Deadline for the next edition:
Wednesday 24 August 2016

If possible, please send entries by email to Sally at

chronicle@cowleyteamministry.co.uk

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SAINTS OF THE MONTHS— ST MARTHA & ST EBBE

Everyone who knows their New Testament will “know” St Martha. She was the sister of Mary and Lazarus. All three were very close friends of Jesus.

There are two extremely human stories involving her. One is the moment when she lost her patience with her sister and let fly at her. Jesus was their guest most probably accompanied by quite a few of his disciples. They were in Martha’s home for a meal and there was a lot to be done. Instead of making herself busy in the kitchen with her sister, Mary sat herself at Jesus’ feet. Poor Martha, rushed off her feet, gave Mary a telling off and in exchange is gently reprimanded by Jesus. It is easy to feel a bit sorry for her.

The other, and more poignant, story is the occasion when Jesus was far from their home and their dear brother died. It was four days later that Jesus arrived. It is not difficult to read between the lines when Jesus raises Lazarus from the tomb and guess how Martha and Mary reacted emotionally. What a beautiful miracle and an act of love on the part of Jesus.

Other implications involving Martha are the references to the hospitality she, her sister and brother extended to Jesus and his followers on a number of occasions. One would guess that they were about the same age as Our Lord and some of his closest friends. Their home at Bethany was the place where Jesus spent time and had supper before his final journey to Jerusalem at the beginning of Holy Week.

There is no reference of her death and we really do not know whether the legend about her is true. In the Middle Ages her relics were supposed to have been discovered in Tarascon in Provence. She is honoured as the patron saint of housewives and she is portrayed in iconography holding a ladle, a broom or a bunch of keys. She is represented in Chichester Cathedral and in our own parish church in scenes of the Raising of Lazarus.

This close and loving friend of Jesus is commemorated on 29th July.

Ebbe was a princess, the daughter of the King of Northumbria who died in 616 AD. After her father’s death Ebbe fled to Scotland because the new King had killed her father in battle and she knew her life was in danger. She took refuge in Coldingham in Berwickshire and entered into holy orders. The religious establishment that she entered was a double monastery where both monks and nuns were housed. Ebbe became Lady Abbess and was joined by her aunt who had separated from her husband (a king of another North of England Kingdom). Her aunt went on to found her own monastery in Ely. This King, Egfrith, turned up at Ebbe’s monastery with his new wife who was taken ill with some kind of seizure. Abbess Ebbe, by now well known for her wisdom interpreted this as a punishment for both the King and his second wife. She blamed them for the imprisonment of Wilfrid, a wise and religious counsellor whom they feared because of his declaration against them. King Egfrith on Ebbe’s advice set Wilfrid free and the queen recovered.

In her later life Ebbe got herself into a spot of trouble because of the state of her community. She was reprimanded by a senior priest for allowing her nuns to weave fine cloth to dress up in pretty clothes like brides instead of their dull habits. More than that they were said to be trying to attract the attention of “strange men” and even neglecting their vigils and prayers. The monks were getting lazy too. The little community straightened themselves out but sadly only a few years after Ebbe’s death the monastery was burnt down. She died, an elderly lady, in 683AD.

Despite these misdemeanors Ebbe’s reputation for holiness remained. Her popularity grew during the Middle Ages and her relics are still at rest in Durham and Coldingham where she first took refuge. The priory there is just over a mile away from her own establishment.

Oxford is one of the few places where her name is remembered. The area of St Ebbe’s and the church dedicated to her have been part of the city for many centuries. Ebbe’s feast day is celebrated on 25th August.

FRIENDS OF ST JAMES OLD SCHOOL

Our own 'local historian' Rosanne Butler concludes her fascinating monthly series of 4 talks on 'The Story of Cowley', on Wednesday 6 July, with refreshments : 6.45 for 7.00 at St James Centre, £5 for the evening and we have reached 'Victorian Cowley' with a mention of course of our St James Old School. If you have missed the others, each talk stands alone so do join us for this last

session, which will include an exhibition of some artefacts from the Oxfordshire History Centre at St Luke's

No need to book. Information from Rosanne 453 257 or Lesley Williams 779 562 oldschoolcowley@gmail.com

We are hoping that Rosanne may soon find time to put the script into a printable format and we will be able to sell you a copy of 'The Story of Cowley'.

For those who find local history motivating, we are delighted that Tony Boffin, an of-

ficial guide at Nuffield Place is coming on Friday 23 September, 6.30 for 7.00 to give us a talk on 'Our Billy, Lord Nuffield' Put it in your diary now!

You can still of course join the 'Friends' for just £10 a year : pick up a leaflet & registration form in St James Church or Centre.

FRIENDS OF ST JAMES OLD SCHOOL



THE STORY OF COWLEY

A monthly series of four talks by local historian Rosanne Butler, telling the history of the village of Cowley, from early days until Victorian times

St James Centre, Beauchamp Lane, OX4 3LF
Wednesdays
6.45 refreshments for 7.00 – 8.30
£5 per evening

April 6	(1) <i>how it all began – Cufa's Ley</i>
May 11	(2) <i>3 settlements and stone</i>
June 8	(3) <i>the university bread basket</i>

FINAL IN THE SERIES
July 6 (4) Victorian Cowley
no need to book

information from Rosanne Butler – Membership Secretary
Friends of St James Old School
01865 453 257

Lesley Williams – Chair
Friends of St James Old School
07982 439 828
oldschoolcowley@gmail.com

www.cowleyteamministry.co.uk/The-Parish/St-James-Old-School

FRIENDS OF ST JAMES OLD SCHOOL



**OUR BILLY,
LORD NUFFIELD**

A talk by Tony Boffin,
guide at Lord Nuffield's
home, Nuffield Place



St James Centre
Beauchamp Lane
OX4 3LF

Friday 23 September
6.30 refreshments for 7.00 – 8.30
£5 for the evening
no need to book

information from Lesley Williams
Chair - Friends of St James Old School
07982 439 828 oldschoolcowley@gmail.com
www.cowleyteamministry.co.uk/The-Parish/St-James-Old-School

RIDE & STRIDE 10TH SEPTEMBER 2016

The annual R/Stride event is fast approaching and I will once again be looking for R/Striders/Welcomers and of course our generous sponsors. If you are looking for something energetic to do after the BIG SUMMER SHUTDOWN look no further. We need you on 10th September. It is with your help that we will be able to raise much needed funds for the Cowley Parish and I would like to extend my thanks to everyone.

I will keep you updated in the Link and will shortly be putting the latest newsletter at the back of the Church along with the Rota for anyone who would like to help us out on the day.

June Smith

NEWS FROM THE BELLTOWER

Life is all about change, and it will certainly be a big change for the Cowley Chronicle with Rosanne no longer in the role of Editor. This is of course only one of many roles Rosanne has within the church. One which some of you might not know about is a Recruiter for the Belltower. It was just over four years ago now since Rosanne persuaded me that I would like to try ringing at St James. It wasn't something I had ever considered, but having expressed a tentative interest, I found myself introduced to Paul the Tower Captain and attending my first practice before I had the chance to change my mind. I would like to use this opportunity to say thank you for introducing me to such a rewarding hobby.

There is a lot going on in the bell tower at the moment. Rosie and I have attended the Association of Ringing Teachers Basic Handling training course. We are now teaching two new recruits, under the mentorship of two experienced ringers, Tony Crabtree and Susan Read. We both hope to get accreditation as Associate members on completion of the training, and are already looking to attend part two in the autumn. Tony's visits to Cowley to mentor us have also resulted in some improvements to the tower. Tony is an experienced steeple keeper, and has steadily worked improvements to the bells in his own Vale of the White Horse branch. At Cowley he has made an improvement to the ringing circle by adjusting the position of the treble, and has advised how to improve the odd struck bells, as well as identifying a problem which was causing premature breakage of the stays. We have been very fortunate to have his assistance with all of this, as well as his expertise in helping us to become teachers. At present we are teaching our learners mainly on a Saturday afternoon on tied (silent) bells, but hope they will be joining our regular Thursday evening practices in the near future. Both of them are making really good progress, despite the fact that their

learning has been intermittent due to the difficulty of finding suitable times to get together.

Over the summer months when some of our ringers are on holiday, we will be using some of our practice nights to ring quarter peals instead. This is a piece of ringing lasting roughly 40 minutes, which allows the ringers to hone their skills. In August we will be attempting one which will be Iris's first attempt, and will include four Cowley ringers in the band, something which we have not been able to attempt before. At the end of July, Rosie and I will also be attempting to ring our first full peal. This will take about two and a half hours, so requires a huge amount of concentration and stamina. I am praying we don't have a heatwave!

We are also looking forward to events in the autumn. We will be taking part in the September Wedding Fair. We have also registered for the Heritage Open Evening, where 500 bell towers across the country are planning to open their doors to the public. This will tie in with our autumn recruitment drive. If like me, you had never considered learning to ring, why not just pop along and see us – either on our Thursday evening practice night or at one of the upcoming autumn events which we will publicise well in advance. We would love to see you, and you never know, you might find you really enjoy it.

Lindsay Powell

Fred greeted his old friend George. “Hello, old chap. I thought you were dead”. “No” said George, “I am still alive and going strong”. “Well, I’m blown”, answered Fred “I wonder whose funeral I went to in February?”

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

12 years a Slave – a True Story

By Solomon Northup

In paperback

Published by Collins Classics

This is not an easy or comfortable book to read but I recommend everyone to do so. It is an autobiography of the man described in the title. It is moving, disturbing and very revealing.

Slavery had been abolished in the state of New York in 1799. Solomon Northup had grown up a free black American. He had been well educated, received music lessons and become a competent violinist. He married a girl he loved dearly and they had two precious daughters and a fine son.

Things were different in the Southern States where the agricultural economy depended entirely on slave labour.

In 1841 Solomon went to Washington DC on business. He felt secure enough to travel south as a free man. What happened next began a nightmare of mammoth proportions. Slave traders kidnapped him, stole everything he had and sold him into slavery. What he endured and the lifestyle of his fellow slaves is the mainstay of the narrative.

Throughout the book the reader knows that one day his freedom will be regained. That gives the reader hope for this brave man.

Recently a film based on the book has been released but I suggest that the written word brings home the pathos superbly.

Rosanne Butler

One Hundred Favourite Poems

Chosen by Classic FM Listeners

Published by Hodder and Stoughton 2010

This is one of the most comprehensive and interesting anthologies I have ever come across. And perhaps because the poems have been chosen by ordinary people, rather than professional intellectuals, it is not heavy going. I find that I can instantly relax with it, and the enjoyment factor is very high. The fact that one of our most reputable publishers have put their name to it, and that it has run into two editions, cloth and paperback, speaks for itself. All of our best English poets are represented here along with their finest works, and it includes many of my favourites, and probably yours too.

There is a very good index of first lines and also Poets' names at the back, so that you can home in on anything you are uncertain about very easily.

There is also a useful list of poems for occasions which could be used when reading aloud in front of an audience.

Taken all in all, this is a delightful book and I have no hesitation in commending it to you.

John Shreeve

FROM THE ARCHIVES

COWLEY CHURCH AND HOME MAGAZINE AUGUST 1893

CHOIR TRIP 1893

On Tuesday, July 4th, the choir had their annual treat. This time the Crystal Palace was the chosen place, and as none of the boys had been there before, it was indeed a grand holiday for them.

Starting from Littlemore Station at 5.50 am accompanied by the organist, Mr J E Furmage (the Vicar and churchwardens being unable to go), the Palace was reached at 9.30. During the journey breakfast was partaken of, it having been kindly provided by Mr Savin and Mr Hunt. As most of the men had visited the Palace on previous occasions, no difficulty was experienced on procuring "guides", and so the greatest possible amount was seen and heard in the least possible time. It being "Temperance Day," plenty of amusements, etc., were provided for the 20,000 people who entered the Palace on that day. At 12.30 dinner was provided, and at 4.30 the tables were laid for tea. At 9.30 pm the train started from the Palace Station, and "Home" was reached at 1.30 am, everything having passed off without a single hitch, the verdict being that a most enjoyable and instructive day had been spent.

The subscriptions being rather less than usual this year, the Vicar generously increased his.

Les Hemsworth

CHILDREN'S CHURCH, ST JAMES

At the beginning of this term we delved back into the Old Testament where we acted out the story of Daniel in the lions' den complete with lion masks that we had made. We then spent a couple of weeks looking at how God used Esther to protect the Hebrew people. We were lucky enough to be able to use the projector in the Church Centre so we sat back and watched a cartoon of Esther's life in what felt like our own private cinema! We then returned to the New Testament to learn about Jesus' ascension, the promise of the Holy Spirit and what happened at Pentecost. We also looked at how God was using Paul to encourage the Early Church. Most recently we have been looking at the story of Jo-

nah and learning about how God forgives us and uses us even when we mess things up. As always there has been lots of fun games (including a whale race), crafts (including constructing a 'Tower of Refuge' out of plastic bottles and decorating biscuits that we shared at coffee time) and drama (where extra cast members included Izzy and Ashlea's dolls and Peppa Pig!).

As always a big thanks has to go to the Children's Church team for all their hard work: Mary Bayliss, John Booty, Caroline Hartley, Catherine Hartley, William Hartley, Jill Ling and Harriet Stevens.

Catherine Hartley

Vision Day - Summary of Responses

Summary of responses from the Vision day: Each person had 37 dots or stars and was asked to distribute them across the suggestion that had been made. They were asked to put them on those suggestions that they felt were most important. They could put more than one dot on a suggestion if they wished. The suggestions came in 4 groups. What feeds our faith, what plugs us into God, what do we do well as a church, and Why do we come together as the Church? The list below is not the raw data but the rank order of the number of responses received. So 'Reading the Bible' was the option that had the most dot/stars put by it. Welcome had the second highest number of dots or stars.

Rank order- Suggestion	35 The bible	71 Spiritual direction
1 Reading the bible	41 Fun days	71 Sport and exercise
2 Welcome	41 Praying with the bells	71 York courses/ pilgrim
3 Home groups	41 Serving	71 Accepting change
4 Prayer	41 People	71 Accepting others
5 Going through challenges	41 Recognising we are weak and need God	71 Inclusion
6 Hymns	41 Children	71 Local
6 Finding God in his creation	41 Event / event organising	71 Look after children
6 Worship	41 To be connected	86 Bell ringing
9 Fellowship with food	41 To serve/volunteering	86 Conversations
10 Sunday services	50 Fund raising events	86 Food
10 Caring	50 Lunch clubs	86 Vision days
12 Social events	50 Mothers' Union	86 Visiting other congregations
13 Children's church	50 Engaging with God's word	86 Coming apart
13 Eucharist/communion	50 Retreats	86 Fellowship
13 Eucharist/communion	55 Home communion	86 Wider reading
16 Fellowship	55 Open the book	86 Writing (open the book stories)
16 Fellowship (meeting people)	55 Youth groups	86 Affirming faith
18 Seeing God at work/hearing stories	55 Sermons/preaching	86 Good facilities
18 Support	55 Sharing and discussing our faith	86 Hospitality
20 Pastoral care	55 Feel of holiness	86 Occasional offices
20 Books	55 God told us to	86 Organ
20 Reading	55 Liturgy	86 Teaching
20 Serving others	63 Seashells/Little Stars	101 Church buildings
20 Community	63 CD and You Tube	101 Church in nature
20 Love for people	63 Eucharist/communion	101 Giving thanks
20 Sharing stories and testimony	63 Spreading God's word	101 Link
20 Worship	63 Youth groups	101 PCC and church committees
28 Special occasions	63 Diversity	101 Prayer groups
28 Giving	63 Pattern of life	101 Special people
28 Home groups	63 Prayer	101 Belonging/feeling part of something
28 Biblical command	71 Choir	101 Caring for senior members
28 Flowers	71 Christian Aid	101 Chronicle
28 Food	71 Coffee after church	101 Faith
28 Meet with God	71 Prayer groups	101 For encouragement
35 Daily quiet time	71 Weddings, funerals, baptisms, confirmations	101 History
35 Worship through song	71 Weekday services	101 Lay involvement
35 Bells	71 Encounter with people of other faith	101 Link/communication
35 Music and song		101 Links with schools
35 Sermons/preaching		101 Not missing out

101 Openness (un-afraid to share)	123 Gospel readings	123 Devotion
101 School links	123 Sick visits	123 Happiness
101 Seashells/Little Stars/ toddler groups	123 Alpha course	123 Recharge batteries
101 Serving	123 Chronicle	123 Without Church something would be missing
101 Tradition	123 Special places	123 Songs/hymns
123 Chronicle	123 Special times	123 Warmth
123 Fellowship	123 Web site	141 Preparing liturgy
123 Gardening on Saturdays	123 Asian church	141 Alpha
	123 Coffee	

Some headings are mentioned several times – this is because they came up at different sessions

CHURCHES WITHIN OUR DEANERY

St Mary & St Nicholas, Littlemore, Oxford



The chapel foundation stone was laid by the mother of John Henry Newman in 1836. A larger chancel and a lych-gate were added c.1848, together with a bell tower, which replaced the original bell cote.

The east window was installed c.1900, to commemorate Vernon Thomas Green, who was the vicar from 1872 to 1896. Other windows were originally plain but eventually replaced with stained glass, being the work of Thomas Willement.

The rood screen, font cover and pulpit canopy were all designed by F H Crossley. There have been four organs installed, the present one being obtained from the chapel at Littlemore Hospital in 1988.

This church is open for daily prayers from Sunday to Friday each week – details can be found on their website.

Les Hemsworth

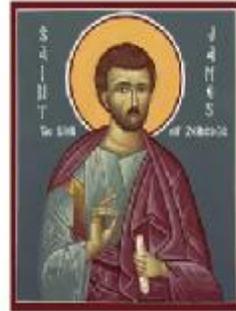
SIMON GRIGG'S SILVER ANNIVERSARY

REVD. SIMON GRIGG, who some will remember as a very talented, dramatic (a memorable Godspell production in the old Parish Hall) curate in the Cowley Team Ministry 1990-94, will celebrate 25 years of ministry with a Sung Eucharist on Sunday 17 July, 11:00 am, at St Paul's Church, Covent Garden (the actors' church), WC2E 9ED followed by a buffet lunch, jazz in the gardens and guaranteed fun!

He sends his very best wishes to all who remember him in Cowley - a place where he was very happy and which is still often in his prayers – and invites all friends to join the celebration.

RSVP : info@actorschurch.org

See the invitation on the church noticeboards.



St James Day Celebrations

Sunday
24th July

4 pm Family BBQ

6 pm

St James Songs of Praise.
Please let Geoff know
some songs you would
like!

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PLANTS OF THE MONTH

JULY—CANDYTUFT

The annual common candytuft is very easy to grow from a packet of seeds. It is ideal to offer to children wanting to plant a small plot as it germinates quite quickly and produces lots of pretty pinkish-mauve flowers. The name candytuft is attractive too as it makes one think of candyfloss that pink fluffy stuff you can buy at the fair.

Actually the name comes from Candia, the former name for the island of Crete, from where it was imported to England in Elizabethan times. The credit for this goes to Lord Edward Zouche. He was said to have spent so much on his garden that he had to travel abroad to “live cheaply”. He had a magnificent garden in Hackney, in London, and employed the famous botanist Matthias de l’Obel (who introduced lobelia to our gardens). Zouch was Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports and a friend of the poets Ben Johnson and William Browne. He was also, by the way, the only peer to acquit Mary, Queen of Scots, at her trial and dissent from her death sentence.

He brought candytuft seeds back from Crete and gave them to John Gerard the famous apothecary. They were then called *Thlaspi candiae* or Cretan cress and were used as a cheap condiment.

There is another form of the flower which is a perennial and we know it as iberis. The botanical name adds *sempervirens* to it which means in Latin “lives forever”. It certainly does. It forms a dark green mat of foliage (perfect for a rockery) and from this in spring, sprout flower buds



which break into the daintiest little white flowers much loved by the bees. You can be as unkind as you like to an iberis cutting it back or planting around it. Short of pulling it out by the roots it will grace your garden forever.

AUGUST—LARKSPUR AND DELPHINIUM

The name of the delphinium comes from the Greek name for a dolphin – delphis – because early botanists when naming their discoveries looked at plants’ personalities. The delphinium flower reminded them of the nose of a dolphin. These magnificent plants are perennials and will grace our gardens throughout the summer. Their spikes of flowers through all shades of blue, white (and even pink as seen at Chelsea) will return again if the initial flowers are cut back after their first showing. If you are introducing them to your garden be patient as they may not flower in the first year. They will soon reward you handsomely.

It is interesting to note that both the delphinium and the larkspur belong to the *ranuncula* family, as does the buttercup and in the sixteenth century were considered to be efficacious against poisonous stings. They were used, dried and powdered, as very effective insecticides. They are, in fact, both poisonous themselves.

The annual larkspur gets its name from the spur on the back of its flower which looks rather like the claw of a small bird. It is a close relative of the delphinium though very easy to grow from seed. It was found by an English explorer in America where it flourishes in North California and in Oregon. His name was Thomas Nuttall. He discovered that the native Americans on the west coast used the flowers to make blue dye and

by European settlers to make ink. Nuttall was a strange character known as "Le Fou" (crazy one) by his contemporaries. He canoed down rivers in his explorations, even though he could not swim. On one occasion he and his party were threatened by Indian raiders. As he attempted to defend himself with his gun it was found to

have a barrel full of earth. He had been using it to dig up plants!

He returned to England when his uncle died and left him an estate with a beautiful garden where, no doubt, he was able to grow larkspurs and delphiniums to his heart's content.

GREETINGS FROM DURHAM

Hi friends in Cowley. Well it has been a busy few months up here for us. We had a wonderful wedding at the end of April. It was such a special day and we were so blessed to see so many people from our estate, our work places, our friends and family all in one place. For our reception we used food that had been collected from supermarkets and bakeries which would have otherwise been thrown away. This was all coordinated by ReUSE who are an organisation campaigning against food waste and try to ensure we feed people instead of bins. 150 people attended as well as a BBC news crew who were very interested in the story. We would like to say a huge thank you for the lovely wedding card that was sent up from St James, it was very touching as well as all those who sent lovely messages, we really appreciated it.

Dan and I now live on Sherburn Road Estate where we pray God will continue to use it to reach out to those around us. Dan is working in advertising and I continue to work for the learning disability team part time.

Our women's bible study continues and we have seen many more women coming from a local women's refuge to hear the gospel. It is a truly humbling experience. Please pray for God to meet with these ladies and pray that we would be able to support them in becoming followers of Jesus.

We have recently started a lunch club as a way of providing a place for people in our community to build, meet and reduce social isolation. We are very low on volunteers at present so please pray for more helpers get involved and that it would be a welcoming and loving place for those who come along.

Looking forward to our next trip down to Oxford to see our church family in Cowley.

Many blessings

Kim (nee Hughes) and Dan Woolnough



to

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 15 – 21 May LOVE EVERY NEIGHBOUR

The final amount banked was £1,467 with the additional £112 from the Big Brekkie.

So: following the abseil (March), Super Soup lunch (April), Christian Aid Week and Big Brekkie (May) and Quiz Aid (June), our 2016 Christian Aid total now stands at £2,651, with lots of additional Gift Aid: excellent!

THANK YOU to all who have collected, participated and donated in any way.

CHRISTIAN AID QUIZ AID Friday 24 June 2016

7 teams - 40 people - 8 rounds of 8 questions - an additional 'warm up' challenge - £171 donated!

We were delighted with the number of friendly people who arrived 'off the street', having seen posters in Templars Square and on lamp posts – so that method of advertising does work!

It was as usual an entertaining and educational evening with a mix of easy and challenging questions from Rosanne, the quizmaster. The rounds were on Shakespeare – local knowledge – music – science and nature – where in the world? – famous people – in the news – have you read? We were nearly *all* particularly poor on local knowledge – but it was, after all, our 'local historian' setting the questions! There were just a couple of answers during the evening which participants challenged and were permitted to have their versions accepted!

The winning team was 'Pete's Proxies' made up of Film Club members but no one was particularly concerned about the results! There was however talk of holding more quizzes than our current two a year: Quiz Aid in June and the Mothers' Union 'Puddings and Quiznight' earlier in the year.

Would any other enthusiast like to take on organising an autumn one?

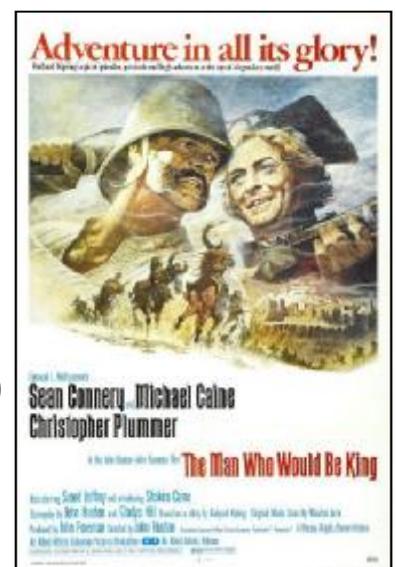
Film Club at the Centre

Lovely cake, sometimes carrot, lemon or chocolate, and the choice of tea, coffee or a glass of very low-priced wine, all greet our members and their guests each month when they arrive for film club. There is always a chance to chat while the film is being set up and we do pride ourselves that we are a real club with a friendly atmosphere.

The film last month was very romantic, sad and charming, which made a real contrast to "The Italian Job" which we had shown the month before. That is one of the secrets of our continued success – the variety of films we choose. This month we are looking forward to "The Man who would be King". Again, this has been a member's choice. It stars Sean Connery and Michael Caine and is the only film in which

they appeared together. It is a good old-fashioned adventure story with the two stars seeming to enjoy acting together. July's film night is on Friday, 8th.

Our appreciative members and guests continue, due to their retiring donations, to contribute about £70 a month into parish funds. Long may we flourish.



SUNDAY SERVICES

ST JAMES CHURCH, BEAUCHAMP LANE

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

ST FRANCIS CHURCH, HOLLOW WAY

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

MID-WEEK SERVICES & MEETINGS

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

HOME GROUPS

Leader	Time/Venue
Connie Uren	Alternate Tuesday afternoons at 2.30pm St James Church Centre, Ranklin Room
Friends of St Francis (John Shreeve)	2nd & 4th Tuesday afternoons at 2.30pm St Francis Church
Mark Oxbrow	Alternate Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm Mark's home, 13 Annesley Road (just behind the Rose Hill Coop). Enquiries to Mark at 01865 461953
Rosanne Butler	Alternate Thursday mornings at 10.00am St James Church Centre, Ranklin Room
Catherine / William Hartley	Thursdays at 8.00pm, Catherine Hartley 07792 104448 William Hartley 07751 939092
Joel Denno	Thursday at 7.45pm at The Vicarage, Don Bosco Close
Helen Beetham	Alternate Friday mornings at 10am St James Church Centre, Ranklin Room

The Parish Office in St James Church
Centre is open:

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

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

Contact details: Tel: 01865 747680
Email: office@cowleyteamministry.co.uk
Out of hours tel: 07501 908378
Website: www.cowleyteamministry.co.uk

Team Rector:

The Revd Canon Geoffrey Bayliss
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Email: rector@cowleyteamministry.co.uk

Team Vicar:

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

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St Francis Church/St James Church:
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