

# Dear Friends...

Outside the traffic is noisy and here at my desk I listen to a very old air conditioning unit praying it will keep working. The windows are shut because it is 45oC outside and the noxious exhaust fumes refuse to blow away. I'm in the city of Delhi which they say grows outwards by ten meters every night, in a country of over a billion people. By the time you read this I will be back in Oxford but before that I will spend time in India, Myanmar (Burma), Singapore, East Malaysia (Borneo) and finally the amazing city of Kuala Lumpur. Not exactly a holiday but never-the-less an amazing privilege to be with God's people in so many different places. Here in India I am spending time with a group of bishops helping them think about what it means to be a "missionary bishop" and servant of the Christian community, but in a few days time in Myanmar my task will be to work with young Christian leaders, many of whom have only been following Jesus for a few years, who have a great vision to reach not only their own country but China and other nearby places as well. In East Malaysia I hope to be able to encourage a group of Christian teachers who work in Muslim schools, to see how their witness helps Muslims understand Jesus as a man of peace and hope for the future. In Singapore and Kuala Lumpur I will be with others from different backgrounds who are following Jesus in their own ways.

We are now in the Christian season of Pentecost, Holy Spirit times. On that very first Pentecost Sunday, in Jerusalem, we are told that the disciples

shared the good news about Jesus with people who had come from every part of the world as it was known then – from North Africa, the Middle East, West Asia, Europe and even islands like Crete in the Mediterranean. This was no accident. It is very clear from many passages in the Bible that the good news about Jesus was always intended for everybody, even people in the most remote parts of the world. In Revelation 7:9 we are told that in heaven there will be people there praising God from "every nation, tribe, people and language". Wow, that will be something to look forward to.

During the recent election campaigns there was a lot of debate about immigration. I do not want to continue that debate here but rather to note that migration is one of the major FACTS in our world today. More people migrate today than ever before in history. In fact some countries like Armenia and Barbados have more of their people outside the country than inside. Sometimes people migrate for bad reasons like war, persecution or famine (as we are seeing on the boats in the Mediterranean) but others migrate for good reasons, to be with family, find a better job, or to serve as humanitarian workers. We receive very few refugees here in the UK but some African countries have received millions each year. We must not forget that Jesus was himself a refugee in Egypt for several years.

Migration means that most of us do not need to travel (as I am doing) to share the good news of Jesus with those from

# Chronicle

June  
2015

another culture. In Cowley we are privileged to have people from more than one hundred different countries living with us. When the earthquake happened in Nepal I was able to speak to my Nepali neighbours about the safety of their relatives. When Egyptian Christians were murdered by IS my doctor friend knew what that meant for their communities. So how are we taking opportunities to share the good news about Jesus with the whole world without even leaving Cowley? It all begins with making friends, taking time to listen to people, struggling with languages, caring about the needs of children and older people.

One day last year I was sitting in St. James Church and decided to count the nations represented there. I began, England, St. Helena, Romania, Philippines, India ... and on I went. We are so privileged to belong to a world-wide church. I pray we will continue to invite into our community more and more of the hundred or so nations represented in Cowley.

I am looking forward to returning to Cowley in June so I can continue making friends with the 'whole world' and sharing something of God's love in preparation for that great day when I will join a worship service in heaven with people "from every nation, tribe, people and language."

Mark

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## A FESTIVAL OF MASSED MALE VOICE CHOIRS

Saturday, 9th May 2015

Royal Albert Hall, London

It has been my great pleasure and a milestone in my life as a choral singer to perform at the Royal Albert Hall as a member of the Oxford Welsh Male Voice Choir. We sang in unison with twenty-four other choirs from Wales and also the Australian Welsh Male Voice Choir.

Our repertoire was a mixture of Welsh, English and Latin songs, twenty in total including the English and Welsh National anthems.

We performed a final rehearsal for two hours in the morning soon after arrival, after which we were free to get food and have a look around London, whereupon I visited two museums in company with others.

The concert commenced at 7 pm and terminated at 10.30 pm. The performance included four soloists of quality. The reception we got from the audience was delightful and memorable.

This was one of the most enjoyable and exciting experiences since I started as a chorister aged eleven at St Mary's Church, Royal Leamington Spa, also with membership here at St James Church, Cowley.

Gerald Ives

Editor: Congratulations to Gerald. He was joined in the Oxford Male Voice Choir by Peter Curtis, another of our unassuming and talented parishioners.

# Editor's Letter

Dear Readers

The weather forecast on the evening news last night (27th May) promised that this coming Saturday was set to be "the best day of the weekend" with sunshine and blue skies. Just right, then, for a day at the seaside or a birthday lunch on the banks of the River Thames. Lots of you will be enjoying the former and I shall, I hope, be enjoying the latter. I am sorry I won't be with you on Saturday but it is my birthday. However I am looking forward to hearing about your seaside adventures. We are also hoping to include a report in this month's Chronicle.

The forthcoming flower festival and art and craft exhibition in St James Church on 13th and 14th June promises to be an experience not to be missed. The theme for the flower arrangements is "Music Through the Ages" and ranges (as I understand it) from Handel's music for the Royal Fireworks to "Underneath the Arches"! The creative art and craft work, which is my responsibility, will be a real eye-opener. When you see the skills and talents of our local parishioners you will be amazed. So come along and bring friends and family to a super show.

You might be surprised to find an order form in this month's magazine for your next year's Chronicles. It does not seem like a year since we ordered before, does it? Sally and I decided that it would be a good idea to alert you in June so that you will have your forms ready by August! I know that sounds a bit cheeky but sometimes readers leave it till even the first week in September before they hand their forms to May. She is a very efficient person who likes to get her list up and running on time so please do help her this year.

I wonder how many of our readers realise that a very fine restaurant opens up in our Church Centre every Tuesday at 12.30 pm. Freshly cooked and prepared food is served, the tables are set with fresh flowers, friendly people come along for lunch and you can get a three course meal with coffee for as little as £5. It amazes me that more people do not take advantage of our lunch club. You do not even need to carry your own tray if that is a problem. There is always someone on hand to help. Why not turn up one Tuesday and give it a try? It is my guess, like me, that lunch club will become a weekly habit.

Do you know anyone (or indeed did you) attend Cowley St James C of E Primary School in the old school building? We, the committee, are trying to build up a list of former pupils who are keen to stop the dear old place from being redundant any longer. Several plans are afoot to rescue it but we must be sure we choose the most appropriate and suitable one before things can go ahead. In the meantime we are hoping to hear from anyone who would like to become a member of the new list of Old School Friends.

Before I end this month I really feel I should pay tribute to our vicar, Skye, who is leading the clergy team with incredible energy and cheerfulness whilst we await a new rector. Every time you meet her she seems to be whizzing off to another meeting or appointment but she seems to cope with everything with a smile. Thank you, Skye, we do appreciate what you are doing.

God bless our Vicar and all our readers.

Rosanne

## CHRISTIAN AID once a month for this Spring/Summer

March	OVER THE EDGE	£710, including Gift Aid
April	SUPER SOUP LUNCH	£120 + gift aid
May	CHRISTIAN AID WEEK	£1,165 + some gift aid
June	QUIZ AID	



*2015 Christian Aid total so far: £1,995 towards our £2,000 target – it looks like we'll smash that!*

MAY: Christian Aid Week, May 10-16

We were disappointed not to have enough volunteer door to door collectors to be able to cover all the roads directly around the church and, with some negative stories, have seriously discussed finding an alternative way of collecting during Christian Aid Week – but actually we have done very well, topping last year's total by nearly £100. There will be a further discussion later in the year.

Many thanks therefore to the 13 door to door collectors, who covered 18 roads, raising, along with the church and school donations - £1,165

JUNE: Quiz Aid evening, Friday 26 June, 7.00 pm

Make sure it is in your diary and invite friends or family to join your team – a maximum of 6 people, paying just £3 each, which will include soft drinks and nibbles. Bring your own bottle of wine/beer if you wish to relax further. There will of course be a raffle: prize donations are welcome.

Contact : Lesley Williams 779 562 [lesleyjwilliams@btinternet.com](mailto:lesleyjwilliams@btinternet.com)

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## FROM THE ARCHIVES

Cowley Chronicle May 1962

It is hard to believe the historical fact that in 1851 there were two farms in the small village of Church Cowley and that in the adjoining village of Temple Cowley, there were as many as seven small farms.

The inhabitants of Church Cowley were employed as follows:

46 agricultural labourers	2 builders
1 shepherd	2 printers
4 bakers	1 bookbinder
1 shirt maker	4 dealers
1 cabinet maker	2 clerks
4 tailors	5 domestic servants
4 laundresses	several gardeners
1 mason	

It all sounds very far removed from the Cowley of today, but it does remind us of why the school on the Airfield Estate is called Church Cowley School-after the old village of Church Cowley.

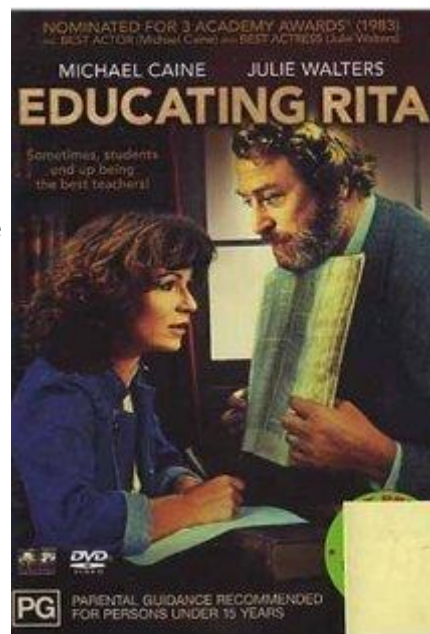
# Film Club at the Centre

Several of our regular members are not really fans of western films. However, quite a few of them are. In order to keep the programme fresh and interesting the film chosen for our May evening was "The Magnificent Seven". It was good to hear that those not-so-keen fans did, in fact, enjoy the film anyway, looking at the story with fresh eyes. To see good triumph over evil and the relief from oppression of innocent folk makes for a good story every time.

This month on 12th June by popular request we are showing the film "Educating Rita". This is a British production and a complete contrast from last month's film. The stars are the magnificent Michael Caine and Julie Walters. Caine plays the part of a jaded college lecturer and Walters becomes one of his students. Her naivety and simple back-ground makes for a fascinating

relationship between teacher and pupil. Even if members have already seen the film some years ago many of them are looking forward to revisiting it this month.

We are so lucky to have such excellent reproduction of sound and picture in the Church Centre and that, we are sure, is what has kept members enjoying the films month after month.



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## MOTHERS' UNION NEWS

Our newly inaugurated monthly corporate communion took place on the first Tuesday in May at noon in St James Church. Skye took the service during which we prayed for our Cowley branch and also for Mothers' Union members throughout the world, of which there are many, many thousands. The next corporate service will be on 2nd June and then on 7th July. Five members attended our first one but it is early days and we hope to increase our numbers month-by-month.

We are pleased to hear that Headington Quarry are planning to re-form their branch. It was agreed at our monthly meeting to send them our good wishes and hopefully in the future arrange a joint social event with them.

Our May branch meeting was a lively occasion mainly due to our excellent speaker, Jim Godfrey. Jim is the Visitors' Officer at Christ Church Cathedral. He is full of fun and talked engagingly without notes for over half an hour about his role and the people he meets from day-to-day.

We are hoping to meet some ladies from the local embroiderers' guild in June and as usual we shall be holding our summer tea party in July. Because we usually enjoy strawberries and cream along with our Mothers' Union World Wave of Prayer and because it was moved from June to April this year we missed out. We are going to make up by having the said delights in July instead.

# Busy times!

I love this time of year when Spring really comes in. When the trees have greened up and blossom is everywhere. I have got so far on my tick list: seen the fritillaries in Magdalen College water meadows, had a picnic in a field full of buttercups and had a long woodland walk through bluebells. My next musts are to see our wild yellow irises in bloom and then the foxgloves! I love foxgloves and today I have re-planted some in my new border at home.

The garden has been looking rather forlorn over the last few months. A boring central area of shrubs and trees was removed in the autumn and we have been waiting for the fence to be replaced. That has now happened and then I had to wait for the help to grind out the several stumps that littered what is to be lawn and new border. That done, we have created a border along the fence of about 4 feet wide and about 45 feet long. My "other half" has begun to dig over the border and I am beginning to stock it with plants that I have been collecting in pots - including the foxgloves. It is rather a large area and I shall be adding to it this summer. Certainly I want to get a climbing rose or two to train along the fence. I am determined to get as much colour throughout the year as I can. Come autumn, I shall be planting daffodil and tulip bulbs to make a show in the spring.

I did have a few finds at the Plant Sale on 16th May which went very well. Lots of people came and we made just over £1000 for Parish Funds. Many heartfelt thanks to all who helped on the day and to those that brought plants for sale. We shall have another sale in 2016 as folks have begun to look out for this annual event.

I have now got back to normality in the greenhouse with the tomato plants seemingly growing by inches each day.

On the allotment, we have reached that time of year when most things are planted and we just

(just!) need to do the housekeeping chores of mowing the grass paths, weeding and hoeing. My first row of peas germinated well but are then prone to nibbling by the pigeons. They have stayed at the same height for weeks now. As they grow, they get eaten. Frustrating! I am trying a new tack with my second row. I sowed as usual, sprinkling with Olbas oil to deter mice, but then covered the row with strips of horticultural fleece held down by soil. I have got good germination and the peas have begun their skyward journey without being nibbled (except where there is a gap!). I have now put up the length of 2ft wide chicken wire for them to cling to on one side of the row and tying the fleece tent-like to cover growing the peas. I shall have to take it away eventually but we will see if it works.

One thing we must do is to keep a regular plan of sowing stuff like lettuces so we always have a supply and, in June, we will sow the more tender crops like fennel, kohlrabi, pak choi and baby turnips. They should grow well in warmer temperatures and, hopefully, predation by flea beetles (on the brassicas) should be less.

I am trying a new idea with the runner beans – but that will have to wait for next month's Chronicle.

Joan Coleman

Editor: My white foxgloves are spectacular this year. Would anyone like some seeds in a few months time

**It is very hard to look up to a leader who spends most of his time with his ear to the ground.**

# Greetings from the Thorntons in Canada

Hello to all our friends in the parish of Cowley.

We are settling into our new home at last! We feel the house is an answer to prayer, and are very grateful for God's generous provision. In December a parishioner introduced us to a gentleman who was visiting from out of province; his tenants of many years had purchased a home and had just given notice to move. He hadn't planned to sell, but when he learned that we were looking for a house, he offered to sell to us at a very favourable price. We took possession on 9 April; our goods finally arrived 17 May after a storm delay in Liverpool and ten days sitting on the docks in Montreal. The delays gave us time to clean and paint from ceilings to baseboards.

Our new address is 31 Mt. Peechee Place, Canmore, Alberta, Canada, T1W 1Z4. The house is in a quiet cul-de-sac in the centre of town, a ten-minute walk from the church and shopping.

Howard leads churches in both Canmore and Banff. He's putting in place a new initiative in Banff, the Community of St. George-in-the-Pines, a community of five young people who will work part-time at jobs in town and spend about 20 hours a week in outreach to permanent residents and the "transient workers" who come from all over the world to work in the service industries and enjoy the Rocky Mountains. At the moment he is recruiting for these positions, looking for people in the UK and Canada who may be considering a vocation or some sort of ministry and may have some theological training but who would like this practical experience.

Other highlights of ministry here include Food and Friends, a weekly dinner where everyone is invited; last week a record 150 people attended and one gentleman was celebrating his 90th birthday. There is no charge but donations are accepted if offered; diners include working families whose budgets are stretched to the limit by tourist-town prices, seniors who enjoy the fellowship, and young folks passing through. Several organisations, including other churches, the Rotary Club, a bank, and the junior hockey team, have joined the rota of helpers.

David is working at two jobs and has applied to attend university in the autumn.

Katie finished top of her class at uni, and we're very proud of her.

It is good to be near to our families, and we love living in the mountains, but we do miss you all. May God bless you and keep you. Come for a visit if you can!



## Sincere Apologies

We will be interviewing for our new Team Rector on the 14th and 15th July which means that all events and services at St James Church Centre and St James Church will have to be cancelled for these two days.

We would appreciate your prayers and support during this time and we are sorry for any inconvenience caused.



# VE Day Tea Party

On 9<sup>th</sup> May about fifty people between the ages of eighty-five and two (and a bit) sat down together in the Church Centre for a unique occasion. We were commemorating the end of the Second World War in Europe with a magnificent bring-and-share tea party.

The room was resplendently decorated with bunting and flags and the tables too were set out in red, white and blue. Some people stuck to the wartime rationing theme bringing sandwiches filled with Spam, jam, sardines, marmite, etc (not all at once!) but there was also an array of lovely cakes, scones, sausage rolls, jelly and ice-cream almost unheard of in those days of austerity.

To add to the atmosphere the background music was from a selection of "Songs that won the War". There were also games for the children. The afternoon ended with a sing-song with the piano. Those people who did not know all the words either "la-lahed" or made them up! Nearly everyone who came said that it had been a very happy party and that is exactly what was planned. Let's face it, without that victory in 1945 it is quite possible that happiness in Britain would have been in short supply even seventy years later.

## WHERE DID IT ALL GO WRONG?

She: Ay Alf do you remember  
How we used to sit and dream?  
You said I was a Princess  
And you'd make me your Queen

You said that I was beautiful  
You'd love me all your life  
I wonder what went wrong  
Since you made me your wife

I'll tell you what went wrong, Alf  
Life become a drag  
I wanna read my paper  
So I don't want you to nag

Yeah but where's this lovely palace  
That you once promised me?  
Don't tap your cup like that  
Just ask for a drop more tea

You used to light my fag for me  
And open up the door  
But I don't think you love me now  
Cause you don't do it any more.

He: Look, what do you expect, luv?  
You just look a blinkin sight  
You've always got your curlers in  
Be it day or night

You promised to love me  
And to cherish and obey  
But whenever I get near  
Its, oh I've got a headache

Leave off, please go  
away  
So don't you talk of  
palaces  
About your long lost  
dream  
I often go back 40 years  
And think what might  
have been

Maida Simmonds

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# FLOWER OF THE MONTH—LOBELIA

It is my guess that nearly half my readers will grow lobelia in their flower beds, planters or hanging baskets this summer. It is such an adaptable, friendly little plant which can enhance any bedding plan next to larger more flamboyant flowers. Originally the low-growing lobelia was the vibrant blue variety but now, of course, we can grow a range of colours from white through many shades of blue and even pink and mauve. For hanging baskets it can now be found as a trailing plant and one of the prettiest examples I have ever seen was a hanging basket filled completely with trailing lobelia alone.

Strangely, unlike most of our garden flowers, it does not have a legend attached to it nor does it have complicated Greek connotations. That is except the lobelia erinus which just means “early” in Greek, signifying that it can be planted in spring.

Lobelias first came to this country from South Africa in the early 1600s. The bright blue flower was seized upon by gardeners and park keepers in a time when formal parterre planting was very much in fashion. Artists of the 1800s began to paint glorious gardens (think Monet and Renoir) and discovered the lovely new pigments, such as rose madder, cadmium yellow and cobalt blue which echoed exactly the vibrant plants in vogue.

Lobelias can be cultivated as perennials as they can withstand wind, rain and low temperatures but most gardeners regard them as annuals. Really heavy frost will destroy them however.

The flower was named after Matthias de l’Obel, a famous botanist who worked for Lord Edward Zouche in his beautiful gardens in Hackney, London. He then went on to tend the royal gardens of James II.

The other strain of lobelia is lobelia cardinalis, which, as its name implies has bright red flowers. This plant found its way from its habitat in North America to the gardens of Charles I and his queen, Henrietta Maria, in those balmy days before England was plunged into Civil War. It was the queen herself who chose cardinalis as its name as it reminded her of a cardinal’s robe. A taller standing plant it is rather more fussy about where it flourishes compared with its small cousin. It loves to grow near water and damp places so can enhance a bed near a garden pond very successfully. This species is a perennial plant so well worth investigating at a good garden centre.



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## FLORENCE PARK ACTIVITIES — PLEASE NOTE:

Flo Fest 15 – Florence Park Festival  
Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June  
Contact: [flofestoxford@gmail.com](mailto:flofestoxford@gmail.com)

Look out this year for Flo Park Victorian Music Hall night, family events like the fun Family Board Games Evening (last Friday of each month), foodie fun, markets, dancing, a Masked Ball, Flo Fest 2015, Open Doors, and another Panto next January. More information on [www.florenceparkcommunitycentre.org.uk](http://www.florenceparkcommunitycentre.org.uk).

# DIARY DATES TO REMEMBER

## Mothers' Union

Monthly Meeting on 3rd Monday of month  
from 2.30pm.

St James Church Centre

Speaker on 18 May—Jim Godfrey, Visitors' Officer,  
Christ Church Cathedral

## Women's Institute

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

St James Church Centre

Garden Party—17 June 2015 from 2pm

## 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)

## Film Club

Friday, 12 June 2015 - "Educating Rita"

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

## Flowers and Crafts at St James Church

Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> June 2015 from 11—6pm  
Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> June 2015 from 10—4pm.

## Summer Pirate Fun Day at St Francis

Saturday, 20 June 2015 from 10 – 2 pm

## Christian Aid Quiz

Friday, 26 June 2015, at 7 pm

St James Church Centre

## St James Café

Saturday, 27 June 2015 from 10 – 1 pm

St James Church Centre

## Sunday Lunch

Sunday, 28 June at 12.30pm

St. James Church Centre

Come and enjoy a full cooked Sunday lunch with  
other members of the parish for a very reasonable  
price. Open to all but PLEASE BOOK IN ADVANCE  
(by Wednesday 24 May) by calling the Parish Office  
(01865) 747680

## Afternoon Teas with Lyn and Dave Lord

18 July 2015 from 3 – 5 pm

Temple Road

## Parochial Church Council Meeting

Sunday, 19 July 2015, at 12 noon

St James Church Centre

## St James Patronal Day Celebrations

Sunday, 26 July 2015 from 4 pm

Evensong at St James Church followed by Cream Teas  
at St James Church Centre

## Cowley Festival of Christmas Trees 2015 - Plan- ning Meeting

Friday, 11 September 2015, 09.30 am in the Ranklin  
Room, St James Church Centre

## Open Doors/Ride 'n Stride

12<sup>th</sup> September 2015 – at St Francis and St James  
Churches

## DO NOT FORGET – Tuesday Lunches at St James Church Centre from 12.30 pm

Every Tuesday – BUT NOT:

Last Tuesday of July (28<sup>th</sup>)

All of August

Christmas week and New Year week

## THE COLOURS OF THE CHURCH

Following Trinity Sunday, celebrated on 31st May,  
the hangings in both our churches will be changed  
to green. This is the colour prescribed for the  
"Sundays after Trinity" – all 21 of them!

Green was originally chosen because it is the pre-  
dominant colour in the natural world.

There will be some changes between now and Ad-  
vent so do look out for further updates – as we  
mark our Patronal Festivals and on a few other oc-  
casions.

Margaret Martin

 **St James Café**   
St James Church Centre  
Beauchamp Lane



10:00 am to 1:00 pm

 **Saturday**   
**27th June**

For more information and to  
book a table contact

**Vicky Hall on**  
**07901 895 825**

 Come along for a tea or coffee and a  
slice of homemade cake  
**AND NOW bacon butties!**  
also : jams, cards, bric a brac,   
books and more

Sat 20th June

10-2pm

@ St Francis Church, Hollow Way



**Pirate**  
**Fun Day**



Treasure hunt, pirate crafts, games, Hawkwalk' falconry display,  
Tim Wood - Pirate sword fighting, Tom Foolery Magic,  
bouncy castle, BBQ, face painting and lots more!!



£1.50 each  
(FREE under 4)

**Flower Festival**  
**with art & craft exhibition**

**St James Church**  
**Beauchamp Lane,**  
**Cowley**

**Saturday 13 June**  
**11am to 6pm**

**Sunday 14 June**  
**2pm to 4pm**

*refreshments – free entry –  
donations*



christian  
**aid**



**QUIZ AID**

**Friday 26 June**  
**7:00 pm**

**St James Church Centre**  
**Beauchamp Lane**

**tickets on the door **£3****  
*includes soft drinks & nibbles*  
**raffle**

*information from Chris Knevet*  
**01865 778 754**

# ROLE DESCRIPTIONS OF VOLUNTEERS

## Sacristan Duties at St Francis Church

Sheila Collett is the Sacristan at St Francis Church, and undertakes the following duties:

To prepare for Mass she makes sure the communion tray is in place and set up with the following:

Chalice, paten, pall, corporal, purificator, and (chalice veil – during festivals)

Finger towel and bowl for washing

2 large wafers

Vessels to be presented during communion are set up at the back – ciborium (carrying two gluten free wafers) flagon with wine and another with water.

Candles around altar are cleaned and lit. This includes Pascal light when used, and candles by the lectern.

Vestments and linen cloths for the altar (with church warden) are washed and in place. If more are required she liaises with the vicar.

She has responsibility for the rota for cleaning altar cloths.

She changes the vestments (with vicar) around the altar to reflect the seasonal cycle, for example purple during Lent, red during Holy Week and white on Easter Sunday.

In addition, she helps to train and guide Altar Servers before and during mass.

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## OPEN DOORS

As in former years Oxford's Open Doors weekend coincides with the annual Ride 'n Stride sponsored event, both of which we celebrate in Cowley. The date this year is 12<sup>th</sup> September which might seem a long way off but, you wait and see, it will be upon us before we know it.

We open our doors, the doors of our lovely churches, to the wide world because we are rightly proud of them. There are thousands of people out there who have no idea what gems they are. The wonderful painted beams in St Francis are secret treasures and, when seen by visitors, are praised as art-deco works of beauty. The history of St James with all its treasures is also declared by visitors as a hidden gem. Tucked away as it is behind Templar Square and that awful multi-storey car-park it is "hidden" from the wider public. That is why Sally and I are determined to be on hand at St James and the welcomers at St Francis to point out those things which we know and love in our churches.

Please let friends and neighbours know about our open doors and (best of all) bring them along. There will be coffee/tea, cakes and biscuits to welcome them and make their visits extra worthwhile.



## RECIPES

Following our recent VE day celebrations we thought a couple of war-time recipes might be fun. We did resist, though, the suggestion in our Wartime Cookery Book to give you deep fried jam sandwiches!



### Treacle Scones

½ lb self-raising flour  
1 ½ oz margarine  
1 tablespoon of golden syrup  
Milk to Mix

Sieve flour and cut marg into small cubes. Rub the marg into the flour. Make a well in the centre of the bowl and pour in the syrup. Mix to a stiff dough using the milk.

Roll dough on floured board to about 1 inch thickness, cut into scones with pastry cutter.

Place on greased baking tray and bake in a moderate oven for about 15 minutes.

(2015 tip – brush over scones with beaten egg before baking. NOT ALLOWED in wartime with only one egg per person per week!)

### Honey lunch cake

8 ozs wholemeal flour  
1 teaspoon baking powder  
2 ozs dripping  
1-2 ozs sugar  
6 ozs mixed dried fruit  
1 tablespoon runny honey  
About ½ pt milk

Mix together flour and baking powder

Rub in the dripping using finger tips

Add sugar and dried fruit

Mix the honey with half of the milk

Make a well in the centre of the dry ingredients and pour in the milk and honey. Mix to a fairly soft consistency using more milk if required.

Place in a greased baking tin and bake for 1 ¼ hours in a moderate oven. Test with skewer to check that the cake is baked through.

Cool on rack

## CLERK TO THE GOVERNORS

Church Cowley St James Primary School is looking for a new Clerk to the Governors. Could this be you?

It is a paid post and requires a computer literate person who would need to prepare for, and attend, approximately seven meetings a year. The salary allows for three one-hour weekly sessions prior to the meetings to prepare data, agenda, minutes etc and six hours on the meeting day itself. Meetings are held at 6 pm. The next meeting will be on 14th July at the school.

If you are interested and wish to find out more, the school would be pleased to hear from you.

The head teacher's name is Steven Dew.

Website: [www.churchcowleystjames.org](http://www.churchcowleystjames.org)

Telephone Number: 01865 778484

Email: [office.3210@church-cowley-st-james.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.3210@church-cowley-st-james.oxon.sch.uk)

### Cowley W I invites you to a Garden Party



at

St James' Church Centre  
Beauchamp Lane

Wednesday 17 June at 2pm  
(inside if wet.... Or too hot!)

Floral Bring and Buy Teas Raffle

# Rosanne interviews Sheenagh Broadbent

We have lots of treasures in our parish not least of which are our three church primary schools. I have already interviewed the head teachers of St Francis and St James so it seems high time to introduce you to the new acting head of St Christopher's. Having served as deputy head it was right and proper that she should take up the reins when the former head teacher moved on. It was very good of Sheenagh to spare me over two valuable hours after a long school day in order to interview her. Indeed we even out-stayed the cleaning staff. She then had a long drive home to Shrivenham in busy traffic.

Like last month's interviewee, music in its many forms, is very close to her heart. This is not really surprising when we learn that she is the daughter of professional musicians. She hails from Newcastle where her father, a violinist, was a founder member of the Northern Symphonia and her mother was a piano teacher. She grew up in the middle of Newcastle and, gaining a bursary, attended a private school throughout her formative years. By the time she was eleven she was inspired by a brilliant teacher to play the piano and the oboe. By the time she was fifteen she had reached grade 8 in both instruments. She also sang in a choir (she still does) but more about her singing later.

Apart from music her academic studies came easily to her. She enjoyed maths but took A levels in history, French and, of course, music. She absolutely loathed any kind of sports ("skiving off", as she put it, at every opportunity). The idea of skidding about in mud on a hockey field still makes her shudder.

Her teenage years were filled with music especially playing her oboe in the Newcastle City Youth Orchestra. She moved on to Edinburgh University where she took her music degree. Whilst there, it is no surprise to learn that she took part in the university operatic productions, loved all the excitement of these and the social contacts they involved. She also passed her driving test at 17 and became an independent young lady.

That inspirational teacher who had taught her at eleven also helped to shape her future career as, after graduation, she realised that her next step was to take a postgraduate certificate to teach. It was this decision that brought her to Oxford when she joined Brookes University for her teacher training. Before this, however, she had been doing a postgraduate degree in singing in Glasgow, teaching piano and singing privately and falling in love.

It was at a friend's wedding that this pretty young girl

caught the eye of the best man. She demurred when I asked if it was love at first sight but since they had arranged to meet even before the friend's wedding day was over I think we can draw our own conclusions. John, the young man in question, was stationed at Shrivenham in the RAF which has been his career for twenty-five years. Sheenagh met him in 1988 and after only a brief engagement married him, in her home city just a year later despite the long distances between them during their courtship.

Shrivenham has the Military Staff College so in 2001 Sheenagh moved into married quarters. It was then that she journeyed each day to Brookes having previously "cut her teeth" on a three year period teaching music at Gordonstoun Public School and volunteering in a primary school as a teaching assistant when her sons were young. She has three sons Adam, Angus and Matthew with gaps of two years between each. It took some heart-searching to decide on boarding school for them but with John being posted to the far north of Scotland it seemed less unsettling for the boys. They boarded quite close to Sheenagh's parents which she found a little more comfortable.

A move back to Shrivenham, after Brookes, her first teaching

post was in Swindon. Then back to Scotland again, a place she described as very dark and freezing cold. The area was economically pretty deprived, fishing being the main form of employment, and the children she taught quite deprived. The experiences she encountered, though, certainly moulded her as an experienced teacher. On return to Swindon (another RAF posting south) she was made a year leader in her first school.

By now her boys were growing up and in 2009 she was given a post in the School Improvement Team in Oxford. This meant moving into schools facing difficulties to help them through a period of necessary improvement. My readers may remember that St Christopher's School here in Cowley went through a difficult OFSTED inspection a few years ago. Sheenagh was taken on board to help in the role of deputy head. Improvements were made and the great little school moved out of "special measures". She now finds herself at the helm.

She made it very clear that since her husband has retired, having reached a very high rank in the RAF, she really has no need to continue in teaching. She could be living it up in the sun shine on a beach in the South of France or wherever but she is doing the job she does because she wants to – a vocation no less. So it is a great pleasure to talk to such an inspirational lady who cares passionately about her school and the children there. I would like

to suggest that not only are our three church schools real treasures in our parish but their three head teachers are treasures too.

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How would you describe yourself as a young child?

I was a good girl, probably a bit of a swot. I loved going to school.

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

My mum and my brother (the three of us) would go from Newcastle to the Isle of Wight each summer by train. It meant crossing London and then at Southampton catching the ferry across to Ryde. My grandparents had a holiday cottage there so my grandad would meet us at Ryde. My memories are all of lovely weather and glorious days digging sandcastles on the beach at Bembridge.

Has there been someone who has made a significant influence on your life?

My teacher in Year 6 at Newcastle Central High School – Mrs Duff.

Has your faith been with you since childhood?

Yes, I have always been a churchy person. I was singing in the church choir from the age of eleven. Church has always been a big part of my life.

Do you have a treasured possession?

Possessions are not that important. The things you cannot replace are family photos but there is not a thing that makes me "me" other than me!

What is your opinion of present-day society?

I think there is hope that things can always improve. Society is not really fair. I know I have had a fortunate life mainly due to education. Education is a way to improve one's chances and develop one's talents.

If you could change something important what would it be?

I'd like everyone to have work and be able to live good healthy, happy lives.

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

The period when my children were young bringing them up before their school years. Now is the time for me to pursue the things I care about.

What do you like to do in your leisure time?

Walking the dog, visiting National Trust properties, clothes shopping, and reading (absolutely anything when I am on holiday). I am also partial to a spot of gardening.

What plans do you have for the future?

Travel and more travel. John and I are planning to build our dream house near Bicester. No more moving!



# OXFORD IN WARTIME

As we have been celebrating the end of the war in Europe, we cannot help wondering about our City, and indeed what Cowley was like during the long years of war. What was happening and how did it affect the ordinary people?

Of course as far as Cowley was concerned the big thing was in the Morris Motor Works which turned over to war work making and mending munitions and transport. We got used to the sight of those long lorries, nicknamed Queen Mary's, bringing bits of aeroplanes to the factory to be repaired. And there was a small airfield at Cowley where planes could be tested after they had been mended.

Quite near to St Francis Church the Oxford and Bucks Regiment had their Headquarters and they were very active during the war. Just opposite on the Golf Course ack-ack guns were sited, and there were more guns on Cowley Marsh. People were surprised that we did not have more air raids considering the proximity of the works. The sirens used to be sounded but there were few raids and very little damage done. When Coventry was heavily blitzed we wondered if our turn would be next, but nothing materialised. We had ARP wardens patrolling our streets and fire watches situated on important buildings. Everyone had to fit heavy blackout curtains to their windows and make sure that no lights were showing at night. Public Air Raid shelters sprang up like mushrooms all over the place and people were encouraged to build their own private shelters in their gardens. All vehicles had to have their lights dimmed and petrol was strictly

rationed, as was food. We were all issued with ration books and books of coupons for clothing. However, a few Municipal Restaurants appeared run by the Council where a cheap meal could be purchased during certain hours.

Public Transport continued as usual, and the first women drivers and conductors were employed. There was an experiment with building gas buses, which was not very successful. Buses were more crowded since the few people who had cars could not use them. Those who were fit enough used their own bicycles to get about and, of course, people walked much more then.

Someone came up with the idea of utility furniture, which was made using cheaper materials and less wood. Wedding cakes were made with several tiers only one of which would be real cake, the rest would be artificial.

We got used to the idea of our friends and relatives being called up to War Service and disappearing overseas for long periods. Those not eligible for this often worked in munitions factories for long hours.

In all of these difficulties and dangers there was a sense of togetherness and camaraderie that we had not experienced before and was very heart-warming.

John Shreeve

Editor: If any of our readers would like to send their own memories of those wartime days we would love to hear from them.

# NEWS FROM ST FRANCIS



We have been steadily working through our ecclesiastical calendar and also social events. We recently took a good look at Christian Aid and pondered on the need for all of our churches to do more to support this, not just during one week in the year, but as an on-going thing. Indeed our church leaders have been saying that churches everywhere ought to unite in doing more charitable work both in this country and abroad. If we are to retain our identity in the community we have to be seen as a caring church.

Like other churches in the Diocese we have been dismayed by the delays in selecting our new Bishop of Oxford. In Cowley Parish we have also been disappointed by the hitch in appointing our new Team Rector, and wondering if it could have

been avoided. This all goes to show that we should value those who

choose to give up their lives in the service of our churches, whether they be clergy or laity. The word 'service' has become out of fashion in the commercial world outside. Yet our churches could not function without such people. Many of them are nearing retirement now, and we need to find younger replacements – not an easy task. Yet Christ in his time on earth emphasised the need for all of us to serve one another rather than wanting others to serve us.

John Shreeve

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## Our Hidden Herbs

In recent weeks we have all rejoiced in the resurgence of spring, with its new growth and colourful flowers and blossoms. They do much to lift the spirits after the long winter months. Yet we often ignore those little plants that grow alongside of them, our wonderful herbs. And we would find it difficult to identify them. Before the advent of modern medicine those herbs were all that people had to help with sickness and disability. In medieval times the monks and nuns of our religious communities became skilled in the knowledge and use of them. And they were able to offer limited hospice care to those in need. This all stopped with the dissolution of the monasteries. Nevertheless some country folk had built up a limited acquaintance with the more common ones to use in their own patent remedies.

Many of these herbs are still used by our modern Pharmaceutical Companies in the preparation of their medicines. Others are used for their oils, perfume properties and for caring and tanning. Some of the more common ones like mint and thyme and parsley are frequently used in our cooking recipes.

There are something like 125 different herbs with common names still known to us today. Plants like marshmallow, chamomile, St John's wort, digitalis, greater celandine and marjoram to name but a few. They all have their specific uses and can do a lot of good to those who are sick. So spare a thought for our herbs – they are part of our natural heritage, and we should be glad that they are still around.

John Shreeve

# Christ Church Cathedral

Throughout the United Kingdom our cathedrals are amazing. Unique, splendid treasures each in their own right, and each almost breathing the prayers and worship of generations of Christian people. That is exactly how I regard our wonderful cathedral in Oxford and that is why I find it a privilege and pleasure to be a cathedral welcomer. To stand at the great west door and watch visitors' faces as they walk in is quite special because I know that 99% of them after their visit will be entranced with the beauty of the place. The other 1% are, I am afraid, mainly teenagers from abroad who have been scheduled to make a visit as part of their Oxford "experience". The only saving grace as far as they are concerned is the fact that "Harry Potter" was filmed there and so it becomes something of a Holy Grail.

Welcoming is so rewarding. Visitors are offered a leaflet on arrival printed in their own language (we have nearly 30 different translations on offer) which presents them with a simple guide around the building. There are so many treasures to see that we rely on the Stewards who walk around to fill in any details for them or answer questions. On the subject of language we welcomers often have a joke with our Australian and American friends about the English version! And we have chats and jokes with lovely people from all over the world. To make them feel "at home" in the cathedral is a great pleasure, especially the children. They often come in thinking they are in for a dull visit but we have on offer for them a kind of treasure hunt trail finding "faces" in the stained-glass windows, the memorials, and so on and we even lend them a pencil to tick off their findings as they go. It is great to see the smiles on their faces when they come to

show their completed leaflets and hand back their pencils. Yes, their visit was fun after all.

It is amazing how many people, even local Oxonians do not know quite where our beautiful cathedral is. Of course it is because of its location, tucked away in the heart of Oxford's biggest college. It is unique in that it is the smallest cathedral in England, it is also the only cathedral which is also a college chapel and it is our mother church. It was also founded on the site of St Frideswide's priory way back in the sixth century.

If you think that becoming a cathedral welcomer might be something you would enjoy I need to explain that it requires you to stand for at least two hours at a time in the entrance. It is also pretty chilly during the winter months when a wicked wind whistles through the doors as they open. However, apart from those two little problems I am sure you can tell that I find it very rewarding especially if you enjoy meeting people from all over the world. Patricia Higgins or I can give you more details of who to contact to get your name on the rota.

Rosanne Butler

## Innovista International

Are you looking for desk space to rent for your small business or charity? Innovista International have up to two desks available in our office on Sandy Lane West in Littlemore, Oxford. It is the perfect place for those who need somewhere to work from, but don't need an office all to themselves.

If interested, please contact us at [info@innovista.org](mailto:info@innovista.org) for more information.

## COWLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

After Cowley Women's Institute's 30th Anniversary celebrations in April, it was back to normal for our May meeting when we took part in a gentle exercise session and discussed a Resolution about Carers that is to be considered at the Centenary Annual Meeting in London on 4th June when HM The Queen and HRH the Princess Royal will be present.

On Wednesday, 17th June, we are holding a Garden Party in the grounds at the Church Centre (indoors if wet .... or too hot!). There will be Cream Teas, Games, a Floral Bring and Buy Sale and a Grand Raffle. The Garden Party starts at 2 pm. Come and join in the fun – we look forward to welcoming you.

Ann Withers  
President, Cowley WI

### Don't vote for politicians, it just encourages them (Billy Connolly)

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A small girl told her mummy she had a pain in her tummy. "Never mind" said her mum, "I expect it's empty, you'll be fine when there's something in it". Later the vicar called round but said he'd have to get home as he had a nasty headache. "Don't worry" said the little girl, "You'll feel better when you get something in it."

## 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 LARK

I am here! O my God.  
I am here, I am here!  
You draw me away from earth,  
And I climb to You  
On a passion of shrilling,  
To the dot in heaven  
Where, for an instant, You crucify me.  
When will You keep me forever?  
Must You always let me fall  
Back to the furrow's dip,  
A poor bird of clay?  
Oh, at least  
Let my exultant nothingness  
Soar to the glory of Your mercy,  
In the same hope,  
Until death.  
AMEN

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## REPORT ON DEANERY SYNOD MEETING, 19<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2015

The starting worship was done in the style that was used by the John Henry Newman Academy. A hymn: "Oh Freedom" was sung, we had bible readings from the book of Mark followed by Prayers and singing "Seek Ye First the Kingdom of the Lord" which was sung in the style of a round to excellent melodic effect and accompanied by a violin soloist. The theme of the mini service was God's Hands. This was illustrated by a beautiful candle holder in the shape of two hands together.

We were informed that the Deanery was to become more of a Unit of Mission. Margreet Armitstead was to become Assistant Area Dean to assist Tim Stead. 4 new vacancies were announced.

There were talks on:

1. The Deanery plan in Development covering:  
Mental Health Support in the Parish  
Ministry in Schools  
Eco agenda  
Response to poverty  
Interfaith and multicultural issues.
2. Working ecumenically in schools – about ordinary Christians helping to make the programme life changing. A few of the schools where this project was being done was St Andrews New Marston, Bayards Hill, Sandhills. The project is about:  
Helping the church to support school communities.  
Helping children find their own answers  
Teaching on Inspirational Christians (eg William Wilberforce, Mother Theresa, Zac Hunter and the work of street pastors)
3. Introduction to a national organisation called "prayer space" which is a non-proselytising Christian educational organisation that goes into schools and takes children through various activities and creative pursuits designed to support their personal and self-development.
4. Series of speeches on different aspects of how Ministry is being used in schools locally today. The website : <http://www.bespace.be/> was promoted to us.

The meeting demonstrated the massive quantity of work that had gone into bringing up a new generation to be a part of a Faith community. It also seemed to be heavily driven to encouraging free thought and dealing with issues in Children which was brilliant.

The next Deanery Synod is planned for the 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2015, a joint meeting with Oxford Deanery.

Nick Dewey

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## CHRONICLE

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

Deadline for the next edition:

Wednesday 24 June 2015

If possible, please send entries by email to Sally at [chronicle@cowleyteamministry.co.uk](mailto:chronicle@cowleyteamministry.co.uk)

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# Southsea Trip

During the half-term break, St. Francis and St. James went on a wild adventure to Southsea, Portsmouth. We all had an amazing, and slightly surprising, experience of Southsea's museums and beach-fronts.

The day started when we met up outside St. Francis church. The two minibuses (driven by Jason and Lesley) and four cars left at 9 o'clock on Saturday morning.

The first carload arrived two hours later and parked at Southsea Canoe Lake. We sat down in the park to eat lunch while Skye waited in the car park to direct the minibuses once they joined us. Unfortunately, on entering the car park, the skylight of one of the minibuses got smashed. Luckily, when we phoned the company, they reassured us that everything would be fine, saying that it happens all the time. With this as a comfort, we continued our day luxuriously.

After lunch people separated into smaller groups and dispersed to explore the outstanding attractions. Many of the children (including myself) were entertained crabbing, playing at the park and enjoying ourselves. Although we only caught a few small fish, which we put back in the water, this disappointment failed to spoil our happiness.

Then we ventured to the Butterfly House in the Natural History Museum, which was free and amazing. We saw many different species of butterfly coming out of their cocoons; between us, we got some pretty good photos! There was also a dinosaur model that loomed over the stairs - SCARY!

Next we enjoyed the beach, which is something strangely lacking in Oxford. I played tag and

tried to skim stones, while the adults lazed around on the shore. The sun was shining, so it was a pleasant rest.

Soon after the beach, we visited the D-Day Museum, where we watched a twenty minute film on D-Day and saw a famous tapestry describing the war. It was moving and captured the senses. There was a pond outside the museum where we searched for fish.

We were thirsty after the D-Day Museum, so we visited Southsea Castle. We quickly grabbed a drink and then sped off to evening prayer. It took fifteen minutes to reach St. Simon's, which was the church we were visiting. Skye did a short service and we sung two hymns. Then we went and had an excellent dinner at the local chippy.

We managed to fill the whole café next door to the chip-shop and sat with friends to share our stories of the exciting day. Debbie and Dan, the owners, did an amazing job, and after a lot of photos we climbed into the minibuses.

Finally we set off back to Cowley. It had been an eventful and exciting day at Southsea and I'm sure we will remember it for a long time.

Sofia Denno

## Can you help the Vestry Fund:

Funds are required for the refurbishment of the vestry at St James Church. Offers for the "retro" pink five drawer filing cabinet currently in the vestry welcomed.

# SAINT OF THE MONTH—SAINT ANTHONY of PADUA

It is fascinating to learn about a man who was taken under the wing of no less a saint than St Francis of Assisi. He so impressed Francis that he was chosen whilst still a young man to teach theology to the Franciscan friars at Bologna and Padua.

So we need to find out how Anthony was educated into theology so well. The son of a rich, noble Portuguese family he was born in 1193. At the age of sixteen he joined the Order of Austin Canons and studied under eminent teachers from various French centres of excellent education such as Montpellier, Toulouse and Paris. He studied the Bible and he became so impressed by visiting Franciscans that he joined the order in 1220 following in their missionary work. However, having sailed to Morocco he was taken ill and was forced to return to Europe. He then took part in the General Chapter of Assisi whilst St Francis was still alive. It was at this point, whilst he was preaching at an ordination service that his deep knowledge and contemplation of the Bible revealed itself. He was then commissioned to teach and preach in important Christian establishments in France where he earned himself the nickname "Hammer of Heretics".

After this work he was given charge of Franciscan establishments across northern Italy. He wrote a book "Sermons for Sundays" and became a member of a commission sent to Rome to discuss with the papacy the Rule and Testament of Francis. His wonderful sermons in Rome became known as "The Jewel Case of the Bible". He became so popular that a bit like a modern-day pop-star, the venues available were too small and he resorted to preaching in the market places and squares of that great city. It was said that his sermons were so compelling that even the animals, like

donkeys, in the street and fish in the river would pause to listen to him.

At the early age of thirty-eight his health failed and he returned to Padua for the last months of his life. He died at Arcella, close to Padua, where the friars had a connection with a convent of the poor Clares (you may remember that St Francis and St Clare were life-long friends founding their orders on the same principles). He died when almost 40.

Anthony's body was taken to the friars' church of Our Lady in Padua. Around it was built a basilica in his name which to this day attracts hoards of pilgrims.

He has the reputation as the patron saint of lost articles and lost causes. This springs from a little story about a novice nun who borrowed his psalter without permission. When she surreptitiously returned it, its reappearance was attributed to prayer! Nowadays pilgrims flock to his tomb to touch it in the hope that he will remedy any loss that they may be enduring. He is also the patron saint of Brazil where he is highly venerated.

His saint day is celebrated on 13th June.

**A ship from Britain was washed up on a desert island. A year later a rescue ship finally found the shipwrecked passengers. By that time the Scots had started a brewery, the Welsh had formed a choir, the Irish were deciding how to celebrate St Patrick's Day and the English were still waiting to be introduced!**



# REPORT FROM ST CHRISTOPHER'S SCHOOL

We had a fantastic grand opening of the Orchard Building on the 23 April 2015 with the author Korky Paul, who gave an assembly where he painted a picture of 'winnie the witch' and read one of his stories, followed by the ribbon cutting. I thought you would be interested to see some letters the children wrote about the event.

## Robert + Emjay

Year 3 started off in an unusual way because our new proper classroom was yet to be built. We had to rely on practical lessons because we were in a small portacabin with no interactive whiteboard. Even so we really enjoyed it, and we had so much fun, like one time we had a blizzard created by our teachers. Another time we had a alien invasion.

The months went by we watched our new classroom develop. Finally we moved classroom. We had to move all our furniture because as you would spot it was empty. It was very and quite strange.

Here's a list of what we had: under floor heating, a whiteboard and hanging lights.

We are overjoyed with our wonderful new classroom.

## Sammy + Subhan

The 73 children of St. Christopher's are so happy to be in their new class room. We started the year in a portacabin which did not have a very good internet or electricity. We did have a generator and once it broke down, so we had to go to the IT room with all our equipment for our lessons. It was the middle of winter so it was a bit chilly and quite dark in the morning!

Now in our fantastic new classroom, we have an interactive whiteboard and a much stronger signal. When the new classrooms were fully built, before the February half term, we had to carry lots of important things to our new classroom. In the half term our teachers set the class up. When we came back from the holidays everything was set up properly. The classroom had enormous windows so we didn't waste electricity. The cupboards are great because they have huge space inside. We have under floor heating that the Romans invented! There are some group rooms which we used for reading, literacy and maths.

We are now really thankful for the builders and we just want to say thank you for brightening up our school. We are very proud of our new building and can appreciate how lucky we are to have it!

In St. Christopher's school year 3 we got off to an unusual start. In a portacabin our new classroom was still being built. However still we had lots of fun in the portacabin and decorated it with all different things. One day we arrived to find our teachers had completely filled it with paper snowflakes hanging from the ceiling and they had staged a blizzard to start off our new topic, 'Wild Weather'!

As the months passed by, we watched our building being built. At the end of the term it was finally ready and we carried all of our things to the new building. In the half term, the teachers set the classroom up for us. When we came back after the holidays we had our first lesson and we had lots of fun. The classroom had lots of light from the enormous windows. It has a lot of space, a lot more cupboards. We have small group areas.

Here we are now in our exciting new building, learning all about the Victorians. We already feel that we have an insight into what life must have been like in Victorian times, with no electricity, and no internet!

## Keira + Rafete

Year three started off in an unusual way this year because our new classroom was not finished yet. As a result we had to move into a small portacabin with no electricity. But luckily, it had a generator and heaters. We had no interactive whiteboards but still had fun having practical lessons. Finally the new classroom was finished. We have new modern underfloor heating like the Romans! In this classroom we have an interactive whiteboard. We also have small group rooms where we go out to do special work!

When it is playtime we can just walk out of the classroom and then we are in the playground. We are very satisfied.

## Kai + Amaan.

## SIGNIFICANT DATES IN JUNE

4th June 1784 saw the first woman and the first opera singer take to the skies. Madame Thible who sang in French opera ascended in a hot-air balloon over Paris.

On 10th June 1840 Edward Oxford, a servant in a London pub, fired two shots at Queen Victoria and Prince Albert as they drove in an open carriage along Constitution Hill in the capital. Although he was only a few yards away both shots missed their target. He was sent to a mental hospital but later released on condition that he left the country never to return.

The eight hundredth anniversary of Magna Carta takes place on 15th June. "The Big Charter" was signed by King John in 1215 at Runnymede, near Windsor. He was forced by his barons to agree to limiting the King's royal powers. It is generally agreed that this event was the first move towards our present-day democracy.

Peter Bossey became the last person in England to be locked in the pillory on 24th June 1830. After one day in the pillory he was sentenced to six months in prison and then transported to Australia for seven years. (History has not recorded his crime!)

On 26th June 1963 John F Kennedy, American President, visited Berlin which at the time was under siege from communist East Germany. To boost morale he declared "I am a Berliner". Unfortunately a "Berliner" is also the word for a small doughnut.

At 7.17 am on 30th June 1908 a massive fireball laid waste to a vast area of forest in Northern Siberia. A farmer 60 kilometres away was knocked to the ground and told of a great flash of light and heat that almost burned the shirt from his back. Scientists now believe that the explosion was caused by a comet colliding with the Earth.

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## Friends of St James Old School

We have established this new community group to ensure continuing support for the Old School. Membership forms will soon be available – annual subscription £10 single, £20 family. We hope to sign up many former students and staff.

If you have not done so recently, do peep over the wall and see the amazing 'allotment garden' that has been built in the playground. Many congratulations to the staff and students of Church Cowley St James School for the transformation. They are very excited about the crops being produced, to be cooked back in school.

The other good news is that we hope the County Council will find the grant funding to repair the building and for it then to become the Nursery section of Church Cowley St James School, for all the schools 2 to 5 year olds. Steve Dew, Head teacher, is doing all the business planning.

# News from the Bell Tower

The Cowley bells have been busy in May. The Oxford City branch half yearly meeting was held on Saturday 9th, and we had lots of ringing before and after the meeting – any of you attending the VE day party in the Church Centre probably heard us. I hope we provided a celebratory backdrop to the party. We should have been holding the Branch striking competition that day as well, but as only two teams showed an interest, we settled for just enjoying an afternoons ringing instead. The following weekend, we hosted the Guild AGM. I have to give a big thank you to all the Cowley ringers who provided so much of the food, and organised the Church Centre for the event. A special mention of thanks must be made to Margaret Craig for doing a reading in the service, Jamie for acting as sides person, and Brian Tidy for playing the organ. The service was excellent, as was the tea, and it was a real treat to ring with such accomplished ringers. I have never heard Cowley bells sound so lovely – now we know what we have to try and aim for at our practices!

We have managed to find enough of us to ring for most Sunday services recently, but have been struggling with numbers at practice nights. Sadly, our ringing will probably become even more intermittent between now and September, with various holidays, injuries and other commitments keeping people away. There are lots of opportunities for those of us who are around to ring, both in Oxford and further afield. Last Saturday there was a practice on the new simulator at Headington. The simulator means that from outside the tower, no ringing can be heard. Bicycle inner tubes are tied over the clappers, and a sensor picks up when the bell would strike, and the sound is relayed to a computer in the belfry. Iris, our newest Cowley

ringer, made real progress at this practice, ringing the treble to her first ever method. In the near future we will also be attending a practice hosted by the Wootton ringers, and there are various outings on offer – a morning at Shipston on Stour, and a full days ringing outing by minibus to four towers in Essex. We also have the treat of ringing at St Thomas, a 10 bell tower usually rung by the Oxford University Society, to look forward to in July.

We will continue to ring for as many services as we can over the summer, and we will be ringing for 3 Cowley weddings this year, with some help called in from other towers. As ever, if you think you might be interested in joining us, or just coming along to see what we do, please give me a ring on Oxford 777486, and I'll let you know when we are next having a practice.

Lindsay Powell

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# REPORT FROM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

A PCC meeting was held on the 24 May 2015 when an update was given on the many things which are happening in the Parish.

Three people were co-opted on to the PCC –Joan Coleman, Sally Hemsworth and Marlene Shreeve so the PCC membership is now:

Church Wardens:               Norah Shallow  
                                          David Stanley

PCC Members:                 Pat Chambers  
                                          Joan Coleman (Treasurer)  
                                          Sheila Collett  
                                          Vicky Hall  
                                          Sally Hemsworth (Secretary)  
                                          Gerald Ives  
                                          May Morgan  
                                          Marko Noerenberg  
                                          John Shreeve  
                                          Marlene Shreeve  
                                          Rosalind Ware  
                                          Lesley Williams (Electoral Roll Officer/  
                                                          Safeguarding)

Deanery Synod:                 Nick Dewey  
                                          William Hartley  
                                          Margaret Weller  
                                          Chris Woodman

The PCC reviewed the policies and procedures in place to help with the administration of the Parish:

- ◆ Burial of Ashes in St James Churchyard
- ◆ Cowley Parish Policy for dealing with Events and Fund-raising Activities
- ◆ Fair Trade Policy
- ◆ Legacy Policy
- ◆ Parish Safeguarding Policy
- ◆ Procedure for Quinquennial maintenance work in Cowley
- ◆ Pastoral Care Policy
- ◆ Terms of Hiring Parish Premises

Members considered their position as Trustees of a Charity – a detailed document was circulated to each member so that they were fully aware of their responsibilities.

The latest position on outstanding action was noted – most importantly the following:

- ◆ Faculty papers have been submitted for the refurbishment of the kitchen and the sale of the redundant bell at St Francis Church
- ◆ Faculty papers were being finalised for the vestry at St James Church and improved outside lighting.
- ◆ Planning Application was being prepared to apply for Solar Panelling on the roof of the Church Centre

It noted that the annual review of inventories for the three church premises had been completed.



These revealed that there had been a huge loss of soup dishes at the Church Centre, but a great increase in glasses; a small brass container at St Francis was missing and one of the PCC members reported that she had it and was trying to find out what it was! But on the whole all things were in place and well kept.

Sally Hemsworth

## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

The Annual Congregational Meetings of St James and St Francis Churches were held in May when Church Committees were appointed for the year. The membership appointed at the meeting is shown below – there was concern at the low number of members on both committees, and the PCC hopes that more people will come forward to sit on the committees.

### St James Church Committee

Frank Butler

Rosanne Butler

Ron Maguire

Margaret Martin (Deputy Warden)

### St Francis Church Committee

Shirley Costar

Faith Hunter

Lyn Lord

Elsie Tshabalala

PCC members are ex officio members of the Church Committees.

Concerns were also expressed about the low numbers of Sidespersons at both churches. If you are interested in helping in this way, please see Skye or Margaret Martin. Training is given and the more people on the rota means that it is not an onerous task.

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## HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR CHURCHES

### St Francis Church—The Font

The Font was installed in 1964 and was used for the first time to baptise Carole Anne Bowley on the 23 February 1964.

The shape of the font is of a baby's bath and has a cover made from Afromosia wood, to match the timber on the altar rails (which were installed in 1963).



# SUNDAY SERVICES

## ST JAMES CHURCH, BEAUCHAMP LANE

8.00am Holy Communion  
10.00am Sung Eucharist  
Sunday Sunday Lunch – the date varies so watch for notices

## ST FRANCIS CHURCH, HOLLOW WAY

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

## MID-WEEK SERVICES & MEETINGS

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

## HOME GROUPS

| Leader                                  | Time/Venue                                                                                                                |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Connie Uren                             | Alternate Tuesday afternoons at 2.30pm<br>St James Church Centre, Ranklin Room                                            |
| Friends of St Francis<br>(John Shreeve/ | 2nd & 4th Tuesday afternoons at 2.30pm<br>St Francis Church                                                               |
| Mark Oxbrow                             | Alternate Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm<br>Mark's home                                                                     |
| Rosanne Butler                          | Alternate Thursday mornings at 10.00am<br>St James Church Centre, Ranklin Room                                            |
| Josh & Claire<br>Hordern                | Thursdays at 8.00pm, often at 55 Glanville Rd<br><a href="mailto:joshuahordern@hotmail.com">joshuahordern@hotmail.com</a> |
| Joel Denno                              | Thursday at 7.45pm at The Vicarage,<br>Don Bosco                                                                          |
| Helen Beetham                           | Alternate Friday mornings at 10am                                                                                         |

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](mailto:office@cowleyteamministry.co.uk)  
Out of hours tel: 07501 908378  
Website: [www.cowleyteamministry.co.uk](http://www.cowleyteamministry.co.uk)

### Team Rector:

Vacancy

### Team Vicar:

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

### Self-supporting Ministers

Revd Richard Chand  
01865 701948  
Email: [richard@richardwchand@outlook.com](mailto:richard@richardwchand@outlook.com)

Revd Canon Mark Oxbrow  
01865 461953  
Email: [markoxbrow@aol.com](mailto:markoxbrow@aol.com)

Revd Dr Amanda Bloor  
Tel: 01865 208221

Revd Tony Beetham  
Tel: 01865 770923  
Email: [tonybeetham1@supanet.com](mailto:tonybeetham1@supanet.com)

### Churchwardens:

David Stanley Tel: 776602  
Norah Shallow Tel: 765199

Deputy Wardens  
Margaret Martin Tel: 718532  
John Shreeve Tel: 717987

### St James Church Centre Manager:

Chris Woodman Tel: 778078

### Hall Bookings:

Church Centre: Pat Sansom Tel: 778516  
St Francis Church/St James Church:  
through Parish Office

### Cowley Chronicle—Editorial Team:

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