

A word from the Rectory

Vision days and a New Bishop

As a new Vicar to the Oxford Diocese I have been blessed with an opportunity to go and see the new Diocesan Offices in Kiddlington. I was able to connect with some of the people in the diocese who previously I have just spoken to on the phone. With a new Building that makes the work of the diocese so much more connected and a new Bishop on the way it is all excitement. Bishop Steven Croft comes with a treasure chest of experience. Ordained in 1983, a Theological College principle, National Team leader for the setting up of Fresh expression of Church, and Bishop of Sheffield since 2008.

As you talk to the Senior staff of the diocese you hear of his priorities: the marginalised of society, youth and lay ministry. Where do these come from and how do they fit in with the vision God is calling us to in the coming years?

As we look at Jesus' ministry we see his major work as taking those on the margin and restoring them to the centre. It is what he has done for each of us. Taken us from a place, on the edge, where we have been separated from God, and bringing us back into God's presence. Jesus did it for each one of us but also did it for the tax collectors, those begging on the streets, those fallen from society or excluded from society by illness or social expectation. Through time it has been the calling of his church to continue that work.

For us today? How does that work out?

We are often reminded that Jesus said 'let the children come to me'. But I think we find a better model when we look at Jesus' own life. We do not know much about his early days but we do know that his family took him to the Temple as a babe and that he went eagerly as a teenager. What does that tell us about our expectation and provision for youth?

Lastly, Lay training. Jesus was the great lay trainer. Those who walked with him were not the Priests and theological academics. He trained the laity to be the ministers of his kingdom. It is a reality that the national church is rediscovering; As Church we are most vibrant when every member of Jesus family is active in doing something for the kingdom of God. Across the country the pattern of ministry is changing. Currently Bishop Steven is working with the following framework. It is one that is being used across the country.

Parishes will be asked to form mission partnerships, often sharing a stipendiary incumbent and working together in all kinds of ways. Normally these will be geographical.

Stipendiary clergy will normally work across more than one parish in mission partnerships, enabling teams of lay leaders in each church

Every local church will have its own ministry team of licensed and authorised ministers under the leadership of the

Chronicle

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stipendiary incumbent enabling the whole Body of Christ. Wherever possible this will include a self-supporting ordained minister

Every church will seek to be a growing community of Christian disciples active in mission, supporting one another in serving and transforming our society and God's world

Every mission partnership will work together to plant fresh expressions of church or new congregations in different geographical areas and for different groups.

As we seek and pray for a vision to lead us into the coming years it will undoubtedly lie against such a framework. May God guide us in the coming months. Come join us on the 18th June!



Benson Cottage

Mothers' Union News

Our speaker in May was a very inspirational lady - Sue-Ellen Pedley, who is the chief embroiderer at Christ Church Cathedral. She also restores and creates embroidered garments, altar frontals and other artifacts for churches and cathedrals all over Britain. She illustrated her talk with slides showing examples of exquisite embroidery from as early as Saxon times right up to the present century. With quite a few visitors and our regular members we enjoyed a full and very interesting afternoon.

At the May meeting it was agreed that, to celebrate the 140th anniversary of the Mothers' Union, we reach out to families, in particular (though, as ever, we love to welcome any and every one) by holding a "Paint-your-own-mug" tea party. We plan to hold it on a Saturday afternoon in August. The date has not been fixed yet so watch out for this in next month's news.

Our speaker this month, on Monday, 20th, will be our Rector, Geoff. He spent 20 years teaching science in a secondary school before becoming ordained so his subject "The Reconciliation between Faith and Science" should be fascinating. We shall be pleased to welcome visitors, of course. We meet at 2.30 pm in the Church Centre.

"What should our church be like in 20 years time?"

"What steps do we need to take to get there?"

"What should be the first steps?"



A vision morning

Saturday June 18th More

details to follow please keep the date free

Editor's Letter

Dear Readers

It is that time again – time to order your new Chronicles. My, doesn't the time fly by? There will be order forms in both churches and in your next two magazines so do not miss out. Fill in your order and hand it over, with your £4 or £5, to May or Norah by August. I must say that I am looking forward to my personal issue in September as it will be one for which I have not taken responsibility. Things will change and that can only be really good for the Parish.

Now that you all know that I am a real football fan I am sure you will not mind me mentioning how pleased I was when our local team, Oxford United, achieved automatic promotion to Division One of the National League. It will not be easy for them next season but let's wish them success.

This month sees the third of my series of talks on the story of Cowley. I have called it "The Bread Basket of the University" but that is not all there is to it. We are raising funds for the Old School (with hope in our hearts) and have so far reached almost £400.

On the same subject the Old School Committee are planning another of our popular concerts with the Jubilee Brass Band. A date has been set for the autumn, October 8th, so watch out for posters and more details in the coming months.

While we are talking about concerts, have you got your tickets for the celebration concert for the Queen yet? The Welsh Male Voice Choir always come up with a super programme. The church of St James holds an audience of over 120 comfortably so that is a seat for every one of our Chronicle subscribers. See you there?

I know it sounds strange but plans are already underway for this year's Christmas Tree Festival.

Lesley wants a crowd of us to decorate a KNITTED tree, and is going to organise "knitty-natter" sessions. Watch out for dates and bring your needles. Green wool would also be very welcome. You have to agree, though, that good forward planning brings its own reward.

Are you a cyclist or a walker? Do not forget that it will not be long before the annual Ride 'n Stride day is upon us. Last year we had only a handful of volunteers from our Parish whereas some parishes have dozens. Even if you are only pushing a little person in a buggy around a few churches every little helps.

The same can be said for Christian Aid. I managed to wheedle just a few coins out of some of my not-so-well-off neighbours but collected their envelopes with joy in my heart. While we are on the Christian Aid theme we are holding another of our tried and tested quiz nights on 24th of this month. Seven o'clock as ever was at the Church Centre. Bring your friends and prove how strong your general knowledge is. I promise to put a few easy questions in!

Those are only a few of the exciting things to look forward to in the coming months. I am sure you agree with me there is never a dull moment.

By the time you get your next Chronicle we shall all have decided whether we are in or out (Europe I am talking about). At the moment I cannot wait to get all the endless promises and gloomy predictions out of the way. In, out? Let us all do the hokey cokey and get on with the important things like caring for one another, praying for each other and worshipping God.

God bless

Rosanne

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

MINDFULNESS AND CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY

by Tim Stead (published SPCK 2016, £9.99)

Mindfulness is a subject often in the headlines nowadays! Stress-reducing mindfulness programmes are available here in Oxford. It has been described as a lucid, and appreciative knowing what we are doing as we are doing it. It is seen as health giving and people attend mindfulness courses as a benefit to their psychological well-being.

But it is not a specifically religious or Christian practice! Tim Stead, who is our Area Dean for Cowley Deanery, is also an accredited mindfulness teacher. He has written this book to show the links between the Christian contemplative tradition and the stress reducing mindfulness programme, developed by those who approach it from a secular and non-religious standpoint.

Tim Stead suggests that the ancient Christian contemplative practices of attentiveness and stillness are needed more than ever and that mindfulness can be a really beneficial part of our Christian faith and making space for God. Starting with a section on 'What is Mindfulness?' the book continues with 'From believing to knowing' and concludes with 'From Doing to Being'.

It reminds us of the sacrament of the present moment – being in the now – and a challenge about “what am I doing with my one wild and precious life?”

Helen and Tony Beetham

MY FAMILY AND OTHER ANIMALS

By Gerald Durrell

Penguin Books (Fiftieth Anniversary Edition)

This hilariously funny classic has just been re-issued by Penguin Books, so is currently available in paperback, should you wish to purchase it. One of the TV Channels has recently shown a serial of it but, as is often the case, it is not a patch on the original book.

The author at a very young age shows a real concern and interest in all kinds of animals and wildlife, and brings many of them home to his poor long suffering family.

In his own words:

“I don't know why my brothers and sister complain so much. With snakes in the bath and scorpions on the lunch table, our house, on the island of Corfu, is a bit like a circus. So they should feel right at home”.

This is a book you can really relax with and enjoy, and also really laugh at.

The author, when grown up, continued with his deep concern for wild creatures and their welfare. He went on to found a Zoo, at his own expense, where he could particularly save and care for endangered species and breed them, to save them from extinction. He was very much a pioneer in this way.

So read and enjoy.

**Daddy, when you fell out of that tree
Did it cause you pain?
I wonder, 'cause my friend didn't see
Would you, please, do it again?**

Film Club at the Centre

Film club is beginning to welcome guests from further afield these days, invited by members who enthuse about what a very pleasant evening they enjoy once a month. When a gap in the membership occurs (we are restricted to 50 members) we are able to enrol a new person and that is what happened this month. We feel it is a great way to demonstrate what a friendly group we are and what a wonderful asset we have in our Church Centre.

“The Italian Job”, our May film, was a huge success. Quite a few of our members had requested it and we all loved the gung-ho story with Michael Caine and Noel Coward at their best. The mini car-chase, of course, showed those wonderful Cowley-built cars off to perfection.

This month’s film “The Wind Cannot Read” is again a total contrast - a very romantic war-time

story of love and loss. It stars Dirk Bogarde as an RAF officer serving in Japan. His character falls in love with a beautiful Japanese girl with many difficult consequences. It is recommended that a tissue or two might come in handy!

Film club this month will be on Friday, 10th June at 6.30 pm with coffee, tea and cake beforehand.



SIGNIFICANT DATES IN JUNE

10th June 1829 was the date of the very first Oxford and Cambridge boat race. Oxford won by a very clear margin.

In 1701 Parliament passed the Act of Settlement. This established the House of Hanover (in Germany) on the English throne rather than the Scottish House of Stuart. This happened on 12th June.

On 13th June 1944 the first German flying bomb exploded in London. The bomb, known as the “Doodle Bug” was powered by jet engine.

Benjamin Franklin, the American scientist flew a kite during a thunderstorm on 15th June 1752. The kite was attached by a metal wire as he was attempting to show the power of electricity. He was lucky to escape with his life.

21st June is the date of the summer solstice except in Leap Years (as in 2016) when the longest day is reckoned to be on 22nd. This is the day when thousands gather at Stonehenge to greet the sunrise.

Joseph Smith, the founder of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (the Mormons) was shot dead by rioters in Illinois on 27th June 1844.

On 28th June 1838 Queen Victoria was crowned. She was the first British monarch not to be anointed by holy oil on her chest. She just received the anointing on her head.

COWLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Our birthday celebrations in May began with a delicious lunch. We then held a short business session when we discussed the following two resolutions:

1. Appropriate care in hospitals for people with dementia; and
2. Avoiding food waste and addressing food poverty.

These resolutions will be debated at the National Annual meeting being held in Brighton on 11th June.

Our festivities continued with a delightful demonstration of flower arranging, and the celebration ended with, of course, birthday cake for everyone.

We are holding a Garden Party at the Church Centre (indoors if wet) on Wednesday, 15th June, at 2 pm. There will be Cream Teas, a floral bring and buy sale, games and quizzes. Come and join in the fun – you will be very welcome.

Ann Withers
President, Cowley WI

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 GLOW-WORM

I am so little and grey,
dear God
how can You keep me in mind?
Always spied upon,
always chased.
Nobody ever gives me anything,
and I nibble meagrely at life.
Why do they reproach me with being a
mouse?
Who made me but You?
I only ask to stay hidden.
Give me my hunger's pittance
safe from the claws
of that devil with green eyes.
AMEN

NEWS AND INVITATION FROM SIMON GRIGG

From 1990-1994, I was Curate in the Cowley Team Ministry. I was VERY happy!

Time goes by, and, unbelievably, I now find myself celebrating 25 years as a Priest. I would VERY much like to invite anyone from Cowley who still remembers me (a much diminished band I am sure!) to join in the celebrations.

Sung Eucharist
Sunday 17 July @11am
St Paul's Church, Covent Garden
London
WC2E 9ED

followed by Buffet Lunch, Jazz in the gardens and fun.

RSVP please to
info@actorschurch.org

Please pass on my very best wishes to everyone in Cowley, a place still often in my prayers.

Rev. Simon Grigg
Rector
St. Paul's Church, Covent Garden

DIARY DATES TO REMEMBER

Mothers' Union

Monthly Meeting on 3rd Monday of month from 2.30pm. June Meeting: The Revd Canon Geoff Bayliss speaking on "The Reconciliation between Faith and Science"

St James Church Centre

Women's Institute

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

June Meeting: Garden Party and Cream Teas

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)

History of Cowley – Continuing the series of talks:

8 June and 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, 10 June 2016 – "The Wind Cannot Read"

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

Welsh Male Voice Choir Concert

Saturday, 11 June 2016— 7 for 7.30pm

St James Church

St James Church Committee

Sunday, 12 June 2016 at 12.15 pm

St James Church Centre

Vision Day

Saturday, 18 June 2016, 9.30 – 1.30 pm

St James Church Centre

St Francis Church Committee

Sunday, 19 June 2016 at 12.15 pm (Note change of date)

St Francis Church

Christian Aid Quiz

Friday, 24 June 2016, at 6.30 for 7 pm

Parish Sunday Lunch

Sunday, 26 June 2016 at 12.30 pm

St James Church Centre

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

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

Visit to Edward King Chapel, Ripon College, Cuddesdon

Thursday, 28 July 2016

Choice of 10 – 12 and 2 – 4 pm

See Notice in Church

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

Still battling with Nature

My other half grew a full beard over the winter and refused to trim it. Eventually, a month or so ago, he went back to his usual goatee. This left me with a substantial pile of whiskers and an idea. I put the greying mass inside an orange net and hung it in the tree alongside the bird feeders. Nothing happened for a while but now all of the whiskers have gone, hopefully, to help build and line nests. It should keep the fledglings warm!

On the plot, the spring digging is complete and we are progressively putting in our seeds and plants for this coming season. As I was sprinkling Olbas Oil over my pea seeds in their trench, to put off mice from dining on them, I was thinking about the things we do to make sure we get the benefit of our labours. The ground has to be cultivated, free from clumps and warm. The fleece I cover the row with, is to stop birds pecking at the emerging seedlings and the sparing use of organic pellets is to deter slugs and snails. Alongside that row I have a fabric cloche over some pak choi plants which stops any damage from birds but I still have to worry about the mollusc threat, but the ravages of the flea beetles are turning the leaves to lace-work! Still, life wouldn't be worth living if it was all plain-sailing, would it? We even had three gorgeous roe deer one year who particularly liked pea plants to eat!

The greenhouse now is echoing and empty of all the plants I was growing on for the Plant Sale. Only my tomatoes, chillies and herbs are in residence now. We had a great day with lots of people bringing in plants and helping to sell. We had lots of customers too and the new timing did not seem to have had an effect. I have

got 13th May 2017 down in my diary to have another successful Plant Sale next year and at the same times. I am sure that Film Club will be operating the evening before in its usual slot. We have raised over £1,150 for Parish funds this year. Well done to everyone!

The cold spring really held plant growth back, but with mid-May bringing in some warmth and rain, things really have started to move. This second year of my new side border is showing the usual mistake of over stocking. The herbaceous perennials are forming large clumps and very little bare soil is on show. I made it with the dahlias! They are now shooting up having survived the winter under a mulch but I really must get some support for them to prevent heavy branches breaking off like they did last summer.

And, finally, I have had a day out at the Chelsea Flower Show! There have always been warnings of crowds from anyone I know that has visited, but I bought a 3.30pm ticket and the crowds thinned as the afternoon went on. I think I more or less saw everything. Being armed with all the back stories of the exhibitors from the television coverage, made the show even more interesting.

Joan Coleman



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CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 15 – 21 May LOVE EVERY NEIGHBOUR

We are delighted that our three Parish schools really got on board with Christian Aid Week this year: we held an assembly in each one, with information about the 'Wonderful Worms' which turn cow dung into compost to help Morsheda and her children (*you read about them last month*) to be able to grow crops on the small patch of land around her home on the island in the river in Bangladesh.

Church Cowley St James School then held a non-uniform day; St Christopher's a cake sale and St Francis their own Big Brekkie in each classroom. All 3 topped £215, with a total of £733!

Sadly, we had far fewer volunteer door to door collectors this year – down from 13 to 5, so only 8 roads were visited. Obviously donations from that element of the week therefore fell but none the less we have raised a total of £1,430 (*at the time of going to press: subject to double checking*)

Remember that just £250 is enough for a Christian Aid Home Safety Package which can flood-proof Morsheda's home, raising it eight foot on an earth plinth, keeping her family safe. It will also include buying a goat, seeds and a wormery to help produce compost, so Morsheda can keep livestock and grow crops. All of this will give her a long-term income and a solid foundation for a new life.

Cowley Parish is proud to be able to fund more than 5 Home Safety Packages!

THANK YOU to all who have collected and donated.

On top of that, there was the BIG BREKKIE on Sunday 22 May

Bacon baps, scrambled eggs, croissants, crumpets, toast and fresh fruit – along with fruit juice, coffee and tea, of course - were enjoyed by 30 breakfast eaters, who donated £112 to add to the Christian Aid Week donations. Thanks as ever to the kitchen team and to those who donated the breakfast ingredients. Several people asked for us to do it again soon. Of course there is a slightly more basic breakfast (*all the above but minus bacon, eggs and fruit*) every Sunday at 8.45 – all are welcome.

Margaret Martin was the lucky winner of £17 from the lottery grid which was started at the Super Soup lunch back in April.

And now, for June, on to QUIZ AID, Friday 24 June 2016, 7.00 St James Centre

Bring a whole team of up to 6 people – or just come along and join one - to enjoy a Friday quiz night with 8 rounds on: Shakespeare – local knowledge – music – science and nature – where in the world? – famous people – in the news – have you read?

Each team will have a joker to play, for double points. Rosanne and Frank Butler will be quizmaster and scorer – and don't argue with them!

It's only £3 a head – nibbles and soft drinks provided – bring your own if you need a glass of beer, wine or spirits to inspire you – and there will be a raffle, of course.

Lesley Williams

PLANT OF THE MONTH— THE WATER LILY

It is intriguing to note that these beautiful flowers have a botanical name similar to the magical water nymph or fairy – namely *nymphaea*. Possibly the name was chosen as each beautiful flower floats to the surface of a stream or pond at dawn and closes up tight at dusk as if by magic. Of course when we think of water lilies we tend to see in our minds eye those depicted by the impressionist painter, Monet, whose lovely gardens at Giverny in France are still graced with those which he planted.

The wild plant which grows in European ponds and rivers is quite a poor relation. It has smallish yellow flowers and a stigma which looks a bit like a little bottle. However without the wild variety, the gorgeous water lilies which adorn garden ponds in the summer months could not have happened.

It was just before Monet became so enamoured with their beauty that new hybrid lilies were being developed by a French botanist M. Bory Latour-Marliac. He came to London to explain to The Royal Horticultural Society the difficult and painstaking process of cross pollenating these delicate plants. The stamens have to be cut “at the very moment of expansion” and the stigma brushed with the pollen of the crosses. After fertilization the ovary sinks and ripening takes place under water. The ripened seeds float up looking like little pearls and have to be collected at once or they soon sink again.

In warmer climates the most spectacular water lily is the gigantic species *Victoria amazonica*. It was brought to England and flowered in a tank especially designed for it by Joseph Paxton. (He was the man who designed the Crystal Palace, by

the way). When Queen Victoria saw it she declared that it should be named *Victoria regina* not knowing that it had already been named after the three Gorgons by another French explorer. No-one had the nerve to tell her! After much deliberation it was decided to call it *Victoria amazonica* but that did not help because it was well-known what the Amazon women got up to in ancient myth. Not at all suitable for an English queen. So the botanical name was kept a secret from Her Majesty until after her death. Then Kew Gardens was able to reveal the proper name.

The plant is said to be edible and in ancient times the roots provided a fairly sweet vegetable. The ancient Greeks believed it had antiaphrodisiac properties and this was followed up by monks and nuns in the Middle-Ages who ground the roots to paste and mixed it with honey. This helped to preserve their chastity, though we do not know if it was used as an ointment or taken orally!

This ancient antiaphrodisiac is no longer used, of course, but the beauty of the water lily is still with us today to be admired and enjoyed.



WHAT'S ON AT THE CATHEDRAL

Organ recitals for June – Free, no tickets required

Tuesday, 7th June – 8 pm

The Andrew Chamblin memorial Concert

Dr Stephen Cleobury, CBE, Director of Music at King's College, Cambridge

Pieces by Bach, Couperin, Schect, Mozart and Pachebel.

Tuesday, 14th June – 8 pm

Clive Driskill-Smith, Sub-organist at Christ Church, Oxford

Pieces by Franck Escach

Tuesday, 21st June – 8 pm

Johannes Zeiner, Winner of St Albans International Organ Competition 2015

Tuesday, 28th June – 8 pm

David Cassan also a winner in the above competition.

Saturday, 11 June – 3 pm

Service of Thanksgiving for HM The Queen's Ninetieth Birthday

The majority of seats in the cathedral will be for invited guests. Others are welcome to queue on the day but entry cannot be guaranteed.

Lesley Weston

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Rosanne interviews Harriet Stevens

Breathing – something we each do thousands of times a day – is a magical, almost unbelievable thing. So what, you probably ask, has brought this on with our reasonably sensible editor? My interview with Harriet is the answer. Now, I remember doing the respiratory system as part of my biology course at school for GCE but it was never told to me with such simplicity as the way Harriet does. You see, she works as a nursing assistant at the respiratory unit at the Churchill Hospital and finds the work fascinating. But there is much more for us to find out about her than that.

She was born in the little village of Aston, near Witney, and whilst still a baby moved with her parents to the larger, nearby village of Clanfield where her father and one of her uncles run a horticultural nursery. She is the eldest of three children with a younger brother Freddie (2 ½ years her junior) and a sister (4 years younger) Olivia. Her first experience of school was at the village primary and when she was seven her parents enrolled her into a Roman Catholic convent school in Lechlade. Life at St Clothild's was "not very successful at first", she told me. However things improved very quickly due to the brilliant nuns. There were other teachers who came into the school daily. Her brother and sister were also educated there. At the age of twelve she was sent to Cokethorpe School, again near

Witney, and it was there that she took her GCSE exams. English and all art subjects were her favourite but her worst by a country mile, was maths. She still shudders at the thought.

Harriet had thought of taking up nursing as a career but disappointing maths results left her with a different decision to make. As a teenager in the village, she began to babysit for friends and she soon found that she had a fondness and ability when handling small children. It was, therefore, the obvious thing to enrol at Cirencester College and train in Childcare.

She certainly had a full and busy life during those teenage years. There were family pets to care for, church at Carterton with her mum, and then putting on her uniforms first as a brownie, then Girl Guide, Young Leader and Leader of the Carterton organisations. Incidentally she nowadays helps with Brownies out at Woodstock where she is known as Silver Fox.

As well as this she had a hectic family life with six aunts and uncles on her mother's side and lots of cousins. Together with more uncles and cousins on her dad's side plus great aunts and much loved and admired grandparents things were never dull. How ever did she have time to read so widely I wonder, though she declared she is still a real book-worm.

Whilst doing her Childcare

training she had placements at local nurseries and after gaining her qualifications found her first post in a lovely nursery school in the grounds of Eynsham Hall. There she cared for babies from 6 months to twelve months old. She had also learnt to drive and life was good.

After a while she found herself immersed in a world of what she described as "drippy girls" and decided she needed rather more adult colleagues with whom to work. She saw an advertisement for a nursing assistant at the Churchill and to her delight was appointed. I was curious to learn what happens at the respiratory unit and that was when she told me with such simplicity about breathing. So what sort of breathing problems causes people to seek medical help? Well snoring for a start! When someone snores so heavily that it causes sleep deprivation in someone else help is needed. When someone's airways are so restricted that they actually stop breathing in their sleep (apnea it is called) then a cure is very necessary. Apparently our unit at the Churchill is the top one in the country and Harriet counts herself lucky, and happy, to be part of the nine-strong workforce who run it.

As I mentioned before she has been a regular church-goer since childhood so when she moved to Oxford in order to cut out a long commute from Clanfield she

looked around for somewhere for her regular worship. A friend, Donna, and her fiancé, James, who lived in Westbury Crescent told her about St James. She had already tried SS Mary and John but decided that it was not what she was looking for. However, St James was, and she is now a regular worshipper there. Catherine, our Children's Church co-ordinator, got to hear about Harriet's experience with children and quickly enrolled her into her team. She enjoys her sessions with the children very much.

Harriet has her own small house up near the old Cowley Barracks. She is an enthusiastic pet owner with two Jack Russell terriers, Sky and Missy and guinea-pigs Oscar and Wild. She once had a "gorgeous" ferret named Otis and said that he was a loving and intelligent pet and recommends ferrets as good companions.

From time to time she travels off to Sheringham in Norfolk to visit her grandparents. They take her to church with them where the atmosphere is child-friendly. It was her granny who gave her her first bible when she was eight years old and she still regards it as a very special treasure.

She is never lonely or lazy as she busies herself with good embroidery. She showed me a beautiful tapestry cushion she had worked herself. As I said at the beginning of this article

there has been a lot to learn about this talented young lady.

How would you describe yourself as a small child?

Quiet, played mainly on my own (always dolls). I spent a lot of time with Granny Stevens, she loved antiques, especially tea caddies.

Do you have any never-to-be-forgotten childhood memories?

I have two. The first involves Freddie. He loves wildlife and was looking into our garden pond. He was about seven. I had a friend over to visit. Freddie always teased me and I reacted so I pushed him into the water – then I hid in the garage.

Then there was the time when my ragdoll got frozen. Freddie's friend said "dip it in water and freeze it in the freezer". Then they put it on the side to see how I would react. Well, I had a cry.

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

Probably my Granny Stevens. I was her first grand-daughter so I was the favourite. She did lovely things with me and the others did not get a look in.

Has your faith been with you since childhood?

Yes

Do you have a treasured possession?

It would have to be my cross that I had from Mum and Dad when I was confirmed.

What is your opinion of present day society?

I am in my own world so I do not really look at what is going on. However, I do not understand why people around the world are not allowed to follow their own religion. I think that is cruel.

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

I think it is now. I think I have grown up quite a lot. When I was doing childcare I was quite nervous, unsure of myself. Now I feel much more secure especially in my job.

How do you like to spend your leisure time?

I like sewing. I do tapestry, patchwork and cross stitch. I do a bit of gardening especially weeding. I like dramas on TV and I enjoy spending time with close friends. We go for walks and then eat somewhere nice. I occasionally go clubbing.

What plans do you have for the future?

I want to find someone to fall in love with and then have children of my own.

IRONING

Some people say they never iron
I don't know how they do it
But with modern man-made fabric
They say there's nothing to it.

Machines and tumble driers
Make washing day so easy
Or a washing line and row of pegs
And weather bright and breezy.

But then it's dry and in it comes
In a folded pile to wait
For me to set about the task
I almost think I hate.

And then I think of ironing day
For my dear, patient mother
With flat irons on the kitchen range
Used one after another.

My little cotton dresses
All pressed to crisp and neat
And table cloths at lunchtime
With napkins, all complete.

And so I take my good steam iron
And press away for hours
While I could sit in the garden
Or arrange a vase of flowers.

But when we climb into our bed
Between our sheets all clean
And pillow-cases newly ironed
It's easy then to dream.

So if I reach those pearly gates
And put on my robe of white
I hope I get a non-iron one
Then heaven will be alright!

Rosanne Butler

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) how it all began – Cufa's Ley

May 11 (2) 3 settlements and stone

June 8 (3) the bread basket of the university

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

Three small boys were trying to outdo each other by boasting about how tough they were. “My mum says I’m so tough I wear out a pair of trainers in a fortnight” said the first. “Well” said the second “my mum says I can wear out a pair of jeans in a week”. “Oh, that’s nothing compared with me” laughed the third. “When I visited my grandparents I wear them out in an hour!”

37TH OXFORD SCOUT GROUP

Things are going very well at the 37th Oxford Scout Group! We have a full scout troop of 24 young people who are all enjoying a packed and adventurous programme of activities! We also have a growing beaver colony for younger boys and girls (aged 6-8), which was newly established just over a year ago. This complements the Cubs (8-10), scouts (10-14) and explorers (14-18), which have been established at the group for longer.

Scouts and explorers have been very busy over the past couple of terms with lots of activities including a joint sleepover and laser tag session at Culham Science Park. This included a night hike and wide games around Shotover in the dark! Around 20 young people had a fantastic time over the weekend!

The scout troop recently had a visit to Slade Fire Station, which was brilliant! The team there gave us a tour of the station, taught us about fire safety and what to do in an emergency and showed us the fire engines (which included us all having a turn at spraying with the hoses!). It was a really great night which all the scouts (and leaders!) really enjoyed!

We have also been focusing on lots of badge work- there has been a new badge system introduced which means that there are lots of extra challenges and tasks that the scouts need to complete. These include 'personal challenges' where the scouts, along with help from their parents and leaders, can set themselves their own challenges to work on.

More news next month.

David Nutt

***In Celebration of the Queen's
90th Birthday***

An evening of music

with the

**OXFORD WELSH MALE
VOICE CHOIR**

*and featuring
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Emily Jensenius (violin)*

at

St James Church
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11th June, 2016

7.00 pm for 7.30pm

*Funds raised will go towards maintaining our
beautiful historic 12th century church*

Tickets: £10

From: Margaret Weller (Tel: 01865 775150)

Christine Woodman (Tel: 01865 778078)

COWLEY FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS TREES 2016

10 - 17 December

The theme for 2016 is confirmed as 'The Greatest Gift'.

The basic information flyer will be out soon but please start thinking and talking about whether you as an individual, family or as a member of a group will contribute a tree/art piece to our targeted 60 trees.

And whether you will sign up to join the organising group, particularly if you have website/social media/PR skills all of which could be done at home!

The next planning meeting is provisionally on Friday 9 September, 9.30 – to be confirmed.

Lesley Williams

MENTAL HEALTH IS IN THE NEWS!



What can the Church in Oxford do to help?

*The Oxford and Cowley Deaneries are co-ordinating a pastoral response for people experiencing mental health problems. **Headrest** is a resource which signposts sufferers to the most appropriate psychological information, mental health service or agency*

An invitation to learn more about **Headrest** at
Christ Church Cathedral



Monday, 10th October at 8pm

A short act of devotion will be followed by a presentation, talks and discussion on the theme of mental health and the church response

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RECIPES

Here are two more regional recipes which we hope you will like.

Canons Ashby Coconut Cake (from Northamptonshire)

Makes 12 fingers

For the cake:

4ozs soft butter
3ozs light brown sugar
2 teaspoons almond essence
Grated rind of a lemon
1 egg, beaten
9ozs plain flour
5-6 tablespoons of plum jam

For the Topping:

1 egg beaten
3ozs light brown sugar
4ozs shredded coconut

For Dipping:

6-8ozs of dark or milk chocolate

Pre-heat the oven to 180°C, gas mark 4
Grease a swiss-roll tin or use a non-stick pan
Beat together the butter, sugar, almond essence, lemon rind and egg. Sift in the flour and mix well.
Press this mixture into the tin and spread the jam on top.
Mix the topping ingredients together and spread over the top.
Bake for 20-30 minutes until firm and golden.
Leave to cool in the tin. When cold cut into finger slices and gently lift from tin. Melt chocolate and dip each end of the slices into it.
Allow to set on cooling rack.

Sticky Lemon Cake (from Devon)



For the cake:

4ozs soft butter
4ozs caster sugar
2 eggs (beaten)
4oz self-raising flour
Juice and grated rind of half a lemon
1 ½ tablespoons of sifted icing sugar

For the Icing:

2-3ozs sifted icing sugar, juice and grated rind of the other lemon half.

Preheat the oven to 160°C, gas mark 3.
Grease and line a 7 inch round cake tin.
Beat the sugar and butter together until fluffy.
Whisk in the eggs a little at a time whisking between each addition.
Fold in the flour and rind using a metal spoon.
Turn into prepared tin and bake for 45 minutes till a skewer comes out clean.
Remove cake from oven and pierce several holes in the top.
Mix the juice and icing sugar and pour over the cake.
Leave until the cake is quite cold.
Using the icing mixture ice the cake. A little yellow food colouring may be used in the icing if desired.

REPORT FROM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

A PCC meeting was held on the 22 May 2016 when the following were appointed:

PCC Secretary: Sally Hemsworth
Treasurer: Joan Coleman
Electoral Roll Officer: Lesley Williams

Under the Church Representation Rules the PCC is allowed to co-opt two more voting members, and the Church Committees will be asked to consider this. In addition, it is possible to co-opt non-voting members, and the PCC agreed that Sofia Denno should be co-opted as a non-voting member to represent the youth of the Parish, and that a representative from the Anglican Asian Living Church should also be co-opted.

There was discussion on:

- ◆ The possibility of an application for a Curate's Post
- ◆ Placements which were being arranged
- ◆ The Vision Day on the 18th June 2016 – more information is being prepared and will be widely available. All are welcome.
- ◆ An application for Mission Funding towards the Wedding Fair, a Death Café (a concept being encouraged by the Diocesan to give people the opportunity for an informal conversation about death and dying).

The PCC were disappointed to learn that the Trustees had decided that St James Old School had to be sold, but appreciated that there had been a lot of effort taken to save the building but that funding had just not been found for this.

The next PCC meeting is on Sunday, 3rd July 2016. Dates of future meetings are still under discussion but these will be posted in the Churches and the Church Centre as soon as they are agreed.

Sally Hemsworth
PCC Secretary



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CHURCHES WITHIN OUR DEANERY



St Mary The Virgin, Iffley, Oxford

Saint Mary the Virgin church was built c.1160 by Robert de St Remy, the Norman Lord of the Manor.

The west front of this church has a doorway with detailed carvings which include 'beakheads', a typical Norman feature. The circular window above the doorway is a restoration of what once was a 15th century Perpendicular Gothic window, and is known as an Oculus or 'Eye of God' design.

Just inside the church stands the font, which is made from marble obtained from Tournai, Flanders, whilst more stone carving appears on the archway around the chancel. There is also a cell, which was home to an 'Anchoress' named Annora, who devoted her life to religion.

Very little has changed structurally with the church, but a new window was added which was designed by John Piper and another window of modern design has been installed quite recently. This, with the addition of some glorious new oak furniture in the chancel, keeps this delightful church at the forefront of progress and is well worth a visit!

Les Hemsworth

SAINT OF THE MONTH— SIR THOMAS MORE

Thomas was born in 1478, the son of an eminent London judge and barrister. As was the custom in those days he was sent to serve in the household of an important man of the state and church, namely John Morton, the archbishop of Canterbury. Thomas was only thirteen and it was from Morton's home that he was sent to study at Cambridge. His father should have funded his time there but kept his son on a very restricted budget. After two years he was forced to return to the family home.

Aged eighteen he entered Lincoln's Inn to study law and five years later was called to the bar. A little later he was elected to Parliament but by this time he knew God was calling him. He was torn between taking monastic vows or becoming a diocesan priest. However, he decided against either of these options, continued in his law career, fell in love and got married. His family life was a very happy one. He was devoted to his children and rejoiced in the undoubted intelligence of his wife and daughters. As a man-about-town he had many friends in public life especially those leading the New Learning movement as it was known. The King, Henry VIII, recognised his worth and integrity and offered him a whole series of public offices. These included Speaker of the House of Commons, High Steward of Oxford University, High Steward of the University of Cambridge and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. His reputation as a man of letters and wit grew when he published his notable book "Utopia" which soon became translated into most of the principal European languages. The main thrusts of the book are the importance of universal religious tolerance and free education for both men and women, unheard of in that period of history. He wrote other works, most were controversial and by this time his pursuit of heretics was very strong. He knew that both Church and State could be in danger.

Although devastated at the death of his first wife, Jane, he married again. His second wife, a widow, was a wise and capable lady who provided a secure home for his children whilst he was busy with affairs of State. Now becoming very rich he moved his family to a new house in Chelsea, had his famous household painted by the court painter Hans Holbein and had his daughters educated far beyond what was currently allowed for young women. He was deeply religious with family prayers and devotions practiced every night.

The difficulty with the King arose over the proposal to divorce Katherine of Aragon in favour of Anne Boleyn. More tried to distance himself but found himself involved especially when Henry was making plans to break with Rome and make himself "Supreme Head of the Church of England". Much of the deception and corruption within the Church disgusted him so much that he resigned his chancellorship. The crunch came when Thomas refused to accept the King's first marriage invalid and refused to sign the oath of agreement. This was deemed high treason which meant imprisonment in the Tower of London. There he remained for the last fifteen months of his life.

He held on to his high principles and deep religious convictions even though many people, including his beloved family, tried to sway him. His disgrace deprived him of his lands and property and sank his wife and family into poverty. Firm in his belief that no secular or temporal prince was supreme over the will of God he was tried on those terms. He was condemned to death and at his execution on Tower Hill he declared that he was "the King's good servant, but God's first".

He had grown in holiness throughout his life and was martyred for his deep faith. As recently as Pope John Paul II he has been declared the patron saint of politicians. His saint day is marked on 22nd June.

NEWS FROM ST FRANCIS



As we move on through our Christian Year we have come across endings and new beginnings. There was an ending for the disciples on Ascension Day and a new beginning at Pentecost. It was also a new beginning for some of our youngsters at St Francis who celebrated their first communion, and were able to receive the bread and wine. We hope that this comes to mean as much to them over the years as it has to us older folk.

Skye has given us the usual carefully crafted mixture of All Age Services and general services always with something new to challenge us. We have no less than five new Baptisms scheduled for the near future, which is a good sign of growth. Shirley Costar reports a growing number of youngsters who are enthusiastic in our Sunday School. She, along with Joel and Jane, work hard to give them some interesting stories of bible origin, and encourage them with their artwork, which is often brilliant. At the

end of the spectrum some of the older members of the

congregation have suffered from illness and accidents. This has meant extra pastoral care for Skye and we are grateful for the devotion she has shown for this, also to our lay visitors.

We are still without a regular organist and so are glad of the services of Sophia who does a great job in working the recording machine for our hymns.

Our small service team work regularly to prepare our church for the Sunday services, which is a great help. We are also in debt to the regular workers who physically put our church together after each week, when it has been used as a hall.

Teamwork is the essence of all of this.

John Shreeve

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 22 June 2016

If possible, please send entries by email to Sally at

chronicle@cowleyteamministry.co.uk

The Editorial Committee in no way accepts responsibility for goods or services supplied by our advertisers.

THE EMMAUS EXPERIENCE

Of all the stories in the New Testament I find the record of the disciples on the road to Emmaus one of the most fascinating. The turning round of a group of followers from fear and despair to joy and hope for the future, is a heart-warming one. This anecdote is only recorded by Luke and not by the other gospel writers.

Emmaus was a small village only seven miles from Jerusalem. Two of the followers were on their way to the village and discussing all that had happened over the Passover period. In Luke's own words "Jesus himself came up and walked by their side but their eyes were prevented from recognising him". That is interesting in itself. They talk to him of their hopes which have been dashed to the ground by the crucifixion. He reproves them for their lack of faith in the words of the prophets, and then gives them an explanation of all that refers to him.

Looking back on this afterwards "They said to each other – Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road, and explained the scriptures to us?" So they had been reached not just in their minds and intellects, but deep in their hearts as well. That is significant.

I wonder how many of us have been reached in a similar way by the living words of the bible. I can record one occasion when a passage from the Old Testament read out in a service, seemed to shoot deep inside of me. And I thought yes, that is good and it is absolutely right, why did I not think of that before?

So that Emmaus talk really resonated with me.

John Shreeve-

FRIENDS OF ST JAMES OLD SCHOOL

Our own 'local historian' Rosanne Butler continues her fascinating monthly series of 4 talks on 'The Story of Cowley', on Wednesday evenings, with refreshments: 6.45 for 7.00, £5 per evening, in St James Centre. We have a strong, interested audience, still eager to learn more – do come and join them!

June 8 (3) the bread basket of the university

July 6 (4) Victorian Cowley

No need to book. Information from Rosanne, Tel 01865 453257 or Lesley Williams, Tel. 01865 779562, email: oldschoolcowley@gmail.com.

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

FROM THE ARCHIVES

COWLEY

CHURCH AND HOME MAGAZINE June 1893

Band of Hope

On Thursday, May 4th, the children belonging to the Band of Hope had their usual quarterly tea in the Temple Cowley Schools. 110 children sat down to tea and evidently appreciated the good things provided for them. Mrs. White kindly gave milk. Tea was followed by an hour's play, after which the children assembled in the Infant's Schoolroom. An excellent entertainment was given by the friends and members of the Band of Hope. Owing to the unavoidable absence to the Vicar, Mr. Furmage presided, and, in a short speech, placed the many advantages of temperance before the children. General regret was expressed at the absence of the President.

Programme

Pianoforte Solo		S. Hewlett
Song	"We're a Temperance Army"	All
Song		Miss Saunders
Recitation	"An Inventor's Wife"	Mrs. Hazell
Song	"The Convent Bells"	Six Girls
Pianoforte Solo	"The Merry Peasant"	George King
Song & Chorus	"The Banks of Loch Lomond"	Amelia Bateman
Banner Drill		Infants
Song & Chorus	"Hard Times"	Jane Ellis
Song	"Maggie's Secret"	Miss Saunders
Vocal Duet	"Little Things"	Rose Kent & Eliza Taylor
Song	"Janet's Choice"	Mrs. Hazell
Trio & Chorus	"The Social Glass"	Boys
Pianoforte Solo	"The Fairy King"	Frank King
Song	"Strike While the Iron Is Hot"	All
Recitation	"An Order for a Picture"	Girls
Song	"When You and I were Young"	R. Keal & A. Bateman
Recitation		Mrs. Hazell
	"National Anthem"	

Les Hemsworth.

A LETTER OF THANKS

Thank you to all my mother's friends at St James' for praying for me during the worst of my illness. I am pleased to report that I am much better and back at work and I am sure I will soon be one hundred per cent again.

Thank you all.

Simon Dean

Thank you very much to my friends at St James' and further afield for praying for my son. He has been ill for a long time and I put him on the prayer list when he was very bad. He is now back at work and is my Simon again

Una Dean

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
Tel: 01865 747680 (o) 01865 778596 (h)
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.

Self-supporting Ministers

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01865 701948
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Revd Canon Mark Oxbrow
01865 461953
Email: markoxbrow@aol.com

Revd Tony Beetham
Tel: 01865 770923
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Norah Shallow Tel: 765199

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Margaret Martin Tel: 718532
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Chris Woodman Tel: 778078

Hall Bookings:

Church Centre: Pat Sansom Tel: 778516
St Francis Church/St James Church:
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