

A word from the Rectory

I don't know where your greatest challenges come from? Health, wealth, relationships, employment... all these are areas of life that bring forth issues. Sometimes these set us back. Sometimes they challenge us and lead to lots of questions.

In my life, I have been surprised to discover that it is issues linked with the environment that I perhaps struggle hardest to bring under my umbrella of faith. This is not because I don't have a heart for it. I have always had a passion about the world and our needs to be good stewards. But, for most of my life, it has been a passion with a scientific arm that has driven my actions.

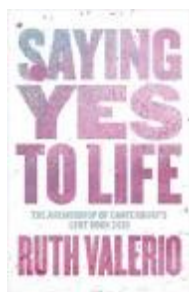
In more recent times, as I have asked that question "How can we be a more Christ like Church", I have been challenged to ask 'what would Jesus do'? And in response I find myself being overwhelmed with the complexity of the answer.

'What would Jesus do in this time of environmental challenge' is the question that will carry us through this season of Lent.

Unlike many themes, I suspect we will discover challenge throughout each day. The news

The moral crisis of climate change is an opportunity to find purpose and joy, and to respond to our creator's charge. Reducing the causes of climate change is essential to the life of faith. It is a way to love our neighbour and to steward the gift of creation.

Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury



will be full of it! As I write, we have news headlines about Australian farmers struggling because grazing land they rely on has been destroyed by the climate driven forest fires. Climate driven sandstorms are causing trouble in Southern Spain. Cities, such as New Delhi, are struggling with air pollution that challenges life. In England, lives have been challenged by floods that are linked with climate change.

The question remains, 'What would Jesus do about all of this?' Over the coming weeks, we have some stimulation from 40 days of biblical material. This will help us develop a 'theology of creation'. Alongside there is a chance to share in 'SAYING YES TO LIFE'. You can gather to share your thoughts or reflect alone.

When we better understand our world, as seen through God's eyes, we can better understand what Jesus would do and what He might be calling us to do. So, let us together, seek the pathway ahead.

May God lead us step by step in the coming days

Chronicle

March 2020



Benson Cottage

From the Editors

Sally Hemsworth and Nicki Stevens

Time for another Chronicle – February flew by! Although it is still very cold there are lots of daffodils about to cheer us up, and trees and plants are budding up.

We have a lovely new introduction to the Chronicle – our youngest ever contributor, Joseph, has written an article and we hope he will continue to send in articles for us. Thank you, Joseph.

We hope you noticed the “deliberate” mistake in the recipe last month – and you cooled on the rack rather than “cook on the rack” as stated?

You will see that people have asked Pat Chambers whether there is going to be a Parish holiday this year – See article for more details.

Betty Mitchell eagerly awaits your milk bottle tops – but, boy, they take some time to mount up don't they!

The dates of the Annual Congregational Meetings of both Churches and the Annual Parish Meeting/Annual Parochial Church Meeting are getting nearer – all set out in the Dates to Remember article. We do hope you have these dates in your diary.

We do hope you enjoy the March edition of the Chronicle. As usual we would love to receive your articles and suggestions for next month and new contributors are very welcome – just discuss with the editors if you have any queries.

Nicki and Sally

Film Club at the Centre

It was a “wild and stormy night” as Private Fraser would say in “Dad's Army” when film club met last month. However, we had a full house including several new guests who have only just heard about us. The film was “Mama Mia – Here we go again” (one of our members suggestions) and on a stormy February evening to be transported to the beautiful Greek Islands was just right.

This month's film is a little-known title “A Handful of Dust” starring Judi Dench, Alec Guinness, Rupert Graves and Kristin Scott

Thomas. A British production, it tells the story of a couple who appear to have a perfect marriage with money, a great country home and an adored son. Then dad brings home a guest for the weekend who upsets the equilibrium and things begin to go wrong. This is a British film which promises to be intriguing. It is based on a book by Evelyn Waugh, a renown novelist. We hope our members will enjoy it.

Rosanne Butler

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Hello everyone. Has anyone asked you what you want to be when you grow up? If they haven't, I am sure they will ask that question soon.

When I was asked the first time I don't think I knew what to say because I was a very quiet little boy. We didn't do anything special at school or at home, but later on I joined the Cubs, that is a sort of younger Boy Scout, and then went into the grown-up Boy Scouts when I was 10. A little later I went to the local grammar school which meant that I would have homework and I found school much harder. It took a lot of my spare time so I didn't progress as quickly through the Scout badges as some others of my age who went to the local senior school. It was so different in those days with what they called 'selection'. You were supposed to be sent to the best school to suit you, but I found some of the things that we were supposed to learn at the grammar school quite hard. On the other hand we did have some marvellous playing fields.....in North Oxford, but I lived in Cowley, five miles away. So we cycled the five miles, played rugby, or cricket, and then cycled home.....very tired, but very fit. There was no need to go to the gym in those days.

One thing that always annoyed me was that 'the others' who didn't go to the grammar schools had the opportunity to do practical things like woodwork and later steelwork or designing things, and drawing plans of buildings. Of course, they had to learn to do their sums and write properly and speak correctly, but that is sensible and useful for anyone. But why did I have to learn French or even Latin when there was no possibility of me using it? In those days if you wanted to study at a university it was necessary to

learn Latin! Everyone who qualified HAD to know Latin. 'It was good to know' and we were told that the teaching helped to make you remember things better! I couldn't believe it and was hopeless, but I did do my maths and the other things that would help me to become an architect! But I didn't in the end. Like many others, I worked at the factory.....in Cowley, and even started as an office boy, but I didn't do that for long. It didn't hurt for me to 'start at the bottom'. Always remember that a good foundation is a good support, and you can meet a lot of friends, that you may need later, along the way. One of the grammar schoolboys who was at the same school as myself did have a good memory and excelled at Latin and Greek. He started at the bottomin the theatre. His name was Ronnie Barker.

Later in life I WAS able to choose the subjects to study and achieve many of my childhood dreams in the motor industry. One of the most helpful and enjoyable was to travel throughout the British Isles on business and therefore at my Company's expense, and meeting some very interesting people. We couldn't do much when I was young, firstly because we didn't have a car, few people did before the Second World War, and wartime stopped anyone going abroad. So you can see how lucky you are these days. When I did start to travel it was by bicycle, and later motorcycle. That was fun, because there was not very much traffic on the roads and it travelled slowly. Everything was slower, and you could enjoy a 'joyride' in the country. It was not until I retired that I could afford to travel abroad. Holidays when I was young were family outings or the annual visit to grandparents who all lived in the same town, luckily. Travelling abroad and meeting real 'foreigners', and their different ways of living,

helped me to understand them better. Previously, anyone outside Oxford was considered a foreigner, not just someone from abroad.

So when someone does ask you what you intend to do when you grow up, by all means tell them what you would like to do at the moment, but don't be surprised if you change your mind later because life changes all the time, and sometimes other people change your life for you. Whatever you do, ENJOY IT!

It is quite possible that you will change your mind as you grow up and learn more about life and people. Don't worry. We have all done it, and you will find that people are interesting if you try to understand them, especially as they may do some things differently. Probably they are just as keen to try to understand you. So what are you going to do when you grow up?

Take care.

Uncle Ben

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Contact Lesley Williams if you'd like to be part of a group to see it!

01865 779 562 07982 439 828

lesleyjwilliams@btinternet.com

Cowley Women's Institute

With great sadness we said our final farewell to one of our long-standing members in December. However, we have lots of lovely memories and shall not forget the good times we shared over the years.

We started 2020 with a talk from Katherine Bradley on the aesthetic and rational dress movements coming to Oxford. In particular, it was fascinating to hear how the bicycle helped to reform women's dress in the late 1800s.

Our January meeting also gave us the chance to catchup after the festive period and think about all the activities we have scheduled for the forth coming year.

Early in February we went to the Weston Library and had a fascinating afternoon. The Talking Maps exhibition certainly challenged our understanding of maps. We saw an amazing collection of ancient, modern and fictional maps. In their second exhibition, Thinking 3D, we saw how art, science and technology have played their part in developing three dimensional communications over the last centuries and

how this changed our understanding of the world.

We are now looking forward to going to Long Hanborough to see the buses in the Oxford Bus Museum.

We had great fun at our February meeting learning how to spin wool and finding out about the different varieties of sheep and the wool they produce.

We hold our Annual Meeting in March where we look back at our year and vote for our next President. We also hope to have a speaker come to talk to us about the wonderful work dogs can do and how they can transform the lives of people with disabilities.

Our WI meets monthly on the third Wednesday of each month. We meet from 2pm – 4:00pm in St James Church Centre. If any woman is interested in joining us, we would love to meet you, so please come to a meeting to find out more.

Sarah Lawrence, Secretary to Cowley WI
cowleywi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk

Hello from Joseph

Hello it's me, Joseph. In my class at school we have been learning about Australia and Oceania. There has been bushfires in Australia and the koalas have no eucalyptus. This is their food and this means they will die if they have no food L

So people have lost their homes and people in the United Kingdom and around the world are giving money to help. I think people in the United Kingdom and Ireland please can all have an Australian animal to look after and a boy or a girl from there too and look after them until Australia is made again.

I hope it will be a happy Australia again soon J

Joseph Vivian – aged 6

ECONOMY CORNER

About 20 years ago I seemed to be spending a lot of money on washing machine repairs, until one day a heating engineer recommended I use soda crystals along with laundry detergent every time I used the machine. Sure enough no repairs since then caused by hard water and limescale. There is an advertising jingle which I've adapted to

“Washing Machines Live Longer with Soda Crystals!”

It is also a good economy as you don't need as much detergent, and a kilo pack of soda crystals costs £1 and lasts for ages.

Another idea – don't be lured into buying special products to “kill bacteria at low temperatures” as a cupful of basic disinfectant does the job and a 55p litre bottle lasts and lasts.

When I worked in Colleges as a scout, one of our supervisors would only allow us to use soda crystals in the mop-bucket to clean the kitchen floors. Maybe he was ahead of his time in not wanting lots of harsh chemicals to be poured down the drain! And thinking of drains, when kitchen and bathroom sinks seem to be a bit blocked a cupful of soda followed by some hot water usually does the trick.

With all the heavy rain we've had recently it doesn't seem quite the time to talk about saving water so I will leave that idea for next month and explain how it came to be that Thames Water reduced by monthly Direct Debit of £24 to £14 – without me even asking

Ruth Goodwin



with bread, cheese and fruit

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SAFEGUARDING IN COWLEY PARISH

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

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

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

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

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

Our practice is focused by a new requirement to complete a 'Promoting a safer church' action plan. We find we must clarify some of our procedures and systems. There is the danger that we *think everyone knows what they should do* but we haven't checked on that.

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

Lesley Williams 01865 779 562
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cowleyteamministry.co.uk



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From the Archives

Extracts from the Cowley Chronicle

CHURCHYARD

JULY 1922

The Treasurer (General Buckle C.B.), has been able to do something in the way of improvement to the Parish Churchyard, and begs to acknowledge the receipt of £2. 2s. 2d. from the Churchwardens, 5.6d, from Sergeant Jones, and 5s, from F. Marshall Esq. Help him in his good work. His address is: The Village House, Cowley.

APRIL 1953

The "new" part of the Parish Churchyard is now practically full, and the Chancellor of the Diocese has told me that he raises no objection to our burying in the "old" part where there are no tombstones to be removed. I propose therefore to set aside a part of the old churchyard, bounded by the path going through the churchyard and that leading to the Vicarage, for the provision of double graves. It must be remembered that the Chancellor's ruling that marble tombstones are not allowed applies to this part of the churchyard also.

MARCH 1963

ROSES PLANNED FOR CHURCHYARD

St. James' Churchwarden, Mr. P. Thomas, who was re-elected, told the annual meeting of the district on Sunday, February 10th, that when the weather improves, he hopes to plant roses in the churchyard.

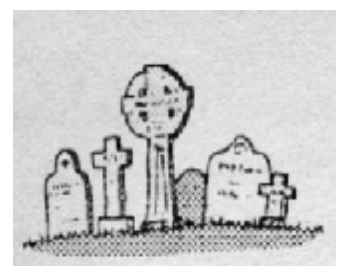
SEPTEMBER 1998

CONSERVING OUR CHURCHYARD

St. James' Churchyard Group spent a most successful day in August making preliminary plans about how to conserve the area and compile a trail of important features. The main thrust of the morning was a survey in the company of Mr. Hugh Dawson, from the City Parks and Cemeteries Department, whose responsibility it is to keep the churchyard maintained. He is keen to preserve those parts which we consider important, such as the spring and summer areas, and is willing to meet us from time-to-time. There are some plants which need to be removed such as stinging nettles eroding a dry - stone wall, and excessive ivy, but there is much we should retain.

After lunch the group spent a couple of hours identifying areas of interest, such as old grave-stones, lichens, trees, habitats for birds and small mammals, and historical features on the walls of the church.

One mystery on which we hope to throw light is the tale that the Rev. George Moore's horse is buried in the far corner of the churchyard. Does anyone know any details about this? Do please let us know. It would get our project off to a flying start.



Researched by Les Hemsworth

Trees, trees and, hopefully, many more trees!

I joined the Parish Walking Group recently for a wander in Worcester College grounds to see their snowdrops. These were shining out and wonderful, of course, but my interest was also onto a tree. This particular tree had a label giving its name, Metasequoia glyptostroboides and that it was a Champion Tree on the Tree Register as the "Tallest in Oxfordshire" being 27 metres high (about 90 feet) at the last measure.

Looking up the straight red-brown fibrous trunk, it certainly is tall! Its common name is the Dawn Redwood, a native of China but related to the Californian Giant Redwoods. It is unusual for a conifer in that it loses its leaves for winter and has great autumn colour. Apparently it is endangered in China but is planted as an ornamental and fast-growing tree across the world and can grow up to 40 metres.

Back home, I got onto Worcester College website to find that they also have two other Champion Trees. One is the Indian Bean tree, Catalpa speciosa, which was planted in 1913 and was 22.8 metres high in 2018 and is the Champion Tree of Britain and Ireland! I didn't find this on the day but I shall go back when it is in full leaf and flowering in the early summer. A native of the USA, the leaves are heart-shaped and the flowers are gorgeous, an open bell-shape, white with purple and yellow spots inside hence the name – speciosa means "showy". There are several in Manzil Way gardens and can be identified by the prolific, long thin beans/ fruits hanging down in autumn. The "Indian"

part of the name comes from the fact that catalpa is a Native American name.

The third Champion Tree is a Firmiana simplex, the Chinese parasol tree. I am unfamiliar with this one. It was planted in 2009 and was last measured at 7.6 metres high. It is the best specimen in Oxfordshire, being the third largest and the second tallest. It has exotic looking shaped leaves and the "parasol" refers to how the fruits open like petals to show the seeds inside.



I shall definitely be returning to Worcester College later this year to see all of these trees in their summer finery.

I was saddened to see the Cowley Horse Chestnut tree felled. I had added my name to the petition to save it but there was massive rot inside one of the major branches. Let's hope that the developers follow through and plant more trees once the site is built upon. We need more trees!!!

I am starting my preparations for the Plant Sale. Remember the date – Saturday 16th May at the Church Centre 10 am -1pm.

Joan Coleman

ELECTORAL ROLL

Following the setting up of a complete new electoral roll in 2019, this year is just one for a revision so we remove any who have died, moved away or just stopped worshipping with us and add new members. The formal notice for this will be posted on 1 March:

Notice is hereby given

that the Church Electoral Roll of the above parish will be revised by the Parochial Church Council, beginning on Sunday the first day of March 2020, and ending on Sunday the twenty-ninth day of March 2020.

After the revision, a copy of the Roll will be published by the Parochial Church Council and displayed in St James and St Francis churches for at least 14 days; a copy of the Roll will also be available for inspection on a reasonable request being made to the Electoral Roll Officer, on behalf of the PCC.

Under the Church Representation Rules, any lay persons are entitled to have their names entered on the roll if the person —

(a) is baptised,

(b) is aged 16 or over, and

(c) has made one of the following three declarations and duly applied for enrolment.

The first declaration is that the person is a member of the Church of England or of a Church in communion with it and is resident in the parish.

OR the second declaration is that the person is a member of the Church of England or of a Church in communion with it, is not resident in the parish, but has habitually attended

public worship in the parish during the preceding six months.

OR the third declaration is that the person is a member in good standing of a Church which is not in communion with the Church of England but subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity and is also a member of the Church of England and has habitually attended public worship in the parish during the preceding six months.

For those who have newly associated themselves with the Parish during this year, or who have been with us but never previously got round to it, forms of application for enrolment are available in both churches, from the Parish office and from Lesley Williams, Electoral Roll Officer. It's free!

In order to take part in the proceedings of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Sunday 26 April, forms of application for enrolment must be returned by Sunday 29 March.

Once it is displayed, any error discovered in the Roll should at once be reported to the Church Electoral Roll Officer.

The statutory electoral roll form gives us solely your name and address and meets GDPR (data protection) requirements. But we ask you also to complete a Parish subsidiary pro forma to tell us some personal information, which aids our communication with you, including telephone and e-mail contact details and emergency contacts. All these details are of course held securely and will only be shared with Parish Officers on a need to know basis.

MOTHERS' UNION NEWS

Our February meeting predominantly concerned preparation for the World Day of Prayer which this year has been organised by the women of Zimbabwe. Several of our members have volunteered to take part in the service at the Church of the Sacred Heart in blackbird Leys. The service begins at 2 pm on 6th March so anyone (not just Mothers' Union members) is invited to this. If anyone needs prayer at this time it must be the women of Zimbabwe who in their childhood and teenage years witnessed the cruel ruthless campaign against white farmers and businesses under the regime of Robert Mugabe.

Plans were also made for those members who are able to attend the Mothers' Union area Spring Meeting in CMS House on 4th March.

Further plans were made for our Quiz and Puddings Evening which was held on Friday, 21st February. This turned out to be a huge success with a good many people coming to the quiz who did not yet know about us. A very happy evening ensued with lots of compliments made about our lovely "puds". A healthy profit was made, much of which will go towards the Mothers' Union Appeal "Make a Mother's Day". This year we have elected to support impoverished children in need of education in third world countries.

As usual our March meeting will take the form of a quiet, contemplative afternoon for Lent.

Rosanne Butler



Shaun Guard

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Prayer Space

Lord, take my small offering of self-denial
this Lent,

as a sign of my great longing for you.

I hunger for your presence in my life,
and I thirst for your love.

I hunger for justice for those who are
wronged, oppressed, and I thirst for your
peace.

I hunger for glimpse of your glory, and I
thirst for your stillness in my heart.

God of giving, God of longing, God of pain,
I hunger for you



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
(a WOMEN LED, GLOBAL, ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT)

Rise, take your mat and walk

Women, men and children of all ages are called to 'Rise, take your mat and walk' to join this day of prayer.* Women of Zimbabwe have prepared this year's service and they encourage us all to reflect on the difficulties and unrest that have plagued their country over many years. They share the challenges they have met and the hopes they have for the future. They encourage us to 'Rise, take your mat and walk' with them as they continue their often turbulent journey towards full reconciliation.

World Day of Prayer is an international inter-church organisation which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns and prayers. The preparation for the day is vast. An international committee is based in New York and there are national committees in each participating country. Regional conferences meet to consider the service and then local groups make their plans. Finally, at a church near you on Friday, 6 March 2020, people will gather to celebrate the service prepared by the women of Zimbabwe.

The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 170 countries. It begins in Samoa and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world – through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas – before finishing in American Samoa more than 36 hours later.

- For further information and resources, together with details of services in your area see the WDP website: wwdp.org.uk

PARISH HOLIDAY

I have had several enquiries about a trip – if you are interested please give me a ring on 01235 799717.

Friends are welcome, and an allotted number of single rooms will be available. We are not sure of the destination as yet – our first priority is to see if we can get sufficient people interested in the holiday.

Look forward to hearing from you

Pat Chambers

CHRONICLE

Editorial Team- Sally Hemsworth, Nicki Stevens

Deadline for the next edition: Monday 23 March 2020

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

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

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

DIARY DATES TO REMEMBER

Mothers' Union

Monthly Meeting on 3rd Monday of month
from 2.15 pm

16 March 2020

St James Church Centre

Women's Institute

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

18 March 2020

St James Church Centre

Gardening

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

Parish Walks

Monday, 2 March 2020 – meeting at the
entrance to the canal, Hythe Bridge Street at
2 pm

Monday, 16 March 2020 – details to be
announced.

World Day of Prayer

Friday, 6 March 2020, at 2 pm

Blackbird Leys Church

Christian Aid 2020 – Super Soup FairTrade

Lenten Lunch

Sunday, 8 March 2020, 12.15 pm-ish

St James Church Centre

Film Club

Friday, 13 March 2020 – “A Handful of Dust”

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

Sunday Lunch

15 March 2020 at 12.45 pm

St James Church Centre

FairTrade Fortnight

24 February – 8 March 2020

Parochial Church Committee

Sunday, 22 March 2020 at 12 noon

St Francis Church (to agree inspected
accounts)

Jesus Christ Superstar

26-27-28 March 2020 7.30 pm Radley College

St Francis Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, 29 March 2020, after service

St Francis Church

St James Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, 19 April 2020, after service

St James Church Centre

Annual Parish Meeting/Annual Parochial Church Meeting

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

St Francis Church

Christmas Tree Festival

Planning Meeting for 2020 Festival,

Wednesday, 6 May 2020, at 9 am

Ranklin Room

75th Anniversary of the end of 2nd World War - Celebration

Saturday, 9 May 2020

St James Church Centre

Christian Aid Week 2020

Sunday, 10 – Saturday, 16 May

Plant Sale

Saturday, 16 May 2020

St James Church Centre

REMEMBER: Tuesday lunches at St James

Church Centre from 12.30 pm

REPORT FROM THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

The PCC met on the 23 February 2020. The main reason was to go through the 2019 accounts in detail and agree that they should be inspected and agreed ready for the Annual Meetings. Joan Coleman puts a lot of work into this. She presents the report, gives the background to different items, and answers many questions from PCC members. The reports were accepted and PCC members agreed that they should be sent for inspection.

The PCC also discussed the following:

- The Liaison Meeting which members of St James Church Committee have with representatives from the Anglican Asian Living Church. Discussion and queries at this meeting enable good working arrangements.
- There was a review of the Ministry Team and Services, and discussion on Easter Services and advertising. Delivery of cards will continue at St James Church, but the provision of a banner is being discussed for St Francis Church.
- The Rector led a discussion on historic issues of abuse in the Church of England.
- The Safeguarding Action Plan was discussed in detail, and Lesley Williams was thanked for the excellent work (a great deal of work) she has put into this.
- Pastoral Network: There are different schemes at the two churches, and the outcome of a recent meeting at St James was discussed.
- The PCC looked at the discussions which had been taking place at the two Church Committees. Of particular interest, was an updated plan of the toilet at St James, although there is still a great deal of detail required before we can apply for a Faculty.
- Grace Church: the PCC was informed that it would need to consider a Bishop's Mission Order for Grace Church.
- Food Hygiene and training: Plans are being developed to train those people who help with catering in the Parish.
- The PCC agreed that the Christmas Tree Festival should be held in 2020 provided more help was obtained. Let Lesley Williams know if you wish to be involved.

The following dates have been arranged for the Annual Meetings – notices will appear in the church buildings soon and we hope to see you at the meetings:

- St Francis Annual Congregational meeting, Sunday, 29 March 2020, after the service at St Francis Church.
- St James Annual Congregational meeting, Sunday, 19 April 2020, after service, at St James Church Centre.
- Annual parish meeting/Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Sunday, 26 April 2020, as soon after 12 noon as practical, St Francis Church.

Sally Hemsworth
PCC Secretary

CHRISTIAN AID

Your first chance to support Christian Aid in 2020 is the:
SUPER SOUP FAIRTRADE LENTEN LUNCH

Sunday 8 March, 12.15-ish at St James Centre

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

OXFORD ABSEIL

Hurrah! it's back after a break of 3 years! Saturday 9 May, 10.00-4.00

St Mary Magdalen Church (Mary Mags) tower, central Oxford, opposite the Randolph hotel.

Lesley Williams has of course already registered (£20) for her latest abseiling 'fix' and will be seeking sponsorship but would also welcome co-abseilers.

The Parish VE day street party is in the afternoon, but you can choose to face the challenge during the morning – Lesley's slot is 10.35/

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

For your diary: CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2020

Sunday 10 – Saturday 16 May.

We'll again have a stall in Templars Square over lunch time during the week and on Saturday 16 May, which as usual clashes with the Plant Sale – it really can't be helped.

Please be ready to sign up for a time slot.



THE SIX 'BUTS' TO FAIRTRADE

1. BUT it's too expensive - it cost a few pence more because the farmers get a proper price for their chocolate. That's why it's fair.
2. BUT it tastes awful - no, it is the best often Belgian or Swiss organic with no palm oil. And the coffee is fantastic!
3. BUT Fairtrade is not popular - millions switch every year and the Fairtrade logo is the most recognised ethical logo in the UK. It is very popular.
4. BUT Fairtrade does not work - farmers tell us it does! They have built schools, wells and get paid a proper wage. It really works.
5. BUT I prefer my usual brand - give it a try...you might find you prefer the quality improvement.
6. BUT it is difficult to find - you can get Fairtrade in supermarkets, local stalls, independent shops or search for 'Fairtrade goods' online.

NOTABLE PEOPLE & CHARACTERS OF COWLEY

APRIL 1963

FROM SCARING OFF CROWS TO DRIVING PRINCESSES

(Mr. W. Mason, verger at St. James' Church, looks back on a career of almost 80 years which progressed):

I was born in 1885 and I well remember that when I first went to school, we had to pay twopence a week, a sum which I took with me every Monday morning. I left school when I was 13 to start work on a farm and my mother, being a widow, found my weekly wage of four shillings a great help. Apart from other jobs, I helped the carter with the ploughing. We used three horses to draw the plough and I led the front one. On Sundays, during corn planting time, I had to go crow scaring. I would set off early in the morning with a parcel of food and a can of cocoa and armed with a catapult and a pair of clappers, I would stay in the fields until the crows retired for the night.

I left home at 15 to take a job as hall boy to a titled family. My wage was to start £8 per year and I had to lay the servants' meals, carry coal, wash up and lots of other jobs. The butler was a pompous, bad-tempered man. I could never put enough shine on his shoes and often he threatened to cuff my ears. While in this job, I saw Queen Victoria's funeral procession passing through London and saw many important people including the late Kaiser and Lord Kitchener.

While employed in private indoor service, I served several titled families. I had one very nice job as first footman to an elderly countess. I used to travel with her and stayed with her in several large establishments including Hatfield house. While in her service I had one very embarrassing moment. She wore a wig of light-brown curls and one day

when out with the carriage I was taking the rug off her lap when I accidentally pulled her bonnet string and dislodged her wig.

In 1915 I started motor driving and the following year I was called up for a second medical test and was passed fit for the army. I was abroad three years and served with the 2nd. Corps. Troops, Motor Transport Company, on the Somme and Ypres fronts, and in Germany.

After being demobbed I got a job as chauffeur with a family often visited by Royalty and while there, I had the honour of driving the late Princess Royal, the late Princess Victoria and the late Princess Marie Louise. On several occasions I drove my mistress to Coppins, near Iver, Buckinghamshire, which was then the home of Princess Victoria. On one occasion, my mistress had been staying at Coppins and had not been very well, and before driving her back to London the Princess sent for me. I was ushered into her drawing room by a tall butler and the Princess received me very kindly, as also did her dog. The Princess was very concerned about my mistress and asked me to drive her back slowly. She also asked me several questions about myself and if I had had my lunch.

Once, while in Scotland, I drove my mistress to Balmoral to have tea with King George V and Queen Mary. I had my tea with the royal servants.

I have been Verger at St. James' Church, Cowley for nearly five years and I always find that one can get a lot of satisfaction out of what one does for the church.

Researched by Les Hemsworth

FLO'S - THE PLACE IN THE PARK

Rymers Lane, OX4 3JZ

International Women's Day shindig with Slow Wednesdays Ukulele Band and Maeve
Saturday 7th March from 7.00pm tickets £7 + booking fee

Join us for this fundraising gig and celebration of women, music and community – with Slow Wednesdays Ukulele band and the wonderful Maeve Bayton.

Our pop-up bar will be open, serving drinks for the evening.

Concessionary rates are available - please contact us to arrange this. Proceeds from the evening will go towards raising funds for Mama Meet - a group supporting new mothers at Flo's.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/international-womens-day-ukulele-shindig-with-the-slow-wednesdays-tickets-86344228913>

REGULAR GROUPS – some weekly, others monthly

For pre and post-natal mothers – dads – grandparents – craft lovers

<https://www.floxford.org.uk/events/>

COURSES AT FLO'S

Flo's hosts a range of courses, from crafting workshops to training for educational practitioners and parents/child minders.

Please see the Flo's courses page for full details <https://www.floxford.org.uk/oxnest/>

FLO'S REFILL SHOP

Shop local and plastic free Saturday 12:30-5:00pm, and Wednesday 12:30-8:30pm. Flo's is a community owned and run project situated in the beautiful Florence Park. Its mission is to create a welcoming hub for families from all backgrounds to meet, work, play, learn and eat. It aims to fund the facility through community enterprises hosted in the centre.

On sale at the Refill Shop are unpackaged staple foods from Infinity Foods and SESI refill detergents for washing dishes, clothes and humans, and some environmentally sound baby products. All products are sold by weight or volume, which means you can buy exactly what you want, and bring back the empty container for more!

What is in stock?

pasta, muesli, brown rice, oats, raisins, red split lentils, brown lentils, sunflower seeds, pumpkin seeds, walnuts, almonds, cashew nuts, bicarbonate of soda, vinegar, coconut shampoo & conditioner, aloe vera shampoo and conditioner, olive oil soap, fig hand soap, washing up liquid, laundry liquid, fabric conditioner, all surface cleaner, toilet cleaner



FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

Monday 24 February - Sunday 8 March 2020

You will be receiving lots of fairtrade information with your Sunday Link.

There is a selection of fairtrade chocolate bars for sale (£2) at St James Centre during the fortnight, along with chunky buttons (50p, 3 for £1) and individually wrapped squares (5 for 50p; 12 for £1)



Remember that we want to become a registered Fairtrade Parish and still have difficulties with that.

MEANINGFUL CHOCOLATE FAIRTRADE EASTER EGGS

An order has gone in for the standard milk chocolate eggs with plenty of spares available - £3.60 instead of the RRP £3.99. Contact Lesley Williams if you wish to claim one/some. Remember that they include a booklet telling the Easter story and are palm oil and plastic free. They may also be in Tesco but we haven't checked to see.



Dark chocolate eggs £5.50 and the 'special edition' which includes an olive wood holding cross £9.99 may be found in fairtrade shops

Prayer for fair trade *from Christian Aid*

As I enter the street market,
wheel my trolley at the superstore,
leaf through a catalogue,
or log on to the internet:
be with me and help me.
When I spend money,
be with me and help me
to see the market place as you see it,
as wide as the world you love so much.
Be with us and help us
to share the markets we share
for all people.
As we live under your steady gaze,
so we can change, by your gracious love.
AMEN

Just a moment

from Christian

Concern for One World

It starts with a change,
so outwardly insignificant
that no one would notice
except the person
behind you in the aisle.
Just a moment
when instead of seeing
rows of labels
on a supermarket shelf,
you imagine the people
behind them -
tilling the earth,
sowing the seed,

gathering the crops.
And you pause,
wondering -
what their names are,
where they live,
what difference it will make
if your hand picks up
this box instead of that;
wondering - how do I
love these neighbours?
Can I help change
this child's long journey for water,

her mother's lack of healthcare,
the prospect her father faces
of another year unable
to feed his family well?
Just a moment.
And the person behind you,
her impatient baby
squirming in the trolley,
may never realise
that in that brief hesitation,
a life hangs in the balance.

ART AND FAITH

A newly formed, friendly group of people who enjoy art, and craft activities. We come together to reflect and pray for a short time before spending the morning working on projects we bring. Sharing skills, ideas and tips for improvement is another valuable part of what we do. We invite you to come and join us. All, including complete beginners, are very welcome.

Dates for the rest of this year are as follows:

7th March
4th April
2nd May

6th June
4th July
5th September

3rd October
7th November
5th December

All sessions held from 10a.m. -12noon in St. James Church Centre.

John Booty 01865 770836 john.booty@hotmail.com



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'On Demand' Living

"Don't want to watch this, Mummy, want to watch Topsy and Tim.. don't like this, Mummy, want to watch Bing "

"Phoebe, we are watching CBeebies, this is what's on the TV at the moment so please just watch this"

'On Demand' television is everywhere now. I used to laugh growing up that my Nan would call the afternoon television programmes 'Children's Hour' because it wasn't on for an hour, it was on for three. Even in that short time there was more air-time being devoted to children's television. Fast forward to now and there are children's programmes streaming 24 hours a day over multiple channels. Of course, if all that selection still doesn't satisfy you, then access the 'on demand' section and choose whatever you like to watch, whenever it takes your fancy.

For a while I happily changed the channel, scrolling through the hundreds of programmes to choose from, selecting something that Phoebe and Joseph both wanted to watch and then, after a while, I said 'Hey wait a minute, this is what's on the TV at the moment, so just watch this'.

I started thinking how easily this will be making our children 'spoilt' because surely if they have the access to have anything they want and not just that but whenever they wanted it, that's a slippery slope to undesirable personality traits in the future?

It was the following evening while I was getting in the car for my return from work that this thought made a reappearance to me although this time not with our children's 'on demand' living, but my own.

I started the engine and on came the radio, filling the air with sports commentary from the local radio station. I quickly changed the

radio station and began to drive off. I had not even left the hospital site where I work before I had reached and changed the radio station again, not liking what they were playing and searching what other stations had to offer whilst waiting at the traffic lights.

After travelling less than a mile and having jumped between stations to see if they were playing a 'nicer' song at least five times during that distance, it suddenly dawned on me that I was doing exactly what I got irritated with Phoebe over only the day before.

Why couldn't I just let the song play and wait to see what song would be coming on next? Why didn't I try listening to something different and maybe find out the song wasn't too bad after all?

The culture of 'on demand' living in life I seem to be noticing more and more recently. Social media is full of others parading their lives of 'look at what I've been doing' and 'look what I've bought' which slowly makes you feel like you need to have all this in your life to feel happy. Constantly looking at what others are putting on their 'channels' leaves you searching to change yours too, suddenly feeling inadequate with what is 'streaming' on yours.

Each time I was changing the station looking for a 'better' song to be listening to, I was momentarily taking my eyes off of the road in front of me. A second or two taking your eyes off the road we all know can be a dangerous thing anyway. I noted if I totalled up the amount of time I had spent doing this over my short journey before I had even realised what I was doing, I had probably taken my eyes off the road quite a lot. We too often are doing that these days, taking our eyes off of our own road in front of ourselves to see what others are doing on theirs or if there's a better shortcut to take to what we think will

bring us happiness, even for a fleeting moment before we find ourselves looking again.

As I turned on to the A34 I found myself following a large M&S lorry. I contemplated overtaking it but then thought to myself 'why hurry?'. I didn't need to change lanes and hurry ahead, I had no rush to get home so I'd just follow behind and listen to the radio (which I had now left alone!). A song started playing that I hadn't heard since I was a teenager and after a few moments of reminiscing and noticing a whole new meaning to the lyrics now I'm that much older, it made it an enjoyable remaining time of the journey.

I've been hearing recently about learnt behaviours and young children learning

through copying others, particularly their parents. It got me thinking, with that being the case maybe I shouldn't be so quick to say to Joseph and Phoebe just to be happy with what they are watching on the television and stop wanting to change the channel all the time when I too often am doing the same.

Maybe we all should stop trying to change the lanes we're 'driving' in life, looking for short cuts that we think would give us happiness but are more likely to bring us wanting another lane change, to stop changing the radio station and just enjoy the music that's playing at this moment.

Cara Vivian

PARISH MISSION AND SOCIAL PLANNER

MARCH	APRIL
Fri 6th 2:00 <i>World Day of Prayer</i> (BBL)	Thu 9th Maundy Thursday <i>service, supper, prayer vigil</i>
Sun 8th 12:15 <i>Super Soup Lenten lunch for Christian Aid</i> (CC)	Fri 10th Good Friday <i>services tbc</i> 10:00 <i>Messy Church</i> (CC)
Sun 15th 12:30 <i>Sunday lunch</i> (CC)	Sat 11th tbc <i>Easter fire service</i> (J)
Sat 21st 10:00 <i>Prayer & intercession + lunch</i> (CC + Rectory)	Sun 12th Easter Sunday 8.45 <i>Big Brek-kie</i> (CC)
Sun 22nd 10:00 (J) , 10:30 (F) <i>Mothersing Sunday services with posies</i>	Sun 26th 12:00 <i>APCM</i> (F)
26th-27th-28 th tbc 7:30 <i>Jesus Christ Superstar</i> (Radley College)	

BBL: Blackbird Leys Church, CC: St James Church Centre
F: St Francis Church, J: St James Church

Choosing a reputable trader

Sometimes it can be difficult to know where to turn to choose a reliable trader. Your first port of call should be the [Checkatrade Trading Standards approved trader scheme](#). The following points will also help you to select wisely and reduce the possibility of problems.

Choosing a trader

- Ask friends and family to recommend traders where possible.
- Get at least three different quotes before having work carried out.
- Check that all quotes are provided in writing.
- Check whether you are given a quote or an estimate. A quote is a fixed price for the job and should not change, whereas an estimate can vary by a reasonable amount.
- Check that the quote includes an inclusive price and details all work that you have requested.
- Check that the quote includes a timescale for the work to be started and completed.
- Check that you have adequate contact details for the trader including an address and landline phone number.
- Check that you are not required to pay for the work in advance. You should always aim to keep back at least some money until the work is completed.

Questions to ask traders

- How long have you been in business? Established traders are less likely to disappear in the middle of a job.
- Are you a member of a trade association? Some trade associations operate codes of practice that offer extra protection to consumers and some offer mediation or conciliation services to help resolve disputes. You should contact the trade association to see what extra protection they offer and to check that the trader is a member, for example a reputable builder will be a member of the [Federation of Master Builders](#) or the [Guild of Master Craftsmen](#).
- Can I see references? Ask to see references for similar work the trader has done in the past.
- Do you have insurance to cover damage to property? Check that this will cover your neighbours' property as well as your own, where appropriate.
- Is the work guaranteed? If a guarantee is provided check whether this is insurance backed, since this will mean you will be protected even if the trader goes out of business.

Points to remember when using a trader

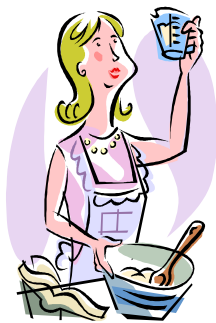
- Check that you are happy with the standard of the work before paying the bill. If you are not, refuse to pay until the problems are rectified.
- Pay by credit card where possible, as you will often get extra protection. Otherwise, try to pay by cheque rather than cash.
- Never agree to go with a trader to the bank or building society in order to withdraw money.

RECIPES

Cheesy baked leeks with ham (serves 4)

Ingredients:

- 3 leeks (around 500g)
- 190g packet of sliced, cooked ham
- 30g butter
- 30g plain flour
- 150ml dry white wine
- 250ml milk
- 1 tbsp wholegrain mustard
- 1 tsp chopped fresh thyme leaves, plus a little extra to serve
- 75g grated cheddar
- 100g brie, sliced.



Method:

1. Heat the oven to 200 °C /180 ° /GAS 6. Cut the leeks into 8cm lengths, then wrap each in a piece of ham, cutting to fit and using up all the offcuts. Arrange in the base of a 1.5 litre ovenproof dish.
2. Meanwhile, melt the butter in a pan, then stir in the flour and cook over a medium heat for 2-3 minutes. Gradually whisk in the wine and milk. Bring to the boil, then simmer for 3 minutes.
3. Stir in the wholegrain mustard, thyme leaves and cheddar until melted, then pour over the leeks. Top with the brie, then bake for 30 minutes until bubbling. Scatter with more thyme and serve with crusty bread.

The following recipe is from *Cakes, Bakes, Puddings and Prayers* by Susan Over:

In-a-Flap-Jacks (makes 12)

Ingredients:

- 100g (4oz) margarine

- 110g (4oz) demerara sugar
- 4 tablespoons golden syrup
- 225g (8oz) porridge oats
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 2 teaspoons ground ginger (optional)
- 1 egg
- 75g (3oz) dried fruit or
- 25-50g (1-2oz) chopped preserved ginger (optional)

Method:

1. Line two shallow microwave dishes with clingfilm (you can use the lids of two Pyrex casserole dishes. Check that your clingfilm is microwave safe and, if not thoroughly grease the dishes instead.)
2. In a large bowl melt the margarine, sugar and golden syrup on a HIGH setting (approximately 1 minute depending on the power of the microwave).
3. Stir in the dry ingredients, egg and fruit or ginger, if using. Mix thoroughly.
4. Divide mixture between two dishes leaving enough room for the mixture to expand. Microwave each for 2-4 minutes depending on the strength of your microwave. When ready, it should begin to firm up, but should not be scorched.
5. Mark each dish into six before the mixture cools and hardens.

Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me – watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly.

Matthew 11:28-30 (The Message)

Help us, Lord to listen to what you want us to do and to get our priorities right. Just that.
Amen

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
1st Sunday All Age bring n/share lunch

MID-WEEK SERVICES & MEETINGS

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

HOME GROUPS

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

The Parish Office in St James Church Centre is staffed by volunteers and is not covered continually. Please leave a message and someone will get back to you.

Contact details: Tel: 01865 747680
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St James Church Centre Manager:

Chris Woodman Tel: 778078

Hall Bookings:

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

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