

**Light up a light
Remembering those
who have died**



**Saturday 31st
October
10 am to 4 pm
(on the hour
and 1/2 hour)**

A short time of thanks and
prayer remembering those
we love but see no more.



**Do bring photos if
you wish**



Serving God,
Cowley and Headington

**St James Church
Beauchamp
Lane**

Parish of Cowley
The Annual Parochial Church Meeting
and
Meeting for the Election of Churchwardens
on Saturday 10 October at 11am
in St James Church Centre
or by Zoom

October
2020

Chronicle

From the Editors

Sally Hemsworth and Nicki Stevens

It is impossible to realise that it is the end of September and the October Chronicle is due. We have had such lovely weather and time seems to go so fast, although as we are finalising the Chronicle the rain is here! What a difference it makes. But autumn colours will soon be arriving – and the countryside and gardens will be changing fast.

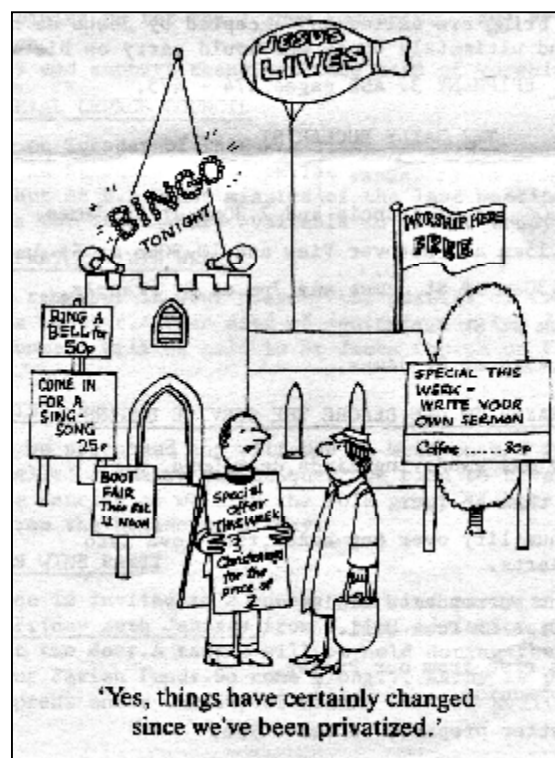
Things are not moving so quickly with the coronavirus as Oxford seems to be facing a further lockdown – hopefully the numbers will stabilise and lockdown will not happen. Just take care and follow the rules.

Please note – information on the back of The Chronicle has not been changed during the lockdown, leaving the “old” timetable there. This may be confusing when there is talk of starting certain things like Tuesday lunches. Please keep an eye on The Link for the correct information – things may change week by week.

We are getting short of advertisers – Can you recommend any business we can approach to see if they wish to advertise in The Chronicle?

We look forward to receiving your articles and hopefully your recommendations for new subscribers and advertisers. Please send these in promptly as work starts on the next edition as soon as the current issue is published!

Sally and Nicki



A word from the Rectory

."It's just around the corner!"

Over the last months I have had this reoccurring feeling that IT is just around the corner. My challenge is What is the IT? A vaccine to put this Covid-19 back into its box. A chance to get together to do some of the things we love to do. Each, together, hug, sing, dance, sit at my old desk at work and chat to my neighbour, Go shopping in comfort. Walk into a friend's house without fear of leaving them a present of a virus that will change the next two weeks?

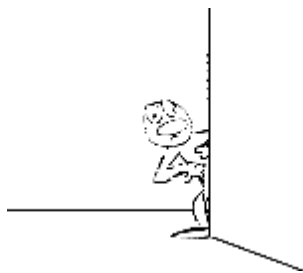
On top of that we move on shifting sand. What are we called to do to keep each other safe? It is a strange land that we are currently inhabit.

About 600 years before Jesus was born the Israelites were led into captivity by the Babylonians. They were there for about 50 years. Psalm 136 tells of the lament in the hearts of the people at that time.

Psalm 136

Upon the rivers of Babylon, there we sat and wept: when we remembered Sion:

2. On the willows in the midst thereof



we hung up our instruments.

3. For there they that led us into captivity required of us the words of songs. And they that carried us away, said: Sing ye to us a hymn of the songs of Sion.

4. How shall we sing the song of the Lord in a strange land?

Yet they did. They sang with joy in their hearts as they returned with Nehemiah. In their time in Babylon they did well. There gained recognition and respect. Look at the book of Daniel, Nehemiah, etc. They adjusted to new normal and rediscovered their faith in the God who saves. Who led them out of Egypt and later out of Babylon?

As we give thanks to the Lord our God and King, let us remember that his love endures for ever. He journeys with us in these difficult days and will lead us back to green pastures and still waters. For he is the God who saves!



Benson Cottage

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Do you ever get lost? Luckily I seem to have lost my way when out walking or driving my car on very few occasions, probably because I am not too adventurous. On the other hand if I go on holiday to visit somewhere new, or perhaps stay overnight in a guest house or hotel, they usually have a card available with their address and telephone number, or give you a small map. Use them. They may be useful during your visit.

That's all very good and simple, but there were no signposts during the war and of course mobile phones and Satnav had not been invented. For driving or cycling, you need you a map. So long as you know where you are to start from, you can plan your route. Sounds simple but for pilots in the Air Traffic Auxiliary (ATA) during the war it was not that simple. They ferried the new aircraft and repaired aircraft from the factories where they were built to the R.A.F. airfields. When the ATA pilots flew the aeroplanes, they only had an ordinary road map. No radio and of course there aren't any signposts up in the clouds, and no crew or anyone to ask the way!

In recent years I have been able to fly with my son in a small aeroplane over the area around Oxford and I can assure you that it looks very different to driving around and many fields look the same as another. During the war there were several more airfields and landing strips than there are today, especially around Oxford. Church Cowley St James school is built on part of the small airfield from which repaired aircraft were flown by ATA pilots to the operational R.A.F stations, so it was a bit of a surprise when a Lancaster four engine bomber landed there, thinking he

had delivered the new aeroplane to Abingdon. From the air, and using only a school atlas or road map of the area, it is not surprising that he misjudged the location because Abingdon airfield is close to housing, near to the river and wasn't that different other than being twice the size. The aeroplane was able to fly to Abingdon by supplying just enough fuel for the six-mile journey!

Some years later I was doing my two-year National Service in the R.A.F. and was working in the Control Tower at R.A.F. Benson. All aircraft wishing to land have to call in, by radio, to ask permission and be given instructions before they could land. We noticed a Spitfire circling at normal height for landing but no radio contact. It landed and then came close by and stopped outside the hangers. It was a Seafire, the naval equivalent of the Spitfire. When the pilot reported he thought he had landed at Culham, a Royal Naval Air Station three miles away (now the Culham Laboratory). It was late in the day so he decided he would save any embarrassment and stay the night. I don't know what story he told to explain his non-arrival at Culham, but it does illustrate how even professionals can get it wrong.

During the coming days I am sure that we will all need to ask for guidance, and get our life maps up to date, but if we follow the guidance given and make some changes to our route, we will get there in the end, with help from each other.

Take care

Uncle Ben

Hello from Joseph

Hello again it's me, Joseph! I'm back at school in year 2! I went back for a few weeks in June but now we are all back. I'm happy because I am sat next to my girlfriend Heidi and opposite me is my other friend Neve. Our tables are named and so are our drawers and pegs. My table is Neptune who is the God of the sea and also a planet. Our pegs and drawers are named after Roald Dahl characters and mine are Fantastic Mr Fox and the BFG. I like Roald Dahl books and read them with my Mummy. My favourite so far is Fantastic Mr Fox.

School is different. We have to have our own things on our tables and can't share with the class. Our assemblies are on Microsoft Teams. We have our school dinners delivered to the classroom and we don't eat in the school hall. We can only go out to play in our class bubbles. It is nice being back at school.

Soon I will be learning all about the Romans. I'm excited as I like the Romans. They made the town of Bath and that is where my Mummy and Daddy had their honeymoon.

I really do miss church. I hope you have enjoyed watching Cuddles and Snuggles stories. I hope you are having a nice time at home, keep fit and healthy, keep relaxing. I watch Wallace and Gromit films to relax! Hope to see you all again soon!

Stay safe

Love from Joseph



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Taken From "OXFORD DIARY" - OXFORD MAIL, 19th April, 1940



Cowley Library – 19th
April 1940

Accommodation for a stock of 10,000 books is provided at the Temple Cowley Library, which is open for inspection today and tomorrow from 2 to 7 p.m., and will be open for public use on Monday at 9.30 a.m. This new addition to the social services of Cowley fulfils a long - felt want, and it is a building of which the residents and the city as-a-whole might

well feel proud. The small branch depot which it replaces did splendid work, but it was quite inadequate to deal satisfactorily with the demands of a rapidly increasing reading public, and there is no doubt that the new building will be widely appreciated.

Situated in Temple Road near the site of the new swimming bath, it is an imposing structure of red brick, simple in design, but of the utmost utility. It comprises three main rooms, which are notable for their cheery atmosphere and airiness, a special effort having been made to provide as much window space as possible.

The main room is a spacious one in which borrowers can move from shelf to shelf with the greatest of ease with none of that congestion which marks the City Library in St. Aldates. There is a wide range of books, both fiction and non-fiction, and the residents of Cowley and district can be assured that they will always be able to find a book to meet their particular taste.

Catering for youth:

Some of the shelves will contain books which are likely to appeal to young people who have been transferred from the junior to the senior section – a sort of compromise between the junior and adult reading. The colour scheme in this room is light blue and a pair of French windows on the western side lead out on to a balcony which, in the summertime, can be used by borrowers who care to read their books in the open air. From this balcony, which overlooks the lawns of the library and the swimming bath, a good view can be obtained of the City.

On the right of the vestibule is the junior department, the decoration of which is in keeping with the general air of brightness which characterises the whole building.

On the opposite side is the reading and reference department. There are racks for newspapers, periodicals and reference books, and at one end there is what might be termed a "quiet study corner" which can be used by students and others.

The library will be in the charge of a staff supervised by Mr. W. R. McClelland and will be open from Monday to Friday from 9.30 a.m. to 7 p.m. and on Saturday from 9.30 a.m. until 8 p.m. It will close each day from 1 p.m. to 2.30 p.m. and on Thursday afternoons.

The building has cost £10, 832, and the majority of people, having visited it, will agree that it has been money well spent.

Researched by Les Hemsworth



Harvest Festival at St James Church

Sunday, 13 September 2020 was a day I will remember for a long time. Thirty-three friends of St James gathered in the Church Yard, socially distanced, at 11am to celebrate Harvest Festival and the Season of Creation, with Gemma presiding, a recording of Geoff singing Cabbages and Kings and Mary in charge of the music. It was a joyous service.

Rosanne read Exodus chapter 15, verses 1-11, which she told us was her favourite, Chris Lee read Matthew chapter 18, verses 21-35, a very well-known passage, and Lesley delivered her very moving prayers. Towards the end of the service Gilly and Geoff gave a beautiful rendition of "We plough the fields and scatter".

A wonderful way to celebrate the Season of Creation. God's Holy Spirit was with us on this beautiful September day. Many present had to move their chairs into the shade as the sun was so strong. You could also call it a healing service as so many felt the benefit of being and talking together after the service which meant so much to all who were there. Thank you, Geoff, Gemma and Mary for arranging this very welcome opportunity to come together in worship.

Chris Woodman

Note from Editor – we just have to remember that government advice is:

"Whilst engaging in an activity in the place of worship or surrounding grounds, all parties should adhere to social distancing guidelines at all times, even within a group of 6. This means people should be 2 metres apart or more than 1 metre apart as well as taking extra steps to stay safe (such as wearing face coverings) to reduce the risk of transmission."

From the Archives

JANUARY 1960

SALE OF COWLEY VICARAGE

The price of land continues to soar in Oxford, and this was made clear by the sale of Cowley Vicarage and grounds for £40,000. What becomes of the money? It will be paid to the Church Commissioners. Part will be used to build the new St. James' House, and to renovate the Vicarage Cottage. The rest will be held as a capital sum. Part of the income will be used to increase the stipend of the Vicar, the income from endowments at present being about £575 per annum.

It is understood that the rest of the income will be paid to the diocese, and some of it may be available for paying assistant clergy. But the diocesan administrators will have to weigh the needs of other areas, especially new estates, and may decide that this parish, as an established area, is better able than a new estate to raise the money to pay its clergy.

FARMER PARSON

The land was given in the first place for the maintenance of the clergy. Those who remember the Reverend George Moore will know that until his death 31 years ago he used to farm it along with other land built upon in the 1930's. The house was built by Mrs. George Moore. The money can be used only for the housing and payment of clergy, for that was the purpose of the original gifts.

SEPTEMBER 1961

BRIGHTER WINTER AHEAD AT ST. JAMES'

There was, no doubt, a certain charm about the old lighting at St. James' Church single tungsten electric bulbs hanging on the end of flex. It was easy though to overlook this charm in the dingy gloom which prevailed any night after dusk, even with all the lights switched on. However, the fact that some of our lights, notably the one over the pulpit (was this an electric tribute to many departed preachers?), switched themselves on, showed that the wiring needed to be renewed. The time had come.

Many were the discussions over what kind of lighting should be installed, whether it would be appropriate to use newer fluorescent type of installation in so old a building as Cowley Parish Church. In any case, how were we to pay for it? The latter problem was greatly eased when it was found that we could put towards the cost a £200 bequest to the parish church which had been in the reserves for some time.

Architects assured us that the lighting tubes could be so installed that brightness would prevail without harsh and obviously twentieth-century lines of light being too obvious. The ar-

chitects proved to be right. The new lighting is powerful, yet not harsh, and the source not over-obvious.

And the opportunity was taken, during the rewiring, of raising the hanging infra-red heaters to the walls so that the nave of the church is found to be once again, spacious, lofty and uncluttered, and now from ceiling to foundations - or almost.

Certainly the foundations and lower walls of the parish church were suffering until recently because of rain water. Instead of running away along the gullies round the walls, it was seeping down through the porous brick channel. Volunteers (we are very grateful to them) with pick, shovel and bare hands, removed the brick channels and a contractor has laid in concrete all around the walls a half-section of drain pipes, (sounds odd, but it is true); and now the rain water whizzes down them to the soak-aways at the east end of the church.

Les Hemsworth

IFFLEY MEADOWS APPEAL

[URGENT! Save Iffley's beautiful meadows and wildlife!](#)

Have you ever wandered through historic Iffley village, maybe as lockdown exercise or mindfulness activity? Or enjoyed beautiful views across the fields and watched deer raising young in the peaceful surroundings? Or strolled down to the lock to feed the ducklings or cool off by the river?

Donnington Hospital Trust is selling the two remaining fields in Iffley, one of which is already earmarked in the City Council's plan for the development of 49 houses.

This would destroy the nature and biodiversity of the area, hugely increase through traffic (with multiple impacts including safety of pedestrians, cyclists and local wildlife), cause a deterioration in air quality and fundamentally change the rural ambience of the village.

It is not a done deal, though! We are presenting a petition to Donnington Hospital Trust and would be extremely grateful for your support to preserve this special haven of nature within the city boundary.

Please sign!

<https://www.change.org/p/donnington-hospital-trust-protect-the-last-fields-in-iffley-village-from-housing-development>

Further information: a map and other documents are available at <https://iffleywoods.org/>

RECIPES

Tasty recipe for Chard

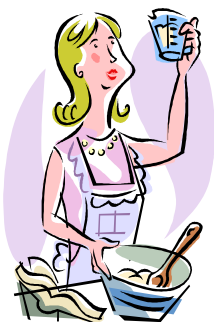
Cut the stems from the leaves, then chop the stems into small pieces.

Put into a pan with sunflower oil, chilli flakes and chopped garlic to taste.

Sauté gently till tender – then add chopped leaves with the juice of ½ lemon and a little drop of water. Cover the pan.

Simmer gently till the leaves are also tender. Season to taste.

Serve as an accompaniment with anything. Like spinach, chard will cook down.



Broccoli and Stilton Soup

Ingredients:

- 450g broccoli florets
- 1 small potato
- 25g butter
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 small leek diced
- 800 vegetable stock
- 1 clove garlic crushed
- 100-150g Stilton cheese
- 100ml double cream

Method:

- Melt the butter in a saucepan, add the leek, garlic and potato, then cover and sweat gently for 10 minutes until soft.
- Add the broccoli florets and stock, bring back to the boil, then cover and

cook for a further 6-8 minutes until the broccoli is just tender and has retained its colour.

- Stir in the Stilton cheese until it has almost melted, then add the cream.
- Blend until smooth, season to taste and serve.

The amount of Stilton you use will depend on how mature it is and your personal taste. If you're a Stilton fan, crumble extra over the top.

CHRONICLE

Editorial Team- Sally Hemsworth,
Nicki Stevens

Deadline for the next edition:
Monday 19 October 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.



HOW SAFE IS YOUR ELECTRIC BLANKET?

FREE ELECTRIC BLANKET CHECKS IN OXFORDSHIRE

Make sure your blanket is safe to use this winter.

Things change

- but your safety is most important to us.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, we will test your blanket, but you will not be able to visit the test venue.

We will collect your blanket from your house, take it to be tested and then return it to your house (we will post you a plastic bag and label prior to our collection).

FREE

Testing in Oxfordshire in **OCTOBER 2020**

**Monday 5 – Friday 9 and
Monday 19 – Friday 23**

BOOKING INFORMATION:

To book your collection call **01865 895999 Option 1**
Or email: communityengagement@oxfordshire.gov.uk



Christian Aid Oxford Abseil

Saturday 17 October

If you can't stand still while people go hungry, abseil for us.



Church Abseil!

Are you up for the challenge of abseiling from the tower of St Mary Magdalen church in Oxford to end poverty?

Participants must be aged eleven years or above. The registration fee is £20 and all entrants aim to raise £100 or more through sponsorship.



christianaid.org.uk
pevans@christian-aid.org
07814 141 812

Christian Aid is a registered charity. All proceeds of any money raised will go to Christian Aid. For more information, please contact the Christian Aid office in Oxford, 100 Broad Street, Oxford OX1 3JF. Tel: 01865 200000.

GOOD NEWS! PARISH HOLIDAY Weymouth 2021

Our wonderful friendly coach operator Gordon has secured the following for us: The Crown Hotel, situated on the river 5 to 10 mins from the sea. It is slightly more expensive than the one we had booked in October but is a better class of hotel.

Monday 5th – Friday 9th April 2021 at a cost of £389 pp - four days half board.

12 single rooms are included in the price. Please look to the future and SIGN UP NOW.

Contact Pat Chambers - pat.silverpolo@gmail.com 01235 799717 07532 113645



REAL ADVENT CALENDAR - ORDER NOW

This year more than any other we need to share the joy of the Nativity story with our children – and even with grown-ups! The calendar contains high quality Fairtrade chocolate with lines of the Christmas narrative behind each door and includes a 24-page booklet with the story, games, puzzles and a challenge. There has been no price rise over the ten years that the Real Advent Calendar has been produced: just £3.99

It will be available in some larger Tesco stores, in Fairtrade shops, online from several charities and.....in the Parish of Cowley.

There are order forms in both churches *or* contact Lesley Williams by phone or email by 25 October

01865 779 562 07982 439 828 lesleyjwilliams@btinternet.com



Support the 2020 Real Advent Calendar

The new design Real Advent Calendar is the UK's only Fairtrade calendar which comes with a free 24 page Christmas story-activity book and which supports charitable causes. There is a Fairtrade chocolate and a line of the Christmas story behind each of the 25 windows. The free book has a page for every day of Advent expanding on the Christmas story and includes some fun challenges. No other calendar enables parents and children to experience the Christmas story in this way.

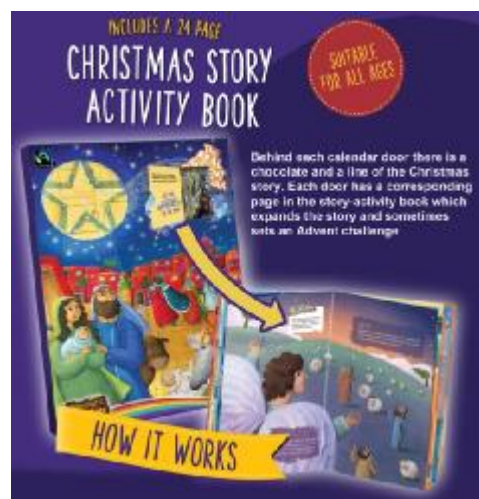
Why we need a Real Advent Calendar

2020 was a year unlike any other. To protect lives our society was put on hold. This autumn it is more important than ever that, as we make our journey towards Christmas, we find ways to share the story of the birth of Jesus. The Real Advent Calendar is a proven way to do this.

Saving lives

This year the calendar features a rainbow to remind us of the importance of working together in inspiring ways, for the common good. The Real Advent Calendar supports these values by using Fairtrade chocolate - giving producers a fair price as well as a 'top-up' cash bonus. Money raised from the sales of the calendar will also help provide care and support for mums and new babies in African villages.

The Real Advent Calendar costs £3.99. Churches, schools and groups can buy direct from www.realadvent.co.uk and take advantage of a free delivery offer. Retailers stocking include larger Tesco stores, Traidcraft, Eden, TLM trading, Embrace the Middle East, CLC Bookshops, Redemptorist Publications and a number of cathedrals and independent bookshops. Details can be found at www.realadvent.co.uk



RIDE & STRIDE - PERSONAL REPORT

Saturday 12 September

That was a good day - 47 churches and 50 miles – a personal best! My route was Cowley – Littlemore – Sandford – Kennington – Radley – Abingdon – Drayton – Sutton Courtenay – Milton – Didcot – Brightwell-cum-Sotwell – Wallingford – Crowmarsh Gifford – Benson – Berrick Salome – Chalgrove – Stadhampton – Chiselhampton – Blackbird Leys

I had hoped to take in Ewelme, Watlington and Cuxham but ran out of time and legs!

Fewer churches than usual were 'manned' so at most there was just a list to sign. No refreshments were to be provided but Trinity Methodist, Abingdon left bananas and easy peelers laid out on the steps! It was good cycling weather - a light headwind for a while but not too tiring – on a generally flat route – the last 5 churches were after 6.00, the official end time, but I of course counted them.

This is my fundraising page: <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/LesleyWilliams22>

As at 30 September, my total is £610 – that includes the Gift Aid for the online donations but not from the cash/paper form so there will be approximately £90 added – 350% of my £200 target! Thank you to all supporters

50% of the sponsorship comes directly back to the church; 50% is held by the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust – and could well come to us as a grant towards the Flush Fund.

BIBLE SOCIETY 'MORE THAN A BOOK' REGISTRATION

Are you looking for something inspirational to read to see you through the rest of this strange time? If you order anything on

line or by phone from the Bible Society, please use the unique Parish reference number 12044 or select the 'Parish of Cowley' from the drop down menu when placing the order and we will benefit from the 'More than a book' cash back scheme. It's that easy! We earn some from our 'Open the Book' resources orders – not a huge amount but useful! Some personal shopping would be useful.

Do look at the on line shop for cards and gifts – Bibles, prayer books, cards, courses, fiction, dvds etc.

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



NOTABLE PEOPLE & CHARACTERS OF COWLEY

Fr. RICHARD MEUX BENSON (Part One)

DECEMBER 1950



THE REV RICHARD MEUX BENSON
Vicar of Cowley, 1850-1870

A hundred years ago this month – to be exact, on 23rd. December, 1850 – the Reverend Richard Meux Benson, Student (or Fellow) of Christ Church, was instituted as Vicar of Cowley, an event which proved to be of great significance to Church life both in East Oxford and throughout the Church of England.

Cowley was in those days a parish small in numbers (probably only about 500) but large in area, extending right down to “The Plain” at Magdalen bridge; but houses were beginning to spring up along the Cowley and Iffley Roads, at a considerable distance from the little old church of St. James’.

It was Father Benson who was instrumental in building the “Iron Church”, as it was called, in that area, in 1859, and later the church of Saints Mary & John, on the Cowley Road; - and it was he who procured the separation of the parish of Cowley St. John, and he became its first Vicar in 1870.

At the same time, after several years of study and prayer at Cowley, Father Benson became the founder of the first religious community for men to be formed in the Church of England since the Reformation. He began to live a community life in Cowley with two other priests, Father Grafton (afterwards Bishop of Fond du Lac in the U.S.A.) and Father O’Neill. After a year of preparation together, they took their vows on December 27th (St. John’s Day), 1866, and their society was called The Society of St. John the Evangelist (S.S.J.E.), well known now as the “Cowley Fathers”.

During these hundred years since Father Benson’s Institution, both the Cowley parishes have grown beyond all expectation, and between them they contain nearly 50,000 people, or half the population of the City of Oxford. During these hundred years, also, the Cowley Fathers have, in addition to their work in all parts of this country, from their three centres in Marston Street, Westminster, and Edinburgh, spread to India, South Africa, Japan, the United States and Canada, in all of which countries they have houses as bases for their work.

So we have, as you see, abundant reason to thank God for the life and work of Father Benson at the centenary of his Institution to this parish, and we shall make Sunday, December 17th, a day