

Skye writes...

Walking round the back of our house, you discover two big conker trees. Heading out of Don Bosco Close the other way, you encounter another three. Every time I go past one of these trees I pick up a conker and place it in my pocket. It's a force of habit. As a child my favourite conkers were the ones we called cheese graters - the ones with a flat side. These still are my favourite.

When I was younger it was a fight to get the conkers as everyone wanted them. We would go out before breakfast and raid the trees, bringing back armfuls of our precious treasure. We carefully washed them and divided them into piles for after school when we got dad to drill a hole. Nowadays, with children more interested in computers and screens and schools banning conker games (because of health and safety) there are no queues or fights for the conkers. They are left to be picked by nostalgic adults or wait to be squashed by cars and shoes.

In our house we have little piles of them everywhere. My pile is in my office on my desk.

We know that autumn has really arrived when the conkers are out of their shells. For me it's not just about the leaves to kick but about the beautiful conkers to hold and own.

The artist in me is amazed by the variety of colours - the browns, the creams and black swirls - no two alike, the texture in the hand - cold and smooth to touch.

As I was out the other day - on my way to pick up Casper from St Francis School - I noticed a conker falling to the ground. The force of the conker falling and the

impact of it hitting the ground caused it to pop open and out rolled a shiny new conker - completely unharmed by the incident.

What made it fall I wonder?



Was the conker now too heavy for the branch to hold?

There certainly was no wind, no rain to force it from its captivity.

Had the tree done all that it could and the time had come for it to let go - to be released?

On the tree the conker had been kept safe within a protective shell with prickles, now it was vulnerable. But in its vulnerable state it was free to find soil, to fulfil its potential and grow into a fine Horse Chestnut Tree.

It's interesting how the simple and ordinary things in life, nature herself, cause you to reflect on something much bigger. As I walked across the park I wondered what the things are that prevent me from moving, from leaving the tree as it were. I considered the things that cause me to fall - I may feel scared by a fall and bruised by the

Chronicle

October
2015

impact but through prayer may be able to recognise the possibilities and new beginnings that follow it.

It can be hard, it can be painful when things or people or situations or jobs, which we think are keeping us together, let us down suddenly or cause us to feel like we are falling. Maybe we could be inspired by nature and look harder at what is being released by the impact. What potential is now free to flourish and grow?

As we journey through October, as the days get darker and the nights start earlier, remember to allow life and nature to surprise you. God sees the bigger picture and sees our potential -

sometimes that can only begin when we are released from the tree we were clinging to.

Deuteronomy 31:6

Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.

Philippians 4:13

I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Skye x

BOOK OF THE MONTH

Water into Wine

By Stephen Verney

(Collins)

The subtitle of this is: An Introduction to John's Gospel

This is an outstanding book, written by a person of considerable talent and profound Christian convictions. Stephen Verney studied at Balliol College, Oxford, and Westcott House Theological College, Cambridge. During World War II he served with the Friends Ambulance Unit, and later as a member of the Intelligence Corps, working with the Greek Resistance in Crete.

After his ordination into the Anglican Church he worked in various local Parishes and was Canon Residentiary in Coventry Cathedral for a while, after which he went to the College of St George at Windsor where he shared responsibility for the worship at that famous chapel. He was later appointed Bishop of Repton in Derbyshire.

In an introduction to the book entitled "A letter to the Reader" he gives a brief cameo of his life and his involvement with John's Gospel, which started as a young student of 18 and went on for 46 years. He met Archbishop William Temple and talked with him about the article Temple had just written about St John's work. At Cambridge he met Professor Dodd, the author of a great book "The Interpretation of the Fourth Gospel". However, Stephen is concerned not just with scholarly works, but the effect of the work on ordinary people. He speaks of its influence in his own life, not just on his Christian thinking, but on his everyday working life. Here was something written over 2000 years ago that seemed to be relevant to real life in the 20th Century. Later he breaks down the book into significant passages, and gives us a modern interpretation along with a translation of certain Greek words.

This is sterling stuff and well worth looking into.

John Shreeve

Editor's Letter

Dear Readers

I am sure all of us are very relieved to see Mark Oxbrow up and about following his slight heart attack. Mark is such a friend to each and everyone in our parish and we know how hard he works. Perhaps this recent incident will be a warning to tell himself to pull back a little.

Another person I want to mention this month is our youngest bell-ringer, Jamie Brown. For quite a few years now Jamie has had an ambition to be an engineer. That drove him on to work hard at school, passing all the necessary exams enabling him to be accepted as an engineering apprentice at a printing firm in Didcot. Isn't it good to be able to praise our young people at a time when people often criticise them?

Those of us who have heard her play her violin in church know that Emily Jensenius is a musical lady. It was a lucky day for us when she joined our choir. It is even more lucky for us that Emily is going to be our new choir-mistress now that Mark Porter has left us to take up a research project in Germany. We want to thank her so much for taking on the demanding responsibility.

The Church Centre was packed on 26 September for the MacMillan coffee morning. The cake stall groaned with loads of goodies. I am sure everyone involved in organising the event must be delighted. On going to press the final amount raised has not yet been counted. however a big vote of thanks is due to the organisers.

Whilst we are offering thanks, may I on behalf of my husband and myself say how touched we have been to receive wonderful support during

Frank's recent illness. Everyone, yes everyone, who knows him has sent love and support in the way of cards, phone calls and enquiries about his progress. You truly believe that you are part of a Christian family when you are surrounded by such warmth. Please keep on praying, I know it is making a difference.

When you receive your Chronicle this month the Pet Service at St Francis will already have taken place. I do hope it went well and both pets and owners behaved. As he announced it in St James last week, Richard told us that he would certainly be there as he was a pet! Now what do you think he meant by that? Maybe Rebecca could enlighten us!!

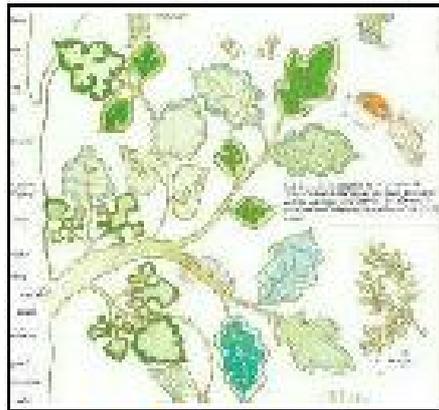
Next month is going to be a special one for the parish as we prepare to welcome our new Rector, Geoff. I gather he reads the Chronicle so he will realise by now how much we are looking forward to getting to know him.

God bless.

Rosanne

*If after Church, you wait awhile,
Someone may greet you with a smile
But, if you quickly rise and flee,
We'll all seem cold and stiff, may be
The one beside you in the pew
Is, perhaps a stranger too,
All here, like you, have fears and cares,
All of us need each other's prayers.
In fellowship we bid you meet,
With us around God's Mercy Seat.
(Grasmere Methodist Church)*

The Museum of Oxford Adult Learning Programme



Searchers

Mondays, 1.30-3.30pm from 21 September 2015

Research for absolute beginners. We discuss interesting issues chosen by the group. Loads of support in a friendly environment.

Creative Writing for Beginners

Alternate Tuesdays, 1.30-3.30pm, from 22 September 2015

You might want to write about your life, try poetry, short stories, drama. We cover lots of different areas of activity in this group and produce publications of your work.

Art for All

Alternate Tuesdays, 1.30-4pm, from 29 September 2015

Learn different ways of producing your work, exhibit your favourite pieces and contribute to Museum of Oxford Exhibitions. Relaxed and enjoyable.

All workshops are FREE and take place in the Heritage Learning Centre, Oxford Town Hall, during term time.

Just come along or for more details ...



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ENGLAND

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Or Antonia Harland-Lang T:01865 252118 E:aharland-lang@oxford.gov.uk

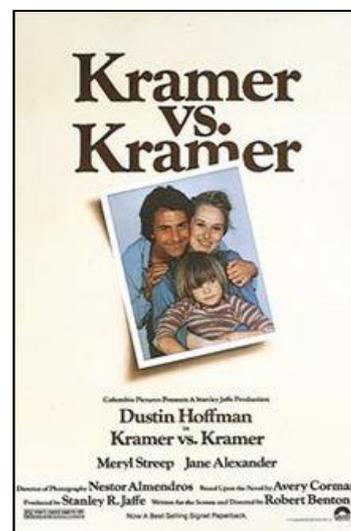
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Film Club at the Centre

Oh dear, oh dear, just when everything to do with film club seemed quite uncomplicated and straightforward, after 35 successful evenings with hardly a glitch, our September club night went somewhat awry. For some strange reason the computer rejected the chosen DVD and try as he might, David Stanley, our stalwart projectionist, could not get it to play. What to do? Well, Christine Woodman suggested a dash back to St Omer Road for a replacement and our very patient and forbearing members held on for half an hour while another film was selected. In the end the film we saw was well worth the wait and "Philomena" starring Judi Dench was much enjoyed.

Better luck this month, we hope, when the film scheduled is "Kramer vs Kramer" the winner of 5 Oscars. It was filmed in 1979 and stars Dustin Hoffman and Meryl Streep, both extremely fine actors. It is a real tear jerker involving the parents of a six year old child and a struggling relationship. This month marks the third anniversary of our club and I am hoping that there will be no gremlins in the works to spoil it.



Friends of St James Old School

Chair: Lesley Williams
Secretary: Eva Sommers
Treasurer: Richard Mohun
Membership: Rosanne Butler

We now have a bank account so are keen to start enrolling members! An information leaflet and membership forms are available – the annual subscription is £10 single, £20 family. We hope to sign up many former students and staff – and all interested local residents.

Progress on the future of the building: we are waiting to hear – the decision should be made by Christmas – whether the County Council will support Church Cowley St James School's business plan for the building to become the school's 2 and 3 year olds' Foundation Stage setting, freeing up space in the Bartholomew Road building for the older Nursery children. The capital funding would come from the Government 2 year olds' provision pot.

The school's allotment garden is still developing with more planters and a large water tank. The harvest has been good!

But meanwhile, some urgent work needs to be done to the building to keep it safe and waterproof. So we are definitely fund raising.

Please see & like us on Facebook: it is a public group page - Friends of St James Old School, Cowley.

oldschoolcowley@gmail.com

DIARY DATES TO REMEMBER

Mothers' Union

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

St James Church Centre

Women's Institute

Usually the monthly Meeting on 3rd Wednesday of
month from 2 – 4.30 pm St James Church Centre
October meeting: Presentation by Dementia Friends

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)

Mothers' Union Wine, Cheese & Poetry Evening

Friday, 2 October 2015, from 7pm

St James Church Centre

Pet Service

St Francis Church

Saturday, 3 October 2015, 4 pm

St. Francis' Patronal Festival

Sunday, 4 October at 10.30am

Festival Parish Eucharist to celebrate the patronal
festival of our patron Saint, St. Francis of Assisi

Parish Healing Service

Thursday, 8 October 2015 at 7.00 pm

St Francis Church

A time for quiet prayer and reflection and an oppor-
tunity to seek special prayer for healing for yourself
or for others for whom you care

Film Club

Friday, 9 October 2015 - "Kramer vs Kramer"

St James Church Centre,

commencing at 6.30pm with coffee and cake

PCC Meeting

Sunday, 18 October 2015, at 12 noon

St Francis Church

Cowley Festival of Christmas Trees 2015 – Plan- ning Meeting

Friday 23 October 2015, 9.30 am in the Ranklin
Room, St James Church Centre

Parish Sunday Lunch

Sunday, 25 October 2015 at 12.30 pm

St James Church Centre

Please fill in lists in churches or book in advance by
calling the Parish Office (01865 747680)

St James Café

Saturday, 31 October 2015 from 10 – 1 pm

St James Church Centre

Christmas Gift and Craft Fair

14 November 2015, 10 am to 2 pm

St James Church Centre

Oxfordshire History Centre Open Day

Saturday, 14 November 2015 10 – 4 pm

St Luke's Church

Friends of St James Old School

Committee meeting: Saturday 21 November 2015,
9.45 for 10.00

St James Church Centre

Installation of New Team Rector,

Rev Geoffrey Bayliss

Thursday, 26 November 2015, at 7.30 pm

St James Church

Cowley Festival of Christmas Trees 2015

4 – 13 December 2015

St James Church Centre

Treasure Island Theatre Visit

Creation Theatre, North Wall, Summertown, Oxford

Saturday, 9 January 2016 at 2.00pm

Contact Rev Skye Denno to get tickets

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

FLOWER OF THE MONTH—GERANIUM

In the Beatrix Potter books and also in an A A Milne's story about a dormouse the plant that is correctly named pelargonium is called geranium. There is even nowadays some confusion over these two names so let's see if we can sort them out.

First, it is certain that pelargoniums planted in tubs and pots will continue to bloom in our gardens until the first frosts. The deep red species are the most popular and were originally found in South Africa. This plant was first called geranium by Jan Commelin, the director of the Hortus Botanicus Amsterdam. Soon large quantities of cuttings started arriving in Holland from the Cape. It was then that the naming problem arose. In 1772 the botanist Francis Masson sent hundreds of pelargoniums to Kew. The director of the Gardens at the time, Sir Joseph Banks, remarked that he was indebted to Masson for the introduction of the plants. However, it was in 1787 that Charles Louis l'Héritier de Brutelle invented a new genus for the huge variety of geraniums to be found in South Africa and the name pelargonium was embraced by the world of botany.

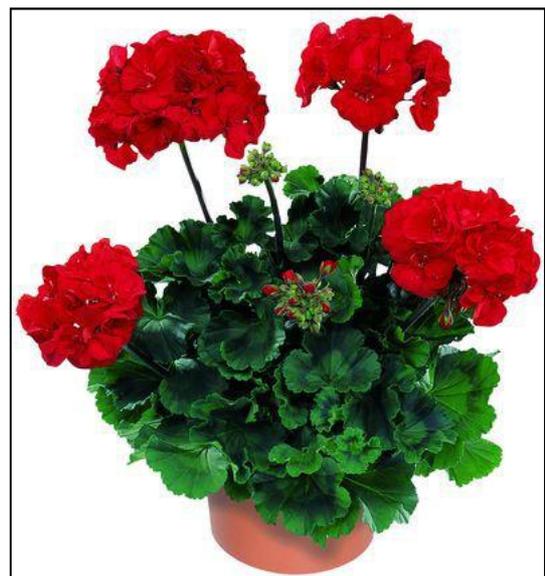
That was a defining moment because the native wild species geranium found extensively in the British Isles is no relative of those from the African Continent.

The best known wild geranium, certainly in our area is the glorious blue meadow crane's-bill. Like all its relatives it has distinctive seed pods which give it its name. The long pods turn their heads skywards redolent of a crane when



turning its bill to the sky. There are many different varieties of the species including pencilled crane's-bill (with pale mauve petals pencilled with deep purple veins), bloody crane's-bill (which has tiny pale pink or off-white flowers), the mourning widow (with almost black flowers) and the invasive herb Robert which will grow anywhere, having a very distinctive scent to its leaves. The name geranium comes from the Greek word, geranos, for a crane.

So there you have it. Do you have the real geraniums in your garden or are they pelargoniums? If you get the name right you will join the élite horticulturalists who get quite touchy about which is which.



Of bonfires and damsons...

As the days get shorter and cooler, the garden and allotment are starting to look rather rough around the edges. Certainly with the rain we keep getting, the weeds on the allotment pop up and continue to grow. On drier days, we did try to hoe them off but more keep coming. We had a good lot of sweet corn and the plants are now dug up and piled ready for drier days to have a bonfire. Also the runner beans have produced a bumper crop and now it is time to dismantle the support canes and put the plants on the bonfire too. The potatoes have been harvested and their tops go on the pile.

We have had our usual warning from our "man in charge" that bonfires can be anti-social and un-neighbourly. However I love the cleansing feeling about getting rid of rubbish which I wouldn't put in the compost bin and will only burn if there is little wind and the stuff is perfectly dry. I would not start one in the middle of the day when washing is on the lines in nearby gardens. We certainly do not burn anything like plastics and anything not from the plot. With really dry material, a fire is short-lived and non-smoky. Fat chance of getting everything completely dry, you may say!

I have been thinking already about next year. Our seed orders had to be in by September 15th, so decisions have been made as to what crops to grow and what not to. I have ordered the cylindrical beetroot again as it doesn't get woody like the round ones and is great for slicing after being boiled.

Thinking of seeds, I have been collecting from plants in the garden. I have been rigorously

dead-heading to keep the flowers going but I will slow down now and will collect cosmos, cerinthe, nasturtium, annual asters, sunflowers, foxgloves and also the seed from tomatoes. Kept in paper bags or used envelopes, they will keep in the shed ready for next season.

At the bottom of the garden we have a laurel hedge. It had got rather huge again this season and our son, Tom, who is a professional arborist, came and gave it a severe haircut. As we are getting older, we have decided to get rid of the hedge completely and put up a less-demanding fence. So we await a week-end when Tom can bring the chipper and the stump-grinder. I will make sure that there are several hedgehog openings at the base of any fence we put up, not that we have seen a hedgehog for years, but we have to try. Once we have the fence, I want to plant some fruit trees in front of it. I am missing the Victoria plum that we removed in the spring as it was so diseased, so a new tree will be planted. I shall have a muse about what else - definitely a cooking apple and maybe a damson.

Back home in Staffordshire, the presence of a damson tree in a hedge is always a clue that a cottage once stood there. Most villagers and farms had trees to provide fruit for sale at the Damson Fair held in the Autumn. The fruit was used in dyeing, either in the textile industries in nearby Leicester and Nottingham or in the pottery industry in the north of the county. Sadly, synthetic dyes are now used and the Damson Fair is only a memory of the very old.

Joan Coleman

Life at St Francis Church

In writing an article about the Church of St Francis in Hollow Way, I am struck by the many things I could write about. Being someone who is involved in different aspects of Church life I do see a lot of the underbelly of the organisation - the things that the average member of the public doesn't see when they attend the service on Sundays. There are so many different little things that have to be in place to make the whole thing happen. Not to mention all the administrative things which need to be done to keep the organisation running. The result is an all-embracing service to the community. The Children's Church, numerous coffee mornings, fund raising for charities, open days in the Summer, pastoral work, the Community Emergency Food Bank (of which we are all duly proud), home groups where we can learn about our faith and also think more deeply in a way that has an impact on our moral development, and much more.

The experience of being a member of this community is wonderful. Through the church I have made new friends and had conversations that have really helped me in my life path. The services themselves are of a catholic style and there are many aspects of the decoration of the Church that would make many Catholics and High Anglicans feel at home, but it also has a certain open energy about it that is community focused and accessible to those who would otherwise be intimidated by faith or has had bad experiences in the Church or with any denomination of Christianity. A quite miraculous way of presenting faith as a way of life.

Being on the treasury team I know that the work

that I do helps to support the basic nuts and bolts of the community, and being a member of the Deanery Synod, I am also involved in seeing the more proactive aspects of the messages that we can bring into the wider community - issues of the environment, the allocation of scarce resources, charity funding and even the way that the Church invests, applying the messages of our understanding of the faith through many other levels of social and political action. The "Church" is a lot bigger than just what you may understand the "Church" to be.

Also the leadership positions that are open in the Church can really teach you more about leadership in a humble and appropriate way that is a skill and a way of looking at leadership as a concept that translates itself well into numerous other organisations that you might be a part of or want to be a part of in the future.

But what about the normal aspects of church life? The service? For me as a self-employed person, I find myself under pressure during the working week, and I often feel that I lack structure to my time. It's important to me to break up my week with a key marker of time, something that is always there, has certain things about it that never change as well as having variety and something that helps me to consider my own thoughts and actions with depth. Also when I am invited to do the Intercessory prayers, it gives me time to think carefully about what I want for the world and it focuses my mind on less selfish goals and the needs of others. All of the little aspects of Church life are character building - anything from the collection, the offertory, setting up and putting the church away. It all teaches you something about

yourself and about life. It improves your skills and does make you a better person. I am certain that my intercessory prayers have helped me with my Toastmasters public speaking skills!

In some moments of the service I find myself going inward, challenging some of the ideas that I might have accumulated during the week and seeing things in a new light. Even if I have had a bad week and I have been feeling sad inside or if I haven't been sleeping and I have felt tired, I always leave the service feeling better than I went in. It doesn't matter what you do for a living or what your life is like, I can pretty much guarantee that being a member of the Church of St Francis can add a very real depth to your existence and can act as a powerful form of therapy that can help to build your character even further.

I know that a lot of people struggle with the ideas of being involved, attending the meetings and being a part of the committees, and initially I was also rather resistant, but the

more that you get involved, the more that it helps you in ways that you can't explain. It's like a discipline, a work of meditation, something that works on improving you and, even though it takes up more of your time, it does seem to give you the ability to use your time better and it teaches you how to do your day to day tasks with greater joy and purpose.

On top of all of that, the congregation here at St Francis are a very welcoming bunch, with some very good socially appropriate attitudes that can make everyone feel welcome. So, come and join us!

Nick Dewey

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Annual Christmas Gift and Craft Fair 14th November 2015—in aid of Refurbishment of the Vestry

To make this a resounding success as in previous years we need your help please. When you are decluttering / tidying your treasures bear us in mind for the following:

Gift stall, Tombola, books, puzzles and gardening items

Small items can be brought to the Church Centre, for larger items ring Margaret Weller on 775150 or Chris Woodman on 778078 for collection.

ALL CHANGE AT TEMPLAR SQUARE

As promised in last month's Chronicle I have been investigating what is likely to be in store for Templar Square in the near future. It is always best to go to the fountain head and that happens to be our local councillor David Henwood who is on the City Council Planning Committee. So this is what he told me.

The freehold of Templar Square is owned by New River Retail and it has been in their ownership for the past five years. During that time the company has been drawing up plans to develop the site. I can reassure my readers that the main shopping precinct will be unchanged.

The first big development will be the demolition of the old Nelson pub in order to build an hotel, flats and a "smart" restaurant. This complex is planned to extend across the Between Towns Road entrance and over the row of shops (where the Coventry Building Society and Domino Pizza are situated). The initial proposal was to build the hotel as high as Hockmore Tower but the planning committee have vetoed that.

The multi-storey car parks behind the Nelson and in Hockmore Street will be smartened up but the big one at the bottom of Beauchamp Lane will be

demolished and a block of flats will replace it. Other ideas are for a new doctors' surgery in the former dentists' surgery up the steps at the Hockmore Street entrance. Also two flights of steps on the opposite side of between Towns Road to give access to the retail park, one opposite the Co-op and one opposite Wetherspoons. The zig-zag path will have to stay to give disabled access.

Where the former Murco filling station is situated there will be further changes. This site is owned by the City Council. They intend to open a much smaller filling station accompanied by a small provision store. They are planning to build four social housing units and open a "Click and Collect" facility where people who have ordered their shopping on-line can pick up their orders at any time, night or day. This clever unit will be run by robots and be the first in our area.

As you probably already know it is proposed to use the two units next to Costa Coffee at the top of Rymers Lane as a gym and fitness centre. The other proposal (though not yet passed) is to make Hockmore Street into a one-way thoroughfare.



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ROLE DESCRIPTIONS OF VOLUNTEERS

Best practice recommends that all new volunteers for any role across the Parish should have a job description, complete a basic application form, a confidential declaration form, have references checked and be interviewed to discuss responsibilities. We have not gone down that route as yet in Cowley, but the PCC will review the information on the roles of volunteers with Geoff Bayliss once he has settled in.

This month we are looking at the roles undertaken by Lesley Williams:

LINK EDITOR:

Lesley took it on when Stephen Hartley left Cowley and somehow never handed it over to Howard! The duties consist:

- ◆ Regular weekly task - typing, photocopying and delivering both the St James and St Francis versions.
- ◆ The inside pages with the week's collect and readings are taken from a disc which Stephen produced but they always need reformatting and sometimes amending completely, for all age services, for example.
- ◆ The front and back pages are amended from the previous week's edition.
- ◆ This happens generally on a Wednesday or Thursday, allowing plenty of time for proof-reading/correcting but in practice it has increasingly become a somewhat frantic Friday/Saturday task, unless Lesley is going away for the weekend when it has to be completed by Friday morning! Happily May Morgan will always oversee the photocopying if necessary.
- ◆ There is often a Link Extra or event flyer to produce, copy & insert too.

PARISH ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER

This is an official, elected role.

- ◆ It is seasonal and begins with the annual announcement about the renewal of the Parish Electoral Roll prior to the APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting) each April.
- ◆ For five years this is just an annual update, removing those who have sadly died, moved away or just stopped worshipping with us, and entering new members aged 16+ who have completed the necessary form during the year. The roll, which must be ready, published, publicly displayed and any necessary corrections made two weeks before the APCM, is formatted on an Excel spreadsheet.
- ◆ Every sixth year, the roll is completely renewed and everyone who wishes to be recognised as a member of the church community must complete a new form.
- ◆ The Electoral Roll certificate, giving the number on roll, must be sent to the Diocese and Deanery Secretary by a given date in June. Contrary to general belief, our Parish Share is not linked to the number on roll, but to our income & expenditure in the previous full financial year. But the roll number governs the number of PCC members we may elect.

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER (www.oxford.anglican.org/mission-ministry/safeguarding)

This is another official and very important role, requiring training and registration with the Diocese. It involves ensuring that as a Parish, we comply with the Diocesan and Parish Safeguarding policies

concerning the 'care, nurture of and respectful ministry with, all children and adults, especially the vulnerable'. This encompasses:

- ◆ Checking our procedures for and organisation of Children's Church and Seashells, (St James), Sunday Club and Little Stars (St Francis); Applying for DBS (Disclosure & Barring Service) checks on those volunteering with those groups, who will have responsibility for or influence on children or vulnerable adults; Checking that other relevant groups who use our premises have their own policies and comply with the necessary practice;
- ◆ Encouraging all to undertake safeguarding training, either on line (through the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board website www.oscb.org.uk/training/) or a Diocesan course
- ◆ Receiving and acting on/reporting any concerns expressed about children and vulnerable adults in the Parish;
- ◆ Monitoring and reporting annually to the Diocese on the implementation of the policies

Lesley also deals with the following, and more details on these activities will be in the next Chronicle:

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL CONVENOR

CHRISTIAN AID/FAIRTRADE COORDINATOR

RECYCLING/REUSING EXPEDITER

THE DOOR COLLECTOR



St James Café

St James Church Centre
Beauchamp Lane

10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Saturday

31st October

For more information and to
book a table contact
Vicky Hall on
07901 895 825

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

Rosanne interviews David Henwood

This month's interview is a first for our parish magazine as we have never, until now, been able to corral a local councillor to talk to us about his life and work. However, when I rang David to talk to him about the Templar Square development on your behalf I tentatively suggested that he might be our October interviewee. His answer came back "I'd love to!"

Although he hails from Littlemore where his family have lived for many years David was born in Colchester. His father was stationed there during his National Service and he and his wife were living in married quarters at the time. In their free time Mr and Mrs Henwood would take advantage of an army bus to take them for a visit to the sea-side. Whilst walking along the beach Mrs Henwood went into labour with her first baby. They rushed her back on to the bus to get her home but the baby would not wait and little Kim made his arrival. Now, I guess you think I have made a mistake over that name, but no. Until he was about nine David was called Kim which caused him much grief. At school he was teased when his fellow classmates accused him of having a girl's name. Finally he persuaded his parents to choose an "ordinary" name for him. Being the loving parents they were they chose David with Kim as his second name.

Aged one year old he arrived in Littlemore transported on his dad's motorbike. As it was the

only transport the young couple could afford, all their worldly goods (plus their little baby) were brought home, presumably on several trips, to settle down to civilian life.

David's father worked at John Allen's factory so with his regular wage he was able to put down the deposit on a small house but there was very little left with which to buy furniture. The house had no bathroom and David can remember being bathed in the kitchen sink which he told me grew smaller and smaller. Of course it was he who was growing bigger and bigger! His dad had a very good job at Allen's, being sent all over Europe on business.

A couple of years later David's younger brother, Kevin was born. Soon it was time for him to join Rose Hill Nursery School and his education began. He remembers vividly his first day at Speedwell School because he flatly refused to go in! The biggest problem was that he could not tie his own shoelaces. The sensible teacher in charge put him in the care of an older boy who spent the morning teaching him and once the task was accomplished everything was OK. He learnt to read using the Ladybird books and his favourite was the story of Admiral Lord Nelson which he told me he read over and over. Nelson is still his absolute hero because of his passion to get a job done to the best of his capacity. David believes he has this passion inside him too. His

father used to describe him as a Jack Russell terrier, he would not "let go" till a challenge was completed.

That passion inside him needed to be channelled at school. He paid tribute to Mrs Connelly, a teacher at Lawn Upton Middle School who found ways to calm him down, and Mr Sanders at Peers, his Upper School. The latter channelled his energy into sport, mainly rugby and swimming and David also took up karate. His other abiding interests are history and literature.

He spoke with great affection about his parents particularly his mum who entirely lost her hearing when David was 13. Although he found it hard to communicate lip reading helped and he and his brother tackled the task of relaying phone messages. A life-long church member, Mrs Henwood still attends regularly and helps with church flowers at Littlemore. Her son declares that her abiding faith in God has never wavered even during her loss of hearing which, incidentally, has partly been restored.

Young David joined the cubs, progressed to scouts, then sea cadets gathering badge after badge along the way. Every challenge completed went on to— "Right, what shall I tackle next". His karate lessons at Cowley Community Centre went so well that he reached his brown belt standard whilst still in his teens. He left school at sixteen to become an apprentice

at British Leyland where for four years he trained as a welder and pipe fitter.

Then came a very big change in his life. One of his karate instructors introduced him to a Japanese family and they invited David to go and stay with them when they returned home. This he did for two years. The deal was that he would work in the local steel yard during the day and continue with his karate in the evenings. He reached the highest standard, black belt, and also learnt to speak and read the language. He described the Japanese as kind and gentle people though strict when it came to following rules. His command of the language presented him with the opportunity to teach English on a part-time basis.

One day a young lady walked into his classroom and for our young man it was love at first sight. Her name is Nori and after a very tentative start their romance blossomed and after they were each confirmed into the Christian Church in Tokyo they were married. That was twenty-five years ago and I got the impression that David is as much in love with Nori today as on that first meeting. Following his initial two years in Japan, he spent a further eighteen years in that country where his two sons were born, first William and then Julian. Their second little boy caused him and Nori an anxious time until he was found to be extremely autistic. To get him into kindergarten was impossible.

The family came over to England for a visit and stayed with David's parents. They have a lovely big

garden and suddenly there was a change in little Julian. He had been growing up in the confines of a city apartment and suddenly there were flowers, trees, birds and all kinds of wildlife and space to run. It was obvious that a move back to Littlemore was the way forward.

Whilst in Japan David had graduated from university and so the first job he got on his return to the UK was an interpreter in Japanese for the Formula One Racing team based at Leafield, near Witney. He went on a visit to King Alfred's School in Wantage where he met up with his favourite teacher from Peers School days. He was head of the school and offered David a post in his design/technology department. The idea appealed but unfortunately a Japanese degree did not count as a qualification in this country. Undeterred David studied at Brookes University and qualified in a design/technology course and educational studies. He was then fully equipped to take up his post at King Alfred's School.

A year and a half ago he moved to the design department at Bicester Academy where he teaches the subject to A level standard. He told me with much enthusiasm that his latest big project at the Academy is to build a solar-powered car which he and his pupils are planning to take from John O'Groats to Land's End.

So now, how about his work as a City Councillor? Well, he grew up with parents who were always involved in community projects so it seemed natural for him to stand for election for the Parish Council.

He met with fellow Labour colleagues who suggested he might put himself forward for the City Council. He stood in Headington and lost. So was that it? No way. Our talented member of Parliament knows a good man when he sees one and Andrew Smith encouraged him to stand again. He was selected to stand for Cowley and won by 540 votes. He has served in our area now for fifteen months and relishes all the challenges that the position presents to him. Our "Jack Russell" of a councillor is at our service.

How would you describe yourself as a young child?

Mischievous. Passionate for success.

Do you have any childhood memories?

I used to go scrumping and conkering in the grounds of Lawn Upton School with Kevin and my mates. In the summer holidays I used to deliver milk and bread to the patients on the wards at the hospital. One afternoon for a joke some of the people who worked at the hospital locked me in the morgue. I was only in there for about ten minutes but it felt like forever.

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

Mrs Connolly at Lawn Upton. She had a very calming influence on me. Also my grandmother. She lived in Bailey Road. She used to make the most delicious apple pies, her door was always

open and she, also, could calm me down.

Has your faith been with you since you were young?

Over the course of time events happen, families pass away, you question your faith but when I achieve something I believe that my faith and my God dwell within me and rejoice with me.

Do you have a treasured possession?

Yes, Nori gave it to me and I share it with her. It is my ear cleaner. It is a tiny piece of bamboo which you use to clean your ears. It has got a little doll on the end of it.

What is your opinion on present-day society?

I am optimistic. I think I look at things through the positive eye of a councillor. Cowley is changing, some of it for the better. Only history can truly judge whether the decisions we make today are for the benefit of Cowley in the future.

If you could change something for the better what would it be?

Honestly? I would take the top two floors off the Barns Road development.

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

Now. I find I have a better sense of what self-realisation really is.

How do you like to spend your leisure time?

There is a rowing club down at Donnington Bridge. A couple of times a week I row with my friend, Keith, and all the stress of the week flows away. I like gardening and at the moment building a solar car with my pupils.

What plans do you have for the future?

I would like to be re-elected as Cowley's councillor. I want to climb Kilimanjaro. I want to see the Northern Lights and I am planning to learn to play the guitar.

Thought you would like to know

I spoke to a new young lady over coffee one Sunday. I asked her if she was a visitor. She told me that she had attended Sea Shells with her baby daughter and received such a warm and friendly welcome that she decided to come to church. I understand she has been a regular for some months.

I heard from a friend that a lady had said that she attended the lunch clubs in Cowley and the meal at St James Church Centre was the best meal of them all.

I had a brief update from Michael Spence. He wished to send his good wishes to us all especially the people who remembered. The family are well and he and Jenny expect their first baby in October. Jenny is now well and very happy – as is Michael.

Una

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THE SEA SHALL NOT HAVE THEM

The media has been making much recently of our brave young pilots in the Battle of Britain, and of the planes they flew, and quite rightly so.

However, there is one branch of the boys in blue that seems to be largely forgotten and does not even get a mention, yet their work required patience and endurance, skill and courage, and involved danger too. Quite a number of them gave their lives in the service of their fellow airmen. The clue to their duties lies in their motto "The Sea Shall Not Have Them".

We found it on a simple memorial to them we found at the side of the harbour of a well-known seaside resort in Norfolk. To our surprise their work had been worldwide, wherever theatres of war took them. When we saw details of the number of lives they had saved we were very impressed, for it involved thousands. Yes, here were airmen working in quite a different environment – the sea – for they were members of the Air Sea Rescue Service.

Their job was to try to save the lives of air crew who had been shot down or who had crash landed. Operating with powerful high speed motor launches, they worked in all weathers, summer and winter, often in gale conditions. It was vital that they went with all speed since this was of the essence when dealing with crews exposed to the cold and to the elements, especially if they were injured. Often the rescuers had only sketchy information to work on – the estimated last known whereabouts before crashing into the sea. This would involve long square searches covering a large area, as a small dinghy or individuals bobbing about in the water could be hard to spot in the vast areas of open sea, especially in bad weather. Yet, time and again they were found and they were rescued. Lives were saved and men lived to fight another day. The Air Sea Rescue should be remembered and given a huge vote of thanks.

John Shreeve

An elderly man was driving along the motorway when his car 'phone rang. It was his wife. "Michael", she said, "I've just heard on the news that there is a car driving the wrong way on the motorway, do be careful dear". "One car", Michael replied, "It's not just one car, it's all of them!"

RECIPES

Here is a good hot dish for a cold autumnal evening. It serves 4 people



Cabbage and Lamb Hot Pot

1 tablespoon vegetable oil or butter
4 good-sized lamb chops
A medium-sized green cabbage shredded
Salt and ground black pepper for seasoning
½ teaspoon dried rosemary
5 oz tomato purée
2 fl ozs water

In a large saucepan heat the oil or butter over moderate heat then brown the chops one at a time for about 3 minutes on each side.

Place in a large casserole dish and add the cabbage, rosemary, tomato purée, water and seasoning. Stir well.

Place lid on casserole and cook in a moderate oven for 2 – 2 ½ hours. Test the meat to check if it is cooked and tender.

Serve with boiled rice or new potatoes

Chicken Liver Risotto

2 oz butter
A medium-sized onion, finely chopped
4 oz mushrooms, washed and sliced
10 oz long grain rice, rinsed and soaked in water for 30 minutes, then drained
1 pt boiling chicken stock
8 chicken livers cut into small pieces
2 tablespoons chopped parsley
2 oz grated Parmesan cheese

In a large saucepan melt $\frac{3}{4}$ of the butter

Add the onion and cook till it is soft and golden

Add the mushrooms and cook with the onion for 3 minutes, stirring all the time

Add the strained rice and cook for 2 minutes continually stirring

Pour the stock over and allow to cook uncovered on high heat for 15 SECONDS.

Cover the pan, reduce heat to very low and simmer for 20 minutes until the liquid is absorbed

While the rice is cooking prepare the chicken livers:

Melt the rest of the butter in a medium-sized frying pan over moderate heat

Add the pieces of liver and fry gently for 10 minutes stirring occasionally

When rice is cooked stir in the livers and parsley

Serve on a warm serving dish with the Parmesan cheese sprinkled on top

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NEWS FROM ST FRANCIS



Having got over Ride and Stride in a reasonable manner, we then had Harvest Festival, a major event in our Christian Calendar. At St Francis this involved an All Age Service followed by a Bring and Share Lunch. Although the emphasis nowadays is on giving and sharing, I think that it is right that we should give thanks to God for our harvest in this country when so many countries face drought and starvation. We should also think about our part in the care of the environment, and all of God's creations.

We have just had one of our special St Francis Committee meetings – this went smoothly and was well attended.

In the near future we look forward to a special Pet Service and our Patronal Festival, which we

have transferred to a Saturday. We also look forward to a Fun Day and a trip to the Theatre at Christmas, and later on our famous Caribbean Evening.

Sadly we had to say farewell to one of our long standing congregational members, Bettine Gillett, who recently died suddenly of a heart attack. Her Funeral Service was held at St Francis on Wednesday, 30th September at 2 pm. Her gentle sweet nature endeared her to everyone and she will be sadly missed.

John Shreeve

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ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

COWLEY FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS

TREES 2015 - 4 - 13 December 2015

'The twelve days of Christmas'

The next planning meeting is on Friday,
23 October - 09.30 - Ranklin Room

Registration forms will be ready later in October:
if you know of a group, business or family who
would like to be involved and enter a tree, ask
for one! Alternatively, we are for the first time
offering businesses the chance to sponsor a tree:
ask for details about that, too!

We still hope to find someone who will take on
advertising/media relations.

Lesley Williams 07982 429 828
ctf@cowleyteamministry.co.uk

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 MONKEY

Dear God
why have You made me so ugly/
With this ridiculous face,
grimaces seem asked for!
Shall I always be
the clown of Your creation?
Oh, who will lift this melancholy from my
heart?
Could You not, one day,
let someone take me seriously,
Lord?
AMEN

OPEN DOORS

The Open Doors event in the Parish Church turned out to be the most successful yet. Since we introduced the church three years ago the number of visitors has increased year-on-year.

This year we welcomed several local people who remarked that they had been walking past the church longing to know what it was like inside. Two young mums brought little ones in buggies and took them round to look at "the pretty church". Besides them, we had quite a few people who had seen us in the Open Doors booklet and, intrigued by the Saxon font and Norman scratch sundials, had tracked us down. One couple in particular could not believe how much there was of historic value or how long they had spent with us.

The two scheduled talks and guided tours each drew an appreciative audience. When it came to appreciation, the lovely cakes, tea and coffee also went down very well indeed.

Many thanks to all who helped to make this a good day and an excellent way to show the world what a treasure our Parish Church really is.

Two ladies were chatting over a cosy cup of coffee. One said, "I wish I knew the place where I was going to die". The second asked, "Why on earth would you want to know that". "So that I don't go there" her friend replied.

MOTHERS' UNION NEWS

As I write our branch is looking forward to our next wine, cheese and poetry evening on 2nd October. A report on this will follow in next month's Chronicle.

Our September meeting was a delight mainly because Mark Oxbrow was our speaker. Mark had recently been forced to cut short one of his many visits to Kenya due to a mild heart attack. We had resigned ourselves to having to forego our favourite speaker feeling sure that he needed to take things easier for a while. How thrilled we were then to welcome him as he assured us he was able to join us.

His talk was, as ever, inspirational and included a short series of slides about the incredibly brave Christians who have decided to remain in Syria, war or no war. The work they are doing is amazing even to the extent of dressing up as a huge crowd of Father Christmases running through the streets to deliver Christmas gifts to the children. Mark assures us that they hope to repeat this again this year.

The second half of his presentation was focused on the Christian community in a small village north of Nairobi. Although he showed us slides the vibrancy of their worship and the children's dramatic presentation was palpable.

Our October meeting promises to be one of nostalgia as we share memories of "A War-Time Childhood".

Rosanne Butler

A little boy, having just said his bed-time prayers with his mummy was curious to know more about what prayers really were. She explained that they were like talking to God on the 'phone. "Oh, yes" he answered thoughtfully, "and we send them at night to get the cheaper rate

CHRONICLE

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

Deadline for the next edition:

Wednesday 21 October 2015

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

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SAINT OF THE MONTH—ST PAUL OF THE CROSS

This saint is not St Paul the evangelist but a seventeenth century saint of the Roman Catholic Church. He lived at a time when England had, fairly recently, broken away from Rome as a result of Henry VIII's establishment of the Church of England. Paul saw this as a great mistake and tried without success to bring England back into the Catholic fold.

He was born in the small town of Ovals, near Genoa in 1694, the son of a business man of noble ancestry. He had a younger brother, John, of whom he was very fond. In fact the brothers became devoted companions until the younger brother died in 1765. His parents were devout Christians and had ambitions for Paul. They had hoped that he might continue in business, with a rich inheritance or maybe an advantageous marriage. He shunned all this and whilst still quite young volunteered as a trainee in the Venetian army to fight the Turks in 1714. This did not work out for him and he spent several years in study, prayer and retirement until a vision inspired him to found a new congregation of holy men accompanied by his beloved brother John.

He was ordained by the Pope and then set about establishing an austere monastic regime

with intense devotion to the Passion of Christ. His aim was to combine the contemplative life with that of one of action. He and his companions worked with the poor, sick and dying and drew into the faith the lapsed and unbelievers. He was a talented preacher. His monastic regime was so strict that many novices found it too restricting and left to join other orders. Despite this he founded three more houses throughout Italy with full papal approval.

Paul was endowed with the power of prophesy and was said to be able to read what was in the hearts of his followers. His ambition to bring England back to the Roman Catholic church was passed on to his followers after his death most notably to Dominic Barberi who received John Henry Newman from the Church of England. Near the end of his life he founded a convent of closed order for Passionist nuns.

He died at the remarkable age of eighty and is buried in the Church of Rome, SS John and Paul, where he had spent much of his time in later life. He died on 18 October 1775 and consequently that date is celebrated as his holy festival.

Parishioner: I have nothing but praise for the new vicar

Sidesperson: Yes, I noticed that when I took the collection last Sunday!

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR CHURCHES

St. James the Apostle

On the 12th September (Oxford Open Doors) we had a number of visitors, among them a couple who walked round the interior of the church and then took a look at the exterior. They then asked me where the St. Luke's chapel window looked onto. We went back outside and I showed them that it overlooked the roof which covers the North Aisle. They remarked that it is a very fine window, and I then wondered how many other people may not have seen this piece of architecture with its superb reveal, giving the impression that it is deeply inset.



You have to make a bit of an effort to see this window, as it is opposite the 'rose window' and therefore not in view of the congregation who are usually looking towards the altar and sides of the chapel.

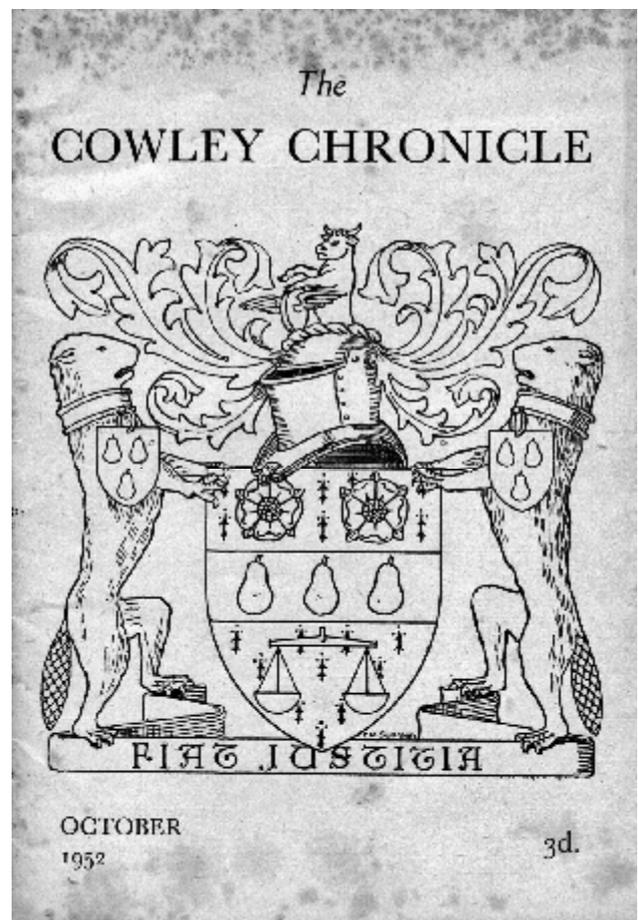
Les Hemsworth

FROM THE ARCHIVES

EXTRACT FROM COWLEY CHRONICLE,
OCTOBER 1952

I should like to offer our respectful greetings to Lord Nuffield, who attains his 75th birthday on Friday, October 10th, remembering with gratitude his munificent gifts to this parish. In honour of the occasion we are displaying Lord Nuffield's Arms on the front page this month, kindly designed for us by Mr. J Surman. I hope the ringers will succeed in ringing a peal which they are contemplating on the 10th.

Les Hemsworth



SIGNIFICANT DATES IN OCTOBER

On 4th October in 1957 the space age began. Russia launched her first sputnik (Sputnik 1). It was the first human-made object to ever orbit the earth. It was, in fact, a 22 inch ball which transmitted radio signals.

London's tallest building at the time, the Post Office Tower, was opened on 7th October 1965. It stands 620 feet tall and originally had a revolving restaurant on top. Now, of course, the Tower is overshadowed by a number of London's sky-scrapers, most notably by The Shard.

It was on 12th October 1216 that King John lost the Crown Jewels in the estuary of the River Ouse. He was crossing the marshes at low tide. It was a foggy day, the wagons carrying the treasure got lost and were swept out to sea by the rapidly rising tide. Those particular jewels are still missing and had to be replaced. John died a few days later.

According to the 17th century Bishop James Ussher (pretty cranky I would say) it was on 23rd October in 4004 BC at nine o'clock in the morning God created the earth!

Most people know that "in fourteen hundred and ninety-two Columbus sailed the ocean blue" so it was that on 28th October that year that, in his tiny ship "The Mayflower" he and his crew reached the coast of Cuba. They believed they had reached the continent of Asia.

The 31st October is the Eve of All Hallows. This is the last day in the old Celtic Year when supernatural spirits were believed to be flying. The Celts knew this date as Samhain Eve. The superstitions about strange happenings on this day date back for thousands of years.

COWLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

As part of the festivities to mark the Centenary of the Women's Institute, the Oxfordshire Federation held a Centennial Celebration in Christ Church Cathedral on 15 September which was attended by about 750 members. 125 WI banners were paraded and entered the cathedral to the music from the film "Chariots of Fire". It was a truly impressive sight and an inspirational event.

The following day we held our monthly meeting when two members of the Thames Valley Police gave advice on Crime Prevention and Personal Safety. We also held a Harvest Bring and Buy sale.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, 21 October at 2 pm in the St James Church Centre, when there will be a presentation by Dementia Friends which is an initiative of the Alzheimer's Society.

We have a full and varied programme of interesting events planned for the coming months. Come along to our meetings – you will be very welcome.

Ann Withers
President, Cowley WI

Centenary of the Women's Institute

The Centenary of the Women's Institute has been celebrated at a wide variety of events throughout England and Wales, but for many members the highlights were the two Royal occasions, both of which I was privileged to attend:

The Annual meeting at the Royal Albert Hall, attended by the Queen, with the Princess Royal and the Countess of Wessex (when the knife became stuck as the Queen endeavoured to cut an iced cake!); and

The Garden Party held in the grounds of Buckingham Palace and hosted by the Duchess of Cornwall who was accompanied by the Countess of Wessex, Princess Alexandra and the Duchess of Gloucester.

(With the current exception of the Duchess of Cambridge who has been invited to join her local WI in Norfolk, all the Royal ladies are members of the Women's Institute)

A Royal Garden Party – what a wonderful excuse for a new outfit! Dress code for the event was day dress, hat optional, trouser suit may be worn. Of the 8,000 women present, I saw only four wearing trouser suits – all the rest wore colourful smart dresses and nearly all wore hats or fascinators, some of which were blown off by playful breezes!

Our coach dropped us in The Mall and we walked up to the Palace where we joined a long queue to enter at one of the gates. We had to take two forms of identification, one with a photograph. I don't think I look much

like my passport photo, but the policewoman who checked it was satisfied, so in we went to join another queue, then into the Palace, a short walk along a corridor and out into the garden.

Music was played by bands of the Royal Marines and the Irish Guards, and the yeomen of the Guard were on duty.

Tea was served buffet-style throughout the afternoon – a selection of assorted sandwiches and delicious small cakes, then ice-creams and, of course, tea and coffee. I did not sample all the different sandwiches and cakes, but I did have two cups of tea!

At 3 pm the National Anthem was played as the Royal Party arrived. Led by the Duchess of Cornwall, they walked slowly through the crowd chatting informally to selected members for about an hour, before taking tea in the Royal Tent. The Yeomen of the Guard later escorted the Royal party back into the Palace, and the formal part of the afternoon was over.

We gradually made our way out to Buckingham Palace Road where the many groups of tourists must have wondered who all these women, dressed in their best, were: then the long walk down The Mall to our coach.

It had been a wonderful day, and I am very grateful that I was able to be part of it.

Ann Withers
President, Cowley WI

Oxfordshire History Centre Open Day, Saturday 14th November 2015

(Oxfordshire History Centre is the archives and local studies service for the county and is run by Oxfordshire County Council)

Are you curious to know how your written and pictorial heritage is cared for in Oxfordshire? If you are interested in Oxfordshire's past or tempted to trace your family history, you are likely to need the services of Oxfordshire History Centre. We are having an Open Day on Saturday 14th November, shining the spotlight on the fantastic range of collections we hold, and letting visitors look behind the scenes at how we care for the many documents, books, newspapers, photos and sound recordings which we make available for public research.

Oxfordshire History Centre contains all the raw material you need to research both local and family history, and we are lucky enough to be based in the historic building of St Luke's Church, Cowley, built by motor magnate and philanthropist Lord Nuffield in 1937.

We are running tours of the Centre throughout the day, and will have displays of original and facsimile documents, exploring themes like Schools, World Wars, Leisure and Business. We can give you a guided introduction to the latest digital and online resources such as wills, tithe maps and parish registers, and there will be children's activities, including a "Make Your Own Seal" workshop, and a

"Treasure Trail" around the Centre. Our new Listening Post will play a cross-section of soundbites from our oral history archive, and a digital display will reveal History Centre staff's favourite documents – showing items from our collections which have captured our own interest and explaining why we like them!

Were you christened, married or confirmed at St Luke's Church, Cowley? If you had any connection with St Luke's, we'd love to see you at our Open Day – just drop us a line at oxhist@oxfordshire.gov.uk to tell us what your connection is, and to let us know you're coming.

We'll have on show the original St Luke's Church registers for you to find your entry, and our St Luke's Church exhibition will take you on a visual journey through the history of our building.

Oxfordshire History Centre Open Day runs from 10am till 4pm, and refreshments are available. It doesn't matter whether you are beginner, practised historian or simply curious about the history of St Luke's Church – everyone is welcome to come and discover more and speak to expert staff.

Please note that the Open Day replaces our normal 9am-5pm Saturday access for researchers.

ST. JAMES CHURCH
CHRISTMAS GIFT AND
CRAFT FAIR

Saturday 14th November

10.00 am to 2.00 pm

St James Centre, Beauchamp Lane, Cowley

*Enjoy tea or coffee and a lunch time soup and bacon
roll while you shop*

Excellent Christmas Raffle with really good prizes

Home-made cakes and preserves

Handmade crafts for that special gift, including

Copper foil glassware

Good second-hand books

Canvas paintings of a modern design

Suncatchers and hand crafted cards

Usborne Books

Handmade polymer clay beads/jewellery

Tombola and lots, lots more

all at prices you can afford

ALSO COME AND MEET FATHER CHRISTMAS

All proceeds will go towards refurbishment at St James Church
Please come and join us



SUNDAY SERVICES

ST JAMES CHURCH, BEAUCHAMP LANE

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

ST FRANCIS CHURCH, HOLLOW WAY

10.30am Parish Eucharist
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
Josh & Claire Hordern	Thursdays at 8.00pm, often at 35 Glanville Rd joshuahordern@hotmail.com
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:

Vacancy

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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Revd Canon Mark Oxbrow
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Revd Dr Amanda Bloor
Tel: 01865 208221

Revd Tony Beetham
Tel: 01865 770923
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Churchwardens:

David Stanley Tel: 776602
Norah Shallow Tel: 765199

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

St James Church Centre Manager:

Chris Woodman Tel: 778078

Hall Bookings:

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

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