





## **STORIES OF OXFORDSHIRE**

### **Bampton Archive are invited to take part.**

Bampton Community Archive accepted an invitation to be part of telling "stories of Oxfordshire" at the St. Frideswide Civic Service in Christ Church Cathedral on 22nd October.

Who better to represent BCA than Janet Westman. Janet is a lifelong resident of Bampton, part of a family with a Bampton lineage dating back to the 1400s.

In the presence of The Bishop, The Dean, The Lord Lieutenant of the County and many more, Janet spoke for BCA of her own experiences as a child in Bampton, playing with her friends, friends alongside whom Janet still lives today. Janet recounted the day in the late 1950s when a man landed in a parachute on the police station. Even more extraordinary for the children (who had gathered and run after the fire engine to the rescue), was the man asking the way to the...police station! Janet remembers their cries of "You've landed on it!" (For some time afterwards a lot of fun was had playing over Mount Owen in the wreckage of a glider.)

Janet told us all about Horace who drove the cart collecting the contents of the privies. What a job! Hearing Janet speak made us wonder about the contrasts of her early memories and things as they are today. It is remarkable that it was only Horace's retirement that got Bampton onto mains drainage and, really, not long ago. Homage to Horace.

Janet's Mum told her of the day Emmy's Sweet Cart - yes, a real horse drawn sweet shop - tipped, and the children all enjoyed the spoils, (or the spills)!

Other contributors to the Cathedral Service were Black Oxford, the Oxford Preservation Trust, and Steventon History Society. We met lovely people from other communities and heard stories of courage, enterprise, hardship, compassion, and unique moments in Oxfordshire's history. What revelations and inspiration. Nothing was, though, more personal or lived than Janet's account. Thank you, Janet. What a privilege it is for us to live alongside Janet's experience and knowledge of Bampton.

We processed to the shrine of Oxford's Patron Saint, Saint Frideswide, laying at the feet of Frideswide's statue the sprigs of Rosemary given to us by our hosts. Rosemary, a medieval symbol of remembrance and pilgrimage. (Now, as I anticipate the Bampton Classical Opera concert on 7th December in remembrance of Bampton's own ancient Patron Saint, Saint Beornwald, I wonder what herb, his fancy. Perhaps Saint Beornwald of Bampton, was a forerunner to Brother Cadfael!)

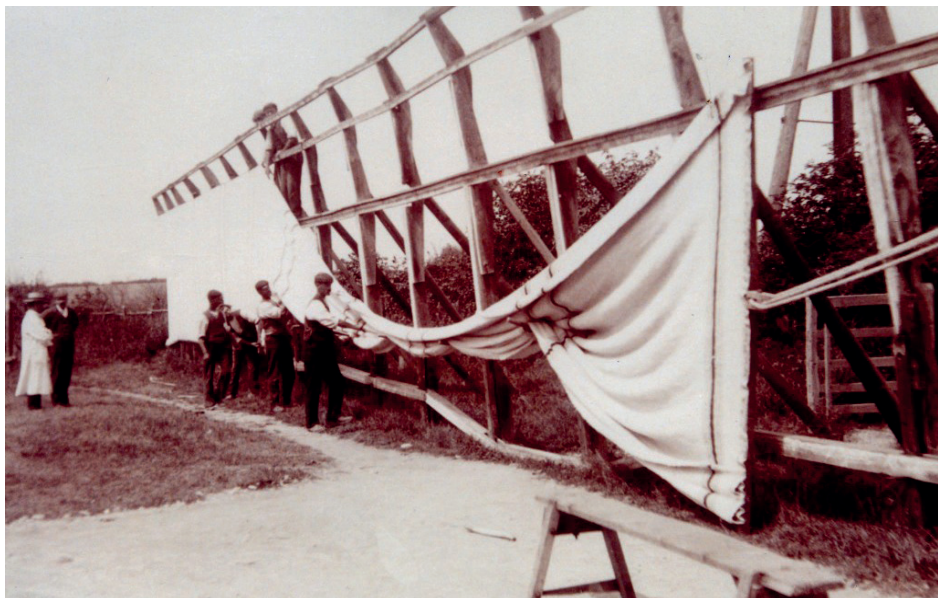
The Cathedral choir sounded crystal clear and very beautiful. We enjoyed singing well known hymns, the sort made for even those of us who aren't choir material. We appreciated the opportunity to represent our village and our amazing, collected history. As I realise how impressive BCA is among village Archives, the greater I know the need is for us each to give our time and support to the ongoing development of the BCA. All credit to those who founded the Archive and to all the volunteers who make it possible.

Jennifer Dixon-Clegg.  
Bampton Community Archive



# Stories of Oxfordshire

The St Frideswide Civic Service  
Tuesday 22 October 2024  
6.05pm



Witney Museum: A stockful being hung on tenterhooks.

*The service is sung by the Cathedral Choir.*

Director of Music: *Peter Holder*

Organist: *Richard Moore*

*The order of service is illustrated with photographs supplied by local museums, heritage centres and history societies. We are grateful to all those who have contributed in all kinds of ways.*



**H** *The Cathedral has a hearing loop. The system is most effective in the centre and away from the pillars.*

*Please do not take photographs or video during the service.*

*Andante*

**Music Before the Service**  
Josephine Boulay (1869–1925)

*The service begins with an Introit, sung from the Antechapel.  
Please remain seated.*

## Introit

O hearken thou unto the voice of my calling,  
my King, and my God:  
for unto thee will I make my prayer.

WORDS: *Psalm 5: 2, 8, 13*

MUSIC: *Roxanna Panufnik (b. 1968)*

*Please stand and join in with the opening hymn as the  
processions enter the cathedral.*



O worship the King, all glorious above;  
O gratefully sing his power and his love;  
our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,  
pavilioned in splendour and girded with praise.

O tell of his might, O sing of his grace,  
whose robe is the light, whose canopy space;  
his chariots of wrath the deep thunder clouds form,  
and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.

The earth with its store of wonders untold,  
Almighty, thy power hath founded of old;  
hath stablished it fast by a changeless decree,  
and round it hath cast, like a mantle, the sea.

Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?  
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;  
it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,  
and sweetly distils in the dew and the rain.



Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,  
in thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail;  
thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,  
our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend.

O measureless might, ineffable love,  
while angels delight to hymn thee above,  
thy humbler creation, though feeble their lays,  
with true adoration shall sing to thy praise.

*WORDS: Robert Grant (1779–1838)*

*MUSIC: Hanover, arr. Alan Gray (1855–1935)*

*Common Praise 546*



Witney Museum: Tuckers carrying a length of blanket to tenter racks.

## Welcome and Opening Prayers

*The Dean begins the service with the opening prayer.*

*Dean* In the name of God the Father,  
who created us in love and for love;  
in the name of God the Son,  
who lived a human life and told the story of God;  
in the name of God the Holy Spirit  
who holds all our stories told and untold,  
and values all that makes us who we are,  
grace, mercy and peace be with you.

*Please be seated. The Dean welcomes the congregation.*

**Bampton Community Archive:  
Storytelling: the roots of community**



Bampton Community Archive:  
top: Emmy Sweet's cart; left: Janet and her family, 1950;  
below: Horace's cart

Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice?  
I have good advice and sound wisdom;

I have insight, I have strength.

By me kings reign, and rulers decree what is just;  
by me rulers rule, and nobles, all who govern rightly.

I love those who love me,

and those who seek me diligently find me.

Riches and honour are with me, enduring wealth and prosperity.

My fruit is better than gold, even fine gold,

and my yield than choice silver.

I walk in the way of righteousness, along the paths of justice,  
endowing with wealth those who love me,

and filling their treasuries.

The Lord created me at the beginning of his work,  
the first of his acts of long ago.

Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth.

When there were no depths I was brought forth,

when there were no springs abounding with water.

Before the mountains had been shaped,

before the hills, I was brought forth—

when he had not yet made earth and fields,

or the world's first bits of soil.

When he established the heavens, I was there,

when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,

when he made firm the skies above,

when he established the fountains of the deep,

when he assigned to the sea its limit,

so that the waters might not transgress his command,

when he marked out the foundations of the earth,

then I was beside him, like a master worker;

and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always,

rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race.

*Reader*    Here ends the first lesson.



## Psalm 84

*sung by the Cathedral Choir*

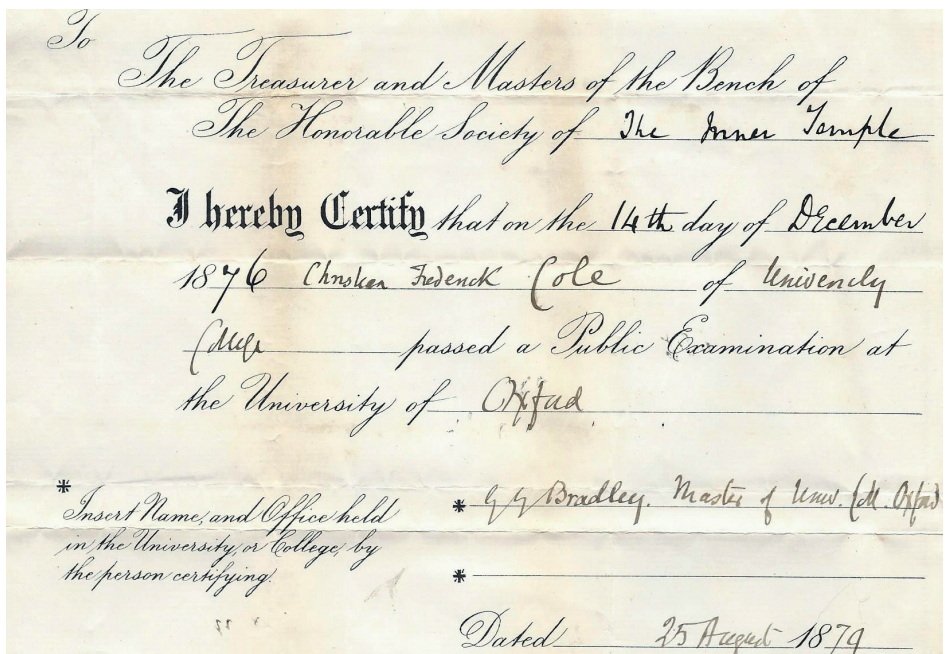
- 1 O how amiable are thy dwellings : thou Lord of hosts!
- 2 My soul hath a desire and longing  
to enter into the courts of the Lord :  
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
- 3 Yea, the sparrow hath found her an house,  
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young :  
even thy altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.
- 4 Blessed are they that dwell in thy house :  
they will be alway praising thee.
- 5 Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee :  
in whose heart are thy ways.
- 6 Who going through the vale of misery use it for a well :  
and the pools are filled with water.
- 7 They will go from strength to strength : and unto the  
God of gods appeareth every one of them in Sion.
- 8 O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer :  
hearken, O God of Jacob.
- 9 Behold, O God our defender :  
and look upon the face of thine Anointed.
- 10 For one day in thy courts : is better than a thousand.
- 11 I had rather be a door-keeper in the house of my God :  
than to dwell in the tents of ungodliness.
- 12 For the Lord God is a light and defence :  
the Lord will give grace and worship, and no good thing  
shall he withhold from them that live a godly life.
- 13 O Lord God of hosts :  
blessed is the man that putteth his trust in thee.  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Ghost :  
as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and shall be for ever. Amen.





## Black Oxford: The Untold Story of Christian Cole

Left: a contemporary illustration of Christian Frederick Cole (1852–1885), the first black African student at the University of Oxford;  
Below: Cole's Certificate of Public Examination (1879) both provided by Pamela Roberts





*Please stand.*



Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,  
be all else but naught to me, save that thou art;  
be thou my best thought in the day and the night,  
both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,  
be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord;  
be thou my great Father, and I thy true son;  
be thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;  
be thou my whole armour, be thou my true might;  
be thou my soul's shelter, be thou my strong tower:  
O raise thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise:  
be thou mine inheritance now and always;  
be thou and thou only the first in my heart;  
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright Sun,  
O grant me its joys after vict'ry is won;  
great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

*WORDS: Irish tr. Mary Byrne (1880–1931)  
& Eleanor Hull (1860–1935)*

*MUSIC: Slane, Irish arr. Erik Routley (1917–1982)  
Common Praise 386*

*Please sit.*



## Oxford Preservation Trust: Welcome to Wood Farm



Above: Wood Farm in 1971,  
with the newly-built Foresters  
Tower behind (photograph:  
Oxfordshire County Council –  
Oxfordshire History Centre)  
Left: Pauling Road in 2024  
(photograph: Anna Clark)



## Anthem

*sung by the Cathedral Choir*



For the beauty of the earth,  
For the beauty of the skies,  
For the love  
which from our birth  
Over and around us lies:  
Lord of all, to thee we raise  
This our joyful hymn of praise.

For the beauty of each hour  
Of the day and of the night,  
Hill and vale,  
and tree and flower,  
Sun and moon  
and stars of light:

For the joy of human love,  
Brother, sister, parent, child,  
Friends on earth  
and friends above,  
For all gentle thoughts and mild:

For each perfect gift of thine  
To our race so freely given,  
Graces human and divine,

Flowers of earth and buds of heaven:  
Lord of all, to thee we raise  
This our joyful hymn of praise.

*WORDS: Folliot Sandford Pierpoint (1835–1917)*

*MUSIC: John Rutter (b. 1945)*

Above: the Cathedral from the Pococke Garden, connected with the story of Alice in Wonderland as well as the history of Christ Church (photograph: Ralph Williamson).

## Steventon History Society: Harriet Jacobs: from slavery to Steventon



Photographs provided  
by Steventon History  
Society.

Right: Harriet Jacobs  
(1815–1897); above:  
her tombstone  
in Mount Auburn  
cemetary, Cambridge,  
Massachusetts



**Reading**  
Luke 12: 22–31

Jesus said to his disciples, 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?



If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

*Reader*     Here ends the second lesson.

## Hymn



Lord of beauty, thine the splendour  
shown in earth and sky and sea,  
burning sun and moonlight tender,  
hill and river, flower and tree:  
lest we fail our praise to render  
touch our eyes that they may see.

Lord of wisdom, whom obeying  
mighty waters ebb and flow,  
while unceasing, undelaying,  
planets on their courses go:  
in thy laws thyself displaying,  
teach our minds thyself to know.

Lord of life, alone sustaining  
all below and all above,  
Lord of love, by whose ordaining  
sun and stars sublimely move:  
in our earthly spirits reigning,  
lift our hearts that we may love.

Lord of beauty, bid us own thee,  
Lord of truth, our footsteps guide,  
till as Love our hearts enthrone thee,  
and, with vision purified,  
Lord of all, when all have known thee,  
thou in all art glorified.

*WORDS: CA Alington (1872–1955)*

*MUSIC: Regent Square, Henry Smart (1813–1879)*

*Common Praise 258*

*Please sit or kneel.*

## **Prayers**

*led by the Sub Dean*

*The prayers conclude with the Lord's Prayer.*

We gather together these and all our prayers,  
in the words that Jesus taught us.

*All*

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory;  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.



## Pilgrimage to the Shrine of St Frideswide

*Our story at Christ Church goes back to St Frideswide, a seventh century princess who founded the first Christian community here. As we remember her, we make a pilgrimage to her shrine, singing the St Frideswide Hymn.*

*Members of the clergy will go first. You are invited to join the procession, bringing your order of service and the sprig of rosemary (a medieval symbol of remembrance and pilgrimage) which you found on your seat.*

*As you reach the Shrine, please place your rosemary there; and follow the procession around the Shrine. The Latin Chapel is very cramped, so please continue to follow the procession and the directions of the stewards out of the Latin Chapel and into the north aisles. There is not much seating in these areas, so if you don't need it, please leave it free for those who do.*



A place to cross a river,  
where shade and shallows run,  
where working oxen rested  
from hours of restless sun:  
This strand of light and water,  
where mayfly threads are sewn,  
where trout and elvers needle,  
a house, a hearth, a home.

An abbey in a meadow  
beside an ancient ford,  
where Frideswide's prayer and fasting  
gave glory to her Lord.  
That simple wooden shelter  
gave way to glass and stone,  
a glimpse of heaven's mansions,  
a house, a hearth, a home.

A place of light and learning  
where questing minds can grow,  
where world and time are fathomed,  
for nothing but to know.  
In bare-walled rooms great questions  
are sounded out alone  
the fabric of this city,  
a house, a hearth, a home.

A county and a city  
both built on work and trade,  
where factory and office  
turn making into made;  
where fields are cut and seeded,  
and science tests the known:  
this ancient, modern people,  
a house, a hearth, a home.

Each city is a foretaste  
of cities yet to come,  
of God's expansive kingdom,  
where all can find a home.  
A stranger walks beside us,  
we are not left alone.  
In Jesus Christ the traveller,  
a house, a hearth, a home.

*WORDS: Michael Symmons Roberts (b. 1963)*  
*MUSIC: Thornbury, Basil Harwood (1859–1949)*

*After the hymn has finished, the organist will play.*



## Collect

*The act of pilgrimage concludes with the prayer for St Frideswide's day.*

**Dean** God of peace and strength,  
whose abbess Frideswide  
built a community of love and learning  
with the gifts of the Spirit  
and in the strong peace that comes from you:  
renew us with healing waters of salvation,  
increase in us courage and resolve  
and inspire us, like Frideswide, to teach your truth  
and bring hope to your world;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All** Amen.

## Blessing

*The blessing is given from the Shrine of St Frideswide as a symbol of the continuity of prayer in this cathedral over the centuries, and the place of Frideswide as patron saint of the City, the Diocese and the University.*

**Bishop** May God who shaped Frideswide's story,  
who strengthened her to tell the story of his peace,  
and whose love is written in the story of this House,  
be present with you wherever his story takes you;  
and the blessing of God Almighty,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you,  
this day and always.

**All** Amen.

*The service ends with the procession of the Clergy and the Organ Voluntary. Please leave when you are ready. Thank you for joining in our worship this evening and please come again!*

The Lord Lieutenant and Christ Church Cathedral are grateful to all the museums, local history centres, and history and heritage groups that have attended and taken part in this service as we celebrate the stories of our county.

### **ABINGDON AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Runs a programme of talks and outings, and carries out research and outreach on, the archaeology and history of Abingdon and the area around it.

*[aaahs.org.uk](http://aaahs.org.uk)*

### **BAMPTON COMMUNITY ARCHIVE**

The Community Archive is a database of thousands of items relating to Bampton village past and present: newspaper cuttings, photographs, sound and video files. It runs regular exhibitions and is part of the Village Hub.

*[bamptonarchive.org](http://bamptonarchive.org)*

### **BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Founded in 1958 by a group of local historians to encourage research into the local history of Banbury town and its hinterland, the Historical Society now organises regular lectures and visits. It publishes a regular journal and a series of Records Volumes.

*[banburyhistoricalsociety.org](http://banburyhistoricalsociety.org)*

### **BARTONS HISTORY GROUP**

Curates and makes available local history material relating to Middle Barton, Westcott Barton and Steeple Barton.

*[bartonshistorygroup.org.uk](http://bartonshistorygroup.org.uk)*



## **BLACK OXFORD**

Black Oxford was founded and continues to be directed by Pamela Roberts, an acclaimed creative producer, historian, and published author. With a passion for history and a flair for storytelling, Pamela has dedicated her career to uncovering and sharing the rich narratives of those often overlooked by traditional history. Pamela's notable works include *Black Oxford: The Untold Stories of Oxford University's Black Scholars* and *The Adventures of a Black Edwardian Intellectual – The Story of Antiguan Scholar James Arthur Harley*, which earned her the K. Blundell Award from the Society of Authors.

*blackoxford.net*

## **BLOXHAM VILLAGE MUSEUM**

Small volunteer-run museum in the village of Bloxham, opening on weekends from Easter to October; celebrating the history of the village and telling stories of some of its past residents.

*bloxhammuseum.com*

## **CHARLBURY SOCIETY**

The Charlbury Society offers a programme of talks on local history and the environment. The Museum and Heritage Centre has five rooms full of exhibits and information telling the story of this ancient market town, its streets and buildings and the people who have lived and worked here through the centuries. It has a large collection of documents and photographs of Charlbury and its people at work and play.

*charlburysociety.org.uk*

## **CHURCHILL AND SARSDEN HERITAGE CENTRE**

Possibly the smallest museum in Oxfordshire, overlooking the site of the 'lost' village of Churchill, destroyed by fire in 1684.

*churchillheritage.org.uk*

## EYNSHAM MUSEUM AND HERITAGE CENTRE



Eynsham Museum and Heritage Centre (pictured) was established in 2021 in order to showcase some of the wonderful objects that bring to life Eynsham's long and distinguished history.

*[eynshammuseum.org.uk](http://eynshammuseum.org.uk)*

## GORING GAP LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The Local History Society was set up in 1966 to celebrate the history of Goring and Streatley, two villages located on either side of the river Thames. We hold monthly talks on a range of topics, publish an annual journal, have a programme of outings, organise occasional exhibitions and maintain an archive of documents, photographs etc. which is available for use by researchers on appointment.

*[goringgaphistory.org.uk](http://goringgaphistory.org.uk)*

## GREAT HASELEY HISTORY GROUP

The group researches the history of Great Haseley, and produces exhibitions and booklets to share their findings. In 2023 they researched the story of the American F-17 bomber that crashed in Great Haseley in 1943, culminating in a published booklet and a new memorial stone, dedicated on Remembrance Sunday in the presence of fourteen members of the families of the aircrew.

*[greathaseleyhistorygroup.co.uk](http://greathaseleyhistorygroup.co.uk)*



## **HORNTON HISTORY GROUP**

This active history group, founded in 2007, has about 20 members, carrying out research into local history and organising visits, talks and exhibitions.

*hornton-history.co.uk*

## **OXFORD PRESERVATION TRUST**

An independent local charity, dedicated to the conservation and sustainable enhancement of Oxford and to the public appreciation and enjoyment of its history. The Trust cares for 1000 acres of green space in and around the city, campaigns for thoughtful planning, celebrates excellent new design, and enable public access to Oxford's historic places

*oxfordpreservation.org.uk*

## **STEVENTON HISTORY SOCIETY**

A group of interested residents dedicated to bringing the history of the Oxfordshire village of Steventon (pictured: Steventon vicarage) and its surrounding area to life through exhibitions, public talks, guided walks, articles and supporting village projects.



*steventonhistory.co.uk*

## **TOOLEY'S BOATYARD TRUST**

The Trust manages a 250-year-old historic boatyard in Banbury, which not only played a pivotal part in the town's development but also helped to launch the post-WW2 movement to preserve Britain's inland waterways

*tooleysboatyardtrust.org.uk*

## **UFFINGTON MUSEUM**

A volunteer-led museum in the village of Uffington, at the foot of the famous White Horse. The Grade 2 listed building is over 400 years old and was originally the village school funded by a bequest from a local merchant. Its aim is to collect information relating to the past and present, and to share that history with visitors present and future.

*[uffingtonmuseum.co.uk](http://uffingtonmuseum.co.uk)*

## **WALLINGFORD HISTORICAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

Research history and undertake archaeological investigations in the town and surrounding area with the intention of making the information available through displays, talks and demonstrations.

*[twhas.org.uk](http://twhas.org.uk)*

## **WITNEY & DISTRICT MUSEUM**

The museum holds a vast collection of documents, objects and photographs relating to Witney, and engages with local people and visitors through the museum, talks, and new Heritage Walks.

*[witneymuseum.org.uk](http://witneymuseum.org.uk)*

*Fanfare*

**Organ Voluntary**  
John Cook (1918–1984)





## CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

**SAINT FRIDESWIDE**  
*Patron Saint of Oxford*  
(c. 670–727)

Oxford owes its existence to an Anglo-Saxon noblewoman who lived half a century before the first university scholars arrived here.

Frideswide's story is vividly portrayed in the nineteenth-century window of the Latin chapel, designed by Edward Burne-Jones. This legend tells us that she was forced to flee from Oxford to avoid marrying Algar, a prince of the neighbouring kingdom. For a time she hid in a wood with two companions. As she returned, Algar pursued her but was blinded by a bolt of lightning, and Frideswide, taking pity on him, prayed for his sight to be restored. They parted peacefully, and Frideswide continued to live as a nun, founding a community on this site.

Frideswide died on 19 October 727, and was buried in her monastery church. When, in the twelfth century, that church was replaced by the present building, her body was translated to a new shrine, which became an important centre of pilgrimage.

We come together each year to celebrate her memory and give thanks for her achievements and her example. In today's service we pray that we may be worthy inheritors of her vision of peace, learning and love that has been passed down through so many years.