

# Ready to go!

After years of planning and months of disruption, our new Church Centre is almost ready for use. The exhibition of maps and documents about old Cowley being held in the Church Centre will be an opportunity for the community to see the new facilities which we have to offer.

Our vision for the new Church Centre is far more than just a modern purpose-built building to be used for various activities. The Church is one visible sign of the presence of Jesus in our world. The way in which the Church Centre will be used will enable us to serve the surrounding community in the name of Jesus.

From the replies which came from our questionnaire about what people would like the centre to be used for, two things stood out. Firstly a parent/carer and toddler group: there are many young mums, grandmothers and carers who would welcome a meeting place once or twice a week. Two of the congregation at St James are already planning to open such a group in the autumn.

The second request is for a drop in facility for the elderly similar to the monthly Tea Break held at St Francis on the first Wednesday afternoon of each month. We are planning to hold a weekly lunch club

offering simple food. It is envisaged that those who come may wish to stay and chat and this should be encouraged.

At the end of the month we welcome Beth Spence as our new curate together with her family. Each curate brings a wealth of vision and talent and we look forward to Beth's ministry, particularly among young families our parish.



In October the Centre will host our autumn Alpha course. 2000 invitations will have been delivered around the parish and we very much hope that from these invitations and from

our own congregation inviting friends or family we may yet again bring more people into a dynamic and living faith.

So there is much to look forward to as the summer draws to a close. In both our churches we look forward to all that God will do in our midst. Let us pray that we may all be faithful and wise in seeking to follow the Lord.

With my best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve".

# Chronicle

# Ministry of Healing

*A monthly service on the first Tuesday of the month,  
alternating between St James and St Francis Churches*

## Healing Services:

**Tuesday 6th September 7.30 pm**

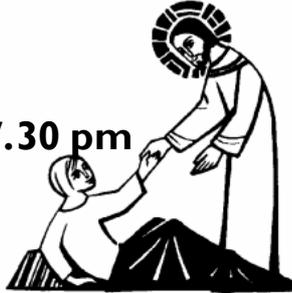
**St Francis Church**

**Tuesday 4th October**

**7.30 pm**

**St James Church**

The ministry of healing is available at St James' Church every Sunday during the 10 o'clock service. Please go to St Luke's Chapel after you have received Communion where members of the Healing Team will be available to listen and to pray in complete confidence.



*An elderly vicar once prayed for the world  
which the peace cannot give.*

## Exhibition of old Cowley *as part of the Cowley Feast*

**Maps, Photographs and Documents**

**Saturday 10th September until  
Saturday 17th September**

**The St James Church Centre  
Beauchamp Lane**

*10th & 17th September 10.30 am - 4.30 pm*

*11th & 18th September 3.30 – 5.30 pm*

*12th - 15th September 2.30 - 4.30 pm*

*(16th September - closed)*

## THE MARTYRS OF KOREA

### 20th September

Korea is known for its thriving Christian church. But it was not always so – in fact no Korean was baptised until as late as 1784. Christianity arrived in Korea through Christian books sent from China, and the Koreans responded warmly as soon as they heard the Good News. A Chinese priest who visited in 1794 found 4,000 Christians. This despite hard times: the Chinese priest was killed in 1801, and the Koreans were left without a priest for 30 years. Pius VII sent a bishop, Laurence Imbert, who arrived in disguise in 1837, who worked with two other priests of the same Paris Missionary Society. Christianity was strictly forbidden by this time, and so the missionaries worked in complete secrecy, rising at 2.30 am and ministering at unusual times in conditions of extreme poverty.

And the Korean Church grew! Soon there were 9,000 Christians, who could not remain secret for ever. Violent persecution broke out, and the three French priests allowed themselves to be taken, in order to avert massacre and apostasy. They were beheaded at Seoul on 21 September 1839. 78 Korean Christians died in the same persecution, among them Agatha Kim and John Ri. The first Korean priest to be martyred was Andrew Kim, in 1846. These shining Christians of the Korean Church were beatified in 1925 and canonized in 1984.



**Alpha**

**Julia Llewellyn Smith  
Daily Express Feature Writer**

"At the end of the evening, I was astonished at how much I had enjoyed myself. As the weeks went by, I found myself looking forward to it - not so much because of the religious aspect but because of the stimulating debates about subjects which, in our busy lives, few of us take time to address."

**United Oxford *Alpha* Prayer Celebration**

Oxford Community Church, Osney Mead Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September  
from 7.30 pm.

Please come along as we unite to ask the Holy Spirit to move in Oxfordshire  
this Autumn.

Make your own way or speak to Stephen if you need a lift.



***Alpha* needs you! Help Required!**

**Delivery of Invitations**

Can you help by joining a team to deliver Alpha Invitations through letter boxes in the  
week commencing Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September.



**Catering Team**

Part of the success of Alpha is the meal each week. We need to gather a catering  
team to cook and serve the meal from our new kitchen in the church centre. If you  
would like be part of the catering team please contact Barbara Brown - 718404



***Alpha* Course on Mondays starting 3rd October**

A fun way to explore the meaning of life and meet people!

7.00 to 9.30 pm at **The St James Church Centre, Beauchamp Lane**

Meal included

Contact Pat Giles on 779998



# Rosanne interviews Beth Spence

It is tempting to introduce our September interviewee as a second 'Wonderwoman' but she might not be too thrilled if I did. I must say her lovely long legs and athletic figure would look great in Linda Carter's bright red, blue and gold costume, but that wouldn't really be suitable for the new curate of Cowley, would it?

Beth is married to Michael, a Fellow of St Catherine's College where he teaches law. Their family of five children keeps Beth busy and yet alongside running a home and doing a part-time job she heard God calling her to His ministry and she responded. So let's go back to the beginning where we find her relationship with God established at a very early age.

She was born in the state of Minnesota in America, close to the Canadian border. She grew up in Minneapolis the town to which her grandparents had emigrated from Sweden many years before. Her parents sent her and her elder brother to a small Christian school where she learned to love her lessons and became what she describes as 'an all round kid'. By that I'm sure she meant that she was a clever child who was also very good at sports especially team games. She mentioned softball and basketball as her favourites.

The little school provided education right through to university entrance. At eighteen she left to study at Smith College for women in Massachusetts. There she read theology and also discovered rowing, becoming so proficient that she represented her university.

When she was a little girl her parents took her to the Lutheran church in Minneapolis, but when she was twelve they moved to a different area where they established a new church. It began with just four families and was a Free Church, which is still flourishing today. Beth told me that that was an exciting time for her, as she along with teenagers from the other families helped to establish the format for the worship.

After graduation she searched for a further programme of studies to answer her needs. She found that it was possible to read philosophy and theology at Oxford University. She applied and was offered a place at St Hilda's College. She crossed the Atlantic and launched into an 'absolutely fabulous' time in her life. She describes the whole university experience as a fairy tale and from the moment she arrived she was determined to make the most of it. Her teachers and tutors (mainly college chaplains) were inspirational.

She soon found herself rowing for her college and for the Isis second boat, which entitled her to own the magnificent blade which hangs on her kitchen wall. She also gained a half blue for basketball. Alongside this it was a fabulous growing time for her faith. She brought 'a lot of questions' with her to Oxford and set about 'tasting' (her own word) as many city churches as possible before settling on St Aldates. There she met a dynamic, young Australian Doctor of Law, Michael Spence. They met through a church home group and when Beth, by now president of the M.C.R. (Middle Common Room) needed a male guest for an important dinner party, who better to invite than Michael. And that, as they say, was that! They were married two weeks after Beth's finals.

Returning home from honeymoon they lived in a small house in Bath Street, St Clements. Michael was still studying and Beth worked for a firm in marketing consultancy, specialising in political and economic assessment. A year later they were expecting their first baby, a son, James, followed at two yearly intervals by Philippa, Oliver and Lucy.

When Lucy was three Beth took a post as a learning support assistant for children

with special needs at the local primary school, St Nicholas, Old Marston, the growing family having moved to the village via Bulan Road, Headington. She had always seen in her mind to teach and work within the Christian faith and having embraced the Anglican Church she felt called to train for the priesthood. She talked to a vocational advisor for two years. She gave up her full-time post at St Nicholas', was accepted to train for ordination and then found she was pregnant!

Now with baby Felicity, a part time job, a home to run and four older children to ferry to school, music and sports activities, apart from finding time to spend with her husband, I wondered how on earth she managed to study, write essays and cope with everyday essentials like the weekly shopping. Perhaps you see why I began my article the way I did. Far from seeming flustered and sacrificing a couple of precious hours to talk to me, she sat and drank coffee without one anxious glance at her watch.

She told me she is looking forward to joining the Cowley Parish Team in September. She is excited about her ordination too, which will be a high point in her life-long journey of faith.

### **How would you describe yourself as a child?**

I had to keep up with my big brother. I tagged along with him – game for anything. To be by myself I often went up in a tree to read a book.

### **Has God been part of your life since childhood?**

Yes, I truly can't remember a time when He wasn't.

### **What do you consider the best aspect of life today?**

Coming as we do from overseas the ability to communicate with relatives all over the world.

### **What disappoints you or makes you angry about modern society?**

I get most irritated by people not getting along. At school I see groups of children not even giving others a chance because of their race.

### **If you could change something spectacularly what would it be?**

If I could get rid of that great big ocean, I could drive over to see my Mom!

### **How do you like to spend your leisure time?**

Well there's not much time for leisure, we walk, swim and cycle with the children. A bit of reading – I quite like to read good fiction. I hunt down Booker prize novels. And I do like to go out for a nice meal, a concert or the theatre with Michael.

### **What makes you laugh?**

I'm happy to have a good laugh with people especially the children when they relate their stories about school days and friends.

### **Do you have a hero or heroine, past or present?**

As a child it was Elizabeth Elliott whose husband, a missionary in Ecuador, was killed because of his faith. She returned to the same village where he was killed to work with the people there. I always admired her ability to love and forgive.

### **Do you have ambitions for the future?**

I'm hoping eventually to do some kind of school chaplaincy.

*Beth will be ordained in Christ Church Cathedral on Saturday 24th September and will be joining the congregation at St James with her family the following morning.*

*For the first year, Beth will be working part-time. In twelve months time, Beth will become a full-time priest and her husband, Michael, will be ordained a Deacon and will also be working within the parish.*



## Muslims and Christians in the UK - a way forward?

In his Presidential Address to the General Synod this summer, the Archbishop of Canterbury spoke of Christian-Muslim relations in the UK following the London bombings. Here is an extract from his Address.

The horrifying news about the London bombings in July broke just as I was arriving at Batley in West Yorkshire for a day of visits to local Islamic institutions and meetings with clergy in the area who are involved in interfaith encounters.

It proved to be an extraordinary opportunity for saying things about the absolutely routine nature of friendly and lively relationships between Muslims and Christians in a good many parts of the UK - things which have informed our discussions here about 'Presence

and Engagement', and which we shall all need to be heard saying quite a lot in days ahead, when the temptation to scapegoat our Muslim neighbours may be strong for some in our communities.

Routine friendship and co-operation remains the best hope we have in any conflict of finding ways forward; nothing really can substitute for face to face encounter, when even the sharpest differences of conviction (and no-one in Batley was out to deny these) can be held with respect. An over-used word, I know; but its origins, of course, have to do with looking carefully; to respect someone or some position is to pay it the compliment of real and lasting attention, the sort of attention we call 'loving' attention in other contexts.

But why not indeed think of respect as loving attention? To

give time to following through why another believes and acts as they do, to treat this as a serious vocation, to assume that what is humanly significant for me is not going to feel completely different from what matters to my neighbour - this is a form of love, surely.

And as anyone who has been deeply involved with the encounter between faith communities will confirm, it is something quite different from compromise. The Latin Bible often uses the word that is at the root of 'respect' to describe God's attention to his creation; and there perhaps is our best clue to what it might really entail.



## BONKERS ABOUT CONKERS

With the arrival of autumn, it will be conker time soon. For 36 years, the Northamptonshire village of Ashton has played host to the World Conker Championships. The Championships started by accident when a group of pub regulars, thwarted in their attempts to go fishing, decided to play conkers instead. Today, the event attracts visitors from around the world – and competition is fierce.

### A Conker Quiz

Q When was the first ever recorded game of conkers played using horse chestnuts?

A (In 1848 in the Isle of Wight. Before then, hazelnuts were used.)

Q What other names are there for the game of conkers?

A (Conquerors, cheggies, hongkongs, obbly-onkers and cobs.)

Q What was the most victorious conker ever?

A (A 'five-thousander' which won the BBC Conker Conquest of 1954. Although it has been suggested that this might have been a 'ringer' - probably an ivory or tagua nut.)

Q How do some people cheat at conkers?

A (By covering their conkers with varnish, superglue, or injecting them with resin.)

Q What do you call out in order to ensure first strike in a game?

A (Competitors call out one of the following: 'my firsy', 'firsy jabs', 'first donks', 'first hitsy', 'bagsie first cracks', 'iddley, iddley ack, my first smack', or 'hobbily, hobbily honker, my first conker.')  


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# Sunday Services

## ST JAMES' CHURCH, BEAUCHAMP LANE

8.00 am	Holy Communion
10.00 am	Sung Eucharist ( <i>exc 2nd Sunday</i> ) All Age Eucharist ( <i>2nd Sunday</i> )
1.00 pm	Cowley Asian Christian Fellowship

## ST FRANCIS' CHURCH, HOLLOW WAY

10.30 am	Parish Eucharist <i>[Family Eucharist - 2nd Sunday of the month]</i>
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## Mid-Week Services & Meetings

Monday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – <i>St James</i>
	10.00 am	Toddler Group – <i>St Francis</i>
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – <i>St James</i>
Tuesday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – <i>St James</i>
	10.00 am	Toddler Service – <i>St Francis</i>
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – <i>St James</i>
Wednesday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – <i>St James</i>
	12.00 pm	St James Prayer Group – <i>13 Clive Road</i>
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – <i>St James</i>
Thursday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – <i>St James</i>
	9.30 am	Eucharist - followed by coffee – <i>St James</i>
	11.00 am	St Francis Prayer Group
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – <i>St James</i>
	7.00 pm	Eucharist - <i>St Francis</i>
Friday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – <i>St James</i>
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – <i>St James</i>
	7.00 pm	Friday Club – <i>alt Fridays at St Francis</i>
Saturday	9.15 am	Morning Prayer & Breakfast - <i>St Francis</i>

Arrangements for Baptisms, Banns of Marriage, Weddings, Confessions and Home Communion can be made with any of the clergy.

### Day Off

Stephen has Friday off; Except in emergency, please try and respect this day of rest. Lorne can be contacted in the evenings and at weekends.

## PARISH DIRECTORY

### TEAM RECTOR:

The Revd Stephen Hartley,  
Cowley Rectory,  
Beauchamp Lane  
Tel: 747680  
email: stephen.hartley@btinternet.com

### TEAM CURATE:

The Revd Lorne Denny  
35 Stapleton Road  
Headington  
Tel: 768009  
email: lornedenny@amserve.com

### LICENSED LAY

#### MINISTER:

Eric Uren  
Tel: 770696

### CHURCHWARDENS:

Gwen Ranklin  
Tel: 451417  
Norah Shallow  
Tel: 765199

### DEPUTY WARDENS:

Rosanne Butler  
Tel: 453257  
Stella Atkinson  
Tel: 770550