

Let the Rain Come Down

The spring rains have certainly been with us the last few weeks and it is hard to believe that we are still in a period of drought. The rainfall has been steady and the reservoirs that serve us are full, but the groundwater supplies are still nearly at their lowest levels ever.

The coming of the spring rain is one of the images the Bible uses to describe the coming of the Holy Spirit that we celebrate during Pentecost. Many of the prophets write about how the people yearn for God to send rain to the parched land again.

Hosea 6.3 says,

Let us press on to know the Lord, His going forth is as certain as the dawn; And He will come to us like the rain, like the spring rain watering the earth.

God does come to us like rain in that He sends His Holy and life-giving Spirit on us. Like rain, the Spirit nourishes the church and causes it to grow and to produce fruit.

One of Stephen's particular callings as a priest is to help people in his parishes know this gentle, nourishing, life-giving rain from the Lord through the Holy Spirit. As I have settled in to the parish this year, I have heard many stories of how Stephen encouraged people to pray for the help of the Spirit in their day-to-day lives. This is one of many things we will all miss about

Stephen when leaves this summer!

Yet we need not fear drought when Stephen leaves. God's Spirit is still with us as a church. As we enter the interregnum, let us pray that

God will send his spring rains on us as a Parish. Let us pray together that he will be showering us with the presence of His Spirit so that we will know his wisdom and guidance throughout the process of choosing a new priest.

Beth



Chronicle

Ministry of Healing

A monthly service alternating between St James and St Francis Churches

Healing Services:

Thursday 6th July 7.30 pm

St Francis Church

No service in August

Thursday 7th September 7.00 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.



By the Seaside

On Monday 24th April, 52 people set off from Cowley on their way to Torquay, our parish holiday for 2006. First stop was Gardeners World, not far from Weston Super Mare. Off again, stopping for a late lunch and a look around the marble factory at Bovey Tracey before arriving late afternoon at the Corbyn Head Hotel. The first dinner was superb, as were all the other meals that followed.

Jim our driver, called the next day our easy day, a short ride to Brixham, fish and chips for some!!! And then a look around Torquay. Some of us managed to visit the recently opened Marine Centre. Well worth a visit, it was feeding time as we walked around, this included a talk at each stop. What an evening followed, our first Theatre visit, The Magic of Variety; and did we laugh from start to finish, the highlight came when Gordon was asked to go up on the stage to help with a magic trick. We were greeted back at the hotel with tea and coffee, nothing was too much trouble.

Sunshine was the order of the day on Wednesday as we set off across Dartmoor, bursts of colour from the gardens and fields as spring is bursting into growth. After coffee in the village housing

Dartmoor Prison, we set off for Buckfast Abbey; all our holidays to the West Country have included this wonderful setting, the weather was warm and sunny, so peaceful.

Thursday again was sunny and warm, we spent a couple of hours in Paignton, before boarding the Steam Train for a picturesque ride along the coast. Across the ferry to Dartmouth for our lunch and a look around before joining the river cruise to Totnes.

How humbling to see the courage of our five wheelchair people and their carers all enjoying themselves, making amazing efforts not to miss any part of the holiday.

A special thanks to Jim, Brian and Gordon for all their help in making this possible for so many people. A quiz night ended our evening entertainment, and Friday morning dawned all too quickly. A stop at Clarke's Village in Street, Bargains found, and 52 tired but happy people arrived back in Cowley.

We are now looking forward to 2007, when we are looking forward to returning to The Portland Heights Hotel on Portland Bill.



The Bride



*Walking into old Cowley Church
On Father's arm, up the aisle,
She looked so young and innocent
But still managed a shy little smile.*

*Her dress looked really lovely
With train held by her small
bridesmaid,
The headdress, a band of white
flowers,
Like a Royal Crown it laid.*

*The Vicar, with Groom stood waiting
To make them man and wife,
Which we all hoped and prayed
Would continue all their life.*

*The Choir sang three nice hymns
Which we all joined in to sing,
The Bells too we could hear
As they gently started to ring.*

*Arum lilies on the Altar
Hung below, sweet red roses,
Everywhere around the Church
Were colourful little posies.*

*So we must hope and pray
That they will both give and take
Always consulting each other
In all decisions they make.*

*Maybe in the years to come
A baby or two born in love
Will come to increase their happiness
With help from God above.*

MB

Flowers

Have you ever visited a town for the first time, and been attracted by the really old church in the middle of it? You squeeze in through the huge old door and find a wonderful church – except there is something missing: there are no flowers.

Somehow their absence gives the church an empty unused feeling. Often it means that the church you've just discovered is no longer used for worship, and is now in the good care of the Churches Conservation Trust.

So what is it about flowers that make such a difference? Flowers are more than just 'living' things. They bring colour, shape, scents and memories with them, and that's without any 'meanings' being given to each variety, such as 'remembrance' for 'rosemary'.

When we visit people we often take cut flowers with us as a gift. We use them at times of celebration as well at times of illness and sorrow. They add the finishing touch to a dinner table, brighten up a dull corner and can attract attention to something near to where they are.

We use flowers to express our emotions, both in the choice of the flowers themselves and in the way they are arranged. Some speak of the informality of the country, while others are more sophisticated. Spiky flowers and sharp lines give a harshness, a crispness, perhaps a cleanness, while flowing shapes and pastel colours speak of gentleness and comfort. Yet others are used to tell visually a story or a sentiment that words alone struggle to express.

In one church this past Easter there was a formal arrangement placed on the lid of the baptismal font. It comprised three levels in decreasing circles but each with increasing height. All the flowers were placed almost vertically from a circular base of 35 cms diameter (approx 14"). The lowest of daffodils was 30 cms tall, then a second layer of taller yellow flowers came from within that ring to a height of 45 cms. The final ring was made up of 1 metre tall (3 feet) white Easter lilies. The whole arrangement spoke of Christ rising from the tomb. Not just waking slowly but rushing from below, up and out, in a great triumphal explosion. Fantastic!





Rosanne interviews Doug Treadwell

If anyone had asked me a few weeks ago. "Do you know Doug Treadwell?" I'd have answered, "Of course I do. He's that tall man who comes to St James', lives just across the road from church and his wife's name is Mavis." And then I went to interview him and discovered that I didn't know him, not the real Doug at all.

He and Mavis invited me round to their pretty house, part of the old farmhouse in Beauchamp Lane, for coffee. What a fascinating story they had to tell.

Although he was born in Harlesdon, like so many children of his generation the Second World War disrupted his young life. His father served in the RAF, predominantly in North Africa. So his mum, Doug and his little sister were evacuated to Steventon in Oxfordshire. Because his mum then went to work in munitions at the Milton depot the family were further split. His sister lived with granny whereas Doug was given over to the care of a very dear auntie and her mother. They lived in Langley in Buckinghamshire so it was there that 5-year-old Doug started school. He attended the village school until he was 8 and apart from a couple of incidents, still vivid in his memory, they were happy years. The two aunties were very loving and his mum popped over on visits whenever she could.

The two incidents he recalls from those early school days are as follows:- on his very first day, a little stranger in the village, a bigger boy noticed that he had been given two sandwiches for his lunch. At morning playtime a bite from one of them was demanded.

Doug handed it over and lost it all – half his precious lunch! The other incident also involved something to eat. An air raid nearby meant that all the pupils had to rush into the pitch-dark shelter. Doug had a piece of chocolate cake in his pocket when he went in (treasure indeed in those days). When the all clear had sounded and the children emerged the cake had gone. He never knew how he was robbed. When he was 8 he was able to return to his home in Steventon and was reunited with his sister. He looks back on the next few years of his life with affection. He attended the village school, had an uncle amongst the older boys (who looked out for him), made lots of friends, joined the church choir and enjoyed marching in crocodile to school services in the village church. His best friend was the son of the local railway station's stationmaster. His love of all things associated with railways, especially steam trains, began at about the age of 10, when his friend's dad took the lads on several occasions to visit the Swindon railway works.

As they reached 11 the two boys moved onto comprehensive school. Doug joined the school choir and encouraged by his best friend's athletic ability trained with him. They both ran for their school and went on to represent North Berkshire in the school's county athletics championships. The youngsters in the village had a good social life too. The vicar was "quite a character" running a successful youth club and offering his lawn as a tennis court. The church choir retained its choristers well into their teens mainly due to the vicar and his

involvement with the young people. School too offered practical help to its pupils when choosing a career. Doug was delighted to be offered an engineering apprenticeship at Harwell. His best friend's parents chose to emigrate to Canada to secure a good future for their son.

These of course were the days of National Service and having completed his apprenticeship, on his 21st birthday, the next day saw him in the army at Malvern, training as a field engineer. Most of his two-year service with the Royal Engineers was spent in Cyprus, but once demobbed in 1959, he returned to the research establishment at Harwell. Doug was ready for adventure so he set about planning to emigrate to America. First he worked at Pressed Steel, training to become a skilled toolmaker. After four years he began applying for interviews with American companies. He was offered a job with General Electric in Detroit. Whilst still doing his apprenticeship he had met Mavis at a dance in Abingdon and their romance flourished through their love letters between Cyprus and Oxford. Mavis lived in Oxford Road, Cowley from where she married Doug in St Luke's church in 1960. Her mum by the way owned and ran The Busy Bee sewing and knitting shop in Cowley Centre. As immigrants the young couple were amongst the last transatlantic passengers on "The Queen Elizabeth". With them went their two little daughters, Marie, born in 1961 and Helen, born in 1963. Their arrival in New York was horrendous. Told that there was

no weight restriction on luggage, Doug made large wooden boxes to pack everything they might need (even his daughter's bicycle!), once they had sold their house in Botley. At the quayside they stood and watched huge nets swinging the boxes off the ship, open at the bottom and deposit the lot on the dock below. There was no welcome for the little family, no niceties. Instead there were stringent medical checks. The train tickets to Toledo, which they had booked, were not available, so with their enormous pile of luggage they took taxis to Grand Central station only to find that they had missed their train. Next morning began a dreadful journey (Mavis was by now all for returning home). They had to change at Buffalo, transferring to another platform and since American trains in those days had no buffet facilities they had to rely on the kindness of fellow travellers to offer a little food and drink to their girls. After dark they arrived in Toledo and were billeted in a motel where Doug had to walk the five miles into Detroit to report for work at the factory.

After a while it became clear that General Electric was paying its employees considerably less than nearby Chrysler so Doug changed jobs. He enjoyed the work, staying with the company for twelve years and becoming a supervisor with a good salary. The first family home was an old farmhouse where they were very happy. One day Mavis spotted a nice old brick-built schoolhouse, empty, neglected and surrounded by about an acre of land. They bought it and turned it into a lovely home which today is a conserved building in that part of the USA. It was a happy time for them all, the girls attended the small village school, they all made many friends and in 1972 baby Andrew was born. In 1976 the bicentenary of the founding of America was celebrated and they all took US citizenship.

By 1979 Mavis's mum was hoping to retire and wanted to hand over the shop. The couple also had plans to send Andrew to New College School in Oxford. Also by now the car industry over there was beginning to run down and Doug was offered voluntary redundancy. He had thought to continue his career at Pressed Steel but on returning to the UK found it was a very different place from the one he had left. So he applied for a post in the Oxford University Engineering department, working with post-graduate students studying for their doctorates. After 20 happy years in the department he retired.

The Busy Bee was sold (Mavis ran it for fifteen years) and the couple retired. Now is the time for hobbies and Doug has a serious hobby. He collects, buys and sells antique toys. Every year he travels to Chicago to a big toy fair and of course looks up old friends. He is in touch with collectors all over the world and travels far and wide to hunt down something special. He is a proud father and grandfather and after a widely travelled career is still ready for an adventure should one head his way.

How would you describe yourself as a small child?

During the war I was quite poorly with asthma and couldn't keep up with the other kids. I remember my grandfather rubbing goose grease on my chest. After a few years I got better.

Was God part of your life right from childhood?

Yes, right from early days I was taken to Sunday school. As soon as we were at the village school we learnt about God.

What disappoints you or makes you angry about modern society?

The indiscipline you meet in the streets. Bad behaviour seems to

be acceptable – people throw litter, use bad language and are noisy.

Are there any positive aspects of life today?

Oh yes. New information technology means that problems around the world are known about and can be tackled.

What is your most treasured possession?

There are three. My paybook, my cap badge and my old-fashioned instruction book from my army days.

Do you have a hero or heroine past or present?

My hero is Isambard Kingdom Brunel. I lived by the railway at Steventon and I knew his house. I visited the Swindon works from the age of 10 with the stationmaster from Steventon.

How do you like to spend your leisure time?

I do like being outdoors. We walk especially in woods and parks. I read military history. I watch TV documentaries and I really enjoy D.I.Y.

Any plans for the future?

Mavis and I have been trying to live healthy lives because we want to see our children and eight grandchildren live happily.



What was happening at Pentecost?

Was it an extra dimension, on top of following Jesus and being born again?

Not exactly. Pentecost, rather, is the thrilling fulfilment of Christ's earlier promise of the New Birth and the Spirit's indwelling power – on an international scale. Luke's Gospel ends with Jesus pledging, "I am going to send you what my Father has promised" (Luke 24:49). Luke's book of Acts was to be the exhilarating sequel.

Supposing the book of Acts had been lost? We would have found it almost impossible to explain the phenomenal power and boldness of the early Christians. For the book opens with the historic gathering of Pentecost; with the sound of the rushing mighty wind, the flames of fire that settled on the disciples, and the miracle with which the amazed listeners heard the Gospel being announced to them – each in their own language. (Acts 2:1-13). Pentecost gave the Gospel of the New Birth an international platform! It was a unique event, a universal event and a saving event.

All this had been prophesied in the Old Testament – as Jesus explained when teaching Nicodemus about the New Birth. He had taught his disciples that the Holy Spirit, "another Counsellor", would come and indwell them (John 14:16-18). Not a different Counsellor, but, as the New Testament Greek implies, a second Counsellor or 'Helper' who would be the 'other', unseen presence of Jesus himself, accessible to believers in China, the Americas, or Africa...

We can illustrate. Picture a pop star coming down the aeroplane gangway at Heathrow. A thousand fans are waiting eagerly – just for a glimpse. Maybe four or five might get an autograph? However, the contact can only be disappointingly limited. After a few minutes the celebrity steps into a car and is

driven away. But later that evening comes the explanation: there on the screen, in the TV concert, is the same familiar celebrity – now made accessible to millions of fans, by another medium.

Christ was taken away from the few, in order to become accessible to the many – to believers on every continent. Through 'another Counsellor' (the third Person of the Trinity), the very presence of Christ himself is brought into your home, but (better than a pop star) right into your heart and life.

When we have become Christians, been 'born again' into God's Kingdom, we sense that 'Christ has come into my life'. That is true. Christ has become real to us, as our Lord, and ever-present companion. However, technically speaking, it is the Holy Spirit who, as Christ's 'other self', has taken up residence.

It is because the Spirit magnifies Christ (John 16:14), that there is a certain anonymity about the Counsellor. A Spirit-filled person is, inevitably, a Christ-centred and Christ-aware person. The Spirit is the Executive of the Godhead. He comes to accomplish IN us all that Jesus came to do FOR us at the Cross – making forgiveness and the Lord's friendship a personal reality, all our days.

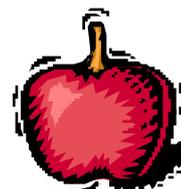
*From The Top 100 Questions by Richard Bewes
(published by Christian Focus)*



Apples

Up at the head table in the cafeteria, one of the nuns had placed a big bowl of bright red, fresh, juicy apples. Beside the bowl, she placed a note which read, "Take only one. Remember, God is watching."

At the other end of the table was a bowl full of freshly baked chocolate chip cookies, still warm from the oven. Beside the bowl lay a little note scrawled in a child's handwriting which read, "Take all you want. God is watching the apples."



FAREWELL EUCHARIST

for Stephen, Sharon & their family

Sunday 23rd July

11 o'clock

followed by a lunch
in the Church Centre



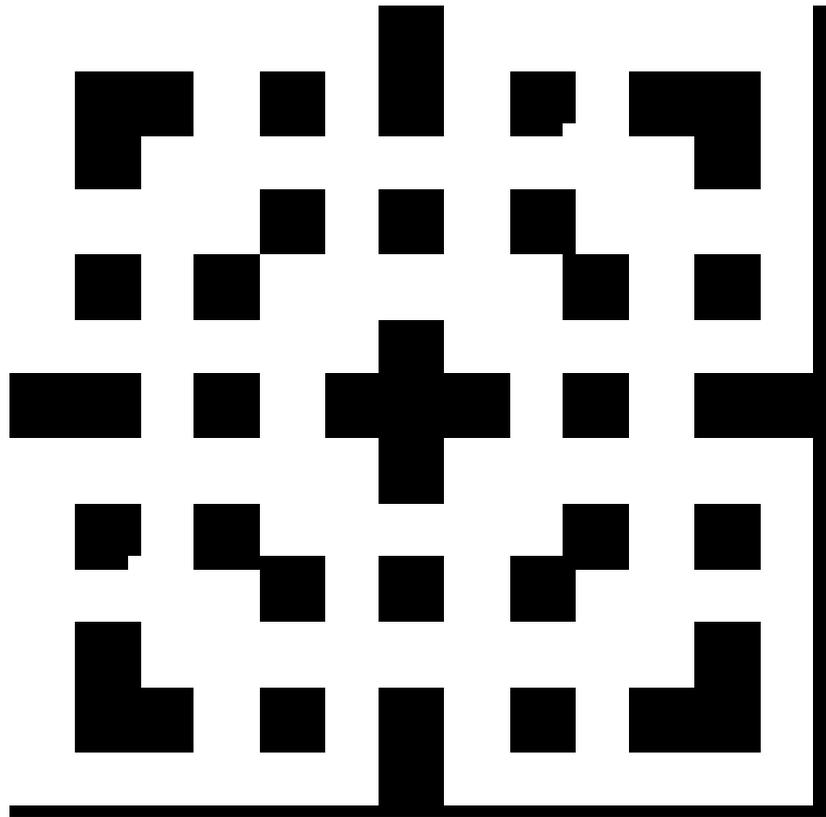
Stephen will be **Licensed** by the
Bishop of Reading

as
Team Rector of the Hermitage
Team Ministry in St Mark's
Church, Cold Ash, near Thatcham
on

Wednesday 6th September
at 7.30 pm

A coach will be going
from the parish to support
Stephen and Sharon as they begin
their new ministry.

June's Crossword



I have to say - I think he's taking this hosepipe ban a bit too seriously!

May's Solution

F	R	A	N	C	S	A	L	T				
L	S	H	I	Y	Q	S						
I	S	H	A	E	L	D	R	U	N	K		
N	W	P	A	I	A	I						
G	L	E	B	E	S	L	A	N	D	E	R	
	D	L			O	R	T					
F	I	N	E	S	T	T	R	E	A	D	S	
A	E	E			E	G						
M	U	S	I	C	A	L	P	R	E	S	S	
I	D	H	U	H	S	I						
L	E	A	V	E	C	H	A	R	I	O	T	
Y	Y	E	R		I	M	E					
			U	R	G	E		M	E	A	T	S

Across

- 1 To be half asleep (6)
- 4 Simon Peter's brother, in John ch. 1 (6)
- 7 Wife of David in 2 Samuel ch. 12 (4-5)
- 9 Jeremiah wrote in one in Jeremiah ch. 51 (4)
- 10 Saul abode under one in Ramah, in 1 Samuel ch. 22 (4)
- 11 In which God will carry the lambs, according to Isaiah ch. 40 (5)
- 13 A son of Ithamar in Ezra ch. 8 (6)
- 14 Location of Elisha in 2 Kings ch. 6 (6)
- 15 Prayer (6)
- 17 A building devoted to worship (6)
- 19 Brother of Alexander in Mark ch. 15 (5)
- 20 A description of the cymbals in Psalm 150 (4)
- 22 I _____ on the work of thy hands (Ps 143.5) (4)
- 23 The lion strangled for his, in Nahum ch. 2 (9)
- 24 Card game (6)
- 25 OT book (6)

Down

- 1 ..and _____ it with slime (Ex 23) (6)
- 2 Like the flesh, according to Matthew ch. 26 (4)
- 3 Name of the brook in Numbers ch. 13 (6)
- 4 The ark of God was brought here in 1 Samuel ch. 5 (6)
- 5 ..not reckoned of grace, but of _____ (Rom 4.4) (4)
- 6 Make a vigorous attack (4,2)
- 7 He that hath a _____ eye (Pr 22.9) (9)
- 8 Fellow soldier in Philemon ch. 1 (9)
- 11 Name of the brook in 1 Samuel ch. 30 (5)
- 12 Leader of the Israelites during the exodus (5)
- 15 Person dedicated to a religious life (6)
- 16 Shade of meaning (6)
- 17 Struggle (6)
- 18 Its bishop signs himself "Exon" (6)
- 21 Butter container described as lordly in Judges ch. 5 (4)
- 22 Savoury foodstuff in Genesis ch. 27 (4)

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>
	2.30 pm	Parish Mothers' Union - <i>St James (3rd Mon)</i>
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – <i>St James</i>
Tuesday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – <i>St James</i>
	10.00 am	Seashells Baby & Toddler Club - <i>St James</i>
	10.00 am	Toddler Service – <i>St Francis</i>
	12.00 pm	Eucharist - <i>St James</i>
	12.30 pm	Tuesday Lunch Club- <i>St James</i>
	2.30 pm	Friends of St Francis - <i>St Francis (2nd & 4th)</i>
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – <i>St James</i>
Wednesday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – <i>St James</i>
	2.30 pm	Tea Break - <i>St Francis (1st Wed)</i>
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – <i>St James</i>
Thursday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – <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>

Days 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.

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