

Chariots of Fire

Games of the XXX Olympiad take place in London from 27 July to 12 August 2012. I have booked a front row seat to watch – in Canada. Because the Olympics make up the most successful sporting event in the world it is possible, half way around the world, to keep up with everything that is going on. The excitement builds with the arrival of the Olympic Torch and the opportunity to see it carried through Cowley and Oxford. A great picnic in the park will be hosted by Sir Roger Bannister, and you'll have a chance to hear more about sport. I love watching the Olympics and look forward to cheering for the athletes.

One athlete has a special place in my heart and mind. Eric Liddell won gold and bronze medals at the XIII Olympiad in Paris. You may remember Liddell from the movie, "Chariots of Fire". It won four Oscars, including "Best Picture" and "Best Screenplay", at the Academy Awards in 1981. The film has been digitally re-mastered and will be in cinemas from 13 July.

The setting is post-World War I Scotland, England and Europe, and the film is based on the true story of two competitive athletes pursuing Olympic gold. Dark-haired, handsome and athletic, Harold Abrahams (played by Ben Cross) is the son of a wealthy Jewish immigrant. Defeat is unknown to this young man until he challenges Eric Liddell (played by Ian Charleson), a young Christian missionary with an awkward gait and a propensity for winning races.

Eric Liddell, the fleet-footed "Flying Scotsman," practices his craft running through the rolling hills of Scotland, and preaches on Sundays. Liddell believes God made him for a purpose, and he races to bring honour and glory to his God. His challenge lies in

balancing the demands of his talent with the obligations of his religious service.

"Chariots of Fire" considers the choices we make and the lives we live. Liddell wanted his life to be guided and motivated by his beliefs. When his running prowess allowed him the privilege to draw increasingly large crowds he used the opportunity to preach the Gospel.

In one scene, speaking to a crowd gathered after a sporting event, Liddell compares life to running a race. He talks about the all-too-human cost of poverty in the daily struggle for existence. He finishes his talk by asking, "Where does the power come from to see the race to the end? It comes from within."

Chosen to represent Great Britain in the Paris Olympics, Liddell discovers while en route to France that the heats for his 100-metre race will be held on Sunday. He grapples between achieving his Olympic dreams and honouring the Sabbath. True to his beliefs, Sunday finds Liddell preaching in a church rather than competing. His text is from Isaiah, "Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." Eric Liddell chose to honour God and live his life in God, over worldly glory. He chose to fulfil his purpose in God, rather than the purpose he was told to follow, namely running the race at any cost. In the end his decision brings him both Olympic Gold and a heart strengthened to live a life that truly fulfils its purpose.

Where do you find power to run the race set before you?

Howard

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Cowley Team Ministry
July / August 2012

Editor's Letter

Looking back over the last few months of our parish magazine has made me realise what a very vibrant parish we are! With all the events held in our churches and not forgetting the annual sea-side trip which Richard Chand organises for his congregation it is easy to see how we reach out into our community as God would have us do. Whilst offering a big warm welcome to Skye and her family I really hope she is ready for a jam-packed diary in the years ahead.

I need to inform you, readers, that it is that time of year when you can order your Chronicle issues for the next twelve months. Our regulars will know that with double issues in July/August and December/January we publish ten magazines a year packed with "faith, news and fun" (which has been our policy for the last four years). I also need to tell you that we are going to have to ask for an extra 5p per month to offset the rising costs of production. Therefore your annual subscription will be £4 beginning with your September issue. Please fill in the order form you will find in the magazine this month or take a form from those we are putting in church. If you know of anyone new who would like to take The Chronicle please take a form for them. Your annual subscription should be given to May Morgan by the end of August.

Since I last mentioned shoe-boxes, the need for them and the brilliant work Joyce Titchell does each Christmas as she fills them for children in need, we

seem to have hit a seam of gold. One of the shoe shops in Templar Square has promised my husband (and many of you know what a smooth talker he is!) that he can call in and collect as many as he can pack in the back of our car. So, Joyce, that looks like a problem solved.

I hope that you will indulge me the little poem I have composed to celebrate the Olympics. The idea of the coloured rings in the world all being gifts from God grew increasingly in my head till I just wanted to share it with you. I also hope you find the article on the Olympics interesting. Loving the world of sport the way I do I had such fun researching the details. I cannot wait for the Games to begin, can you?

As Howard and Carol set off on their summer break, and it is going to be a very special occasion this year, we wish them a lovely holiday. We also hope our young darts champions, Katie and David, have a great time too.

Finally, if you have any summer experiences you would like to share, or any ideas for articles in The Chronicle do let us know. This is your magazine. We love to receive contributions from you.

Happy summer days. Let's hope we get some real sunshine soon, until September.

God Bless

Rosanne

Jubilee Brass (Oxford) Band

The band is currently preparing for a summer packed full of engagements. We played at various events to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and got very wet in the process! However, fun was had by all and we look forward to the busy season.

We are always keen to welcome new members to the band and are hoping to re-establish the junior band to give children in the area the opportunity to learn an instrument, but also to experience the excitement that comes from playing in a musical group. The band rehearses on a Friday evening 7:45 – 9:45 and we would really like to see some new faces. If you, or someone you know, would like to join the band please contact Mr Clifford Sadler on 01865 373554 or cliff.sadler@hotmail.co.uk. We look forward to hearing from you!

The Wave of Prayer - Each and every branch of the Mothers' Union throughout the world spends a little time on a specified time and day in the year to pray for those members in the diocese with which they are linked. We pray for them and they pray for us.

The Cowley branch's day each year usually falls in June, this year on Wednesday, 13th. The little service has the same format in which we pray for the work undertaken by members in their communities. The link diocese with Oxford are Abu, Boga and Kisangani in the Dominican Republic of Congo and Okigwe North, Okigwe South, Orlu and Ourerri in Nigeria.

We prayed for projects such as their HIV/AIDS/STD awareness programmes, visiting many mothers displaced by the militias, problems with illiteracy, tribalism and false teaching, helping the poverty of widowed and destitute, loans for women in business such as wafer-making and weaving in the areas of Africa. Some of our members found this work, so different from our own, quite moving. In our Oxford diocese we support the "Away From it All" holiday project for families whose children are unable to enjoy little seaside breaks through lack of funds. We also support the Chaplains and families whose children are sick in the John Radcliffe Hospital amongst other projects.

It will come as no surprise to those who know us that after the service we enjoyed strawberries and cream and a cuppa in the Church Centre.

Our service ended with this lovely prayer by St Teresa of Avila:

Christ has no body but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world, yours are the feet with which he walks to do good, yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world. Yours are his hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has nobody now but yours.

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COWLEY WOMEN'S GROUP

Meetings held alternate Wednesday evenings at St James Church Centre at 7.30pm.

Our group has been running for little over a year now, we have a great group of women with a mix of ages and backgrounds. We are keen to try new things and have had a variety of differently themed evenings, ranging from photography to crochet. We have also been lucky enough for Mark Oxbrow to talk to us on some very interesting and thought evoking subjects, and hope to welcome Howard sometime in the near future.

We have a website www.thewomensgroup.org.uk so it is easy to keep updated with up and coming events. Our next meeting is the 4th July, which is a breast cancer awareness evening and should be very informative.

I look forward to welcoming some of you in the future.

Loretta

MY JUBILEE DAY ADVENTURE

On a wet and windy day in June my friend and I set off to London. It was Jubilee Sunday the day of the river pageant to celebrate the 60 year reign of Queen Elizabeth II.

On arrival in London, we set off for the Albert bridge to meet with my friend's daughter, Linda, (whose husband had connections with the royal yacht), and who had been allocated an area to view the pageant.

However we were on the opposite side of the bridge from the viewing area where Linda was looking out for us. Between us was a no go area so we texted Linda and she rang us back. We spotted her and waved. The security man then let us into the area to join her.

We had a really clear view of the Royal barge resplendent in gold, red, blue and full of flowers.

As we waited I noticed that the policemen had lined the road and, as I expected, not long after came the flashing blue lights, very quickly followed by the highlight of our day. The Duke of Cambridge and his lovely lady Catherine looking gorgeous in scarlet came swiftly towards us and William greeted us all by saying "Hello, how are you all? Are you enjoying yourselves?" They then left to join Prince Harry to walk on to the royal barge.

As this was happening the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh were on a launch coming up the Thames to board the barge. The Queen looked lovely in her white outfit encrusted with crystals and together with the Duke

then climbed a flight of steps to the upper deck. I thought this was really a lot for a 91 and 86 year old couple to manage.

So the river pageant began. I was especially taken with the very colourful Commonwealth boat, a really royal day.

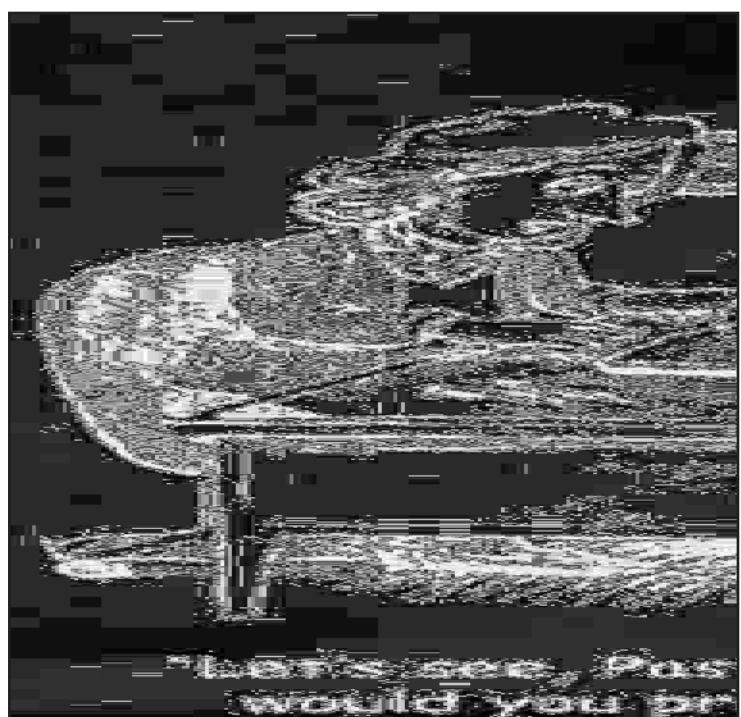
Cold and happy we started out for Victoria Coach Station but were stopped and asked by a camera crew to give our opinion on the monarchy.

I told them I thought that the Queen was very good for our country, doing a lot for relationships with other nations and that she is a remarkable, dedicated lady.

Then, after an exciting and memorable day, one which I shall never forget, we were homeward bound.

I had seen history in the making.

Pat Chambers



PARISH REGISTER

Baptisms

9th October 2011	Kaden Kerry
	Kayleigh Johnman
13th May 2013	Poppy Mae Hall
	Kali-Faith Brandon
10th June 2012	Isobel Faith Higham
	Emelia Felicity Malloy

Marriages:

17th December 2011	Michael Payne and Sharon Westell
18th February 2012	Matthew Lee and Heidi Walters

Funeral Services:

12th January 2012	Ruby Gaisford
10th February 2012	Lydia Price
5th March 2012	Mary Barson
25th April 2012	Russell Hoblyn
3rd May 2012	Rosemary Neale
27th June 2012	Barbara Prescott

Memorial Service:

22nd June 2012	Fay Moore
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Interrment:

26th February 2012	Marjorie Pipkin
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Ride and Stride 2012

It is impossible to avoid the sporting extravaganza that will be kicking off this month with Euro 2012, Cricket and of course the London 2012 Olympics.

Like it or not we are going to have lots and lots of sporting events for the next couple of months so why not add one more to this impressive list.

Ride and Stride 2012 will take place on 8th September 2012 and although it is a bit early to start making arrangements, we can pop the date in our diaries for the time being. A bit nearer the time I will be appealing for participants, sponsors and help with rotas to try and make this as successful as in previous years.

I thoroughly enjoyed taking part and visiting the different churches last year but unfortunately I will be attending a family wedding on 8th September so I will be relying on lots of support from anyone who can spare an hour or two.

So watch this space!

June Smith



No, this is not Heaven,
but can I take the message?

AFTERNOON TEA WITH HER MAJESTY

In the spring of 2007 an envelope from Buckingham Palace arrived at our house. Inside was a card, headed by a golden cypher. It said, "The Lord Chamberlain is commanded by Her Majesty to invite The Reverend Howard and Mrs. Thornton to a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on Tuesday, 10th July 2007 from 4 to 6 pm."

The invitation was accompanied by a list of instruction that I now wish I had kept, but didn't, and a permit to park on The Mall. Cameras were prohibited.

What excitement ensued! We found morning dress for Howard and I brushed off my "mother-of-the-groom" hat, and on the appointed day we set off for London. With our trusty London A to Z at hand (did you know a woman made it?*) Howard drove through central London with only one missed turn, and we arrived well in advance of the 3 pm start. We strolled through Green Park until it was time to join the queue at the magnificent gates of the palace. Someone offered to take our photo – perhaps he has a special arrangement with whoever prohibits cameras at the garden parties!

Three regular garden parties are held each year. I had envisioned a few hundred people in the garden, but in fact 8-10,000 guests are invited. We were able to explore the gardens (which are not open to the public) and chat with other guests. A couple of bands played. At about 3:30 we could see that preparations were being made, as lanes were laid out along the lawn. Every 40-50 feet, aides placed a guest who would have the opportunity to speak to the Royal Family.

At 4:00 Her Majesty the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh, Charles, Prince of Wales, and Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall appeared on the West Terrace

to the sounds of the national anthem. Each member of the Royal Family made his or her way along one of the lanes. We were standing alongside the lane visited by the Queen. She was preceded by an aide, who had a preliminary chat with the guest, and then relayed information so that the Queen would know a little about the guest and could chat with each one about their activities.

Later we walked along the other lanes to get a sense of the other family members present. Each one seemed genuinely interested in the people they were meeting. I remember how Prince Philip's hair curled over his collar (it wouldn't have been allowed at Cheney School) and that the feathers of the Duchess's pale green hat waved in the breeze.

It was amazing how efficiently tea was served in the huge buffet tents, with sandwiches, cakes, and later, ice cream. Promptly at 6:00 the National Anthem sounded again and the Royal Family departed into the palace. Soon afterward, guests began making their way toward the exit through the palace. I was surprised at how many cameras suddenly appeared from handbags and pockets, and wished I'd brought one!

I couldn't help wondering what the 7-year-old Carol would have thought if she'd been told that she would spend an afternoon at Buckingham Palace – I don't think she'd have believed it. As we made our way back toward our normal everyday lives, Howard and I knew that it was a day we would never forget.

**The artist Phyllis Pearsall conceived, designed, and produced the London A-Z street atlas. She walked 3000 miles, over 18 hour days. When publishers failed to see the potential of her creation, she founded her own company to publish it.*

Carol Thornton

5th COWLEY GUIDES

The Guides are working towards their Four Seasons Challenge badge. We have now completed Autumn, Winter and Spring and are about to start the Summer section. For the Spring section of the badge the Guides made pancakes, completed an obstacle course, made kites, had an Easter egg hunt and made maypoles and did some maypole dancing.

The Guides are also starting to work towards the Girlguiding UK's Olympic badge 'On Your Marks' which will take us up to the summer.

On the night of the elections during May the Guides chose to go bowling and we booked three lanes at the bowling alley and each Guide had two games of bowling during the evening.

The Guides finished the half term off with a Diamond Jubilee street party with the 1st Blackbird Leys Guides at the Holy Family Church. The Guides all came with plates of food including lots of homemade cakes. The Guides had a go at fun fair type stalls including hook a duck, coconut shy, skittles, hoopla and splat the rat. They also had a go at pin the crown on the Queen, guess the sweets in a jar, treasure map, lucky dip and took part in a biscuit decorating competition.

In their own individual patrols the Guides have also been working on Healthy Lifestyles and Film Lovers badges and the Chocolate Go For It which is always a favourite.

During the summer some of the Guides from 5th Cowley and 1st Blackbird Leys are planning to go camping for a week at Shipston on Stour.

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ARCHIVES RESPONSE

I was pleased and interested In the Archive piece in last Month's Chronicle as it was written by my father, Reg Smith of the Oxford Mail. I would point out a thing or two. The Sunnyside my father referred to was and is the land from the Business Park, which was Morris car works, to Horspath Road. This land was owned by Dr Ivy Williams and Ivy close was the site of the Sunnyside Chest Hospital. The hospital was moved to the JR site and was known as Sunnyside Hospital for many years. The estate further up Hollow Way was not built when the original article was written. On the South corner of the Fern Hill Road junction the word Sunny side is written in stone facing Hollow Way. I live half way down Fern Hill Road and my father used to sit comfortably in our lounge and scowl and say it was his football field and that the team was no good once it moved to the Marsh. He was secretary of the football club for many years. My father was an extremely keen armchair sportsman, he finished his career as Racing Editor and Assistant Sports Editor of the Oxford Mail. To be fair, Daddy did not have the lung power to take part in sport, a trait I inherited from him.

Una Dean, nee Smith

Rosanne Interviews Paul Brown

Sometimes I have to pluck up courage to approach someone for an interview and knowing what a busy man Paul is I was quite tentative in my request. How great it was then when, with a lovely smile, he said, "Yeah, OK, Rosanne, when do you want to talk to me?" Yes, well, that was the problem. Half-term school holiday posed the first hurdle, then, Monday being the only evening Paul had free, Skye's induction service intervened. His two children need to be escorted here and there in the evenings and then there's bell-ringing practice. However, we did manage, at last, to have our chat, just in time to meet our publishing deadline.

Paul is a real local boy, born and bred in Rose Hill. With two younger sisters and a younger brother he had to look out for his siblings when they were all pupils at Rose Hill First School. Though not a particularly wealthy family in monetary terms Paul's mum and dad gave their children the priceless gift of time. Dad taught all of them to swim down at Long Bridges by the Isis. Paul cannot remember whether he was aged four or five when he was "chucked" into the river and found he could swim. Picnics and swims as a family are very happy summer memories. These are currently being replicated by Paul for his own youngsters as much as time will allow. Not just river days but sea-side experiences too.

His ability in swimming gave him acumen all through his school days. After Rose Hill primary he moved on to lawn Upton Middle School in Littlemore by which time, aged nine, he had

joined Oxford City Swimming Club at Temple Cowley pool. He represented the club repeatedly in national competitions from the age of fourteen onwards. He describes himself as an average pupil academically but enjoyed his days at school, especially at Peers, where he made some very good friends. Many of his old friends are still living locally and they meet up from time to time for reunions. Of course Peers in those days had its own swimming pool and by that time Paul had almost developed scales instead of a skin!

You see at the age of fourteen he had become a fully qualified lifeguard. So able was he that he was working for the City Council at Temple Cowley, Hinksey Pool, Ferry Hinksey and Peers. Lifeguarding brought in very useful extra pocket money throughout his teenage years. As I have already mentioned he was entering national swimming championships and to crown it all he joined Oxford City water polo club and played for them for over five years. Did he ever have time to meet girls, I wondered.

Leaving school at sixteen he entered a six year apprenticeship as an electrician with the building firm of Johnsons. This involved a two-days a week release to study at the Oxford College of Further Education down at the Oxpens. Having qualified he continued to work at Johnsons for some time not just doing electrical work but learning other skills as well.

When he started his apprenticeship he met another sixteen-year-old named Sharon who also worked there and she soon became Paul's girlfriend.

They went out together for about six years (on and off!) until they became engaged to be married. Paul explained that the "off" times happened when he went off with his mates on holidays to such places as Ibiza and Benidorm and Sharon did not approve! However, love won the day and they were married at Iffley church a year after their engagement. It was a big wedding as Sharon came from a large family and it sounds as though the whole day was a joyous occasion.

The young couple had saved hard to afford the mortgage on a little house in Broadfields on the edge of Blackbird Leys. Soon after this Paul's job at Johnsons became redundant and he joined the Rover company. In order to afford a bigger house (they were planning a family and needed the space) Paul went on permanent night shift at the Solihull factory where he earned much higher wages. He told me wistfully that at that time he saw very little of his lovely wife. By saving hard, though, they were able to buy a semi-detached house in The Grates. It needed lots of work to modernise and smarten it up. By this time Sharon was expecting their first baby and at eight months pregnant still climbed the stepladder to help knock down walls and wield a paint brush.

Paul and Sharon's son, Jamie, was born and eighteen months later baby Hannah came along. The house was finished and their family was complete and Paul was about to follow his dream to sell up and move to the south coast. Then came a terrible blow. Sharon was diagnosed with cancer. Because we have

some of the best hospitals in the UK the plan to move was put on hold. After a period of lengthy treatment Sharon seemed to have recovered. Family and friends had been very supportive. Just when things were settling down Sharon's health deteriorated. The cancer had claimed her and within a few weeks Paul was widowed. He was left with two young children to bring up single handed.

That was the time when those marvellous friends and family members were needed most. Local people at St James Church, too, did what they could and everyone at Church Cowley St James School where the children attended were very supportive as well.

Jamie became a regular churchgoer and at the time we were hunting for people willing to learn how to ring the bells at St James'. Even though he was quite young he joined the team. Paul came along to escort him and before he knew it he had become interested. He found he was a quick learner and took to campanology like a duck to water. He is now captain of the tower at

the parish church and is currently teaching new volunteers to join the team. He told me he has three new recruits plus a young lad who has just shown interest. Paul is excited with the way the team is developing. He found the new skill he took up quite by accident helps to get him out of the house and do "something different".

He is a busy man with his job at the factory, bringing up his children and finding time for his new hobby. One of his delights is to take his youngsters on camping holidays joined by a host of sisters, brothers, in-laws, cousins and friends. I asked him what else he did in his free time. What a silly question – he laughed and said "what free time?"

How would you describe yourself as a child?

Easy going, I really liked school.

Have you any never-to-be forgotten memories of childhood?

I remember Mum and Dad took us camping in Cornwall for two weeks when we were kids. It

never stopped raining and at night it was foggy. Every night we would hear the fog-horn from the lighthouse keeping us awake. What a holiday!

Has your faith been with you since childhood?

Yes, I believe in God. We were made to go to Sunday School in the church room at Iffley. I remember the vicar there being really strict (not a bit like Howard).

Do you have a treasured possession?

Well .. family photos especially of my mum and all my swimming certificates and newspaper cuttings.

What is your opinion of present day society?

There is too much rushing about and worrying about money. People should put family first and live for today. You don't know what's round the corner.

If you could change something important what would it be?

I wish I had done more leisure things with my wife.

How do you like to spend your leisure time?

I like a few beers at the weekend and I like to go clubbing with my younger brother – it makes me feel young again – and I enjoy watching a lot of football.

What plans do you have for the future?

I plan to move down to the coast once the kids have grown up and sorted out their lives.

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GOD IN MY LIFE : OUR INTRODUCTION TO ST JAMES

This is a quick insight into my family's introduction into the church of St James and the finding of a bigger family within the Church and its people.

It was an idea which both I and my wife believed in, that our children should be baptized under God and that we would hope that they would be received into his family as we both were many many years ago. So we decided that we would hope to have our youngest daughter Poppy Mae Hall baptized in the same Church of St James as our other daughter Lilly Emma Hall was over 4 years previously.

We met up with May Morgan who went through the service details and what was expected in that she would hope that we would be able to attend at least one Sunday Service to experience the Church and to meet up with the other persons attending. She assured us though that there was no pressure to attend.

My wife, Vicky Hall, then took my daughters Poppy and Lilly one

Sunday, as I was already involved in coaching Sunday League Children's football with my son Lewis and was unable to come.

My wife found that everyone in the Church was friendly and very welcoming to her and to our daughters. When I came home I was immediately informed of the experience from my wife, who stated that it was a lovely service and that the feeling of friendship and the welcoming she had felt was no other feeling but of joy, also that our daughter, Lilly, was an immediate hit with everyone.

Now, this was not a bolt-of-lightning moment or a vision from the heavens or even an unearthly voice rising from the heavens stating "You Must Come to Church" but much more a simple feeling that she felt belonging and could not stop telling me this.

It was also obvious that my daughter Lilly also had a great time and fun at the Junior Church, which I used to call back in the earlier days as 'Sunday School'. Again I was put right on that by

being told "It is not School as nobody likes School", which were such wise words from my 5 year old daughter!

The following Sunday I decided also to attend the Service on the Sunday and straight away I was greeted by May Morgan and other members of the congregation. They said they were very happy that I had come and I did feel like that everyone was very happy and friendly right from the start.

The service started and 'Howard' as everyone called him (or the Reverend Thornton) seemed to be different from my earlier memories of church when I was a child with my mother, as this service seemed to have a very subtle, underlying theme of fun and informality. There was often laughter and the children were often asked to take parts in the service and to show what they had been doing in 'Junior Church' which opened my eyes to the fact that this is a great place to be on a Sunday morning amongst friends who believed that we are

OPEN DOORS 2012

8th and 9th September 2012

Following a suggestion made at the St James' Congregational Church Committee in May, an approach was made to Open Doors 2012 to see whether it was possible to enter St James' Church and St Francis' Church on the list. The organisers accepted the request, and it has been agreed that the churches should be open at the following time:

St James' Church: Saturday, 8th September 2012: 10 – 4 pm
Sunday, 9th September 2012: 2 – 4 pm

St Francis' Church: Saturday, 8th September 2012: 10-4 pm
Sunday, 9th September 2012: 12 – 2 pm

The 8th September coincides with Ride and Stride when both churches will be manned, but volunteers will be needed for the Sunday openings.

Open Doors is a well-attended event, and should attract a lot of people to see our two very interesting churches.

all together no matter who we are.

When the service was finished it was off to the Church Centre for coffee and a biscuit, with even the added bonus of some homemade cakes, and all that was asked was a small donation which was expected but never asked. Once seated I soon was in deep conversation with all the other people who seemed genuinely interested in us, people such as Una or Lilly's favourite, Cyril. They wanted to know who I was and how I was which was again great as there was no underlying interests, no politics and no ulterior motives just plain interest and friendships being offered which I received and gave back all I could.

All in all after the Baptism of my daughter Poppy, my wife and I decided that this was such a

great place that there was no question of not coming back, and now and every Sunday as well as my daughter Lilly cannot wait to attend the Church, even sometimes bringing along my son Lewis. I believe he likes coming to Church as he has fun, but never says this to us.

The addition of the extra social events such as the Jubilee celebrations, with a great barbecue (in which I helped with the cooking of the sausages) and also tea for all the children (we brought some sandwiches I had made at home), Morris Dancers who made everyone laugh and made all the little ones dance and not forgetting the Darts Championship in which my wife and I came runners up. (More by luck than skill).

It seems that my own and my family's lives are more fulfilled

and more open now that we have found the people and the Church of St James. At least once a week there is somewhere we can go where we can be ourselves without prejudice, question or pressure and be with friends. We are not asked why we have come or what we expect to obtain just that we have some faith and have a good time.

As I said before, this was not a lightning bolt moment or a call from the heavens, but it seems that this was possibly the work of God calling my family further into his family just by the simple acts of kindness and friendship of other people. I will always give thanks that I have been asked and introduced into the friendship and family of the Church of St James.

Jason Hall

BOOK OF THE MONTH

Rhythms of Grace by Tony Horsfall (published BRF 2012 £7.99)

Are you a busy person – perhaps over-busy? If so, can I urge you to read this book – it might change your life! Author Tony Horsfall wrote this book as someone who was very much an activist, but with an increasing dissatisfaction with his own spiritual life, as well as concern at the number of highly qualified and gifted people involved in Christian ministry who experience burn-out. In this book he shows how contemplative spirituality has vital lessons for us about discovering intimacy with God. Particular chapters that struck me were on Stillness, Silence and Solitude.

To quote one reviewer “For over-busy Christians and leaders, this book is a must. It is about much more than pace in the race. It is about going deeper with Jesus.” The theme of this book is very much in tune with our Team Rector’s message in the February issue of the Chronicle about being a Mary, taking time to listen to Jesus, rather than always being a frantically busy Martha. This is a book I strongly recommend for anyone.

Tony Beetham

Gardening

Some of you may remember that I wished to entertain Joe Swift from Gardeners' World to lunch at Christmas because he was willing to fail with (and tell us about) his new allotment. This year he went for gold! For years Alan Titchmarsh has teased Joe about designing a garden for Chelsea. This year Joe took up the challenge and won a Gold at his first attempt. I take my hat off to him! I liked his design, but even one of his lovely wooden arches would be rather overwhelming in my garden.

Some of the criticism at the Chelsea Show was that there were gardens full of weeds (not true of Joe's). So I wondered if weeds could improve mine. Well, several months of my being totally unfit to do anything in the garden have given me a chance to find out! The eight grass varieties in my unmown lawn, some over three feet high, are interspersed with moss, daisies, and dandelions, and can be improved by cats playing hide and seek! The answer is "NO".

LAVENDER: This popular flower has two great advantages – it is easy to grow and it has the most enchanting perfume.

It gets its name from *lavare* the Latin word for "to wash" as from ancient times it has been used to make perfumes and to scent soap. The Romans were enthusiastic about washing and taking public baths but after the fall of their empire the rest of the world tossed hygiene away with the bathwater. Even royalty seldom washed. Elizabeth I would take an annual bath scented with lavender oil but her successor to the English throne, James I, never even washed his hands. Instead he rubbed them with the edge of a wet napkin! Of course water in the times of the Tudors and Stewarts in this country was often polluted by sewage, so perhaps even lavender oil could not make it suitable for washing (and beer, not water, was the safest for drinking). One of the pleasant things that the settlers in the New World discovered was the cleanliness of the water which made a person "healthful, fresh and lustie".

Soap was expensive, when you could get it. In 1562 "four pounds of gray soap" cost twice as much as a whole pig. Perfumes, such as frankincense were astronomically priced. Lavender water was easy to make but pure lavender oil was a luxury. No wonder when it takes two hundred pounds of blossom to produce one pound of distilled lavender essence.

By the nineteenth century washing was in vogue, but to smell perfumed was viewed suspiciously, especially in men. It was, however, recommended that laying sprigs of lavender on clean linen was a good practice.

Some botanists say that lavender came originally from India though it was popularly supposed to have been introduced from the Mediterranean countries. It probably reached us through France where in the Provence regions you find it grown extensively. Travelling near the town of Grasse when the lavender is in bloom is a unique experience. The air is heavy with the scent. The plant likes dry, chalky soil and bright sunlight brings out its special perfume.

Lavender engenders well-being. From early times it was used by apothecaries to calm the nerves. Walking along a bed of lavender is supposed to arouse passion! Lavender, fresh or dried, in a drawer or the oil sprinkled in a warm bath has the ability to refresh and soothe.

Maybe it is only the type and age of the weed that matters. Two-feet high dandelions are not an improvement, but daisies can be. We should have eaten the dandelions earlier.

At the Show, one of the winning plants was a perennial foxglove. It is sterile and therefore does not spread seeds around. I assume that it therefore is no use to bees, offering no nectar or pollen. One shrub which I now have in the garden is a *buddleia globosa*. This can grow well above my height and needs only minimal pruning after flowering (i.e. now). The spherical orange balls have really attracted the bees. It is hardy in my front garden, and looks as if it may grow larger than the flowering plum and flowering cherry on either side of it.

I hope that your gardens are blooming well and being productive.

Diana Pope

THE HIGHS AND LOWS OF SUMMER GARDENING

During the first weekend of July last year someone saw fit to pull up all the rows of our main-crop potatoes on the allotment and make off with the tubers. They must have been disappointed as these are usually cropped in September. The thieves saw flowering and bushy growth and expected a haul. That same week I went to the Hampton Court Flower Show and saw cold-treated early potatoes on sale. Now we had already had disappointing results from our earlies, (we try a different variety each year and would not recommend these!), so I bought some. The idea is that they can be planted in July, or even later, for lovely new potatoes later in the year. If you have room, give them a try as they are going to be more generally available.

Our early spuds this year, variety Charlotte, are looking good. I am all for digging them as soon as they flower as fresh new potatoes are delicious. However my better-half always wants to be more cautious but he generally agrees that I am right! My bugbear is that he can't abide mint boiled with them and I love it. Still, we do have to make concessions in this life, don't we?

There is a lot of cutting to be done in July. Cutting hedges (not if birds are still nesting), dead-heading roses, delphiniums, oriental poppies, picking sweet peas so the plants will keep on flowering and cutting back the long whips on the wisteria. It amazes me just how much our wisteria grows!

July is a good time to have a really long study of the garden as it should be in full bloom. Just to see what works and what doesn't. Take a note of gaps to be filled next year and what should be scrapped or divided. It is also good to go on garden visits to see what other gardeners do and pick up on tips.

In the greenhouse, I shall be looking for and taking out any side-shoots on my tomato plants and feeding them regularly, once I see fruits developing. I have four different varieties this year as well as four varieties of chilli. A careful watch for pests is called for. I grow basil to discourage whitefly. Some people grow French marigolds for this but I can't stand the smell of them.

During the same weekend as the loss of spuds last year, all the berries on my jostaberry were taken too. I have one huge and straggly bush. (I think that is why few people grow it!) However, it is a massive cropper of berries that are like big blackcurrants but with a milder taste and it is thornless. It is a cross between gooseberry and two blackcurrant species. I usually make jam (badly, most often) though I have made ice-cream and sorbets and often tend to leave a lot for the birds as it crops just as Wimbledon is happening!

One thing I do intend to do is spend more time just relaxing in the garden. Here's hoping that this summer is sunny and warm. Have a good one!

Joan Coleman

**An honest seven year old admitted calmly to her parents that
Billy Brown had kissed her after class. “How did that happen”
gasped her mother. “It wasn’t easy”, admitted the girl, “but
three girls helped me catch him.”**

The Origins of Cowley

Part Twenty Three

A few months ago I wrote about the funeral of Frederick Merritt which finally took place eleven days after he died. The notoriety of the occasion, due mainly to the stubborn nature of the vicar of Cowley, reached the national newspapers in February 1875. I did, however, promise to follow up the story with the outcome of this and its impact on the villages of Temple and Church Cowley. As you will see that impact is worthy of an article of its own.

According to "The Oxford Times" a few weeks later the Rev. John Coley, who had recently resigned his post as vicar of Cowley, was asked to officiate on Easter Sunday in the village church at Somerton. It was not known in the village that this clergyman was he who had caused such a stir in the newspapers only a month or so before. One particularly hospitable farmer (mentioned in the story as Mr B) and his wife invited the reverend gentleman to dine with them after the service. Although the Cowley scandal had been the talk of the neighbouring villages the Sunday meal with Farmer B and Mrs B passed pleasantly enough until the conversation got round to what had occurred at St James' Church. "Don't you think, sir" said the farmer's wife, "that he deserved to be whipped out of the church?"

Rev Coley made some evasive remarks muttering something about "conscientious motives" but still did not disclose his identity. The following morning Mrs B received a note naming the clergyman she had entertained. She was heard to exclaim "I wish I had only known, I would just have given it to him!"

The "Oxford Times" reporter left it to his readers to decide whether she meant a whipping or the rough end of her tongue.

Of course the Bishop of Oxford was very perturbed with the situation in Cowley which had not been going well throughout the five years of Rev Coley's incumbency. The huge row over Fred Merritt's funeral and the immediate resignation of the vicar left a gap which needed to be filled. It would take a quite remarkable person to reunite the villagers with The Church and heal deep wounds. At St Mary Magdalen Church in Oxford the curacy had been filled by a young, vibrant , newly ordained man named Rev George Moore. He was the Bishop's choice to fill the vacancy. Happy in his current role Rev Moore initially refused the offer. However the Bishop persuaded him to "give it a try". What followed has become the stuff of legend. Georgie Moore was never a person to do things by halves. He moved into the parish in 1875 and set about his task with zeal and dedication. He soon came to love the people of Cowley. His first home was in Temple Road in a house which has Manor House carved into the stone over the door. It never was a manor house, its proper name is Quintain. He was a tough character, having gained a university blue in boxing, he had a quick temper and often used bad language. He did, however, have a real love of children and spent much of his time visiting his two church schools.

Space does not allow for the many wonderful stories told about Georgie Moore this month so we need to hear these in the next article. Suffice it to say that his incumbency lasted for fifty three years and his funeral in 1928 was a cause of much grief in our parish.

By the way nothing was heard of Rev. Coley either in Cowley or in Somerton again. I often wonder what became of him and his position in the Church.

A CELEBRATION AT ST CHRISTOPHER'S SCHOOL

On 1st June, the Friday that the school broke up for the Jubilee weekend and the half-term holiday, St Christopher's was en fête. It was to be the opening ceremony of their story garden, the project they won last year with the help of many of The Chronicle readers. The challenge was to collect vouchers from The Oxford Mail with the school with the most (proportionate to the number of children on the role) winning an exciting development on their premises.

Miss Michele Harris designed a story garden with help and advice from the pupils and it has now been created by the building firm Leadbitters. I was fortunate enough to be given a guided tour of the garden before the ribbon-cutting ceremony. There is a secluded area, with a little fence and a picket gate, under a shady tree. In the bushes there are large hand-made butterflies and dragonflies. These were constructed by the older children "for the little ones". The seats, for story time, are little tree stumps and painted wooden toadstools. All round the fence are the letters of the alphabet interspersed with shiny flower rosettes.

THE "AFTER THE JUBILEE" SUPPER

As so many people were busy on the occasion of our Jubilee Day (some of us tied up with children's activities and the hilarious darts match) much of the DVD "The Diamond Queen" which was shown on the big screen was missed. It was decided that we should stage a re-run and couple this with the lovely photos of the event taken (all day) by our talented photographer, Les Hemsworth.

To add to the fun our brilliant catering team – Chris Woodman, Margaret Weller and Pat Chambers suggested a ploughman's supper. I don't know how many ploughmen ever added fruit salad and cream, treacle tart or apple pie and custard to their suppers but we did.

A small group of parishioners and friends enjoyed a very pleasant evening which rounded off the Jubilee celebrations nicely.

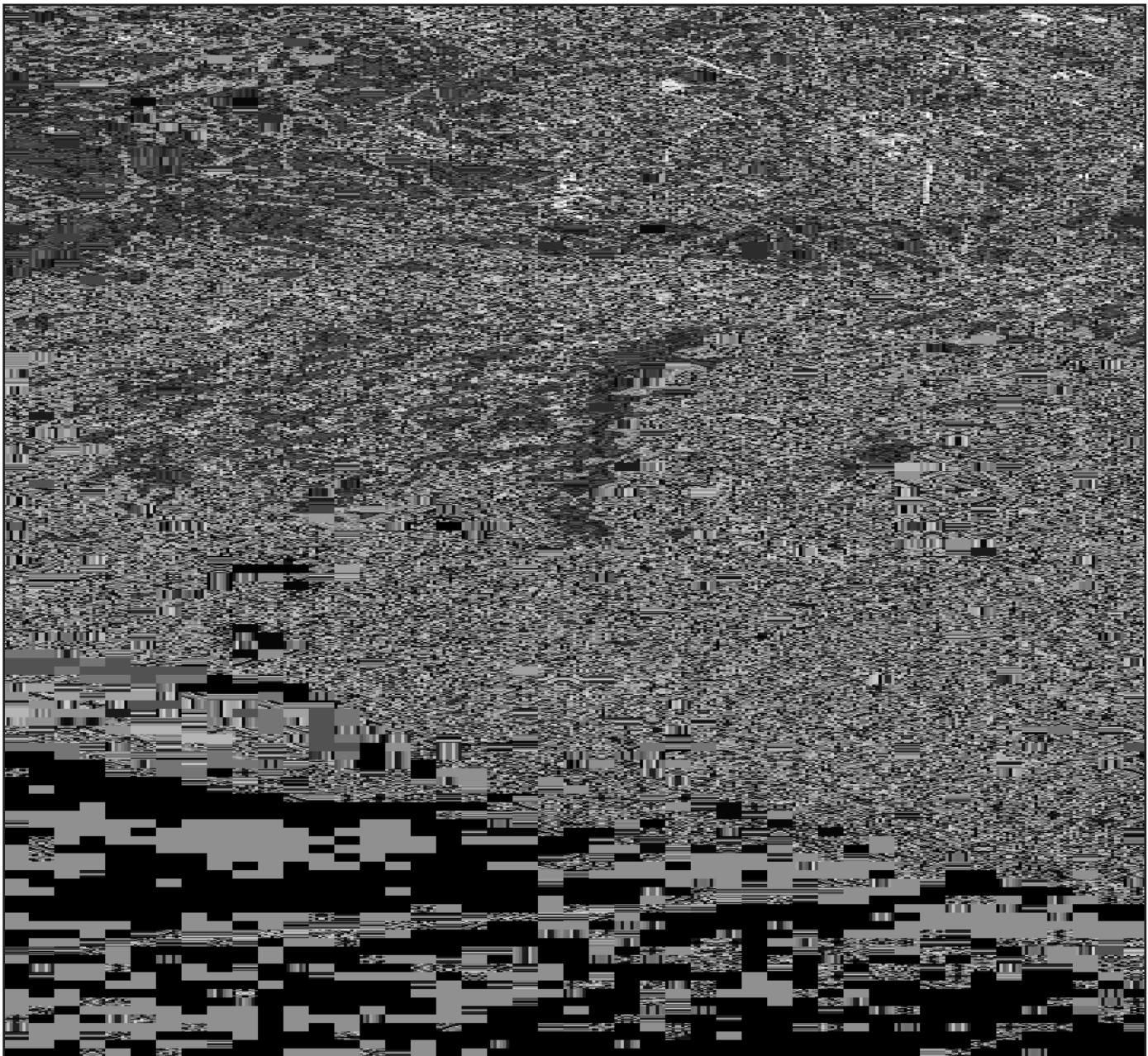
There is, further on, a splendid "pirate ship", complete with a jolly roger and real sails. It is, in fact, a perfect climbing frame too but how brilliant to make up stories about adventures to be had! Not far away is a story bridge. It does not cross a stream so I was given an explanation of how it works by the young lady who escorted me. If you are making up a story it needs a beginning, a middle and an end so once on the bridge you cannot cross it until you have completed each phase. Clever!

There were other aspects of the garden all brilliantly thought out and soon there will be a Wendy house which will double up as a play shop. It is all very impressive.

After the opening ceremony every child, each wearing a crown made earlier in the day, was treated to a Jubilee tea with cup-cakes, squash and biscuits. The tables were set out on the playground, bunting had been strung up, the head teacher wore a "Queen" mask and carried a stuffed corgi (!) and everyone there had a flag to wave. And wave they did to "Land of Hope and Glory" and The National Anthem. The parents were much in evidence to serve and clear up and a great time was enjoyed by everyone.

Rosanne

HOW IS YOUR LOCAL KNOWLEDGE?



Each month we are going to challenge our readers to identify a Cowley landmark. Our roving photographer, Les Hemsworth, will choose a local view to get you thinking.

Answer next month.

Last month's answer:

Plaque On Side Of Flats At St James' Church



CHURCHYARD GRAVE PROJECT CIRCLES OF THE WORLD

The team of volunteers are making good progress, especially when the weather is kind to us. With all the rain lately the graveyard has been pretty soggy and the weeds and grasses are growing with wild abandon, obscuring lots of the lettering. But we are still enjoying the work and have nearly completed transcribing the Lower grave yard, the next challenge will be the older graves, but there are techniques, ways and means to decipher the memorials. We are learning all the time.

The stone that we uncovered for the Navigator of The Royal Canadian Air Force still remains a mystery, though we have established that Flying Officer Frank MacGregor MYERS has an official Commonwealth War Graves memorial in Harrogate Cemetery. The sad story behind his death shows that he and the crew of 7 airmen were killed in a plane crash in Yorkshire but how he is linked to our Parish would be nice to know.

We meet on Wednesdays (weather permitting) at 10.am and continue until 1.pm. Volunteers or just interested passers-by are very welcome and we have the help of several volunteers from the Oxfordshire Family History Society.

Please contact either Erma on 748153 or Sheila 433266 for any further information.

Sheila Tree

God placed a small globe in the great universe

Close enough for the sun to enfold

It with the blessing of warmth and of light

So the first of our circles is gold

The waters God sent to give life to the globe

Made the dull earth sparkle anew

They reflected the hue of the bright azure sky.

The next circle must surely be blue

Then grass, herbs and trees all started to grow

Such wonderful plants to be seen

The branches gave shade, the fruits gave food.

The world was encircled with green.

Man learnt, through skill, to conjure up fire.

The heart of a flame, fierce and bright,

Was the same as the blaze of the setting sun.

Bright red tells the coming of night.

God sent a soft blanket to cover the sky,

Set with stars, as the earth takes its rest.

The sweet velvet night which comes to us all

As we're circled with darkness, and blessed.

These circles unite the people on earth

To value, respect and uphold

God's gifts are for each man, woman and child

Forever His treasures unfold.

Rosanne Butler

WHERE YOU'RE NEEDED

By Patience Strong

Where you are, just where you are, is where you're needed most of all. Where you're placed today is where you have to answer duty's call ... Maybe you believe that you could really do more good elsewhere – Maybe so; but here is where you have been stationed. Here, not there.

Where you are is where you're wanted – Where God has a job for you – Where you find yourself today there's something only you can do ... So accept the situation, working out your destiny – through your present circumstances. That's the way it has to be.

Never think you're wasted as the good years slip away. Is there any future in it? That is not for you to say ... Though you feel you're getting nowhere in a circle cramped and small – Where you are, just where you are, is where you're needed most of all.

STORIES FROM THE OLYMPICS

The Torch

On 9th July 2012 the Olympic flame will pass right through the heart of Cowley as part of its long journey throughout the British Isles. This journey will culminate with the lighting of the beacon in the Olympic Stadium in London on 27th July.

It arrived in the UK at the tip of Cornwall on 18th May ready to travel by land and water for 8000 miles carried by 8000 torch bearers. The journey will take 70 days to complete. Thousands of excited onlookers gathered to greet its arrival by a special British Airways flight into the Royal Naval Air Station at Culdrose. The flame had already travelled 2000 miles around Greece after it was lit by the rays of the sun in Athens on 10th May. It was handed to Princess Anne and was then placed safely in a lantern to make its journey to Britain by plane. From the lantern David Beckham, using one of the London torches lit a cauldron on the tarmac to mark the historic arrival of the flame.

The Legend and Spirit of the Flame

The conveyance of fire goes way back into the central theme of Greek legend. According to myth the Titan god, Prometheus stole fire from Zeus who had hidden it from Man. Prometheus returned it giving light to Man's darkness. The idea of the passing of the flame symbolises this. The myth epitomises the hope for an earthly civilisation that benefits mankind through human achievement in harmony with the elemental forces within nature.

The ancient games were held for the first time in Greece in 776 BC and took place every four years for thousands of years. Warring cities in the region stopped fighting so that people could travel safely to watch. While the games took place they observed this cessation of hostilities no matter what their conflicts might be. The spirit of tolerance and fair play is at the heart of the games today.

Ten Torch Facts:

1. The design of the Olympic torch varies for each games.
2. It is made from lightweight materials such as aluminium, even glass.
3. It is powered by long-lasting fuel such as

magnesium. This year's torches contain propane and butane gas.

4. A pressurised gas system ensures that it stays alight.
5. Torch bearers are allowed to keep the torch they carried.
6. During air transit the flame is carried in a small lantern similar to a miner's lamp.
7. Torch bearers have an escort supplied by the Olympic Games Organising Committee to ensure their safety and to maintain successful ignition of the flames.
8. In Sydney 2000, flare technology was adapted to maintain underwater ignition as the torch went under the Great Barrier Reef.
9. The triangular shape signifies the three times that London has hosted the games – 1908, 1948 and 2012.
10. Each torch this year has 8000 holes to signify the number of people who will bear the torch.

The Ancient Games

These began with simple foot races and took place on one day. Whoever won the "stade", a race of about 200 yards in distance, would be crowned in a laurel wreath and have the honour of lighting the flame after the four years duration. In Greek four years is known as an Olympiad and it is easy to guess how long the area (stadium) would have to be to accommodate the important race.

As more disciplines were added such as boxing, wrestling and chariot racing (which got very competitive and dangerous) the games lasted longer. People camped out around the stadium and jugglers, acrobats, magicians and the like came to entertain the crowds. Winners of the events were treated like heroes. The greatest honours went to the winners of the pentathlon. The motto of the Olympics – swifter, higher, stronger is the same today as it was in 776 BC.

The Modern Games

It was a French baron who revived the Olympic Games in Athens in 1896. Twelve countries gathered to celebrate these and it was estimated that 80,000 people crowded into the stadium. Event after event took place and the Greek people grew more and more disappointed as American athletes accumulated nine of the twelve gold medals. However salvation was at hand in the final event. This was the marathon, the long

distance road race. The race was introduced to commemorate the 24 miles which an Athenian soldier ran in 490BC to tell the citizens of the Greek victory which had been won near the village of Marathon. The poor chap fell dead in his tracks.

In the marathon in 1896 a local post office messenger, Spyros Louis, won for Greece thus restoring their national pride. The present distance for a marathon race was established at the 1908 games in London. It was decided that the venue for the start would be Windsor Castle which is 26 miles from the White City Stadium where the athletics track was situated. A further 385 yards were added which would take the runners round the area to finish in front of the Royal Box. Queen Alexandra would present a cup to the winner from there. So from that day till now every marathon run in the world is measured at 26 miles, 385 yards.

Notable Olympic Events

Oxford don George Stuart Robson travelled to Athens in 1896 to compete in the hammer throwing having gained a blue at Oxford in that discipline. The hammer was not included in the events so he

entered shot and discus competitions instead. He failed to gain a medal but did win a gold medal for Britain (our first ever) in the Olympic competition for reciting a Greek ode relevant to the games.

In 1908 Winston Churchill's aunt, the Duchess of Westminster, entered her 8 metre yacht in the sailing regatta along with an all-male crew (women should not have competed) and won a silver medal in her class.

At the Paris Olympics in 1924 a soldier in the Finnish army earned the nickname as the flying Finn. Nurmi gained 22 world records in his career. In Paris people thought he had bitten off more than he could chew but he won 5 individual gold medals and also helped his team in the cross country event to a further win.

In 1928 girls were allowed to compete in athletics for the first time.

In London in 1948 a Cowley girl, Maureen Gardner, was credited with an identical winning time in the 80 metres hurdles final as the Dutch athlete Fanny Blankers-Koen. She only received the silver medal as the Dutch woman's arm broke the tape first.

ST JAMES PATRONAL FESTIVAL

As 25th July (St James' Day) falls in the middle of the week this year the celebration is planned for Sunday, 22nd July. For a change, instead of our usual barbecue it will be marked with a Church Service at St James' Church at 4 pm, followed by a cream tea at 5 pm. The tea, in the Church Centre, will consist of homemade scones with cream and strawberry jam and a cup of tea. The cost of the tea will be £3.50 and tickets can be obtained from May or Rosanne.

Obviously a lovely occasion not to be missed.

Chronicle

Editorial Team – Rosanne Butler, Sally Hemsworth, Phil Hind, May Morgan

Deadline for the September edition: 24 August 2012

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

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NEWS FROM ST FRANCIS

At long last the great day had come -the day when our new Team Vicar would be installed at St Francis. As I looked around our re-arranged furniture with everything clean and tidy, I could not help thinking that the fact that we had reached this state of readiness in such good shape, was in no small measure due to the very generous help we had received from our friends at the other end of the parish. We simply could not have managed on our own. So we owe them a huge vote of thanks. However, ready we were, and looked forward in thrilled anticipation for all that was about to take place. Miracle of miracles, after all the rain we have had to put up with, the day dawned good. It was fine with some sun, and it just got better and better as the day went on. By the time our guests had begun to arrive we had brilliant sunshine and it was very warm. The Lord had indeed blessed us in this respect.

As we had begun to think of the things we must do, it became increasingly clear that one of our main problems was of logistics. We anticipated a congregation of some 130 to 150 people and we simply were not used to dealing with such large numbers in our little church. We had no side aisles to give us extra capacity so some drastic rearrangements needed to be done. We were just beginning to put some chairs into place on the Sunday afternoon when Howard arrived with the heavy brigade from St James. Then things started to happen quite fast. Strong arms were available to lift and push some heavier furniture around, and by the time they had finished our numbers problem had been solved and the church looked really good.

However, we not only had to seat this large body of people but we had to feed them as well, no easy task. We need not have worried. Our dear Chris, the catering genius, along with her faithful team worked wonders, and produced a dazzling array of dishes immaculately prepared. Our visitors from Dursley were very impressed.

Yet all these things are marginal compared with the real focus of the day – the service itself, conducted by the Bishop and Archdeacon, supported by the Area Dean and our own clergy team. All was very clearly set out in the carefully prepared Order of Service Booklets printed by our team at St James. As it said on the front page, Skye Denno was to be licensed to “the cure of souls” in this parish. A strange and old fashioned phrase that implies that her primary duty was the spiritual care of her parishioners, quite a responsibility. The service itself with its mixture of hymns, prayers, dedications, commitments and promises, challenged not only Skye, but all of us, to work together in mutual fellowship to do God’s work in this area. There were some very gracious words said, and we in the congregation had to give our response and our welcome to our new team vicar. All in all it was a most moving service that made a lasting impression on all of us.

So now at long last we are poised in St Francis to move forward in faith under our new leader, and break new ground in the service of the Lord. We pray that her time with us will be a happy one, and that the Lord will bless her in all her endeavours.

John Shreeve

SAINT OF THE MONTH Joseph of Arimathea

Although our saint of the month certainly lived and his presence in the Bible is undisputed very little is known about his life. What makes him an attractive saint is the large number of legends attached to his name.

It is certainly true that he was a Jewish councillor who became a secret disciple of Jesus. He took no part in the condemnation of Our Lord and, after the crucifixion asked Pilate for His body. It was Joseph who offered the tomb, newly hewn out of a rock, in which to lay Him and it was he who ordered a huge stone to be placed over the entrance.

As soon as the early Church began to be established apocryphal stories emerged as to Joseph's part in it. One story tells of his important share in the foundation of the church at Lydda. A French legend connects him to the mystery of the Holy Grail, the cup which was believed to have collected the blood of Jesus at Calvary. And so the legends about him grew, mainly focused on Glastonbury Abbey in Somerset.

William of Malmesbury wrote a treatise on the Antiquity of Glastonbury in 1125 with a fictitious chapter describing the apostle Philip's collaboration with Joseph of Arimathea, preaching the Gospel in Gaul. He (Philip) was said to then have sent twelve disciples to England where the King received them cordially giving them an island named Yniswitrin on which to build a tiny wooden church. The island later became known as Glastonbury. Because the abbey which was founded there fell on hard times in the twelfth century and also met with the disapproval of King Richard I the legends of its connection to Joseph were elaborated. At the time they were passionately believed in, even to the extent that the saint brought not only Jesus' blood to the abbey but a cruet containing His sweat from the Cross as well. This legend helped to foster the claim of Glastonbury as a senior centre in England of the Benedictine order. Pilgrims flocked there.

By 1502 a poem called "The Lyfe of Joseph of Arimathia" was written which tells of a number of miraculous cures accomplished by Joseph whilst in the West Country towns of Wells, Ilchester and Yeovil. It also contains the first mention of the Holy Thorn for which Glastonbury is still famous. It was said that Joseph thrust his staff into the earth outside the abbey where it took root. A thorn tree grew and blossoms appeared on it at Christmas – a miracle. Whether the thorn tree is descended from Joseph's staff is debatable but it does, to this day, bloom in December. It is claimed that the saint was buried in the abbey at Glastonbury but when this was challenged in 1367 it was received with a stony silence.

Joseph of Arimathea's saint day is 31st August.

4th Cowley (St Francis) Brownies

Since the Easter Holidays the Brownies have enjoyed completing a range of activities. We have been learning about the Olympics which included designing our own sports kits. We are looking forward to some more Olympic themed activities before the end of term including our own version of the pentathlon.

We also enjoyed celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. We made our own Union flags, completed some '60 second' challenges, folded, decorated and floated our own paper boats and decorated cupcakes that were fit for a Queen.

We spent a (surprisingly dry and sunny) afternoon with other Rainbows, Brownies and Guides from around Oxfordshire at the 'Diamond Day' celebration for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. We tried out lots of activities – with particular favourites including crossing the rope bridge, cooking over a camp fire and decorating biscuits.

As well as all this, we have been having fun completing other crafts and games, sharing things that are special to us and making our own mini edible cars! We have continued to enjoy having one of the local Police Community Support Officers coming to our meetings to help out and join in our games.

We have lots more activities planned for the rest of the term – including a walk along the River Thames and a Pamper evening!



Would you love to lose weight, be supported by a warm welcoming group and be part of something amazing?

Come and join us and make your weight loss dreams come true!

Cowley Slimming World
St James Church Centre
Beauchamp Lane

Monday nights 5pm and 7pm Sessions

Call Rachel on 749852 or 07764844994

Notes from an Ordinand

It has been eight months since our lovely friends at St Francis' gave us a send-off to remember as Lydia and I set out on a new phase of our lives. In the last week of September I submitted my DPhil thesis, tied up the loose ends of a brief academic career as a musicologist, and knuckled down to learning New Testament Greek. In the first week of October, term started in earnest, and a cohort of rather green men and women were welcomed to Wycliffe Hall on the Banbury Road with six long expositions (hour-long sermons!) on St Paul's Epistle to Titus. The Letter is a short set of instructions on how Christian clergy ought to be and behave. As we went through the letter that first week of October it hit us over and over again: within the space of two or three years, all of us in the room would be ordained. I can remember having so many conversations with other students that week, all along roughly the same lines: how on earth did we get here, and how on earth will we end up being people the Church should ordain?

We're now a year on, and whilst we're still asking ourselves some of the same questions, some of the answers have started to become clearer, too. I have spent the last year learning New Testament Greek, and studying the theology of the Old Testament, the person of Christ in Matthew's and John's Gospels, the history and doctrine of the church in its first five centuries, and the mediaeval church. So I definitely know the bible better, and have learned a good deal of history and doctrine, as well. I've been on mission to a lovely parish in Bath, and gone door-knocking to promote Christianity for the first time in my life! So I know a bit more about practical evangelism and pastoral work, too. And I've been experiencing worship and preaching in an evangelical

community—one quite far removed from my own Catholic inclinations—so my horizons are being constantly broadened.

One of the things that both Lydia and I have been very aware of over these last few months is how much God has used the people who have cared for us as instruments of our own spiritual growth. In the last term, Wycliffe has lost (variously through redundancy, resignation, and replacement) getting on for half its staff; and this summer, a good third of the students are leaving to take up curacies. In amongst all the upheaval, not to mention the spiritual confusion that cut-throat financial decisions cause in Christian communities, it has been a constant support to remember that God loves us utterly, and is our great defender. And it has been thrilling to realize that, as a couple, Lydia and I learned that God is as good as he is in no small measure thanks to the faithful witness, love, and care, of our friends at St Francis' and St James'. Thank you!

So—a year in to training. How did we get here? By the grace of God, and through the love and encouragement of our friends in Cowley. And how will I end up being someone the Church should ordain in two years' time? I don't know all of the answer yet—but I am getting some sense of what it is that makes a good priest, and I do feel as if God is starting to shape me into that sort of person. Do please keep praying for both me and Lydia, and that God will continue to mould us into the people he wants us to be. And we promise to keep praying for you, too!

Lots of love from

Patrick (your very own Ordinand), and **Lydia** (your very own Ordinand's Spouse)

Into the hills – with a purpose

Until A few weeks ago I had never heard of Mirik. I bet you have no idea either where it is. Well I had to look it up because in October I will be there with around 30-40 Christian leaders from Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, India and Bangladesh. Now you might be getting some idea where Mirik is. If you enjoy a good cup of tea you will have heard of Darjeeling, well Mirik is in the north Indian hills just south of Darjeeling and in just the right place for us because it sits between Nepal and Bhutan and not so far away from Bangladesh and Myanmar.

So now you know where Mirik is – but why am I heading up into the Indian hills? One of the great things about Faith2Share, the organisation I serve, is that we get to work with wonderful Christian leaders from all over the world – not the ‘top boys’ but those working in communities at the grassroots. Last year, some of them asked us to plan some training for them so that they can better serve their communities. Almost all of those who will come to Mirik have had no formal college training

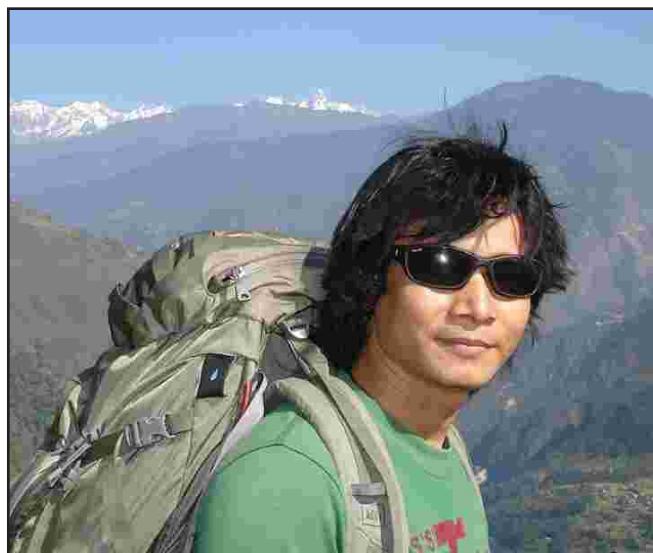
but they are leading large growing churches and serving in their communities. Reuban (see picture) from Nepal, for example, is only in his 30s but has a church to look after as well as an orphanage, a building project to replace houses destroyed in an earthquake, a youth programme and a sports ministry.

In May the trustees of Faith2Share took a brave decision – they agreed to run this training although at that stage we had no idea how we would pay for it. But prayer works. We prayed and in the first week of June someone sent us 5,000 Euros for this and two similar events in Africa. That will cover the costs of the meeting and travel so people can get there but we still need more prayer. We have to ask participants to pay for their own accommodation and food. That comes to £7.25 a day – four days for £29. “A bargain” I hear you say. But not so if you are a farmer in Nepal or a church worker in Bhutan – for them £28 is a LOT of money. Please pray that between now and then each participant will find that £28. (Of course if you wanted to help one person, £23 from you Gift Aided would do it – just speak to me or drop me a line at mark.oxbrow@faith2share.net.)

As you celebrate Harvest Festival this year think of me up in those Indian hills. I might even bring back some Darjeeling tea for us all to share!

Rev. Canon Mark Oxbrow

International Director of Faith2Share



SIGNIFICANT DATES IN JULY AND AUGUST

The 3rd of July marks the beginning of the “Dog Days” for those of us who live north of the equator. These last until 15th August and get their names from the rising of Sirius, the Dog Star. Sometimes moon daisies are called dog daisies and wild roses are also called dog roses and both of these are in full bloom during the Dog Days.

London saw its first omnibus service in 1829. On 4th July that year Mr Shillibeer began the route between Paddington and the Bank of England.

On the 7th of July in 1982 the Queen woke up to find an intruder sitting at the foot of her bed. Michael Fagan was swigging from a bottle of wine he had taken from the royal cellar. She chatted to him for a while and then summoned help when he asked for a cigarette.

The newly completed Tower Bridge was opened to the public for the first time on 9th July 1894.

Queen Victoria moved to her

newly-renovated new address: Buckingham Palace, London, SW1 on 13th July 1837.

15th July is St Swithin’s Day. Legend has it that the weather on this day determines the weather for the next 40 days. Disneyland opened just outside Los Angeles on 18th July 1955. The whole thing had cost \$17 million to build.

On 21st July 1969 the astronaut Neil Armstrong climbed down the ladder of the Lunar Module and walked out on to the surface of the moon – the first man ever to do so. He and Buzz Aldrin were 250,000 miles from home. They took photos of each other and collected rocks to bring back to earth.

Oxygen was discovered on 1st August 1774 by Joseph Priestley. People throughout the life of man had been breathing it without knowing it!

Christopher Columbus set sail from Palos in Andalusia on

3rd August 1492 on his first expedition across the Atlantic. He hoped to reach India and Asia but found the New World instead.

On 14th August 1930 the Church of England said “yes” very cautiously to birth control.

Composer George Handel began work on a new composition, “The Messiah”, on 22nd August 1741. He completed it on 14th September.

Paris was liberated from German occupation on 25th August 1944 after four years. Hitler had ordered that the city should be destroyed rather than surrender but the general in charge defied him.

It was in 1963 on 28th August that Martin Luther King gave his famous “I have a dream” speech at a Civil Rights demonstration in Washington. He said “I have a dream that the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will sit together at the table of brotherhood.”

RECIPES

Smoked Fish Pâté

2 smoked mackerel or 8ozs kipper fillets
8ozs butter
8 fl ozs single cream
Juice of a lemon
Ground Pepper
Dash of whisky or Worcester sauce or Tabasco (if desired)
Skin and bone fish and liquidise
Melt butter and gently add to fish till it turns easily in the liquidiser
Turn puree into bowl and stir in the cream, lemon juice and seasoning
Put into one large, or small individual containers and chill
(This can be kept in the freezer for about a week)
Lovely served with warm toast.

Baked Rhubarb

4 – 5 stalks of rhubarb
4-6 oz caster sugar (according to taste)
Sprinkle of cinnamon or ginger

Heat oven to 200C/fan 180C/gas 6. Rinse the rhubarb and shake off the excess water. Trim the ends and cut the rhubarb into little finger-sized pieces. Put the rhubarb in a shallow dish or baking sheet with sides, tip the sugar over, toss together, then shuffle the rhubarb so it is in a single layer. If required, sprinkle with cinnamon or ginger

Cover with foil and roast for 15 minutes. Remove the foil. The sugar should have dissolved, so give everything a little shake and roast for another 5 minutes or until tender and the juices are syrupy. Test with a sharp knife; the rhubarb should feel tender, not mushy, and still have kept its shape.

You can also do this dish with plums, peaches or nectarines

My boss was complaining at a staff meeting that he wasn't getting any respect. Later in the morning he went out and came back with a sign which read "I'm the Boss" and taped it to his office door. When he got back from lunch he found a note attached to the sign that said "Your wife rang and wants her sign back"

SEASHELLS

We would like to thank all members of the congregation and the many other people who contributed to the "Sainsbury's Active Kids" and "Tesco Sports" vouchers". The final total amounted to 1,800 Sainsbury's vouchers with which we will be able to exchange for more equipment for Seashells.

The Tesco vouchers collected amounted to 1,000 and were passed on to St Christopher's School.

We were delighted with the results and thank you all most sincerely

May Morgan

CHRISTIAN AID 2012

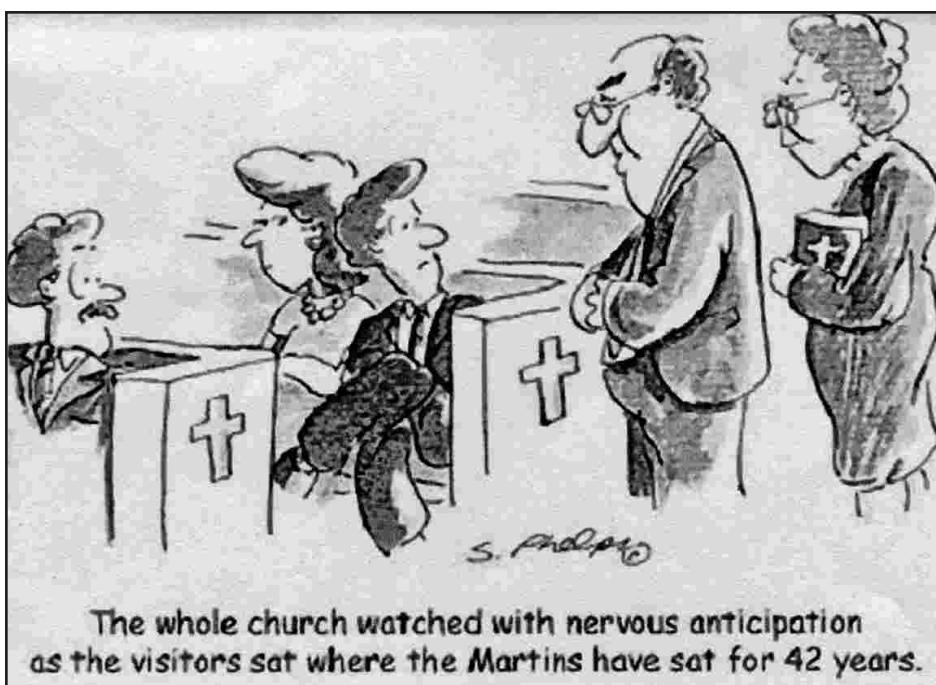
What are targets for? To be hit, of course....and we have done so!

Our Christian Aid Week door to door envelope collection plus 'open plate' donations has raised £1,181.97. To this, we are adding the January Quiz profits of £275.50, so will pay over £1,457.47. No, that is far too messy a figure: we will round it to a tidy £1,460. The £245 from Super Soup Sunday in Lent has already been paid to Christian Aid but it means that so far in 2012, we have raised £1,708 –

and the target was £1500! So herewith is a revised target - could it be £2,000 if we donated at Harvest Thanksgiving?

Our thanks to the 19 St James family members who undertook door to door collections in 22 roads. Those who had most fun did the job as a pair or team. Here is another target – let us hit at least 10 more streets next year.

Lesley Williams and Frank Butler



CHRONICLE ORDERS FOR 2012 – 2013

Please see over the page your form for the next ten issues of the Chronicle. If you would like to reorder please hand in your slip to May Morgan or Norah Shallow by 26 August with £4.00. New subscribers can obtain their slips from the two churches.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Photograph from The Cowley Chronicle, August 1964



Children enjoying themselves in the new swimming pool at St James' School. There was not room for the pool beside the old part of the school and so it has been erected near to St James' Hut. The part of the cost which has to be met from school funds is £157, and this has now been raised, thanks to wide support from parents and children at the school, and others.

The pool is 33ft by 12ft and can hold 3ft of water, though the depth is normally maintained between 2ft 6ins and 2ft 9ins.

CHRONICLE ORDER

Please reserve _____ copies of Chronicle for me each month, from September 2012 – July 2013
@ £4.00 per subscription.

I enclose £ _____ cash/cheque made payable to Parish of Cowley.

Signed: _____ Print name: _____

Phone: _____ I would like (name) _____
to collect my Chronicle

NEWS FROM CHURCH COWLEY ST JAMES

Jubilee Jubilation

The whole school enjoyed a change from their usual timetable at the beginning of June as part of their special Jubilee Day, reports Maya from Year 5.

On the morning of our Jubilee celebration we arrived in class dressed in red, white and blue.



After registration Mrs Sowersby explained the plans for our day ahead. Then it was time for assembly.

In assembly we practiced our Jubilee song Mr. Walker talked about our guest of honour Sister Frances. He also told us all about the Queen's reign and the Queen herself.

When we came back from assembly, we were given our activities. First we were given an instruction sheet with a diagram of how to draw a corgi. We all settled down to draw one, they turned out well.

After that we were shown Kate and William's coat of arms, then we were given a piece of paper to create our own, there were two different shapes one for boys and one for girls.

After we'd finished the activities we had break time. When we came back from break our tables had vanished! Later we found out they had been moved to the big playground for our HUGE Jubilee

feast! Our very own street party!

Then Mrs Sowersby explained to us what would happen at lunch. Everybody grabbed their lunch and made their way to the playground.

What a sight: everyone gathered on the big playground with lots of lovely bunting and decorations.

There was a V.I.P 'top table'. Sitting on the table was Sister Frances (our guest of honour), our head teacher Mr Walker and the school governors along with some members of the Friends of Church Cowley.

We had a lovely lunch the desserts were especially nice. We had a play after that.

Then we set off for an assembly lead by sister Frances. She told us about how she had the idea for Helen house and Douglas house and her responsibilities as Deputy Lieutenant of the county!) Then it was home time. But before we went home we sang the jubilee song we had been learning for the past week, 'God Bless the Queen'. We sang it to all the parents on the main playground before we left for the half-term break and Jubilee weekend. What a day!

Volunteers Required



If you would like to spend a few hours each week listening to children reading or helping out in other ways, do pop in and make yourself known. Alternatively, contact the school on

01865 778484
office.3210@ocnmail.net

CHRISTMAS 2012

Not quite so bad as Christmas cards in the shops in June but I regret to report that June 20th saw the first Parish Christmas planning meeting. The objectives were to pre-empt last minute panics later in the year and event clashes; for people to know what is coming up and a chance to pace ourselves. We also established some more details for our second Community Festival of Christmas trees.

So here are dates for your diary, giving these events priority status.

NOVEMBER

Saturday 3	Craft Fair
Sunday 4	All Souls services, remembering departed loved ones
Sunday 11	Remembrance Sunday
Friday 16	MU Quiz night with puddings
Sunday 25	Feast of Christ the King

DECEMBER

Sunday 2	Advent Sunday – Parish Evensong
Friday 7-Sunday 9	'Let's light up Christmas' Festival of Christmas Trees possibly including a mini-crib exhibition too
Sunday 9	Evening Festival Carol Service, with refreshments Trees stay up until Epiphany
	Dates to set: Schools' Carol Services Churches Together in Cowley
Sunday 16	Candlelit Carol Services at St James and St Francis with Christmas tea
Monday 24	Midnight Mass in both churches
Tuesday 25	Christmas Day: 10.00 St James 10.30 St Francis
Monday 31	Watchnight party and midnight service, St James Children's New Year's Eve party 4.00pm, St Francis

JANUARY

Sunday 6	Epiphany – gift service at both churches
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'LET'S LIGHT UP CHRISTMAS' - Cowley Festival of Christmas Trees

Dates: Friday, 7 – Sunday, 9 December (set up Wednesday 5, Thursday 6)

Theme: Christmas carols

Charities: Rosy and See-Saw

Templars Square to be asked to set up a display with their own tree, with one from the parish and perhaps from the two charities – with an information board, leaflets, a map to find us. Information letter/e-mail to go out very soon to last year's participants, all other churches and schools with the dates and a request to register interest.

Next planning meeting for all those in the Parish wishing to be involved in the organisation:

Monday 16 July – 9.30 am – Ranklin Room

Lesley Williams

A Parish publication with all these dates will be delivered throughout Cowley just before Advent; there will also be posters and A5 flyers with Christmas dates and Christmas Tree Festival details.

DIARY DATES TO REMEMBER

Women's Institute

Monthly meetings on 3rd Wednesday of month from 2 – 4.30 pm, No meeting in August, St James' Church Centre

Mothers' Union

Monthly meeting on 3rd Monday of each month from 2 – 4.30 pm, No meeting in August, St James' Church Centre

Festival of Prayer

Saturday, 7th July 2012 10 – 5 pm, Ripon College, Cuddesdon, Book with BRF Tel: 319700
www.brfonline.org.uk/festival-of-prayer

Midsummer Concert with Oxford Welsh Male Voice Choir

Saturday, 7th July 2012, 7.30 pm St James Church
Tickets £10, children £5, Contact Pauline Shepheard, Tel: 777026

Diocesan Olympic Picnic

Sunday, 8th July 2012, 12 noon – 3 pm Iffley Road Sports Track, Bring your own picnic or buy from a refreshment van, Guest of honour will be Sir Roger Bannister, There will be races, long jump, games.

Olympic Games

Monday, 9th July 2012

Torch passing through Cowley – Blackbird Leys, along Barns Road, Between Towns Road, Oxford Road, Cowley Road – to South Parks Road 5.55 pm Barns Road

6.03 pm Between Towns Road
6.05 pm Oxford Road
6.11 pm Cowley Road
6.46 pm Celebration Stage, South Parks

More times are available on web

Cowley Festival of Christmas Trees

Planning Meeting, Monday, 16th July 2012, 9.30 am Ranklin Room

St James Patronal Festival

Sunday, 22nd July 2012, Service at St James' Church at

4 pm, followed by a cream tea in the Church Centre at 5 pm

Opening Ceremonies of the Olympics

Bell Ringing, Friday, 27th July 2012 5 pm, St James' Church

Opening Ceremonies of the Para-Olympics

Bell Ringing, Wednesday, 29th August 2012 5 pm, St James' Church

Ride and Stride 2012

Saturday, 8th September 2012 St James' Church, St Francis Church

Open Doors 2012

Saturday, 8th September 2012 and Sunday, 9th September 2012., 10-4 pm at both St James' and St Francis. St James: 2 – 4 pm, St Francis: 12 – 2 pm

Harvest Festival Service

Sunday, 16th September 2012, followed by lunch at the Church Centre

Craft Fair

Saturday, 3rd November 2012. Watch out for details

All Souls Service

remembering departed loved ones. Sunday, 4th November 2012

Remembrance Sunday

Sunday, 11th November 2012

Mothers' Union Quiz night with puddings

Friday, 16th November 2012. Watch out for details

'Let's Light up Christmas' – Cowley Festival of Christmas Trees

Friday, 7th to Sunday, 9th December, St James' Church

Details of the Christmas Services will follow after the summer break

Please note that, although the new Morning Prayer Services listed on the back page are effective from now, there may be times during holidays of the Ministry Team when services are not possible so please consult the LINK during July and August before coming to join in morning prayer.

Sunday Services

ST JAMES' CHURCH, BEAUCHAMP LANE

8.00 am	Holy Communion
10.00 am	Sung Eucharist
Every fourth Sunday:	<i>Church at the Centre</i>
Every third Sunday:	<i>Sunday Lunch</i>

ST FRANCIS' CHURCH, HOLLOW WAY

10.30 am	Parish Eucharist
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Mid-Week Services & Meetings

Monday	8.15 am	Morning Prayer – St James
	2.30 pm	Parish Mothers' Union – St James (3rd Mon)
Tuesday	8.15 am	Morning Prayer – St James
	10.00 am	Seashells Toddler Group : St James
	12.00 pm	Eucharist – St James
	12.30 pm	Tuesday Lunch Club – St James
	2.30 pm	Friends of St Francis – St Francis (2nd & 4th Tues)
Wednesday	8.15 am	Morning Prayer – St James
	9.15 am	Morning Prayer – St Francis
Thursday	8.15 am	Morning Prayer – St James
	7.30 pm	Healing Service (1st Thurs) St James/St Francis (alternate months)
Friday	8.15 am	Morning Prayer – St James
	5.30 pm	Evening Prayer – St James

Home Groups

Leader

Connie Uren:

Friends of St Francis:

(John Streeve/Molly Oliver)

Tony Beetham

Rosanne Butler

Mark Oxbrow

Time / Venue

Alternate Tuesday afternoons at 2:30pm
in St James Church Centre Ranklin Room

Tuesday alternate afternoons at 2:30pm in
St Francis Church

Alternate Tuesday evenings at 7:30pm in
St James Church Centre Ranklin Room

Alternate Thursday mornings at 10:30am
in St James Church Centre Ranklin Room

Alternate Thursday evenings at 7:30pm in
Mark's home

The Parish Office in St James Church
Centre is open:

Tuesday, 2 – 5 pm

Wednesday, 10 – 1 pm

Friday, 9 – 2 pm

The Parish Office is currently staffed by
volunteers and members of the ministry
team, and is open most office hours

Contact details:

Tel: 01865 747680

Email: parishofcowley@hotmail.co.uk

Out of Hours Tel: 07501908378

Website: www.cowleyteamministry.co.uk

Team Rector:

Revd Howard Thornton

Howard has Friday as his day off

Team Vicar:

Revd Skye Denno

Associate Priest:

Revd Richard Chand

richard@cowleyteamministry.co.uk

Non-Stipendiary Ministers:

Revd Canon Mark Oxbrow

Tel: 01865 461953

markoxbrown@aol.com

Revd Amanda Bloor

Tel: 01865 208221

parishofcowley@hotmail.co.uk

Revd Gordon Hickson

Tel: 07713688079

parishofcowley@hotmail.co.uk

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 Sanson Tel 778516

St Francis Church/St James Church:

Through Church Office

Cowley Chronicle – Editorial Team:

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Phil Hind, May Morgan, Sally Hemsworth

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