

A Living Hope

Easter is the season for celebrating new life but this only has meaning in the context of death. Easter follows on from Good Friday as resurrection succeeds death. Last month saw the unexpected death of Rosemary Marshall (an appreciation of whom appears in this issue), a stalwart of both St Luke's and St James' churches and, on Easter Eve, of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother. Death, whether sudden or after a long life, fills us with sadness – particularly if we have felt close to those who have died. Both Rosemary and the Queen Mother were people of Faith who had been brought up as Christians and who had the Christian hope of resurrection at the very centre of their lives.

In an age which has made talk of death a taboo, the Christian Gospel speaks of that death being embraced and transformed by the power of the Risen Christ. St Paul was able to say with utter conviction, "Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O grave, is your sting?"

For those who are left behind after a death, the Christian hope and faith in Resurrection can be a tremendous strength and comfort in the bewilderment and confusion that often follows. The Christian can also receive something much greater. As

we try to commend our loved ones to the Lord there comes that sense of peace, of resolution, of equilibrium, which can only come from God.

Sadly, for many, Easter has almost returned to its pre-Christian pagan festival. Spring flowers, Easter chicks and bunnies, and the ever-popular eggs all conspire to divert our attention away from the death which

is transformed into resurrection.

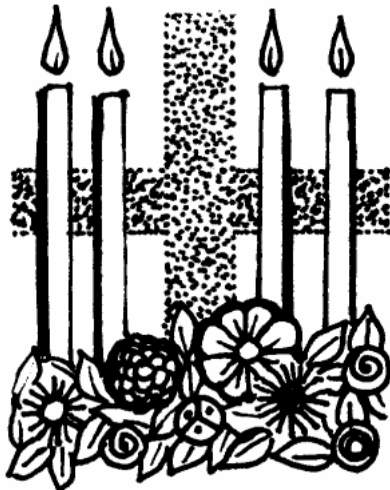
A society which cannot cope with death is that much the poorer. The strange outburst of emotion at the death of Princess Diana bore witness to that. For those who can face death with its pain of bereavement and allow the Risen Christ to enter

into that experience will discover resurrection as a glimpse of the life changing power that will ultimately transform us as we leave this life and enter into eternity.

*One short sleep past, we wake eternally,
And Death shall be no more:*

Death, thou shalt die!

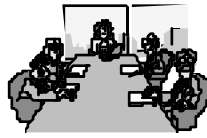
With my best wishes this Eastertide,



Chronicle

THE NEW CHURCH COUNCIL FOR 2002/3

At the Annual Parochial Church Meeting last month the following were elected to the Parochial Church Council:



- * **Churchwardens:** Gwen Ranklin and Norah Shallow
- * **Deanery Synod:** Gwen Ranklin, Leslie Williams, Pat Chung, Crystal Hewlett (*to serve for three years*)

- PCC Members:** Brian Lawson, Helen Doling, Una Dean, Rosanne Butler, Clare Tomlinson, Marlene Shreeve, John Shreeve, June Smith, and Thelma Telling.

- * *also PCC members.*

Oxford Diocesan Renewal Fellowship

IN THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT *Preparing for Pentecost*

Monday evenings at St Mary's Church Thame
at 8 o'clock

Monday 15th April
The Holy Spirit and Vision
Sister Frances Dominica
Founder of Helen House

Monday 22nd April
The Holy Spirit and Power
Peter Hancock
former Rector of Broughton Astley

Monday 29th April
The Holy Spirit and Healing
Dominic Walker
Bishop of Reading

Monday 6th May
The Holy Spirit and the Future
John Leach,
Director of Anglican Renewal Ministries

Monday 13th May
The Holy Spirit and Good News
Eric Delve,
Area Dean of Maidstone

There will be transport available from Cowley each Monday, please give Stephen ring - 747680



WHEN YOU PLAN YOUR GARDEN THIS SPRING

Plant three rows of peas:
Peace of mind
Peace of heart
Peace of soul.

Plant four rows of squash:
Squash gossip
Squash indifference
Squash grumbling
Squash selfishness.

Plant four rows of lettuce:
Lettuce be faithful
Lettuce be kind
Lettuce be happy
Lettuce really love one another.

No garden should be
without turnips:
Turnip for service when
needed
Turnip to help one another
Turnip the music and
dance.

Water freely with patience
and
Cultivate with love.

There is much fruit in your
garden.
Because you reap what you
sow.

To conclude our garden
We must have thyme:
Thyme for fun
Thyme for rest
Thyme for ourselves.

Rosemary Marshall

Teacher, Guide and Friend



Rosemary was born and spent all her life in Cowley. She went to St Christopher's school then later to the Oxford Secondary Technical School and on to teacher training college in Coventry. She taught at schools in Summertown and Blackbird Leys before becoming Head Teacher at St Ebbe's where she stayed until her early retirement.

Rosemary cared deeply for her family and was devastated by the sudden death of her sister Margaret four years ago. A loved and loving aunt and great aunt she was always available to help and encourage, often having the little ones to stay. Her connection with the Guide Association began with her own days as a Guide. She became a Guider with the 4th Cowley (St Francis') Company and later with 5th Cowley (St Luke's). She was then a member of the Cowley District Local Association and a founder member of the Shotover Trefoil Guild. She continued to support the Guiders as District and Division Treasurer and was making cups of tea for a

Guiders' training day on the afternoon before she died.

Rosemary was a very faithful member of her church from childhood, belonging to the youth club and becoming a Sunday School teacher. She served on church committees, the Parochial Church Council and the Deanery Synod and was a Foundation Governor of Church Cowley St James'

School up to the time of her death. St Luke's Church was always dear to her heart but after it closed she transferred her allegiance to St James' with equal enthusiasm.

In retirement Rosemary belonged to the Isis Lace Group and she enjoyed her many trips and holidays with friends.

A very practical Christian, she was interested in people, kind, always generous with her offers of help where it was needed.

Thank God for Rosemary - teacher, Guide, lace-maker, faithful member of her church, much loved aunt, dear friend. Traditionally the Guiders sing these words at the end of a gathering, before they go their separate ways:

Go well and safely,

The Lord be ever with you.

May we pray this for Rosemary now.

MAUREEN AND UNA

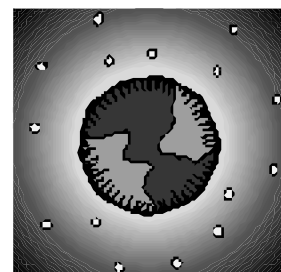
Rosemary died unexpectedly but peacefully on Sunday 17th March

WHO BELIEVES IN DARWIN?

More Church of England clergy now believe that the world was created in six days than at any time since Charles Darwin's *Origin of Species* was published in 1859, a researcher has said. The Rev Michael Roberts, vicar of Cockerham, Glasson and Winmarleigh in Blackburn, and a Templeton Prize-winner, has done extensive research into C of E clerics' beliefs. He found no clergy from 1855 until the 1960s who disagreed with Darwin, even though he studied the writings of more than 200, from all theological perspectives.

All this changed, however, with the publication in Britain in 1968 of *The Genesis Flood*, produced in the United States in 1961, which stated that geological strata were all laid down in the flood.

"I now estimate belief in a six-day creation among the clergy has risen to ten per cent. It is nearly at the same level it was between 1800 and 1850, even though geologists had demonstrated the vast age of the earth from about 1780," he said.





Rosanne interviews Marjorie Pipkin

If anyone were to describe Marjorie as remarkable she'd be the first to deny it with a chuckle. Yet a lady who keeps her home as neat as a pin, walks to church and back regularly and does most of her own shopping all at the age of 90 is, in my estimation, pretty remarkable.

A local girl, Marjorie has lived all her life this side of Magdalen Bridge and has no plans to move elsewhere. She was born in 1912 just before the sinking of the Titanic. The youngest of a family of three, she loved being the baby and admits to being a bit spoilt. However, life began in earnest for her at two and a half when a place for her was offered in the infant department of SS Mary and John School, just round the corner from her home in Magdalen Road. She has an amazing memory and recalls her teacher, Miss Davey, providing a doll's house, a rocking horse, a swing and a sand-pit for her tiny pupils. How educationally advanced that was. She declares that she started school "to make up the number in a class of 40". This was also the time when she remembers hiding under the table at home while the Zeppelins flew overhead and also the elation when the soldiers returned from the World War I battlefields.

She enjoyed school, moving up to the junior girls where she was taught by the legendary Misses Restell and Seward. She began reading at an early age and passed on her skill to the little boy next door. At 11 she moved on to the Girls' Central School in New Inn Hall Street where she developed a love of drama. She told me about a French play which the

school produced ("goodness knows why French") and which they performed at St Basil's Home. At 15 she went to work at Oxford University Press where she collated and stitched pages. Whilst there, in the twenties, she acquired a cost-price cookery book which, though a bit worn, she still uses. A life long church goer she joined the youth drama group at S.S. Mary and John's church and remembers happy times taking their productions, by coach, to near-by villages. It was outside the church in 1936 that she met Maurice, her life-long partner. She says he was attracted to her pretty green coat but I'm sure there was more to it than that. He courted her for five years and they saved hard to afford to get married. Maurice worked at Morris' factory so it was sensible to buy a nice little semi in Liddell Road where she still lives. Her dining room furniture was bought in 1941 and continues in everyday use. Sadly her beloved Maurice died four years after 62 happily married years.

Marjorie's first years in Cowley were lonely ones. A young wife at that time was not expected to work so it wasn't until her baby, Malcolm, was born that the long hours when Maurice was away passed more happily. Her brother and sister were by then married with families so little Malcolm found playmates among his cousins. During World War II Maurice drove 'Queen Mary's', the long recovery vehicles which roamed the country retrieving crashed planes. The famous Cowley Bomb dropped on Liddell Road and Marjorie tells how her frantic husband rushed home to

ascertain her safety, while she and the baby sought refuge in her mum's home in East Oxford. The bomb, by the way, fell onto a nearby house missing three small refugee children all in one bed by inches!

In 1946 she joined the Mothers' Union and the Young Wives' group and "got roped in" to teach Sunday School at the Parish Hall. She took part in many church drama productions and with Maurice was a founder member of the Cowley Community Centre. And so the years passed.

Nowadays she is still a keen M.U. member, belongs to the community centre's senior residents association, plays bingo at St James' Centre and spends each Wednesday taking part in quizzes, competitions and so on at Manzil Way day centre. She shares her home with a much-loved cat who hitches rides on her stairlift. Malcolm visits frequently as do her grand and great-grand children. Throughout the years church has been important in her life and God has been at the centre of it all.

How would you describe yourself as a small child?
Cheeky – into everything!

Do you have any memories from childhood which make you think "I'll never forget...?"

I went to London when I was about 8 or 9 and we stopped at a place near a railway line. The trains really frightened me – imagine that.

Has God been part of your life since childhood?

I suppose He must have been. I

wanted to be a missionary when I was a girl but my parents couldn't afford my training. When I was confirmed I had a marvellous holy feeling. I felt I could go straight to heaven.

What do you think is good about modern society?

You get more help these days. No-one lives in real poverty these days unless they gamble or drink their money away. Healthcare is definitely better than it was.

What makes you disappointed about life today?

There are a lot of grabbing people in the world – the more they get the more they want. People don't seem content with what they've got.

What kinds of things do you like to do in your spare time?

I read a lot, I've always been happy reading. Malcolm brings me lovely books from the library. I like TV – the news and soap – though I've got fed-up lately with Bernice in 'Emmerdale', she will keep crying.

What makes you laugh?

My grandchildren and great-grandchildren – the things they say.

Do you have plans for the future?

I'm looking forward to a new baby in the family in August. I also want to keep my health and keep going.

How about plans for 10 years time?

(After a lot of thought) Make sure my family's in good health and well cared for.



WHAT THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND HAD TO SAY TO THE QUEEN



At the last group of sessions of the General Synod, a 'Loyal Address' was made to the Queen on the occasion of The Golden Jubilee of Her Majesty. As General Synod spoke on your behalf, we publish the speech here in full.

"We, Your Majesty's faithful subjects, the Archbishops, Bishops, Clergy and Laity of the Church of England, together with the representatives of other churches assembled in General Synod, assure Your Majesty of our loyalty and devotion to Your Majesty and to Your Throne.

We offer our warmest congratulations to Your Majesty on the Golden Jubilee of Your Accession to the Throne. The example of selfless devotion to the service of Commonwealth and Nation which You have set has been a true inspiration. Your leadership and Your commitment to the values of family life have been demonstrated on countless occasions. We and all Your people are deeply in your debt. We give thanks to Almighty God for the many blessings we have enjoyed during Your reign. We pledge ourselves to continue to work for a just and peaceful society under Your leadership. Your Majesty may rest assured that the Church of England will

continue to strive to serve all the people of England and for greater unity among all the Christian churches, for better understanding between Christians and people of other faiths and for the improvement of relations between all peoples.

Finally we give especial thanks for the particular care and attention which, as our Supreme Governor, You give us, and most of all for the example You have set of faithfulness to God in both Your public and Your private life. May His blessing rest now and always upon Your Majesty, upon Prince Philip and upon every member of the Royal Family."

GASSING IN HIS GAITERS

A bishop was greeting his guests at a garden party when he overheard a new young curate confessing to his friends that he had spent the best years of his life in the arms of another man's wife.

The bishop was scandalised and about to rebuke the curate when the young man went on: "She was my mother!" The friends all roared with laughter at the curate, and the bishop was also very amused. He then moved on to a group of more senior clergy to try the joke out on them.

Apropos of nothing, he broke into the conversation and said simply: 'Do you know, brethren, I spent the best years of my life in the arms of another man's wife?' The clergy were badly startled, and stared at the bishop, aghast. But the bishop suddenly looked very embarrassed. 'Oh dear,' he stammered, 'I've forgotten who it was now!'



Sunday Evening Praise

Worship, teaching,
prayer ministry
in an informal setting

Sunday

5th May 6 o'clock

Speaker: Lynn Trainor



IT BE MADE LEGAL?

For the first time, a C of E bishop has said publicly that



he believes cannabis should be decriminalised. The Bishop of Hereford, the Rt Rev John Oliver, speaking at his diocesan synod, said he was well aware that cannabis was not a harmless drug. "Nobody is saying that it is a good thing to use it. But...the present system is unsustainable." The Bishop said he had been "very influenced by the change of heart of many senior police officers, who used to take a hard line on cannabis, but now think it diverts attention from other forms of drug-taking."

Medical experts have recently back a Home Office plan to make cannabis a Class C drug, instead of its current Class B status. The Home Secretary, as we go to press, was awaiting a report from MPs on the subject. A parliamentary order would then be needed. The reclassification of cannabis is not likely before July.

Healing Service

Wednesday 29th May

7.30 p.m.

St James Church

Receive Jesus'
promise of healing
through personal prayer

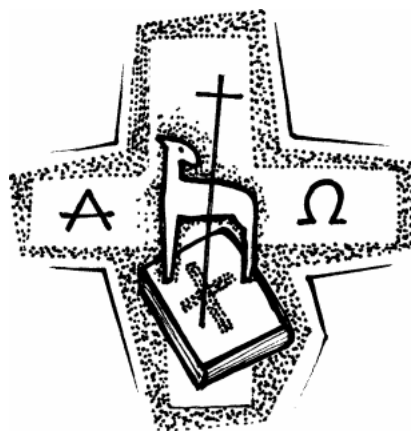


Morning Prayer

& Breakfast

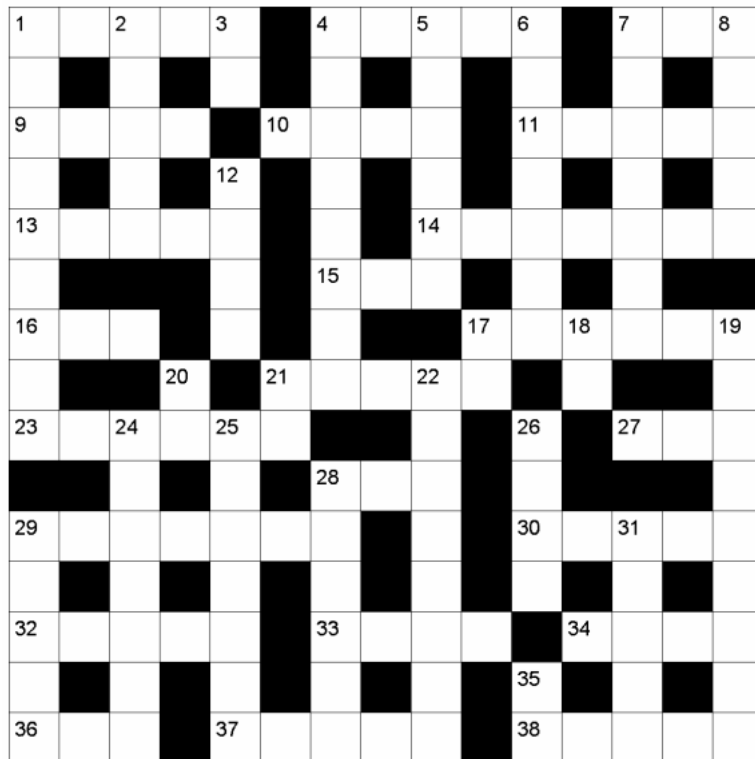
St Francis Church
Saturday Mornings
9.15 am

all welcome



CANNABIS: SHOULD

April's Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Ribbons (5)
 4 The younger son of Isaac (5)
 7 Plant juice (3)
 9 Third son of Adam and Eve (4)
 10 Soon (4)
 11 Mentioned in the book of Esther, he was the chief minister of the Persian King (5)
 13 The brother of Moses (5)
 14 Very senior rank in navy (7)
 15 A dynasty in China (3)
 16 The first woman and wife of Adam (3)
 17 The longest of the prophetic books of the Old Testament (6)
 21 Unsuitable (5)
 23 Vagrants (6)
 27 This character of the Old Testament was severely tested by God (3)
 28 Male sheep (3)
 29 Which city fell to the Israelites under Joshua's leadership (7)
 30 Into which land did Mary and Joseph flee after the birth of Christ (5)

32 Book of the Bible (5)

- 33 Adjoin (4)
 34 Dry surface of healing wound (4)
 36 The second son of Noah (3)
 37 Pertaining to the nose (5)
 38 A tenth part (5)

DOWN

- 1 The major division of the Bible (9)
 2 The Apostle who denied Christ (5)
 3 Therefore (2)
 4 Eldest son of King Saul, and friend of David (8)
 5 An earlier name for the land of Palestine (6)
 6 Islands in W Atlantic Ocean (7)
 7 Warrior of feudal Japan (7)
 8 Section of a type of fence (5)
 12 A single time (4)
 17 Neuter singular pronoun (2)
 18 Prefix meaning without (2)
 19 Livable (9)
 20 Part of the verb "to be" (2)
 21 Objective case of we (2)

- 22 Another name for the Messiah, meaning "God with us" (8)
 24 Abram's name was changed to this (7)
 25 Peddler (US) - or wrongly spelt early video game (7)
 26 The first son of Noah (4)
 28 The longest of the Epistles of St. Paul (6)
 29 The Minor Prophet, noted for having been swallowed by a great fish (5)
 31 Vessel used for private cruising (5)
 35 Near to (2)

SOLUTION TO MARCH'S PUZZLE

ACROSS

1. Balaam
 4. Lusaka
 9 Myrrh
 11 Leviathan
 12 Oda
 13 Genus
 15 Talents
 17 Hue
 18 Or
 19 Magi
 21 Seth
 24 If
 26 Do
 27 Am
 28 To
 29 Amos
 32 Sejm
 34 Uz
 36 Two
 37 Beastie
 38 David
 41 Oca
 42 Bethlehem
 44 Sarai
 45 Canaan
 46 Nassau

Sunday Services

ST JAMES' CHURCH, BEAUCHAMP LANE

8.00 am	Holy Communion
10.00 am	Sung Eucharist (<i>exc 2nd Sunday</i>)
	Family Service (<i>2nd Sunday</i>)
11.15 am	Sung Eucharist (<i>2nd Sunday</i>)
6.00 pm	Evening Praise <i>[1st Sunday of the month]</i>

ST FRANCIS' CHURCH, HOLLOW WAY

8.00 am	Holy Eucharist
10.30 am	Parish Eucharist <i>[Family Eucharist - 2nd Sunday of the month]</i>

Mid-Week Services & Meetings

Monday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – <i>St James</i>
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – <i>St James</i>
Tuesday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – <i>St James</i>
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – <i>St Francis</i>
	8.00 pm	St Francis Discussion Group – <i>4 Long Close</i>
Wednesday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – <i>St Francis</i>
	9.30 am	Eucharist – <i>St Francis</i>
	10.10 am	Mothers and Toddlers – <i>St Francis</i>
	12.00 pm	St James Prayer Group – <i>13 Clive Road</i>
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – <i>St James</i>
Thursday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – <i>St James</i>
	9.30 am	Eucharist - followed by coffee – <i>St James</i>
	11.00 am	St Francis Prayer Group
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – <i>St Francis</i>
	7.00 pm	Eucharist – <i>St Francis</i>
Friday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – <i>St Francis</i>
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – <i>St James</i>
	7.00 pm	Friday Club – <i>alt Fridays at St Francis</i>
Saturday	9.15 am	Morning Prayer & Breakfast – <i>St Francis</i>

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

Days Off

Stephen has Friday off and Fr John Monday. Except in emergency, please try and respect these days of rest. Sr Margaret Anne works within the parish on Tuesdays, Thursdays and alternate Sundays

Parish Directory

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST JAMES

Team Rector:

The Revd Stephen Hartley,
Cowley Rectory,
Beauchamp Lane
Tel: 747680

Email: stephen.hartley

@btinternet.com

Team Curate:

Sr Margaret Anne
All Saints Convent
St Mary's Road

Tel: 249127

Licensed Lay Minister:

Eric Uren

Tel: 770696

ST FRANCIS CHURCH, HOLLOW WAY

Team Vicar:

Fr John Tomlinson,
St Francis' Vicarage,
2 Meyseys Close

Tel: 748915

Email: fj@care4free.net

CHURCHWARDENS:

Gwen Ranklin

Tel: 451417

John Shreeve (*till mid-May*)

Tel: 717987

Deputy Wardens:

Rosanne Butler

Tel: 453257

Pat Chung

Tel: 767124

HALL BOOKINGS

OFFICER:

773620

weekdays only